RBI Assistant Mains Capsule 2025 - 2026 (Static)

1. List of Chief Ministers & Governors of Indian States

S.NO	State	Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
1	Andhra Pradesh	Amaravati	Chandrababu Naidu	S. Abdul Nazeer
2	Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	Pema Khandu	Lt. General Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik
3	Assam	Dispur	Himanta Biswa Sarma	Lakshman Prasad Acharya
4	Bihar	Patna	Samrat Choudhary	Syed Ata Hasnain
5	Chhattisgarh	Raipur	Vishnu Deo Sai	Ramen Deka
6	Goa	Panaji	Pramod Sawant	Pasupati Ashok Gajapathi Raju
7	Gujarat	Gandhinagar	Bhupendra Patel	Acharaya Devvrat
8	Haryana	Chandigarh	Nayab Singh Saini	Prof.Ashim Kumar Ghosh
9	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu	Kavinder Gupta
10	Jharkhand	Ranchi	Hemant Soren	Santosh Kumar Gangwar
11	Karnataka	Bengaluru	Siddaramaiah	Thawar Chand Gehlot
12	Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	V. D. Satheesan	Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
13	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	Mohan Yadav	Mangubhai Chaganbhai Patel
14	Maharashtra	Mumbai	Devendra Fadnavis	Jishnu Dev Varma
15	Manipur	Imphal	Yumnam Khemchand Singh	Ajay Kumar Bhalla
16	Meghalaya	Shillong	Conrad Kongkal Sangma	CH Vijayashankar
17	Mizoram	Aizawl	PU Lalduhoma	Vijay Kumar singh
18	Nagaland	Kohima	Neiphiu Rio	Nand Kishore Yadav
19	Odisha	Bhubaneswar	Mohan Charan Majhi	Hari Babu Kambhampati
20	Punjab	Chandigarh	Bhagwant Singh Mann	Gulab Chand Kataria

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21	Rajasthan	Jaipur	Bhajan Lal Sharma	Haribhau Kisanrao Bagde
22	Sikkim	Gangtok	Prem Singh Tamang/PS Golay	Om Prakash Mathur
23	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	C. Joseph Vijay	Rajendra Arlekar (Addl. Charge)
24	Telangana	Hyderabad	Anumula Revanth Reddy	Shiv Pratap Shukla
25	Tripura	Agartala	Dr. Manik Saha	Indra Sena Reddy Nallu
26	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	Yogi Adityanath	Anandiben Patel
27	Uttarakhand	Dehradun (winter) Bararisain-Gairsain (Official Capital)	Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami	Gurmit Singh
28	West Bengal	Kolkata	Suvendu Adhikari	R.N. Ravi

2. List of Updated Chief Ministers and Governors of Union Territories

S.NO	Union Territory	Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Port Blair		Shri. Devendra Kumar Joshi (Lieutenant Governor)
2	Chandigarh	Chandigarh		Gulab Chand Kataria
3	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	Daman		Shri Praful Patel (Administrator)
4	Delhi	Delhi	Rekha Gupta	Taranjit Singh Sandhu
5	Jammu and Kashmir (proposed from 31 October 2019)	Srinagar (summer), Jammu (winter)	Omar Abdullah	Shri Manoj Sinha (Lieutenant Governor)
6	Puducherry (Pondicherry)	Pondicherry	N. Rangasamy	K Kailashnathan
7	Lakshadweep	Kavaratti		Shri Praful Patel (Administrator)

8	Ladakh	Leh (summer) Kargil (winter)		Vinai Kumar Saxena

3. New Cabinet Ministers of India with their Portfolios& Constituencies

Name of Indian Ministers 2025	Portfolio	Constituency
Shri Narendra Modi	Prime Minister and also in charge of: Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions Department of Atomic Energy Department of Space All important policy issues All other portfolios not allocated to any Minister	Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
Shri Raj Nath Singh	Minister of Defence	Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
Shri Amit Shah	Minister of Home Affairs Minister of Cooperation	Gandhinagar, Gujarat
Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari	Minister of Road Transport and Highways	Nagpur. Maharashtra
J.P. Nadda	Minister of Health and Family Welfare Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers	Gujarat constituency
Shivraj Singh Chouhan	Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh

	Ministry of Rural Development	
Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman	Minister of Finance Minister of Corporate Affairs	Rajya Sabha MP, Karnataka
Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar	Minister of External Affairs	Rajyasabha MP, Gujarat
Manohar Lal Khattar	Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Minister of Power	Karnal, Haryana
H. D. Kumaraswamy	Minister of Heavy Industries Ministry of Steel	Mandya constituency, Karnataka
Shri Piyush Goyal	Minister of Commerce and Industry	Lok Sabha MP, **Mumbai North,** Maharashtra
Shri Dharmendra Pradhan	Minister of Education	Lok Sabha MP, Sambalpur, Odisha
Jitan Ram Manjhi	Minister of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises	Lok Sabha MP, Gaya, Bihar
Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh	Minister of Panchayati Raj Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying	Munger constituency of Bihar
Shri Sarbananda Sonowal	Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways	Dibrugarh, Assam

Dr Virendra Kumar	Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment	Tikamgarh MP, Madhya Pradesh
Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu	Minister of Civil Aviation	Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh
Shri Pralhad Joshi	1.Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution 2. Minister of New and Renewable Energy	Dharwad, Karnataka
Jual Oram	Minister of Tribal Affairs	Sundargarh constituency of Odisha
Shri Giriraj Singh	Minister of Textiles	Begusarai, Bihar
Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw	Minister of Railways Minister of Information and Broadcasting Minister of Electronics and Information Technology	Rajya Sabha MP, Odisha
Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia	1. Minister of Communications 2. Minister of Development of North Eastern Region	Lok Sabha MP, Madhya Pradesh
Shri Bhupender Yadav	Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	Lok sabha MP, Rajasthan

Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat	Minister of Culture Minister of Tourism	Jodhpur, Rajasthan
Annpurna Devi	Minister of Women and Child Development	Kodarma, Jharkhand
Shri Kiren Rijiju	Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Ministry of Minority Affairs	Arunachal Pradesh West, Arunachal Pradesh
Shri Hardeep Singh Puri	Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas	Rajayasabha MP, Uttar Pradesh
Shri Mansukh Mandaviya	Minister of Labour and Employment Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports	Lok sabha MP, Gujarat
Shri G. Kishan Reddy	Minister of Coal Minister of Mines	Secunderabad, Telangana
Chirag Paswan	Minister of Food Processing Industries.	Hajipur, Bihar
C R Patil	Minister of Jal Shakti	Navsari constituency in South Gujarat

4. List of Ministers of State Independent Charge with their Portfolios & Constituencies

S.No	Name	Portfolio	Constituency
1	Rao Inderjit Singh	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation; Ministry of Planning; and Culture.	Gurgaon, Haryana
2	Dr. Jitendra Singh	Science and Technology; Earth Sciences; Prime Minister's Office; Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Atomic Energy; and Department of Space.	Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir
3	Arjun Ram Meghwal	Law and Justice; and MoS of Parliamentary Affairs.	Bikaner, Rajasthan
4	Jadhav Prataprao Ganpatrao	Ministry of Ayush; and MoS Health and Family Welfare.	Buldhana, Maharashtra
5	Jayant Chaudhary	Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; and MoS in Education	

5. Ministers of State with their Portfolios &Constituencies

S.No	Name	Portfolio
1	Jitin Prasada	Ministry of Commerce and Industry; and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
2	Shripad Yesso Naik	Ministry of Power; and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
3	Pankaj Chaudhary	Finance

4	Krishan Pal	Cooperation
5	Ramdas Athawale	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
6	Ram Nath Thakur	Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
7	Nityanand Rai	Home Affairs
8	Anupriya Patel	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; and Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
9	V. Somanna	Jal Shakti; and Ministry of Railways.
10	Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani	Ministry of Rural Development; and Ministry of Communications.
11	Prof. S. P. Singh Baghel	Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying; and Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
12	Sushri Sobha Karandlaje	Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; and Ministry of Labour and Employment.
13	Kirtivardhan Singh	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; and Ministry of External Affairs.
14	B. L. Verma	Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
15	Shantanu Thakur	Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
16	Suresh Gopi	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas; and Ministry of Tourism.
17	L. Murugan	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting; and Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.

18	Ajay Tamta	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
19	Bandi Sanjay Kumar	Ministry of Home Affairs.
20	Kamlesh Paswan	Ministry of Rural Development.
21	Bhagirath Choudhary	Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
22	Satish Chandra Dubey	Ministry of Coal; and Ministry of Mines.
23	Sanjay Seth	Ministry of Defence.
24	Ravneet Singh	Ministry of Food Processing Industries; and Ministry of Railways.
25	Durgadas Uikey	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
26	Raksha Nikhil Khadse	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
27	Sukanta Majumdar	Ministry of Education; and Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region.
28	Savitri Thakur	Ministry of Women and Child Development.
29	Tokhan Sahu	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
30	Raj Bhushan Choudhary	Ministry of Jal Shakti.
31	Bhupathi Raju Srinivasa Varma	Ministry of Heavy Industries; and Ministry of Steel.

32	Harsh Malhotra	Ministry of Corporate Affairs; and Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
33	Nimuben Jayantibhai Bambhaniya	Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
34	Murlidhar Mohol	Ministry of Cooperation; and Ministry of Civil Aviation.
35	George Kurian	Ministry of Minority Affairs; and Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
36	Pabitra Margherita	Ministry of External Affairs; and Ministry of Textiles.

6. List of National Parks in India / State wise

State/UT	National parks
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Galathea National Park Mahatma Gandhi Marine (Wandoor) National Park Campbell Bay National Park Mount Harriet National Park Rani Jhansi Marine National Park Saddle Peak National Park Middle Button Island National Park North Button Island National Park South Button Island National Park
Andhra Pradesh	Papikonda National Park Sri Venkateswara National Park Rajiv Gandhi (Rameswaram) National Park
Arunachal Pradesh	Mouling National Park Namdapha National Park
Assam	Nameri National Park Manas National Park

	Dibru- Saikhowa National Park Kaziranga National Park Orang National Park DihingPatkai National Park Raimona National Park
Bihar	Valmiki National Park Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary Kanwar Lake Bird Sanctuary
Chhattisgarh	Indravati National Park Kanger Valley National Park Guru Ghasi Das (Sanjay) National Park
Goa	Bhagwan Mahavir (Mollem) National Park
Gujarat	Gir National Park Blackbuck National Park Gulf of KutchNational Park Vansda National Park Marine National Park
Haryana	Sultanpur National Park Kalesar National Park
Himachal Pradesh	Pin Valley National Pak Simbalbara National Park Inderkilla National Park Khirganga National Park Great Himalayan National Park
Jammu and Kashmir	Dachigam National Park Salim Ali National Park Kishtwar National Park Kazinag National Park
Ladakh	Hemis National Park
Jharkhand	Betla National Park Hazaribagh National Park
Karnataka	Bandipur National Park Anshi National Park

	Bannerghata National Park Kudremukh National Park Nagarhole(Rajiv Gandhi) National Park
Kerala	Eravikulam National Park Mathikettan Shola National Park Periyar National Park Silent Valley National Park Anamudi Shola National Park Pambadum Shola National Park
Madhya Pradesh	Pench (Priyaradharshini) National Park Bandhavgarh National Park Kanha National Park Panna National Park Sanjay National Park Satpura National Park Madhav National Park Van Vihar National Park Mandla Plant Fossils National Park
Maharashtra	Navegaon national Park Sanjay Gandhi (Borivilli) National Park Chandoli National Park Gugamal National Park Tadoba National Park
Manipur	Sirohi National Park KeibulLamjao National Park
Meghalaya	Nokrek National Park Balphakram National Park
Mizoram	Murlen National Park Phawngpui Blue Mountain National Park
Nagaland	Ntangki National Park
Odisha	Simlipal National Park Bhitarkanika National Park Nandankanan National Park

Punjab	ABOHAR NATIONAL PARK HARIKE Wetland JHAJJAR BACHAULI NATIONAL PARK. BIR MOTI BAGH NATIONAL PARK. BIR BHADSON NATIONAL PARK. Mahendra Zoological Park (Chatt Bir zoo)
Rajasthan	Sariska Tiger Reserve Ranthambore National Park Mukundra Hils (Darrah) National Park Keoladeo Ghana National Park Desert National Park Mount Abu Wildlife Sanctuary
Sikkim	Khangchendzonga National Park
Tamil Nadu	Mudumalai National Park Mukurthi National Park Indira Gandhi (Anamalai) National Park Guindy National Park Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park Palani Hills National Park
Telangana	Mahavir HarinaVanasthali National Park Kasu Brahmananda Reddy National Park Mrugavani National Park
Tripura	Clouded Leopard National Park Bison (Rajbari) National Park
Uttar Pradesh	Dudhwa National Park
Uttarakhand	Jim Corbett National Park Gangotri National Park Govind Pashu Vihar Rajaji National Park Valley of Flowers National Park Nanda Devi National Park
West Bengal	Buxa National Park Neora Valley National Park

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	Gorumara National Park Singalila National Park Jaldapara National Park Sunderbans National Park

7. Banks with Headquarters and Taglines

Private Banks

Bank name	Headquarters	Tagline
Axis Bank	Mumbai	Badhti Ka Naam Zindagi (Growth is its Name)
Bandhan Bank	Kolkatta	AapkaBhala, SabkiBhalai (Your well-being, everyone's well-being)
Catholic Syrian Bank	Thrissur, Kerala	Support All the Way
City Union Bank	Tamilnadu	Trust and Excellence since 1904
Dhanalaxmi Bank	Thrissur, Kerala	Tann Mann Dhan (Mind, Body, Wealth)
Development Credit Bank	Mumbai	We value you
Federal Bank	Kerala	Your Perfect Banking Partner
HDFC Bank	Mumbai	We Understand Your World
ICICI Bank	Mumbai	Hum Hai Na, KhayalApka (We're here, your care)
IDBI Bank	Mumbai	Banking for All “AaoSocheinBada” (Let's Think Big), and "Bank Aisa Dost Jaisa" (Like a Friend, the Bank).
IDFC First Bank	Mumbai	Always You First

IndusInd Bank	Pune, Maharashtra	We make You Feel Richer, We Care DilSe
Jammu & Kashmir Bank	Srinagar	Serving to Empower
Karnataka Bank	Mangaluru, Karnataka	Your Family Bank across India
KarurVysya Bank	Karur,Tamilnadu	Smart way to Bank
Kotak Mahindra Bank	Mumbai	Let's make money simple, Ab Kona KonaKotak
Lakshmi Vilas Bank (DBS Bank now)	Singapore	Live More,Bank Less
Nainital bank	Nainital, Uttarakhand	Banking with Personal Touch
South Indian Bank	Thrissur, Kerala	Experience Next Generation Banking
Tamilnadu Mercantile Bank	Thoothukudi, Tamilnadu	Be a step ahead in life
Yes Bank	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Experience our Expertise Life Ko Banao Rich (Make Your Life Rich)
RBL Bank	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Apno ka Bank (Our Own Bank).

Public Sector Banks

Bank Name	Headquarters	Taglines
State Bank of India	Mumbai, Maharashtra	With You all the way, Pure Banking Nothing Else, The Nation Bank on Us, The Banker to Every Indian, A Bank of

		the Common Man, You Can Always Bank on Us
Punjab National Bank(Anchor Bank) + Oriental Bank of Commerce+ United Bank of India	New Delhi	The Name You Can Bank upon
Canara Bank(Anchor Bank) + Syndicate Bank	Bengaluru, Karnataka	Together we can
Indian Bank(Anchor Bank) + Allahabad Bank	Chennai, Tamilnadu	Your Own Bank
Union Bank of India(Anchor Bank) + Andhra Bank+ Corporation Bank	Mumbai	Good People to Bank with
Bank of Baroda+ Dena Bank+ Vijaya Bank	Vadodara, Gujarat	India's International Bank
UCO Bank	Kolkatta, West Bengal	Honours your Trust
Indian Overseas Bank	Chennai, Tamilnadu	Good People to Grow with
Bank of India	Mumbai	Relationship Beyond Banking
Bank of Maharashtra	Pune	One Family One Bank/ Ek Parivar Ek Bank
Punjab & Sind Bank	New Delhi	Where Service is a way of Life
Central Bank of India	Mumbai	Central to you since 1911 Build a better life around us".

Small Finance Banks

Name	Headquarters	Tagline
AU Small Finance Bank	Jaipur, Rajasthan	ChaloAageBadhein (Let's move forward)
Capital Small Finance Bank (1st SFB)	Jalandhar, Punjab	Viswas Se Vikastak (From Trust to Growth)
Equitas Small Finance Bank	Chennai, Tamilnadu	It's Fun banking
ESAF Small Finance Bank	Thrissur, Kerala	Joy of Banking
FINCARE Small Finance Bank	Bengaluru, Karnataka	A New Era in Smart Banking begins "Banking on More"
Janalakshmi Small Finance Bank	Bengaluru, Karnataka	"Likho Apni Kahani" (Write Your Own Story) "Paise Ke Kadar" (Value of Money)
North East Small Finance Bank	Guwahati, Assam	Your Door step Banker
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	Navi Mumbai	A Bank of smiles
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	Bengaluru, Karnataka	Bank Better, Live Better Build a Better Life. (Also "Bharosa, Aapke Bharose Par").
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	Varanasi, UP	AapkiUmeedKaKhata(Your Account of Hope)
Shivalik Small Finance Bank	Noida, Uttar Pradesh	Aapka Apna Bank" (Your Own Bank)
Unity Small Finance Bank	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Digital First Bank

Payment Banks

Bank name	Headquarters	Tagline
Airtel Payments Bank (India's 1st payment bank)	New Delhi	Banking is now at your Fingertips.
Fino Payments Bank	Navi Mumbai	QadarAapkiMehnat Ki (Respecting Your Hard Work)
India Post Payments Bank	New Delhi	Aapka Bank AapkeDwar (Your Bank, At Your Doorstep)
Paytm Payments Bank	Noida, UP	Simplifying payments for India
Jio Payments Bank	Mumbai	Your everyday bank
NSDL Payments Bank	Mumbai	Technology, Trust and Reach

8. International Sports Cups and Trophies

Sports	List of International Cups and Trophies in Sports
Cricket	Prudential World Cup The Ashes (Test Cricket - England & Australia)
Football	Colombo Cup (India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, And Myanmar) Jules Rimet Trophy (World Football - Soccer) Merdeka Cup (Asian Cup)
Yacht Racing	American Cup
Table Tennis	Corbillon Cup (Women) Swaythling Cup (Men)
Tennis	Davis Cup (Men)

	Billi Jean King Cup (Women) Wightman Cup (Women) Wimbledon Trophy
Rugby	Lord Derby Cup
Bridge	Holker Trophy
Golf	Ryder Cup (Men) Solheim Cup (Women) Walker Cup
Badminton	Sudirman Cup Thomas Cup (Men) Tunku Abdul Rahman Cup (Asian Badminton) Uber Cup (Women) Yonex Cup
Field Hockey	Sultan Azlan Shah Cup
Lawn Tennis	U. Thant Cup
Basketball	William Jones Cup

9. List of Indian Festivals

State	List of Indian Festivals
Andhra Pradesh	Pongal, Dussehra, Ugadi, Deccan Festival, Brahmotsavam, Visakha Utsav, Lumbini Festival, Rayalaseema food and dance festival
Arunachal Pradesh	Reh, Boori Boot, Myoko, Dree, Pongtu, Losar, Murung, Solang, Mopin, Monpa festival
Assam	Ambubachi, Bhogali Bihu, Baishagu, Dehing Patkai
Bihar	Chhath Puja, Bihula

Chhattisgarh	Maghi Purnima, Bastar Dussehra
Goa	Sunburn festival, Ladain, Mando
Gujarat	Navratri, Janmashtami, Kutch Utsav, Uttarayana
Himachal Pradesh	Rakhadumni, Gochi Festival
Haryana	Baisakhi
Jammu and Kashmir	Har Navami, Chhari, Bahu Mela, Dosmoche,
Jharkhand	Karam Utsav, Holi, Rohini, Tusu
Karnataka	Mysore Dasara, Ugadi
Kerala	Onam, Vishu
Madhya Pradesh	Lok-rang Utsav, Tejaji, Khujaraho festival
Meghalaya	Nongkrem festival, Khasis festival, Wangla, Sajibu Cheiraoba
Maharashtra	Ganesh Utsav, Gudi Padva
Manipur	Yaoshang, Porag, Chavang Kut
Mizoram	Chapcharkut Festival
Nagaland	Hornbill Festival, Moatsu Festival
Odisha	Rath Yatra, Raja Parba, Nukahai

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Punjab	Lohri, Baisakhi
Rajasthan	Gangaur, Teej, Bundi
Sikkim	Losar, Saga Dawa
Tamil Nadu	Pongal, Thaipusam, Natyanjali Festival, Karthigai Deepam, Maasi Magam
Telangana	Bonalu, Bathukamma
Tripura	Kharchi Puja
West Bengal	Durga Puja
Uttaranchal	Ganga Dussehra
Uttar Pradesh	Ram Navami, Ganga Mahotsav, Navaratri, Khichdi

10. GI Tags in India List 2026

State/UT	Number of GI Tags	Notable GI Tags (Selected)	Category Examples
Tamil Nadu	56	Kancheepuram Silk, Thanjavur Paintings, Salem Fabric	Handicraft, Agricultural
Uttar Pradesh	51	Banarasi Sarees, Lucknow Chikan, Agra Durrie, Moradabad Brass	Handicraft, Foodstuff

Maharashtra	41	Alphonso Mango, Paithani Sarees, Kolhapuri Chappal	Agricultural, Handicraft
Karnataka	40	Mysore Silk, Coorg Orange, Dharwad Pedha	Handicraft, Agricultural, Foodstuff
Odisha	28	Pattachitra, Kotpad Handloom, Orissa Ikat	Handicraft
Andhra Pradesh / Telangana	27	Pochampalli Ikat, Kondapalli Bommallu	Handicraft
West Bengal	25	Darjeeling Tea, Baluchari Saree	Agricultural, Handicraft
Kerala	22	Aranmula Kannadi, Palakkadan Matta Rice	Handicraft, Agricultural
Rajasthan	20	Blue Pottery of Jaipur, Kota Doria	Handicraft
Gujarat	18	Patan Patola, Kutch Embroidery	Handicraft

11. Ramsar Sites in India 2025 & 2026

S. No.	Name	State	Year
1	Therthangal Bird Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu	2025
2	Sakkarakottai Bird Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu	2025
3	Khecheopalri Wetland	Sikkim	2025

4	Udhwa Lake	Jharkhand	2025
5	Khichan	Rajasthan	2025
6	Menar	Rajasthan	2025
7	Gokul Jalashaya	Bihar	2025
8	Gogabeel Lake	Bihar	2025
9	Udaipur Jheel	Bihar	2025
10	Siliserh Lake	Rajasthan	2025
11	Kopra Reservoir	Chhattisgarh	2025
12	Patna Bird Sanctuary	Uttar Pradesh	2026
13	Chhari-Dhand	Gujarat	2026

12. List of International Organizations

Organization	Headquarters
United Nations (UN)	New York, USA
UNICEF	New York, USA
World Health Organization	Geneva, Switzerland
World Economic Forum	Cologny, Switzerland
International Monetary Fund	Washington, D.C., USA
World Bank	Washington, D.C., USA
World Trade Organization	Geneva, Switzerland
UNESCO	Paris, France
SAARC	Kathmandu, Nepal
ASEAN	Jakarta, Indonesia
OECD	Paris, France
Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank	Beijing, China
New Development Bank	Shanghai, China
Asian Development Bank	Manila, Philippines
World Wide Fund for Nature	Gland, Switzerland
UNIDO	Vienna, Austria

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IAEA	Vienna, Austria
OPEC	Vienna, Austria
UNCTAD	Geneva, Switzerland
International Maritime Organization	London, UK
APEC	Singapore
Commonwealth of Nations	London, UK
NATO	Brussels, Belgium
International Cricket Council	Dubai, UAE
International Olympic Committee	Lausanne, Switzerland
FIFA	Zurich, Switzerland
OPCW	The Hague, Netherlands
FAO	Rome, Italy
International Court of Justice	The Hague, Netherlands
World Intellectual Property Organization	Geneva, Switzerland
World Meteorological Organization	Geneva, Switzerland

RBI Assistant Mains Capsule 2025 - 2026 (December to May 2nd week)

DECEMBER 2025

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day Observed As	Key Points / Theme
2 December	World Computer Literacy Day	Promotes computer literacy; started in 2001 by NIIT; NIIT founded by Rajendra S. Pawar & Vijay K. Thadani.
2 December	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery	Highlights modern slavery; ILO reports ~40 million victims; ILO Protocol on Forced Labour adopted in 2014.
2 December	National Pollution Control Day	Observed in memory of the 1984 Bhopal Gas Tragedy caused by MIC leakage at UCIL plant, Bhopal.

3 December	International Day of Persons with Disabilities	First Paralympics 1960; UN proclamation 1992; Australia's NDIS launched 2013.
4 December	Indian Navy Day	Commemorates Operation Trident (1971); Indian Navy origins traced to 1612.
4 December	International Day Against Unilateral Coercive Measures	Declared by UNGA in 2025; highlights impact of unilateral sanctions.
4 December	International Cheetah Day	Launched 2010 by Dr. Laurie Marker (CCF); highlights cheetah conservation.
5 December	World Soil Day	2025 Theme: Healthy Soils for Healthy Cities; UNGA recognition 2014.
5 December	International Volunteer Day	2025 Theme: Every Contribution Matters; IVY 2026 global launch.
6 December	BR Ambedkar Death Anniversary	Honours Dr. Ambedkar; born in Mahar caste; family served in British Indian Army.
6 December	National Microwave Oven Day	Invention by Percy Spencer (1945); first home microwave in 1955.
7 December	International Civil Aviation Day	Established by ICAO; UN recognition in 1996.
7 December	Armed Forces Flag Day	Observed since 1949 to honour Indian armed forces.
9 December	International Anti-Corruption Day	References include Hammurabi Code, Edict of Horemheb, Arthashastra.
10 December	Human Rights Day	2025 Theme: Human Rights: Our Everyday Essentials; UDHR adopted 1948.
10 December	Nobel Prize Day	Death anniversary of Alfred Nobel (1896).
11 December	International Mountain Day	2025 Theme: Glaciers matter for water, food and livelihoods.

11 December	UNICEF Foundation Day	2025 Theme: My Day, My Rights; UNICEF founded 1946.
12 December	Universal Health Coverage Day	First healthcare system by Bismarck (1883); UNGA resolution 2012.
14 December	National Energy Conservation Day	Observed since 1991; BEE organizes week-long events.
16 December	Vijay Diwas	Commemorates India's victory in 1971 war.
18 December	Minorities Rights Day	Observed since 1992; NCM established in 1992.
18 December	International Migrants Day	2025 Theme: My Great Story: Cultures and Development.
20 December	International Human Solidarity Day	Promotes unity, peace, social justice.
21 December	World Basketball Day	UN declared in 2023; marks first basketball game (1891).
21 December	World Meditation Day	UN's second observance in 2025 promoting global harmony.
22 December	National Mathematics Day	Honours Srinivasa Ramanujan; observed since 2012.
23 December	Kisan Diwas	Birth anniversary of Chaudhary Charan Singh; honours farmers.
24 December	National Consumer Rights Day	2025 Theme: Efficient and Speedy Disposal through Digital Justice.
25 December	Good Governance Day	Birth anniversary of A.B. Vajpayee; observed alongside Christmas.
25 December	Christmas Day	Birth of Jesus Christ; date popularised by Sextus Julius Africanus.

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NATIONAL AND STATE NEWS

Credit Guarantee Scheme for Exporters (CGSE) Approved by Union Cabinet

- The **Union Cabinet** has approved the **Credit Guarantee Scheme for Exporters (CGSE)** to provide additional credit facilities to eligible exporters, including **MSMEs and non-MSMEs**, aimed at enhancing liquidity, encouraging market diversification, and strengthening India's global export competitiveness.

India Global Forum Launches $250 Million Fund for Global Expansion

- The **India Global Forum** (IGF) launched a **$250 million fund** at **IGF Middle East 2025 in Dubai** to support high-growth Indian consumer and industrial companies in international markets.
- **automotive, advanced manufacturing, and industrial goods**.

India Re-Elected to UNESCO Executive Board for 2025–2029 Term

- **India has been re-elected to the Executive Board of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)** for the **2025–2029 term**, reaffirming its global leadership in education, science, culture, and communication.

60th All India DGP–IGP Conference 2025 Held in Raipur, Chhattisgarh

- The **60th All India DGP–IGP Conference 2025** was inaugurated by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** at the **IIM Campus, Naya Raipur, Chhattisgarh**.
- The theme of the conference aligned with **"Viksit Bharat, Surakshit Bharat"**, focusing on strengthening India's internal security framework.

India Records All-Time High Foodgrain Production of 357 Million Tonnes in 2025

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that India has achieved a record foodgrain production of 357 million tonnes in 2025**, the highest in the country's history.
- The announcement was made during the **128th edition of the 'Mann Ki Baat' radio address on 30th November 2025**, highlighting India's progress toward food security and agricultural expansion.

India Re-Elected to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Council – Category

- **India was re-elected to the IMO Council in Category B**, securing **154 out of 169 valid votes**, the **highest vote share in the category**, marking its **second consecutive term as the top-voted nation**.

Government Rules Out Dearness Allowance–Basic Pay Merger Under 8th Central Pay Commission

- The **8th Central Pay Commission (8th CPC)** has been formally constituted through a **Gazette**

Notification dated 03 November 2025, as confirmed by the Ministry of Finance during the **Winter Session of Parliament**.

Government Launches Initiative to Benchmark India Against 26 Global Indices

- **The Government of India announced** a major initiative **to evaluate the country's standing across 26 global indices** to identify improvement areas and strengthen India's global position.

Karnataka Launches Upgraded e-Swathu 2.0 to Digitalise Rural Property Records

- **Karnataka** Chief Minister **Siddaramaiah** launched **e-Swathu 2.0**, a digital platform designed to **regularise and manage rural property records**.

Atal Pension Yojana Achieves 8.34 Crore Enrolments as of October 2025

- The **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)**, aimed at providing pension security to low-income and unorganised sector workers, has recorded **8.34 crore enrolments** as of **31 October 2025**.

Direct Benefit Transfer of LPG (PAHAL) Strengthens Transparent Subsidy Delivery System

- The **Direct Benefit Transfer of LPG (PAHAL)** scheme, launched in **January 2015**, continues to improve transparency and efficiency in India's LPG subsidy system.

India Crosses 5 Lakh MW Installed Power Capacity; Non-Fossil Sources Now Higher Than Fossil Fuels

- **India's total installed electricity generation capacity** reached **5,05,023 MW** as of **31 October 2025**.

United Nations Population Fund India Felicitates IUSSP for Winning the 2025 United Nations Population Award

- The **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) India** honoured the **International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP)** for winning the **2025 United Nations Population Award** under the **Institutional Category**.
- The **IASP 46th Annual Conference** was held from **27–29 November 2025** with the theme: **"People, Planet, Prosperity: Demographic Drivers of India's Inclusive Growth."**

7th India International Seaweed Expo and Summit to be Held in Kochi

- **Kochi, Kerala** will host the **7th India International Seaweed Expo and Summit** on **29–30 January 2026**.

26th Hornbill Festival Begins in Nagaland – 1st December 2025

- The **26th Hornbill Festival** began on **1st December 2025** at the **Naga Heritage Village, Kisama,**

Kohima, coinciding with **Nagaland's Statehood Day**.

Tamil Nadu Receives Five New Geographical Indications (GI) Tags

- **Five products from Tamil Nadu** have received the **Geographical Indications (GI)** tag, recognising their uniqueness, heritage value, and regional identity.
- With this addition, **Tamil Nadu now holds 74 Geographical Indications (GI)-tagged products**, making it one of the leading States in India for certified traditional products.

National Symposium on NAKSHA and LandStack Held in New Delhi

- The **Department of Land Resources (DoLR), Ministry of Rural Development**, organised a **National Symposium on NAKSHA and LandStack** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**.

Prime Minister's Office Renamed to Seva Teerth

- The **Prime Minister's Office (PMO)** is slated to be renamed **Seva Teerth**.
- The renaming aims to reflect **citizen-first governance**, emphasising **service (Seva)** and responsibility rather than authority.

Indira Gandhi International Airport Becomes India's First Water-Positive Airport

- **Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, Delhi** has been recognised as **India's first water-positive airport** among airports handling **over 40 million passengers annually**.

India Hosts the 18th Plenary Meeting of the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes

- **India inaugurated** the **18th Plenary Meeting of the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes** in **New Delhi**, held from **2–5 December 2025**.
- The theme of the meeting is **"Tax Transparency: Delivering a Shared Vision Through International Cooperation."**

Government Withdraws Mandatory Installation of Sanchar Saathi App

- The Department of Telecommunication has **withdrawn its directive mandating smartphone manufacturers to pre-install the Sanchar Saathi app** on all devices sold or imported in India.

Lok Sabha Passes Central Excise (Amendment) Bill 2025 and Health and National Security Cess Bill 2025

- The **Lok Sabha** has passed the **Central Excise (Amendment) Bill 2025** along with the **Health and National Security Cess Bill 2025**, introducing a revised tax structure on **tobacco, cigarettes, and pan masala**, commonly referred to as **sin goods**.

India to Chair International IDEA for the First Time

- **India will assume the chairship of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral**

Assistance (International IDEA) for the first time during the Council of Member States meeting in **Stockholm, Sweden**, and will serve through **2026**.

Haryana Modifies Disbursement System Under Deen Dayal Lado Lakshmi Yojana

- The Government of Haryana has revised the payment structure of the **Deen Dayal Lado Lakshmi Yojana (DDLLY)**, and from **December 2025**, assistance will now be released on a **quarterly basis**.

Bharat Taxi Begins Pilot Operations as India's Cooperative Ride-Hailing Platform

- **Bharat Taxi**, operated by **Sahakar Taxi Cooperative Limited**, has started pilot operations in **Delhi and Gujarat**, offering an alternative to private cab aggregators with a **driver-owned cooperative model**.

Aadhaar Authentication Reaches Record 231 Crore Transactions in November 2025

- **231 crore Aadhaar authentication transactions** were recorded in November 2025, reflecting an **8.5% year-on-year growth** compared to November 2024.
- 2025, compared to **12.04 crore in November 2024**, marking strong user adoption.

Bharat Taxi Begins Pilot Operations in Delhi & Gujarat

- **Bharat Taxi** is a cooperative ride-hailing platform positioned as an alternative to Uber and Ola, launched under the **Union Ministry of Cooperation** and supported by the **National e-Governance Division (NeGD)**.

Regional Artificial Intelligence (AI) Impact Conference 2025 Held in Shillong, Meghalaya

- The **Regional Artificial Intelligence Impact Conference 2025** was held at the **State Convention Centre, Shillong, Meghalaya** as part of a series of regional events leading up to the **India–AI Impact Summit 2026** scheduled for **February 2026**.

India Unveils Roadmap to Become Top-3 Quantum Economy by 2047

- **NITI Aayog's Frontier Tech Hub**, in collaboration with **International Business Machines (IBM)**, launched a national **Quantum Technology Roadmap** aiming to position India among the **top three quantum economies by 2047**.

ndia to Host 20th Session of UNESCO Inter-Governmental Committee for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage

- **India will host** the **20th session of the Inter-governmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)** from **8th to 13th December 2025** at the **Red Fort, New Delhi**.

EARTH Summit 2025 Launched in Gandhinagar, Gujarat

- **Shri Amit Shah**, Union Minister of **Home Affairs and Cooperation**, inaugurated the **EARTH Summit 2025** in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**, and launched **13+ new services and products** under the **Sahakar Sarathi initiative** to modernize the **cooperative and rural banking sector**.

Rajasthan Achieves 100% Digitisation of Electoral Rolls under Special Intensive Revision 2025

- **Rajasthan** becomes the **first state in India** to achieve **100% digitisation of electoral rolls** under the **Special Intensive Revision (SIR) programme**, announced by **Chief Electoral Officer Navin Mahajan**.

11th India International Science Festival 2025 in Panchkula, Haryana

- The **11th edition of the India International Science Festival (IISF 2025)** was held in **Panchkula, Haryana** from **6th to 9th December 2025**, celebrating India's achievements in **science, innovation, and technology**.
- **Theme:** "**Vigyan Se Samruddhi: for Aatmanirbhar Bharat**" (Science for Prosperity and Self-Reliant India), reflecting the government's vision to position science as a driver of **economic growth, social welfare, and national development**.

Banas Dairy Launches Bio-Compressed Natural Gas and Fertilizer Plant; Foundation Laid for Milk Powder Unit under White Revolution 2.0

- **Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah** inaugurated the newly constructed **Bio-Compressed Natural Gas (Bio-CNG) and Fertilizer Plant** of **Banas Dairy** and laid the foundation stone for a **150-ton milk powder plant** in **Vav–Tharad District, Gujarat**.

India Launches Digital Hub for Reference and Unique Virtual Address Digital Address System

- **India launched DHRUVA (Digital Hub for Reference and Unique Virtual Address)** developed by the **Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications**, to digitise and standardise physical addresses across the country.

Right to Disconnect Bill 2025 introduced in Lok Sabha

- **Supriya Sule, Member of Parliament (MP) from the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), introduced the Right to Disconnect Bill 2025 in the Lok Sabha** to protect employees from digital burnout and excessive work-related communication beyond office hours.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India reports rise in India's internet subscribers in Q2 Financial Year 2025–26

- The **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** released data showing that India's total internet subscribers increased by **1.49%** during the **July– September 2025 quarter (Q2 Financial Year 2025–26)**.

Government of India launches Pariksha Pe Charcha 2026

- The **Government of India** has announced the return of its annual programme **Pariksha Pe Charcha (PPC) 2026**, led by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, aimed at fostering a positive and stress-free exam mindset among students, teachers, and parents.

Jan Dhan Deposits Cross ₹2.75 Lakh Crore in 2025

- As of November 2025, total deposits in **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)** accounts reached **₹2.75 lakh crore**, reflecting deepening financial inclusion.
- PMJDY, launched in **2014**, provides **zero-balance savings accounts**, **RuPay debit cards**, **access to government subsidies via DBT**, **overdraft facilities**, and **insurance coverage**, targeting the unbanked population.

Adani Group to Set Up 48 MW Green Data Centre in Telangana

- **Adani Group** announced the establishment of a **48-megawatt (MW) green data centre** in **Telangana** to strengthen India's digital infrastructure.
- The project was announced by **Karan Adani**, **Managing Director (MD)** of **Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ)** during the **Telangana Rising Global Summit 2025**.

India Launches Gyan Bharatam Programme for Manuscript Conservation and Digitization

- **India launched Gyan Bharatam**, a national programme under the **Ministry of Culture**, aimed at conserving and digitizing India's manuscript heritage.

India to Host WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine 2025 in New Delhi

- **India has launched the** official countdown for the **WHO (World Health Organization) Global Summit on Traditional Medicine 2025**, which will be held from **17–19 December 2025** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**.
- The summit will be co-hosted by the **Ministry of Ayush (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Homoeopathy)** and the WHO.

India Expands Use of National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) for Strengthening National Security

- **NATGRID (National Intelligence Grid)** is a digital intelligence platform that provides **real-time access to integrated government and private databases** to support counter-terrorism and national security operations.

Maharashtra Sets Guinness World Record for Solar Agricultural Pump Installation

- **Maharashtra installed 45,911 off-grid solar agricultural pumps in 30 days**, achieving a **Guinness World Record** and becoming the **second fastest globally after China** in solar pump deployment by a single administrative region.

Telangana Rising Global Summit 2025 Secures ₹5.75 Lakh Crore Investment Commitments

- **Telangana** achieved a major economic milestone as the **Telangana Rising Global Summit 2025** concluded with **₹5.75 lakh crore** investment commitments, showcasing the State's push toward **energy transition**, **AI- driven data infrastructure**, **smart urbanisation**, and **next-generation technologies**.

Global AI Conclave 2025 to Be Held in Chennai

- India is positioning itself as a **global thought leader in responsible Artificial Intelligence (AI)** through the **Global AI Conclave 2025**, jointly hosted by **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** and the **India AI Mission** in Chennai.

India Post Inaugurates Kerala's First Gen-Z Post Office Extension Counter at CMS College, Kottayam

- **India Post inaugurated Kerala's first Gen-Z Post Office Extension Counter** at **CMS College, Kottayam**.
- The counter was inaugurated by **Shri N.R. Giri**, **Director Postal Services, Kerala Central Region**.

Government Launches "Your Money, Your Right" Campaign to Help Citizens Reclaim Unclaimed Financial Assets

- The **Government of India launched** the nationwide initiative **"आपकी पूँजी, आपका अधिकार — Your Money, Your Right"** to help citizens reclaim **unclaimed financial assets** such as unclaimed bank deposits, insurance proceeds, dividends, shares, mutual funds, and pension amounts that remained inactive due to dormancy or lack of awareness.

State-Level Watershed Mahotsav 2025 and Mission Watershed Punarutthan Launched in Nagaland

- **State-Level Watershed Mahotsav 2025** and **Mission Watershed Punarutthan** were launched at **Naga Solidarity Park, Kohima**, focusing on **natural water-source protection**, **soil health improvement**, and **community-led water management**.

India Launches Steel-Cutting for Its First Fully Electric Green Tug

- **Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal** virtually launched the **steel-cutting ceremony** for India's **first fully electric green tug**, marking a major step toward **clean and modern port operations**.

India's First Hydrogen-Powered Train Ready

- **Indian Railways has completed India's first hydrogen-powered train**, developed as a **pilot model** following **RDSO standards**, as announced by **Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw** in the Lok Sabha.

Government Measures to Address Global Logistics Disruptions & Boost Export Efficiency

- **Global logistics disruptions** have caused delays, higher costs, and supply chain issues affecting exporters; the **Government is strengthening logistics infrastructure and simplifying export procedures.**
- **Credit Guarantee Scheme for Exporters (CGSE)** launched to provide **100% credit guarantee** via **NCGTC** for additional credit up to **₹20,000 crore**, supporting MSMEs and enhancing liquidity for export operations under Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- **Export Promotion Mission (EPM)** approved as a flagship initiative (Budget 2025–26) with an outlay of **₹25,060 crore (FY 2025-26 to 2030-31)** to strengthen export competitiveness, especially for **MSMEs, first-time exporters, and labour-intensive sectors**, by creating a **unified, outcome-based export promotion framework**.

Maharashtra Government Introduces New Framework to End Pagdi System in Mumbai

- The **Government of Maharashtra** has announced a major regulatory reform to dismantle the **century-old Pagdi system**, a rental arrangement deeply rooted in Mumbai's housing history.

Maharashtra Launches MahaCrimeOS AI Platform for Cybercrime Policing

- The **Government of Maharashtra** has partnered with **Microsoft** to launch **MahaCrimeOS Artificial Intelligence**, an advanced platform aimed at modernising and accelerating **cybercrime investigations** across the state.

Union Cabinet Renames MGNREGS as Poojya Bapu Grameen Rozgar Yojana; Workdays Increased

- The **Union Cabinet** approved a major update to **India's largest rural employment programme**.

India Launches First Indigenous Hydrogen Fuel Cell Passenger Vessel at Varanasi

- **India has launched its first fully indigenous hydrogen fuel cell passenger vessel**, marking a historic milestone in **green maritime mobility and clean inland water transport**.

Kopra Reservoir Declared Chhattisgarh's First Ramsar Site

- **Chhattisgarh** achieved a major environmental milestone with the declaration of **Kopra Reservoir in Bilaspur district** as the **state's first Ramsar Site**.

Madhya Pradesh to Develop Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve as Cheetah Sanctuary

- **Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav** announced that **Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve** will be developed into a **cheetah sanctuary before the next monsoon session**.

India Conducts First Indigenous Clinical Trial for Advanced Brain Stent in Stroke Treatment

- India created medical history with its **first-ever dedicated domestic clinical trial** of an advanced **brain stent for severe stroke treatment** at **All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi**.

Maharashtra Launches MahaCrimeOS AI for Statewide Policing

- **Microsoft Chairman and CEO Satya Nadella** announced the **statewide rollout of MahaCrimeOS AI** for the **Maharashtra Police** marking a historic step in **technology-driven law enforcement**.
- The **AI-based crime-solving platform** will be implemented across **all 1,100 police stations** in Maharashtra, making it one of the **largest AI deployments in policing in India**.

Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan (VBSA) Bill, 2025 Introduced to Reform Higher Education Governance

- The **Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan (VBSA) Bill, 2025** has been introduced by the **Union Government** and listed in the **Winter Session of Parliament** to reform India's higher education regulatory framework in line with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.
- India's higher education system faces challenges such as **multiple regulators, overlapping mandates, inconsistent standards, and bureaucratic delays**, which the Bill seeks to address through a **single integrated framework**.

India to Establish Maitri II Antarctic Research Station by 2032

- **India is set to expand its polar research presence** with **Maitri II**, a next-generation research station in East Antarctica, expected to be completed by **2032**.

India's First Wildlife-Safe Highway Launched on NH-45 in Madhya Pradesh

- The **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** has introduced **India's first wildlife-safe road** on **National Highway 45 (NH-45)** in **Madhya Pradesh**, marking a major step towards **eco-sensitive infrastructure development**.

India Launches DHRUV64 – First Indigenous 64-bit Microprocessor

- **India achieved a major milestone** in **technological self-reliance** with the launch of **DHRUV64**, the country's **first fully indigenous 1.0 GHz, 64-bit dual-core microprocessor**.
- The processor has been **designed and developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)** under the **Microprocessor Development Programme (MDP)**, with support from the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**.

Ponduru Khadi from Andhra Pradesh Receives Geographical Indication Tag

- **Ponduru Khadi**, a traditional **handspun and handwoven cotton fabric** from **Andhra Pradesh**, has been granted the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** by the **Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.

President of India Inaugurates Param Vir Dirgha at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Vijay Diwas

- On the occasion of **Vijay Diwas**, the **President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu**, inaugurated the **Param Vir Dirgha** at **Rashtrapati Bhavan**.
- The initiative aims to honour India's bravest soldiers and preserve the legacy of **supreme military valour**, reinforcing **national pride** and remembrance of those who made the **ultimate sacrifice** for the nation.

India Emerges as World's Largest Hub for Active Users of Artificial Intelligence Applications: Bank of America Securities Report

- According to the latest report by **Bank of America Securities (BofA)**, **India has emerged as the largest global hub for active users of Artificial Intelligence applications**, leading the world in both **Daily Active Users (DAUs)** and **Monthly Active Users (MAUs)**.

India's Labour Market Performance in November 2025 (Periodic Labour Force Survey)

- India's labour market showed **continued improvement in November 2025**, as per the **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** released by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)** under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**.

Parliament Clears SHANTI Bill 2025 to Reform Nuclear Governance

- **Parliament has passed the Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Bill, 2025**, with the **Rajya Sabha approving it**, completing the legislative process after earlier approval by the **Lok Sabha**.

Odisha to Host Regional Artificial Intelligence Impact Conference 2025

- The **Odisha Government** will host the **Regional Artificial Intelligence Impact Conference** from **19 to 20 December 2025**, positioning the state as an emerging contributor to **artificial intelligence–driven governance and public service delivery** in India.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Inaugurate New Terminal at Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport, Guwahati

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will inaugurate the **new terminal building of Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport** in **Guwahati, Assam**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Released Commemorative Postal Stamp on Ashwagandha at the 2nd World Health Organization Global Summit on Traditional Medicine

- At the **2nd World Health Organization Global Summit on Traditional Medicine** held in **New Delhi**, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** released a **commemorative postal stamp on Ashwagandha**, one of India's most well-known medicinal plants.

Jammu and Kashmir Launches First Gen Z Post Office at All India Institute of Medical Sciences Vijaypur

- **Jammu and Kashmir** has launched its **first Gen Z Post Office** at the **All-India Institute of Medical Sciences Vijaypur**, marking a major step towards modernising and digitising postal services.

Haryana State Assembly Passes Resolution to Mark 350th Martyrdom Year of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji

- The **Haryana State Assembly** unanimously passed a resolution to commemorate the **350th martyrdom year of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji**, the **Ninth Sikh Guru**.
- The resolution was adopted during the **winter session of the Assembly in Chandigarh**, reflecting respect for Guru Ji's **supreme sacrifice**, commitment to **truth, justice, religious freedom, and human dignity**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurates New Terminal at Lokapriya Gopinath Bardoloi International Airport, Guwahati

- **Prime MinisterNarendra Modi** inaugurated the **new terminal building of Lokapriya Gopinath Bardoloi International Airport** in **Guwahati, Assam**.
- Along with the terminal, an **80-foot statue of Gopinath Bardoloi**, Assam's **first Chief Minister**, was unveiled outside the airport premises.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Lays Foundation Stone of ₹10,601 Crore Namrup Ammonia–Urea Fertiliser Plant in Assam

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** laid the foundation stone of a **₹10,601 crore ammonia–urea fertiliser plant** at **Namrup in Dibrugarh district, Assam**.

Jharkhand Approves Platform Based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Act, 2025

- **Jharkhand** has approved the **Jharkhand Platform Based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Act, 2025**, after receiving assent from **Governor Santosh Gangwar**, making the state one of the early movers in regulating the gig economy.

India to Establish Its First Forest University in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh

- **India is set to establish** its **first-ever Forest University** in **Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh**, marking a major step towards strengthening education and research in **forestry, wildlife conservation, and environmental sciences**.

Parliamentary Panel Recommends Institution of National Importance Status for Auroville Foundation

- The **Auroville Foundation**, located in **Puducherry**, has come into national focus after a **Parliamentary Standing Committee** recommended granting it the status of an **Institution of National Importance (INI)**.
- The recommendation was **tabled in Parliament in December 2025** by a committee **headed by Digvijaya Singh**.

National Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Hub Scheme to Promote Inclusive Entrepreneurship

- The **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises** has intensified efforts to promote entrepreneurship among **Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities** through the **National Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Hub Scheme**, in line with the goals of

inclusive economic growth, social justice, and equitable participation in the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises ecosystem.

Tamil Nadu Launches Conservation Initiative for Smooth-Coated Otters in Cauvery Delta

- The **Tamil Nadu Government** launched a special conservation initiative to protect the **smooth-coated otter**, a **Vulnerable species** found in the **Cauvery river delta**, reflecting rising concern over declining freshwater ecosystems.

VB-G RAM G Bill, 2025 Comes into Force – Replaces Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act

- India's rural employment framework entered a new phase with the **Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Bill, 2025**, officially becoming law after receiving **Presidential assent from Droupadi Murmu**, as confirmed by the **Ministry of Rural Development**.

Doha Hosts 11th Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention Against Corruption

- The **11th Conference of the State Parties (COSP-11)** to the **United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)** was held from **15–19 December 2025** in **Doha, Qatar**.
- The **12th session of COSP (COSP-12)** will be held in **Uzbekistan** in **2027**.

Health Effects Institute Study Highlights Persistent Air Pollution Crisis in Delhi-NCR

- A recent analysis by the **Health Effects Institute (HEI)** has highlighted the continued severity of **air pollution in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR).**
- According to the study, **all of India's top 20 most polluted air quality monitoring stations in 2024 were located in Delhi-NCR**, despite the implementation of the **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in 2019**.

Government to Establish Bureau of Port Security to Strengthen Maritime Security

- In a major step to strengthen **India's maritime security framework**, the **Central Government** has decided to establish a **Bureau of Port Security (BoPS)**.
- The new body aims to enhance **security at ports and on vessels** through improved **coordination, intelligence sharing, and risk-based security planning**, at a time when Indian ports are handling rapidly increasing trade volumes.

NITI Aayog Report on Internationalisation of Higher Education in India (December 2025)

- In **December 2025**, **NITI Aayog** released a landmark policy report titled **"Internationalisation of Higher Education in India: Prospects, Potential, and Policy Recommendations"** with the objective of transforming **India into a global education destination and research hub**.

Chillai Kalan Begins in Jammu and Kashmir Amid Fresh Rain and Snowfall Forecast

- **Chillai Kalan** is the coldest and most severe phase of winter in **Kashmir Valley**, lasting for **40 days from December 21 to January 30**.
- It is a **centuries-old Kashmiri term** that marks the peak winter period, characterized by **extreme cold**, **freezing temperatures**, **snowfall**, and **icy winds**.

Cabinet Clears Three New Corridors Under Delhi Metro Phase V(A)

- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, approved **Delhi Metro Phase V(A)** with a total project cost of **₹12,014.91 crore** to enhance urban connectivity and ease of living.
- **Phase V(A)** will add **16.076 km** to the **Delhi Metro network**, pushing the total network length **beyond 400 km**, with completion targeted in **3 years**.

43 Young Writers Chosen Under PM-YUVA 3.0 Through Nationwide Selection Process

- **Prime Minister's Scheme for Mentoring Young Authors (PM-YUVA 3.0) Results Announced** by the **National Book Trust (NBT), India** under the **Ministry of Education** on **24 December 2025**, aimed at mentoring young writers and strengthening India's literary ecosystem.

Maharashtra to Get Dedicated Raisin Research Centre in Sangli

- In a major boost for grape and raisin farmers, the **Shivaji University Senate has approved in principle the establishment of a dedicated Raisin Research Centre** in **Sangli district, Maharashtra**.
- The proposal was raised by **Sangli MLA Sudhir Gadgil** to address challenges faced by local growers and processors.

India Makes Significant Progress in Maternal Health Outcomes

- **India has achieved** a major public health milestone with **institutional deliveries increasing to 89%**, according to the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)**.
- This rise has played a crucial role in reducing the **Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)** and reflects sustained improvements in access to maternal healthcare services.

Largest Ancient Stone Labyrinth Discovered in Maharashtra

- **Indian archaeologists** have discovered the **largest circular stone labyrinth ever found in India** in the **Boramani grasslands of Solapur district, Maharashtra**.
- The structure dates back to nearly **2,000 years ago**, belonging to the **Early Common Era (1st–3rd century CE)**, a period when the region played a crucial role in inland and overseas trade networks.

Indian Railways Strengthens AI-Based Wildlife Protection System

- **Indian Railways** has strengthened its **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based wildlife protection system** along railway tracks to enhance **wildlife conservation and railway safety**.

Commissioning of Unit-2 of Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project

- **India** has commissioned **Unit-2 (250 MW)** of the **Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project**, marking another major step towards **clean and sustainable energy** generation.

India Announces $450 Million Humanitarian and Reconstruction Package for Sri Lanka after Cyclone Ditwah

- **India** has announced a **$450 million humanitarian and reconstruction assistance package** for **Sri Lanka** following the large-scale devastation caused by **Cyclone Ditwah**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Inaugurate Rashtra Prerna Sthal in Lucknow

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will inaugurate **Rashtra Prerna Sthal** in **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**, marking a major national event dedicated to honouring the life and ideals of **former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee**.

Haryana Declares Hansi as 23rd District

- The **Haryana government** has officially declared **Hansi as a new district**, making it the **23rd district of the state**, following the issuance of a formal government notification.
- The decision aims to **improve administrative efficiency**, strengthen governance, and **accelerate development activities** in the region.

Union Cabinet Approves Delhi Metro Phase V (A) with Three New Corridors

- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, has approved **three new corridors under Delhi Metro Phase V (A)** to strengthen metro connectivity in **Central Delhi, South Delhi, and the Domestic Airport area**.
- The project aims to promote **clean, efficient, and sustainable public transport** while addressing critical connectivity gaps in the National Capital.

Gujarat Leads India in Rooftop Solar Energy Adoption

- **Gujarat** has reinforced its position as **India's leading state in rooftop solar energy**, achieving an installed capacity of **1,879 Megawatt** with **over 5 lakh rooftop solar systems**.

Fifth National Conference of Chief Secretaries 2025

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will chair the **Fifth National Conference of Chief Secretaries** in **New Delhi**.
- The conference will be organised under the theme **"Human Capital for Viksit Bharat"**, reflecting the government's focus on transforming India's population into **skilled, productive and future-ready human capital** to achieve the goal of a developed nation.

Gujarat Reinstated as a Tiger-Bearing State

- **Gujarat has been officially reinstated as a tiger-bearing state after 33 years**, following confirmation by the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)**.
- The decision allows Gujarat's inclusion in the **All India Tiger Estimation (AITE) 2026**, marking its return to India's official tiger map under **Project Tiger**.

Ministry of Civil Aviation Grants No Objection Certificates to New Airlines

- The **Ministry of Civil Aviation** has granted **No Objection Certificates (NOCs)** to two new airlines, **Al Hind Air** and **FlyExpress**.
- These approvals clear the way for their **commercial launch in 2026**.

Government Announces Major Reforms to Modernise Employees Provident Fund Organisation

- The **Government of India** announced major reforms to modernise the **Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** and expand social security coverage.
- The initiatives were announced by **Union Minister for Labour and Employment Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya** while inaugurating the **Bhavishya Nidhi Bhawan of EPFO at Vatva, Gujarat**.

World's Largest Open-Air Theatre Dhanu Yatra Inaugurated in Bargarh, Odisha

- **Dhanu Yatra**, the world's largest **open-air theatre festival**, was inaugurated in **Bargarh district of Odisha**.
- It is an **eleven-day cultural festival** that celebrates **Indian mythology, tradition, and folk performance**, attracting thousands of visitors from across Odisha and other parts of India.

India Launches First National Database for Lost, Looted and Recovered Government Firearms

- The **Union Government** has launched **India's first-ever national weapon database** to strengthen the fight against **terrorism, organised crime, and extremism**.
- The database aims to **track lost, stolen, looted, and recovered government firearms** and improve coordination among law enforcement agencies.

VoxelGrids Develops India's First Indigenous Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Scanner

- **VoxelGrids**, a **Zoho-backed Indian medical technology startup**, has developed **India's first indigenously built Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scanner**, providing a major boost to **Make in India** and the **medical technology sector**.

Bureau of Indian Standards Notifies India's First Standard for Agarbattis (IS 19412:2025)

- The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** has notified **India's first-ever standard for agarbattis (incense sticks)** to strengthen **consumer safety and product quality**.
- The standard **IS 19412:2025** was announced on **National Consumer Day 2025**.

Sudarsan Pattnaik Creates World Record Santa Claus Sculpture in Odisha

- Renowned sand artist and **Padma Shri awardee Sudarsan Pattnaik** created a **world record–breaking Santa Claus sculpture** at **Niladri Beach, Puri, Odisha**.
- Titled **"World's Biggest Apple and Sand Installation of Santa Claus"**, the sculpture was unveiled on **26 December 2025**.

President Droupadi Murmu Releases Constitution of India in Santhali Language

- President of India **Droupadi Murmu** released the **Constitution of India in the Santhali language** at a special function held at **Rashtrapati Bhavan**.
- The Constitution has been published in the **Ol Chiki script**, enabling **Santhali-speaking tribal citizens** to read and understand India's supreme law in their **mother tongue**.

India to Introduce Its First Comprehensive National Anti-Terror Policy

- **India is set** to introduce its **first comprehensive National Anti-Terror Policy**, aimed at strengthening the **national security architecture**.
- The policy is in the **final stages** and will provide a **unified framework** for **Central and State agencies** to prevent, investigate and respond to terror-related incidents.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurates Rashtra Prerna Sthal in Lucknow

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **Rashtra Prerna Sthal** in **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**, marking the **101st birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee**, a **Bharat Ratna awardee**.

Complete Ban on New Mining Leases in the Aravalli Range

- To strengthen environmental conservation, the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** has announced a **complete ban on the grant of new mining leases** across the **entire Aravalli Range**, extending from **Gujarat to the National Capital Region (NCR)**.

Sharadchandra Pawar Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence Inaugurated in Baramati

- Industrialist **Gautam Adani** inaugurated the **Sharadchandra Pawar Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence** in **Baramati, Maharashtra**.
- The centre has been established under **Vidya Pratishthan**, a reputed educational institution governed by the **Pawar family**, and is **fully funded by the Adani Group Chairman**.

Madhya Pradesh to Establish India's First Public Private Partnership (PPP) Model Medical Colleges

- **India is set** to witness a major reform in medical education with the establishment of its **first Public Private Partnership (PPP) model medical colleges** in **Madhya Pradesh**.

Supreme Court Reaffirms Personal Liberty in Passport Renewal Case

- The **Supreme Court of India** has ruled that **personal liberty is not a gift of the State but its first obligation**, holding that **mere pendency of criminal proceedings does not automatically disqualify a person from holding or renewing a passport**.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Cyclone Ditwah Forms in Southwest Bay of Bengal; India Meteorological Department Issues Alerts for Tamil Nadu, Puducherry & South Andhra Pradesh

- **Cyclone Ditwah** formed over the **Southwest Bay of Bengal** in **November 2025**, prompting India Meteorological Department (IMD) alerts for **Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, and South Andhra Pradesh**.

Oxford University Press selects "Rage Bait" as its 2025 Word of the Year

- The **Oxford University Press (OUP)** selected **"Rage Bait"** as the **Word of the Year 2025**.
- Usage of the term **"Rage Bait"** has **tripled in 2025**, showing its rising presence on **social media** for provoking outrage and polarization.

Kerala's 100-Year-Old ULCCS Recognised as Global Cooperative Cultural Heritage Site by International Co-operative Alliance

- The **Uralungal Labour Contract Cooperative Society (ULCCS)**, a **100-year-old labour**

cooperative in **Kerala**, has been recognised as a **Global Cooperative Cultural Heritage Site** by the **International Co-operative Alliance (ICA)**.

International Water Management Institute Launches SoLAR Phase II to Promote Climate-Resilient Solar Irrigation and Agriculture

- The **International Water Management Institute (IWMI)**, a **global Non-Profit Organization (NPO)**, in partnership with the **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)**, launched the **second phase of Solar Energy for Agricultural Resilience (SoLAR-Phase II)** in **India, Bangladesh, Kenya, and Ethiopia**.

Canada Announces Delisting of Syria and HTS from Terror-Related Sanctions

- **Canada** has announced **policy changes** by **removing Syria** from its list of **states supporting terrorism** and **revoking the terror designation of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS)**.

World Meteorological Organization Predicts 55% Chance of Weak La Niña Affecting Global Weather in Coming Three Months

- According to the **World Meteorological Organization (WMO),** there is a **55% chance** that a **weak La Niña** will influence **global weather patterns** over the next three months.
- **La Niña** is characterized by **large-scale cooling of ocean surface temperatures** in the **central and eastern equatorial Pacific**, combined with **shifts in tropical atmospheric circulation**, including changes in **winds, pressure, and rainfall**.

Australia Enforces Global First Ban on Social Media for Under-16 Users

- **Australia** has begun enforcing a **world-first ban** preventing **children under 16** from using major **social media platforms** like **TikTok, Instagram, and YouTube**.
- Under the **law**, **10 major platforms**, including **TikTok, Meta's Instagram, and Alphabet's YouTube**, must **bar underage users** or face a **fine of up to A$49.5 million ($33 million)**.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna CoP20: Global South Leads Major Reforms in Global Wildlife Trade Governance

- The **20th Conference of the Parties (CoP20)** to Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna **(CITES)** was held from **24 November to 5 December 2025** (12-day long meeting) at the **Silkroad Samarkand Expo Center, Uzbekistan**, marking the **50th Anniversary** of the convention.

Pakistan's Ancient Boreendo Added to UNESCO's Urgent Intangible Cultural Heritage List at New Delhi Session

- **Pakistan's Boreendo (also called Bhorindo/Bareendo)** was inscribed on United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (**UNESCO's) List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding** during the **20th Session of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee**, held at **Red Fort, New Delhi**.

India, France to modernise 1992 Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement in line with global tax transparency norms

- **India and France** have agreed to **revise the 1992 Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA)** to **modernise the treaty** in line with **global tax transparency standards**.

World Inequality Report 2026: Top 10% Indians capture 58% of country's total income

- The **World Inequality Lab (WIL)** released the **3rd edition of the World Inequality Report (WIR 2026)**, analysing **global income and wealth disparities**.
- In **India**, the **top 10% of earners capture 58% of total income**, while the **bottom 50% receive only 15%**, indicating **extreme income inequality**.

About World Inequality Report (WIR)

- The **World Inequality Report** is a **global assessment of income and wealth inequality**, produced by the **World Inequality Lab (WIL)**.
- The report is published **approximately every four years**, with the **first edition released in 2018**.

United Nations Environment Programme Hosts 7th United Nations Environment Assembly in Nairobi from December 8–12, 2025

- The **7th United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7)** was held from **08–12 December 2025** at the **UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya**.
- The **theme of UNEA-7** was **"Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet"**.

Russia Enacts Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Support Military Logistics Support Pact With India Into Law

- **Russian President Vladimir Putin** signed into **federal law** a major **military cooperation agreement** with **India**, formalising the **Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Support (RELOS) pact**.

- The **RELOS agreement** was signed after being **ratified by both houses of Russia's Parliament**.

Trump Administration Launches $1 Million "Gold Card" Visa for Expedited U.S. Residency

- The **Trump administration** officially launched the **"Trump Gold Card" visa programme**, offering a **fast-track pathway** for **non-U.S. citizens** to **live and work in the United States**.
- Applicants are required to pay an initial **USD 15,000 processing fee** to the **U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)** through the official website **Trumpcard.gov**.

India, Oman Ink Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)

- **India and Oman** signed the **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** under the leadership of **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** and **His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik**.

Armenia Unveils Yerevan Blue Butterfly as Official Logo for COP17 on Biodiversity

- **The Government of Armenia** unveiled the **Yerevan Blue Butterfly** as the **official logo** for the **17th Conference of the Parties (COP17)** to the **United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**.
- **COP17** is scheduled to be held in **October 2026** in **Yerevan, Armenia**.

India Takes Part in 11th United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Global Forum Held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

- **Government of India (GoI)** participated in the **11th edition of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) Global Forum**, held from **14–15 December 2025** in **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**.
- The **UNAOC Global Forum 2025** was organised under the theme **"UNAOC: Two Decades of Dialogue for Humanity – Advancing a New Era of Mutual Respect and Understanding in a Multipolar World."**

India and Netherlands Reiterate Support for a Free, Open, and Rules-Based Indo-Pacific

- **India and the Netherlands** signed a **Letter of Intent (LoI) on Defence Cooperation** in **New Delhi, Delhi**, to **strengthen and institutionalize bilateral defence ties**.
- The **LoI was signed by Rajesh Kumar Singh**, **Secretary, Ministry of Defence (MoD), India**, and **Marisa Gerards**, **Ambassador of the Netherlands to India**.

India Takes Over BRICS Presidency for 2026 from Brazil

- **Brazil formally handed over the rotating BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) Presidency to India** during the **4th BRICS Sherpas Meeting** held on **11–12 December 2025 in Brasília, Brazil**.

United States President Donald Trump Unveils Plan for New US Navy 'Battleship' Under Proposed Golden Fleet

- **United States (US) President Donald Trump** announced plans for the **US Navy** to build a **new large warship**, described as a **"battleship"**, as part of a proposed **"Golden Fleet."**

BANKING AND BUSINESS

Reserve Bank of India Fines Mannakrishna Investments ₹3.10 Lakh for Regulatory Non-Compliance

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a **monetary penalty of ₹3.10 lakh** on **Mannakrishna Investments Private Limited** for **non-compliance** with regulatory directions.

Reserve Bank of India Data Shows All-India House Price Index Rises 2.2% in Q2 FY26, Slower Than 7% Last Year

- According to **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data**, the **All-India House Price Index (HPI)**, based on transactions in **18 major cities**, increased at a **slower pace of 2.2% in Q2 FY26**, compared to **7% in the year-ago period**.

TATA Realty Gets ₹1,280 Crore Green Loan from DBS Bank for Gurugram Development Project

- **Tata Realty & Infrastructure Limited (TRIL)**, a **wholly-owned Tata Sons subsidiary**, signed a **₹1,280 crore green loan facility** with **DBS Bank India** to fund **Intellion Park**, a **2.1 million sq ft Grade-A sustainable office campus** in **Gurugram**.

NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited Launches "Banking Connect" to Streamline Digital Banking Services

- **NBBL (NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited)**, a subsidiary ofNational Payments Corporation of India (**NPCI**), launched **"Banking Connect"**, an **interoperable net banking platform** to simplify **online merchant payments** by removing **multiple integrations**, enabling **biometric authentication**, and offering **real-time RBI oversight** of fund flows.

Asian Development Bank Sanctions USD 475.8 Million for Assam Healthcare Upgrade and Meghalaya Ecotourism Development

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** approved a **USD 475.8 million loan package** for **Northeast India** to strengthen healthcare, ecotourism, and sustainable livelihoods.
- Of this, **USD 398.8 million** was allocated for **Assam's tertiary healthcare and medical education modernisation**.

International Monetary Fund Rates India's National Accounts Statistics 'C' Citing Methodological Shortcomings

- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has graded India's **national accounts statistics** as **'C'**, the second-lowest grade, indicating **methodological shortcomings** that hamper economic surveillance.

Indian Banks Complete Full Implementation of SWIFT ISO 20022 Messaging Standard Ahead of November 22, 2025 Deadline

- **Indian banks** have successfully achieved **full implementation** of **SWIFT's ISO 20022 messaging standard** ahead of the **22 November 2025**
- With **100% readiness**, **India** has outperformed the **global compliance average of 87%**.

Reserve Bank of India Governor Launches Five-Year National Strategy for Financial Inclusion

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** formally released the **National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (NSFI) 2025–30** at the **32nd meeting of the sub-committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC-SC)**, aiming to strengthen and deepen the financial ecosystem over the next five years.

India, Asian Development Bank Ink Over USD 800 Million in Loan Agreements for Projects in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh & Gujarat

- **The Government of India** and the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** signed **three loan agreements worth over USD 800 million** for major projects in **Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat**.

State Bank of India and Bank of India Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Set Up Centre of Excellence in Strategic Partnership

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** and **Bank of India (BOI)** signed an Memorandum of Understanding **(MoU)** to jointly establish a **Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Strategic Partnership**.
- The initiative aims to **bolster leadership and expertise in project financing** across India.

Industrial output dips to a 14-month low, rising just 0.4% in October

- **Industrial growth slowed to 0.4%**, hitting a **14-month low**, mainly due to weak performance in **electricity** and **consumer non-durables**
- Growth was last lower in **August 2024**, when it stood at **0%**, as per **MOSPI (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation)**

CRISIL Raises India's FY26 GDP Growth Forecast to 7% After Strong First-Half Performance

- **CRISIL** revised India's **GDP growth forecast** for **FY26 to 7%** (earlier **6.5%**) due to a **strong 8% growth** in the **first half** of the year.

Reserve Bank of India Sees 13% Increase in Consumer Complaints Under Ombudsman Scheme in FY25

- **Consumer grievances under the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Ombudsman Scheme rose by 13% in FY25**, reaching **13,34,244 complaints** compared with **11,75,075 in FY24**.

Government launches digitally enabled Credit Assessment Model to streamline and strengthen Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises loan appraisal processes

- The **Government** launched the **Credit Assessment Model (CAM)** for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), using **digitally fetched, verifiable data** to enable **automated loan appraisal** with **objective decisioning** for both **ETB (Existing To Bank) and NTB (New To Bank) borrowers**.

Reserve Bank of India issues directives requiring banks to offer customer services in regional languages

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) customer service guidelines** mandate the use of **regional languages** so banks can align service delivery with **local needs** across India.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurates the 18th plenary of the Global Forum on Tax Transparency and Information Exchange

- **Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the 18th Global Forum Plenary** on **Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes** in **New Delhi** (2–5 Dec 2025).

India's Current Account Deficit Narrows to $12.3 Billion in Q2 FY26

- **India's current account deficit (CAD)** moderated to **$12.3 billion**, or **1.3% of GDP**, in **Q2 FY26**, supported by a **lower merchandise trade deficit**.

India's Foreign Direct Investments Rises 18% to USD 35.18 bn in Apr–Sep FY26, US Investments More Than Double: Ministry of Commerce & Industry

- The **DPIIT (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade)** under the **Ministry of**

Commerce & Industry released the quarterly fact sheet on **Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) inflow in India.**

Reserve Bank of India Approves Razorpay as Cross-Border Payment Aggregator under PSS Act 2007

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has **approved Razorpay** to operate as a **Payment Aggregator – Cross Border Inward & Outward (PA-CB-I&O)** under the **Payment and Settlement Systems (PSS) Act, 2007**.

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development Maintains India's FY26 GDP Growth Projection at 6.7%

- The **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)** released its bi-annual report **"OECD Economic Outlook, Volume 2025 Issue 2: Resilient Growth but with Increasing Fragilities"**, prepared by the **OECD Economics Department**.

Reserve Bank of India Reaffirms SBI, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank as Domestic Systemically Important Banks

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** announced that State Bank of India **(SBI)**, **HDFC Bank**, and **ICICI Bank** will continue as **Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)** for **2025**, retaining the same **bucketing structure** as in **2024**.

Life Insurance Corporation of India Introduces New Insurance Plans: Protection Plus and Bima Kavach

- The **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)**, India's **largest insurance company**, launched two new insurance products: **Protection Plus (Plan 886)** and **Bima Kavach (Plan 887)** to enhance **financial security** and provide **flexible savings or pure-risk cover options**.

NPCI International Partners with ACLEDA Bank to Facilitate UPI–KHQR Cross-Border Payments

- **NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL)**, the **international arm of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, partnered with **ACLEDA Bank Plc**, the **first publicly listed commercial bank in Cambodia**, to enable **cross-border QR-based payments**.

Developing Countries Pay Record $741 Billion More in Debt Than Received in New Financing Between 2022–2024

- **Developing countries** paid out **$741 billion more** in **principal and interest** on their **external debt** than they received in **new financing** between 2022 and 2024—the **largest gap in at least 50 years**.
- In 2024, **developing countries** gained some **breathing room** as **interest rates**

peaked and **bond markets** reopened, allowing many to **restructure debt**.

Securities Exchange Board of India Launches SWAGAT-FI, a Single-Window Access for Low-Risk Foreign Investors

- The **Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** issued the **SEBI (Foreign Venture Capital Investors (FVCI)) (Amendment) Regulations, 2025** to allow **low-risk foreign investors** to participate in the **Indian securities market** via **single window access**.

Union Minister of State Finance Pankaj Chaudhary inaugurates the 68th Foundation Day of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence in New Delhi

- **Union Minister of State (MoS) Finance Pankaj Chaudhary** inaugurated the **68th Founding Day** of the **Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)** at its **Headquarters in New Delhi**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Grants In-Principle Nod to NHAI's Raajmarg Infra Investment Trust as an InvIT

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has granted **in-principle approval** for registering **Raajmarg Infra Investment Trust (RIIT)** as an **Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT)** under **SEBI InvIT Regulations, 2014**.

NPCI's Global Arm NIPL Signs Pact with ACLEDA Bank for QR-Enabled Bilateral Transactions

- **NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL)**, the global arm of **NPCI**, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **ACLEDA Bank Plc.**, the **first publicly listed commercial bank in Cambodia**, to enable **QR-based cross-border transactions** between **India and Cambodia**.

India's FY26 Gross Domestic Product Forecast Upgraded to 7.4% by Fitch Ratings

- **Fitch Ratings Inc.** released its latest **Global Economic Outlook (GEO) – December 2025**
- The report **raised India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) forecast for FY26 to 7.4%**, up from the **previous estimate of 6.9%**.

Vrutti Collaborates with HSBC India to Roll Out 'FPO Shakti' for Strengthening FPO Financing

- **Vrutti**, part of the **Catalyst Platform**, in partnership with **HSBC India**, has launched **'FPO Shakti'**, a **blended, stage-based financing model** aimed at enabling **Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs)** to access capital.

Reserve Bank of India Gives In-Principle Nod to Fino Payments Bank to Convert into a Small Finance Bank

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has granted **in-principle approval** to **Fino Payments Bank Limited (FPBL)** to convert into a **Small Finance Bank (SFB)**, making it the **1st Payment Bank in India** to receive such approval.

Banking Laws (Amendment) Act, 2025: Key Reforms to Strengthen Governance, Depositor Protection, and Audit Transparency

The **Banking Laws (Amendment) Act, 2025** is a legislative reform enacted to **modernize and strengthen** the legal, regulatory, and governance framework of the **Indian banking sector**.

The related bill was **passed by Lok Sabha in December 2024** and by **Rajya Sabha in March 2025**, with key provisions coming into force thereafter.

Life Insurance Corporation of India Joins Hands with Yes Bank for a Major Bancassurance Partnership

The **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)**, India's **largest life insurance company**, has entered into a **strategic bancassurance partnership** with **Yes Bank Limited**, a leading private sector bank.

Reserve Bank of India Issues Revised Gold Metal Loan Directions, Effective 1 April 2026

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued revised Gold Metal Loan (GML) Directions** as part of updates to the regulatory framework for **gold-related lending**, effective **1 April 2026**.

The revised rules amend the **Master Direction on Import of Goods and Services** and the **Gold Monetisation Scheme (GMS)**.

Punjab National Bank Debuts Premium RuPay Metal Credit Card 'Luxura'

Punjab National Bank (PNB), India's **2nd largest Public Sector Bank (PSB)**, has launched a premium **RuPay credit card 'Luxura'** in **New Delhi** to boost its presence in the **high-value credit card segment**.

During the launch, **PNB appointed Harmanpreet Kaur**, **Captain of the Indian Women's Cricket Team**, as its **first female brand ambassador**.

Reserve Bank of India Updates Large Exposure Framework and Interbank Exposure Framework Guidelines for Foreign Bank Branches in India

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued revisions** to the **Large Exposure Framework (LEF)** and the **Interbank Exposure Framework (ITE)** to clarify the **prudential treatment** for **foreign bank branches operating in India**.

Reserve Bank of India Mandates Free ATM/Debit Card Issuance and Renewal for All BSBD Account Holders

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has amended the **Responsible Business Conduct Directions, 2025**, making it mandatory for banks to provide **free ATM/ATM-cum-Debit card issuance and annual renewal** to **Basic Savings Bank Deposit (BSBD) account holders**.

Department of Posts Opens Public Consultation on Proposed Post Office Act, 2023 Amendments

The **Department of Posts** has issued a draft amendment to the **Post Office Act, 2023** to introduce **DHRUVA** (**Digital Hub for Reference and Unique Virtual Address**) as a **nationwide digital addressing system**.

DHRUVA aims to replace traditional textual addresses with **UPI-like digital labels** such as **name@entity**, acting as **proxies for physical addresses**.

International Monetary Fund Names Unified Payments Interface the World's Largest Real-Time Payment Network, Capturing 49% of Global Transactions

The **International Monetary Fund (IMF) report (June 2025)** recognised **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** as the **world's largest retail Fast-Payment System (FPS)** by **transaction volume**.

Government and Reserve Bank of India Implement Multiple Steps to Enhance the Digital Lending Framework

The **Government** is actively working with the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and other regulators to curb the operations of **unauthorized digital loan apps** in India.

RBI has launched a **Digital Lending Apps (DLAs) Directory** on its website from **1 July 2025** to help customers verify whether a digital lending app is linked to an **RBI-regulated entity (RE)**.

Reserve Bank of India Announces Major Highlights of its 5th Bi-monthly Policy Review for FY26

Repo Rate (Repurchase Rate): 5.25% under the **Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF)**

Reverse Repo Rate : 35%

Policy Stance: *Neutral*

CRR (Cash Reserve Ratio): 3%

SDF (Standing Deposit Facility) Rate: 5.00%

MSF (Marginal Standing Facility) Rate: 5.50%

Bank Rate: 5.50%

SLR : 18.00%

Reserve Bank of India Releases 15th Foreign Collaboration Survey Results for FY 2023–24 and FY 2024–25

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** released the results of the **15th biennial Foreign Collaboration Survey (FCS)**, covering **FY 2023–24 and FY 2024–25**, capturing financial and operational data of **Indian companies** with **foreign technical collaboration**.

International Finance Corporation Commits USD 50 Million to Gujarat Fluorochemicals' EV Materials Subsidiary

The **International Finance Corporation (IFC)** invested **USD 50 million (₹450 crore)** in **GFCL EV Products Limited**, a subsidiary of **Gujarat Fluorochemicals Limited (GFL)**, through **compulsorily convertible instruments**.

Reserve Bank of India Announces ₹1 Lakh Crore Open Market Operations and $5 Billion USD/INR Buy-Sell Swap to Boost Liquidity

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** announced **Open Market Operations (OMO)** purchases of **₹1 lakh crore** and a **3-year USD/INR buy–sell swap of $5 billion** in December 2025 to inject **durable liquidity** into the banking system.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Unveils PaRRVA to Curb Misleading Return Claims and Set a Global Standard

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** launched the **Past Risk and Return Verification Agency (PaRRVA)** to prevent **misleading past-performance claims** in advertisements by **Research Analysts (RAs), Investment Advisors (IAs), and stock brokers**.

PaRRVA is the **world's first initiative of its kind** and was launched in partnership with the **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** and **CAREEdge Ratings**.

Unified Payments Interface Records Slight Decline in Transaction Volume and Value in November 2025 After October Festival Surge

The **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**, operated by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, experienced a **marginal dip** in both **transaction volume and value** in **November 2025** after a **festival surge in October**.

UPI processed 20.47 billion transactions in **November 2025**, down from **20.7 billion transactions** in **October 2025**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Clears ICICI Prudential AMC's ₹10,000-Crore Initial Public Offering Proposal

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** granted **final approval** to **ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company (AMC)** to launch its **Rs 10,000 crore Initial Public Offering (IPO)**.

ICICI Bank will retain its 51% stake post-IPO.

Reserve Bank of India Updates Rules on Carrying Indian Currency To and From Nepal and Bhutan

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued **revised directions** to modify rules on the **export and import of Indian currency** to and from **Nepal and Bhutan**.

Public Sector Banks Write Off ₹6.15 Lakh Crore in Loans Across the Last Five Years

According to **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, Public Sector Banks (PSBs)** have **written off loans worth ₹6.15 lakh crore** over the last **five financial years** plus **FY 2025 (up to Sept 30)**.

Reserve Bank of India Orders Partner Banks to Pause Issuance of OneCard Co-Branded Credit Cards

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has **directed banks** partnered with **FPL Technologies (OneCard)** to **halt fresh issuance** of co-branded credit cards due to regulatory concerns.

The pause aims to give **RBI clarity on data-sharing practices**, specifically whether FPL and partner banks comply with **outsourcing** and **customer-data protection norms**.

Reserve Bank of India Conducts 97th Round of Survey of Professional Forecasters with 45 Panellists in Nov 2025

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has been conducting the **Survey of Professional Forecasters (SPF)** since **September 2007**.

Reserve Bank of India Imposes Penalties on Jammu & Kashmir Bank, Truhome Finance, Bansal Credits, and Keertana Finserv for Regulatory Lapses

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a **₹99.30 lakh monetary penalty** on **Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited**.

Reserve Bank of India Revises Credit Information Reporting Directions, 2025 Through Amendment Notifications

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued **Amendment Directions** to modify the **Credit Information Reporting Directions, 2025** based on feedback from the earlier draft framework.

Reserve Bank of India Launches Two-Month Campaign from 1st January 2026 to Resolve Pending Customer Grievances

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** announced a **two-month campaign** starting **1st January,2026** to clear all **customer grievances** pending for more than a month with the **RBI Ombudsman**.

SEBI Approves Groww as Online Bond Platform Provider to Facilitate Corporate Bond Transactions

Groww has received **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) approval** to operate as an **Online Bond Platform Provider (OBPP)**, enabling it to **list, distribute, and transact** in **listed corporate bonds** directly through its app.

As per **NSE data**, Groww holds the **largest market share** among stockbrokers at **26.62%**.

Securities Exchange Board of India Introduces Capital Adequacy & Liquid Net Worth Standards in Fresh MB Regulation Overhaul

The **Securities Exchange Board of India** (**SEBI)** has introduced a major overhaul of **Merchant Banker (MB) regulations**, bringing in a **capital adequacy framework** with mandatory **liquid net worth (NW)** and **minimum revenue**

IDFC First Bank Unveils FD-Backed Premium Credit Card Offering Zero Forex Markup

IDFC First Bank launched an upgraded **'FIRST WOW! Black Credit Card'**, which is a **premium credit card backed by Fixed Deposit (FD)**.

The card features **0% Forex (FX) markup**, making it attractive for **international travellers** and **cross-border online shoppers**.

Airpay Gets Reserve Bank of India Nod to Operate as Full-Stack Cross-Border Payment Aggregator

Airpay Payment Services Private. Limited. received **full authorisation** from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** under the **Payment and Settlement Systems (PSS) Act, 2007** to operate as a **full-stack cross-border Payment Aggregator (PA-CB)**.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development's 8th Rural Economic Conditions and Sentiments Survey Round Confirms Broad Revival in Rural Demand and Rising Incomes

The **8th round of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development's (NABARD) Rural Economic Conditions and Sentiments Survey (RECSS)** shows clear evidence of a **broad-based revival in rural demand**, along with **rising incomes** and **improved household well-being** over the past year.

Reserve Bank of India Clears State Bank of India and Bank of Baroda to Establish Digital Payments Intelligence Platform

The **State Bank of India (SBI)** and **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** received **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approval** to set up a new entity for a **Digital Payments Intelligence Platform**.

Reserve Bank of India Permits Rupee Interest Rate Derivative Transactions for Both Residents and Non-Residents

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued the Master Direction 'Rupee Interest Rate Derivatives (IRD) Directions, 2025'**, permitting **residents and non-residents** to undertake **rupee-denominated Interest Rate Derivative (IRD) transactions** effective **1 March 2026**.

Wise Unveils No-Fee Multi-Currency Travel Card for Indian Travellers

Wise, a global **money movement company**, has **launched the Wise Travel Card in India**, targeting travellers seeking **transparent pricing** and ease of use abroad.

The card was **first announced at the Global Fintech Festival (GFF) 2025** held in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.

Bank of Baroda Named 'Best Bank in India' at The Banker's 2025 Asia-Pacific Awards

Bank of Baroda (BoB) has been awarded the **'Best Bank in India'** at **The Banker's "Bank of the Year Awards 2025 – Asia-Pacific"**.

The award recognised BoB for enhancing **customer experience** through **phygital branches** that combine **digital and in-person banking services**.

Nationwide 'Your Money, Your Right' Campaign Facilitates Settlement of ₹2,000 Crore Unclaimed Money

The **Ministry of Finance (MoF)** announced the progress of the nationwide campaign **"Aapki Poonji, Aapka Adhikar – Your Money, Your Right"**, conducted from **4 October to 5 December 2025** to settle **unclaimed financial assets**.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Launches Digital Consent Acquisition Pilot with RBI for Reviewing Promotional Message Consents

The **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** announced the **TRAI–Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Digital Consent Acquisition pilot**, under which select customers will receive **SMS alerts** from telecom operators to review their **promotional communication consents**.

Sahaj Insurance Obtains Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India Approval for Corporate Agency Licence

Sahaj Insurance Services Private Limited, a subsidiary of Sahaj Retail Limited.,has secured a **Corporate Agency Licence** from Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India **(IRDAI)**, enabling it to solicit and distribute insurance products on behalf of underwriting insurers.

NCAER report says boosting skills and small enterprise productivity can significantly expand employment in India

A study titled **"India's Employment Prospects: Pathways to Jobs"** was released on **11 December 2025** by **NCAER Vice Chairman Manish Sabharwal**.

The report, authored by **Professor Farzana Afridi** and her team at **NCAER**, highlights the role of **skilling** and **small enterprises** as key drivers of **job creation** in India.

Asian Development Bank Ups India's FY26 Growth Projection to 7.2%

The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** released the **Asian Development Outlook (ADO) December 2025** titled **"Growth Steadies But Uncertainty Lingers"**, updating economic projections for India and developing Asia.

IndusInd Bank Partners with Jio-bp to Launch Mobility+ Card Offering Fuel and Lifestyle Benefits

IndusInd Bank and **Jio-bp** have launched the **'IndusInd Bank Jio-bp Mobility+ Credit Card'**, a **co-branded fuel and lifestyle credit card** on the **RuPay network**.

This is **IndusInd Bank's first fuel-centric credit card** and **Jio-bp's first co-branded card**, designed for **digitally savvy consumers**.

Ageas Federal Life Insurance Launches New Brand Identity with Refreshed Logo and "Har Wada Mumkin" Promise

Ageas Federal Life Insurance unveiled a **new brand identity**, introducing a **refreshed logo** and the **brand promise "Har Wada Mumkin – Promises Made Possible."**

The **new logo** features **two arcs symbolising protection and guidance**, with **orange and violet colours** representing **optimism and trust**.

Amazon to Invest Over $35 Billion in India Across All Business Verticals by 2030

Amazon announced an investment of **over USD 35 billion in India by 2030** during the **Amazon Smbhav Summit in New Delhi**, covering **all business verticals**.

SalarySe and City Union Bank Launch India's First Credit Card Exclusively for Salaried Individuals

SalarySe partnered with **City Union Bank (CUB)** to launch **India's first salary-exclusive credit card**, the **Level Up RuPay Credit Card**, designed specifically for **salaried individuals**.

AU Small Finance Bank Gets Government Nod to Increase Foreign Investment Limit to 74%

The **Ministry of Finance** approved raising the **foreign investment limit** in **AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB)** from **49% to 74%**, the **maximum permissible** under Indian regulations.

The Ministry clarified that **AU SFB must obtain prior approval** before any increase in **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)**.

Reserve Bank of India Relaxes Norms for Opening and Operating Cash Credit, Current and Overdraft Accounts

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has **eased norms** for **opening and maintaining Cash Credit (CC), Current Accounts, and Overdraft (OD) facilities**, incorporating stakeholder feedback on the **draft circular issued in October**.

Central Board of Direct Taxes Launches Data-Driven NUDGE Campaign to Curb Bogus Tax Deduction Claims

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has taken action against **intermediaries** involved in filing **Income Tax Returns (ITRs)** with **bogus deductions and exemptions** under the **Income Tax Act, 1961**.

Investigations revealed a **nationwide network of agents** filing returns with **incorrect claims on a commission basis**.

India's Banking Transformation: Building Trust Through Reform and Resilience

India, now the **world's fourth-largest economy**, has developed a **resilient and dynamic financial sector** capable of supporting long-term growth and rising investment needs.

China crosses $1 trillion trade surplus mark on strong non-U.S. exports despite fall in shipments to America

China's trade surplus surpassed **$1 trillion** for the first time, driven by **strong exports** to **non-U.S. markets** like **Europe, Australia, and Southeast Asia**, despite a **sharp decline in shipments to the U.S.**

Sberbank, JSC First Asset Management introduce First-India mutual fund offering Russian investors access to Nifty50 equities

Sberbank and **JSC First Asset Management** have launched a new **mutual fund, First-India**, providing **Russian retail investors exposure to India's equity market** via the **Nifty50 Index**.

World Bank Clears $600 Million Funding for Clean Air Programmes in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana Benefiting 270 Million People

The World Bank (WB) Board of Executive Directors approved **~USD 600 million financing** for **two multi-sectoral clean air programs** in **Uttar Pradesh (UP)** and **Haryana**, benefiting **~270 million people** across the **Indo-Gangetic Plains & Himalayan Foothills (IGP-HF)**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Broadens 'Strategic Investor' Definition to Boost Participation in REIT and InvIT Public Issues

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has **expanded the definition of "Strategic Investor"** for **REITs (Real Estate Investment Trusts)** and **InvITs (Infrastructure Investment Trusts)** to **widen investor participation** in public issues.

Reserve Bank of India Grants In-Principle Approval to JPMorgan for New Pune Branch After Nearly a Decade

JPMorgan Chase & Co. has received **in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to open a **new branch in Pune**, marking its **first branch expansion in India in nearly a decade**.

Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited signs ₹1,685 crore long-term loan pact with NABARD to boost Odisha power transmission infrastructure

Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited (OPTCL) signed a **long-term loan agreement worth ₹1,685.27 crore** with the **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** to strengthen **Odisha's power transmission infrastructure**.

Gross Non-Performing Assets on education loans of public sector banks decline from 7% to 2%, signalling improved asset quality

The **Gross Non-Performing Assets (NPA) of education loans in Public Sector Banks (PSBs)** declined sharply from **7% in FY 2020–21 to 2% in FY 2024–25**, indicating a **significant improvement in asset quality**, as informed by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.

The **RBI does not maintain state-wise data** on education loan NPAs, as clarified in its disclosures.

Asian Development Bank sanctions multi-sector loans to boost Chennai Metro expansion, Mizoram public healthcare, and women-focused Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises financing in India

The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** approved **three loans worth USD 448 million** to support **urban infrastructure, public healthcare, and women-focused financial inclusion in India**.

Infibeam Avenues, Headquartered in GIFT City, to Rebrand as AvenuesAI Limited

Infibeam Avenues Limited will be **rebranded as AvenuesAI Limited** following **in-principle approval by its Board of Directors**.

The company is headquartered in **GIFT City, Gujarat**, and is transitioning from a **payments and e-commerce infrastructure firm** to a **full-stack, AI-led digital payment technology company**.

Reserve Bank of India includes Mumbai-based Model Co-operative Bank in Second Schedule, confers Scheduled Bank status

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has included **Mumbai-based Model Co-operative Bank Limited.** in the **Second Schedule of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**, granting it **"Scheduled Bank" status**.

The RBI action was taken under **Section 42(6)(a)** and **Section 42(6)(c)** of the **RBI Act, 1934**.

Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Releases Updated Investment Guidelines for Government Pension Funds

The **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** released the **Master Circular on Investment Guidelines** for government-sector pension schemes, including **Unified Pension Scheme (UPS), NPS for Central/State Government subscribers, Corporate Government (CG) NPS, NPS Lite, Atal Pension Yojana (APY), and APY Fund Scheme**.

Union Cabinet Approves Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (Insurance Laws Amendment) Bill, 2025 for Winter Session Introduction

The **Union Cabinet** has approved the **Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (Amendment of Insurance Laws) Bill, 2025**, paving the way for its **introduction in Parliament** during the **Winter Session**.

Andhra Pradesh Emerges as India's Leading Fruit and Fish Producer with Robust Economic Growth: RBI Report

According to a Reserve **Bank of India (RBI) report, Andhra Pradesh** has emerged as a **top-performing state** across **agriculture, fisheries, and socio-economic indicators**.

During **FY 2024–25**, the state ranked **first in fruit production** with over **19 million tonnes**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Grants In-Principle Approval to National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Limited for Launch of Mutual Fund Transaction Platform

The **National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX)** received **in-principle approval** from the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** to launch a **Mutual Fund (MF) transaction platform**.

Asian Development Bank Sanctions USD 846 Million Loan to Strengthen Skill Development and Employability in India

The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** approved a **USD 846 million loan** (about **₹7,000 crore**) to **India** to boost **skills and employability**.

The funding supports the programme **"Supporting Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU)"**.

Kerala Grameena Bank joins hands with Fyno to enhance customer communication

Fyno, an intelligent **communications hub** for **banks and financial institutions**, has partnered with **Kerala Grameena Bank (KGB)** to streamline and govern all **customer communication workflows**.

Nepal Lifts Decade-Long Ban on ₹200 and ₹500 Indian Currency Notes

Nepal has lifted its **decade-long ban** on carrying **high-denomination Indian currency**, including **₹200 and ₹500 notes**.

Individuals can now carry **Indian currency up to ₹25,000 per person**, applicable to both **Nepali and Indian citizens**.

Common Logo Unveiled for Regional Rural Banks to Establish Unified National Brand Identity

On the principle of **"One State One RRB"**, the **Department of Financial Services (DFS)** under the **Ministry of Finance** consolidated **26 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)** across **11 States/UTs**, effective from **01 May 2025**.

The **RRB consolidation reform** aims to create **stronger, more efficient, and financially sustainable RRBs**.

Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Notifies National Pension System Exit and Withdrawal Rule Amendments, 2025

The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has **amended National Pension System (NPS) rules** to enhance **flexibility for non-government subscribers**, especially at the withdrawal and exit stages.

Reserve Bank of India Releases 10th Edition of "Handbook of Statistics on Indian States 2024-25" for States and UTs

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** released the **10th edition of the "Handbook of Statistics on Indian States 2024-25"**, providing a **consolidated and comparable statistical database** for **States and Union Territories (UTs)**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Clears Initial Public Offerings of Seven Firms Aiming to Mobilise Over ₹6,000 Crore

SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) has approved the **Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) of 7 companies**, with total fund mobilisation expected to **exceed ₹6,000 crore**.

11 States Projected to Have Debt-to-Gross State Domestic Product Ratio Above 35% in FY26

11 States are projected to record a **debt-to-GSDP(Gross State Domestic Product) ratio of 35% or more in FY 2025–26**, according to **data presented in the Rajya Sabha**.

State Bank of India Inks €150 Million Deal with KfW to Fund Climate-Friendly Energy Projects

State Bank of India (SBI) signed a **€150 million Line of Credit (LoC)** (≈ **₹1,360 crore**) with **KfW Development Bank, Germany**, to finance **climate-friendly energy generation projects** in India.

About KfW Development Bank :

It is a **German promotional and development bank** supporting **economic, social, and ecological development** on behalf of the **German federal and state governments**.

IDFC First Bank Introduces USD & EUR Global Savings Account for Non-Resident Indians

IDFC First Bank, a **private sector bank**, launched the **'IDFC First Global Savings Account'** for **Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)** to hold foreign currency earnings in **USD and EUR**.

The account is offered through the **International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)** at **GIFT City, Gandhinagar (Gujarat)**, strengthening India's offshore banking ecosystem.

Parliament Passes Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha Bill, Permits 100% FDI in Insurance Companies

The **Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (Amendment of Insurance Laws) Bill, 2025** was passed by Parliament on **17 December 2025**.

The Bill amends three major insurance laws:

the **Insurance Act, 1938**

the **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) Act, 1956**

the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) Act, 1999**.

Google Pay, Axis Bank Launch UPI-Enabled RuPay Co-Branded Credit Card

Google Pay partnered with **Axis Bank Limited** to launch the **'Google Pay Flex Axis Bank Credit Card'**, a **UPI-enabled co-branded credit card** on the **RuPay network**.

The card is the **first product** under **"Flex by Google Pay"**, an initiative aimed at making **credit simpler** and more **accessible** in India.

Bank of Baroda Underwrites $500 Million, 5-Year Foreign Currency Loan for OVL Overseas IFSC Limited

Bank of Baroda (BoB) has underwritten a **$500 million**, **5-year foreign currency term loan** for **OVL Overseas IFSC Limited (OOIL)**.

OOIL is a **wholly owned subsidiary** of **ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL)** and is registered in **GIFT City**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Clears Regulatory Reforms at 212th Board Meeting to Simplify Rules and Cut Transaction Costs

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** approved a series of regulatory reforms at its **212th Board Meeting** held in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**, to **simplify regulations**, **reduce transaction costs**, and **enhance cost transparency**.

Reserve Bank of India Imposes Restrictions on Gauhati Cooperative Urban Bank Over Weak Financial Health

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed restrictions on **The Gauhati Cooperative Urban Bank** due to its **weak financial and liquidity position**.

Under **RBI directions**, customers can withdraw a **maximum of ₹35,000** from their accounts during the restriction period.

Reserve Bank of India Grants Payment Aggregator Approval to Paytm Payments Services for Offline and Cross-Border Transactions

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** authorized **Paytm Payments Services Limited (PPSL)**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of **One 97 Communications Limited**, to operate as a **Payment Aggregator (PA)** for **offline (physical) payments** and **cross-border transactions**.

Airtel Payments Bank, NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited Enable EV Wallet Recharges via Bharat Connect

Airtel Payments Bank partnered with **NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited (NBBL)**, a wholly owned subsidiary of the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, to enable **Electric Vehicle (EV) wallet recharges** through **Bharat Connect**.

Asian Development Bank Commits USD 4.26 Billion Sovereign Lending to India for Development Sectors in 2025

Asian Development Bank (ADB) committed **USD 4.258 billion** in **sovereign lending to India in 2025** to support **skilling, renewable energy, urban infrastructure, transport, healthcare, and ecotourism**.

Reserve Bank of India Imposes Regulatory Curbs on Two Urban Cooperative Banks Amid Financial Stress

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed **regulatory restrictions** on **two Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) — The Gauhati Cooperative Urban Bank Limited (Assam)** and **The Valsad Mahila Nagrik Sahakari Bank Limited (Gujarat)** — due to **weak financial position, liquidity stress, and unresolved supervisory concerns**.

Unified Payments Interface Transactions Jump 33.5% YoY to 59.33 Billion in Q3 2025: Worldline India

India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions witnessed a sharp surge in **Q3 2025**, with **transaction volume reaching 59.33 billion**, registering a **33.5% year-on-year (YoY) growth**, as per a **Worldline India report**.

Reserve Bank of India Data Shows Sharp Post-Covid Surge in Unsecured Personal Loans

Personal loans, largely **unsecured** and used mainly for **consumption purposes**, have seen **rapid growth since the Covid period**, as per analysis of data from the **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Handbook of Statistics on Indian States**.

Canara HSBC Life Joins Hands with Equitas SFB to Boost Life Insurance Reach in India

Canara HSBC Life Insurance has entered into a **bancassurance partnership** with **Equitas Small Finance Bank (ESFB)** to **expand life insurance penetration across India**.

Reserve Bank of India Imposes ₹61.95 Lakh Penalty on Kotak Mahindra Bank

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a **monetary penalty of ₹61.95 lakh** on **Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited**.

Reserve Bank of India Central Board Clears Risk-Based Deposit Insurance System for Banks

The **Central Board of Directors (BoD) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** approved the introduction of a **risk-based deposit insurance premium framework** for banks, replacing the existing **flat-rate premium system** under the **Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)** scheme.

South Indian Bank Introduces RuPay Contactless SIB Paytag Sticker for Secure NFC Payments

South Indian Bank launched the **RuPay Contactless SIB Paytag Sticker**, an **NFC-enabled payment instrument** for **fast and secure digital payments**.

The **compact sticker** can be attached to **mobile phones, wallets, or cardholders**, enabling **tap-and-pay transactions** without a physical debit card.

PNB MetLife, PolicyBazaar Roll Out DigiProtect Term Plan for Salaried Individuals in India

PNB MetLife India Insurance Company Limited launched **'PNB MetLife DigiProtect Term Plan (UIN-117N141V01)'**, a **pure term insurance plan** specially designed for **salaried individuals in India**.

HCLTech Signs Multi-Year Digital Modernisation Partnership with Netherlands' ASN Bank

HCL Technologies (HCLTech) entered into a **multi-year strategic partnership** with **ASN Bank**, the **Netherlands' fourth-largest retail bank**, to modernise **digital operations** and **IT architecture**.

The partnership focuses on **modernisation and standardisation of IT systems**, enabling a **future-ready digital organisation** for **ASN Bank**.

BharatPe and YES BANK Introduce 'Pay Later with BharatPe' Instant Credit on UPI

BharatPe, in partnership with **YES BANK**, launched **'Pay Later with BharatPe'**, an instant **Credit on UPI** product powered by **NPCI**.

The product aims to **democratise access to credit** across India, catering to both **consumers and merchants**, especially those **new to credit**.

Only Five Startups Achieve Unicorn Status in 2025, Reflecting Valuation Reset in India's Startup Ecosystem

Only **five startups** became **unicorns in 2025**, the same as in **2024**, indicating a **continued valuation reset** in **India's startup ecosystem** despite a **recovery in growth-stage funding**.

Reserve Bank of India Grants Final Payment Aggregator Licence to Mswipe Technologies

Mswipe Technologies Private Limited received the **final Payment Aggregator (PA) licence** from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.

India–New Zealand Finalise Financial Services Annex Under Trade in Services Chapter of FTA

India–New Zealand concluded negotiations on the **Financial Services Annex** of the **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** on **22 December 2025**, strengthening **bilateral economic cooperation**.

PayNearby Secures Third-Party Application Provider Licence Approval from National Payments Corporation of India to Offer UPI Services

Fintech company PayNearby has received **Third-Party Application Provider (TPAP) licence approval** from the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**.

The **TPAP licence** authorises **non-bank entities** to **offer UPI-enabled payment applications** in India.

Canara Bank Introduces 'Canara ai1Pe', a Unified UPI App for Safe and Seamless Digital Payments

Canara Bank, an **Indian Public Sector Bank (PSB)**, has launched **'Canara ai1Pe'**, a **UPI-based digital payments application**.

Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Issues Amendments to National Pension System Exit and Withdrawal Regulations, 2015

Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), under the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**, notified the '**PFRDA (Exits and Withdrawals under the National Pension System (NPS)) (Amendment) Regulations, 2025',,** amending the **principal 2015 regulations**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Clears National Highways Authority of India-Sponsored Raajmarg Infra Investment Trust to Operate as Public InvIT

National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has received **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)approval** for its sponsored **Raajmarg Infra Investment Trust (RIIT)** to operate as a **public Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT)**.

Reserve Bank of India Postpones Phase-2 Rollout of Faster Cheque Clearance System

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has **deferred Phase-2** of the **faster cheque clearance system**, earlier scheduled for **January 3, 2026**, to allow banks additional time for **operational readiness** and to streamline their backend processes.

International Financial Services Centres Authority Relaxes Staffing Norms for GHCs and Removes Office Space Requirement for BATF Services

The **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** approved **major regulatory relaxations** to boost **ease of doing business** and attract **global financial services** to **GIFT IFSC**.

Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited & Indian Railway Finance Corporation Seal Landmark ₹10,000 Crore Domestic Refinancing Deal Under Atmanirbhar Bharat

Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL) has signed a **historic refinancing agreement** with **Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC)** to refinance **₹10,000 crore of foreign currency debt**, marking a **first-of-its-kind domestic refinancing** under the **Atmanirbhar Bharat** initiative.

Axis Bank Introduces 'Digital Merchant Cash Advance Loans' for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises

Axis Bank Limited, a leading **private sector lender** in India, has launched a new digital loan product called **'Digital Merchant Cash Advance Loans'** for **Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**.

New Consumer Price Index and Gross Domestic Product Data Series to Be Rolled Out from February, IIP from May: Government

The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** has announced the release of a **new series of key macroeconomic indicators** with **revised base years**.

MoSPI held a **pre-release consultative workshop on 23 December 2025** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**, to discuss the **base revision of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Consumer Price Index (CPI), and Index of Industrial Production (IIP).**

Canara HSBC Life Insurance Enters Bancassurance Partnership with Equitas Small Finance Bank

Canara HSBC Life Insurance Company Limited (Canara HSBC), a **Joint Venture (JV)** between **Canara Bank** (51%), **HSBC Insurance** (26%), and **Punjab National Bank** (which inherited the stake from OBC), has entered into a **strategic bancassurance partnership** with **Equitas Small Finance Bank (ESFB)**.

SBI Life Introduces New Smart Samriddhi Life Insurance Savings Scheme

SBI Life Insurance has launched **'New Smart Samriddhi'**, an **individual, non-linked, non-participating life insurance savings plan**.

National Payments Corporation of India Launches Central Portal – upihelp.npci.org.in to Manage UPI Autopay Mandates

The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has launched a **centralized portal – upihelp.npci.org.in** to enable users to **view, manage, and revoke all UPI Autopay standing instructions** from a **single platform**.

Odisha Tops GST Growth While Telangana Leads in Direct Tax Expansion

India's tax landscape is undergoing a structural shift, with **smaller and mid-sized states** emerging as the **fastest-growing contributors** to both **GST** and **direct taxes**.

Odisha has recorded the **highest GST growth** in the country, achieving a **22.4% CAGR** during **FY18–FY25**.

Goldman Sachs Forecasts Robust India GDP Growth of 6.7% in 2026 and 6.8% in 2027

Goldman Sachs Group Inc released its **Global Economics Analyst: Macro Outlook 2026** report, projecting **India** to remain among the **fastest-growing major economies** globally.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Excludes Zero Coupon Zero Principal Bonds and Delisted Securities from BSDA Eligibility Valuation

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has decided to **exclude Zero Coupon Zero Principal (ZCZP) bonds** and **delisted securities** from the **valuation threshold** used to determine **Basic Services Demat Account (BSDA) eligibility**.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development to Roll Out ₹1,300 Crore Thematic Funds for Agritech and Climate Start-Ups

The **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** will launch **two new thematic funds** in **January 2026**—the **₹1,000 crore NABARD Green Impact Fund (NGIF)** and the **₹300 crore NABARD Carbon Fund (NCF)**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Doubles Threshold to ₹10 Lakh to Simplify Issuance of Duplicate Securities

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has **simplified the procedure for issuance of duplicate securities** by **doubling the monetary threshold** for simplified documentation from **₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh**.

The revised norms aim to make the process **faster, efficient, and investor-friendly**, while **reducing compliance burden** and procedural inconsistencies.

Life Insurance Corporation of India Partners with Sahaj Insurance Services to Boost Life Insurance Reach in Rural and Semi-Urban India

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has entered into a **strategic collaboration** with **Sahaj Insurance Services Private Limited** to **expand life insurance penetration** in **rural and semi-urban India**.

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India Slaps ₹1 Crore Penalty on Reliance General Insurance for Regulatory Violations

The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** imposed a **₹1 crore monetary penalty** on **Reliance General Insurance** for **violation of regulatory norms**.

IRDAI observed **irregular payouts of ₹5.16 crore in FY19** made by the insurer to **Glitterbug Technologies**, the parent company of **Coverfox Insurance Broking**.

Customs Clearance Facilitation Committee Meeting Strengthens Stakeholder Confidence in Customs Clearance Process

The **Customs Clearance Facilitation Committee (CCFC)** meeting was convened by **Delhi Customs** at the **Kalpana Chawla Conference Hall, IGI Airport**, under the **chairmanship of the Chief Commissioner of Customs, Delhi Zone**.

Bombay Stock Exchange Reconstitutes BANKEX Index as Part of Periodic Review

BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange) has implemented the **reconstitution of the BSE BANKEX index** effective **December 26, 2025**, as part of its periodic index review.

Central Board of Direct Taxes Launches NUDGE Campaign for AY 2025-26 to Boost Voluntary Tax Compliance

The **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** under the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)** launched the **NUDGE (Non-Intrusive Usage of Data to Guide and Enable) campaign** for **Assessment Year (AY) 2025-26** to improve **voluntary tax compliance**.

India Emerges as World's Third-Largest Fuel Retail Market With Over 1 Lakh Petrol Pumps

India's petrol pump network has crossed **1 lakh fuel retail outlets**, nearly **doubling over the last decade**, making India the **third-largest fuel retail market in the world** after the **United States and China**.

Reserve Bank of India Grants Non-Banking Financial Company Registration to Aryaman Finance (India) Limited

Aryaman Finance (India) Limited (AFIL), a **wholly owned subsidiary** of **Aryaman Financial Services Limited (AFSL)**, received a **Certificate of Registration (CoR)** from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to commence operations as a **Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)**.

International Finance Corporation to Invest ₹300 Crore in Grihum Housing Finance's Residential Mortgage-Backed Securities to Boost Affordable Housing

International Finance Corporation (IFC) will invest up to **₹300 crore (about USD 30 million)** in **Residential Mortgage-Backed Securities (RMBS)** issued by **Grihum Housing Finance Limited**, an **affordable housing finance company** in India.

The investment aims to **mobilise private capital** for **affordable mortgage lending** and to **deepen India's RMBS market** by attracting long-term institutional investors.

Ministry of Commerce Adds Russia's Sber Bank to FY26 Gold Import Authorised List

The **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** has added Russia's **Sber Bank** to the list of **banks authorised to import gold for FY 2025–26**, expanding the authorised importer base.

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India Implements Stricter Regulations to Ensure Fair and Timely Motor Insurance Claim Settlements

IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India) has implemented **strict regulatory measures** to ensure **transparent, fair and time-bound motor insurance claim settlements**, protecting **policyholders' interests**.

India Plans ₹3.84 Lakh Crore Borrowing via Short-Term Treasury Bills in Q4

The **Government of India** plans to **borrow ₹3.84 lakh crore** through **short-term Treasury Bills (T-Bills)** over **12 weeks in Q4** of the current financial year to meet **short-term funding requirements**.

Reserve Bank of India Highlights Strong Balance Sheets and Profitability of Banks in FY25

According to the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, **commercial banks** showed **robust performance** in **FY25**, supported by **strong balance sheets**, **sustained profitability**, and **improved asset quality**.

Reserve Bank of India Imposes ₹2.40 Lakh Penalty on Valuecorp Securities & Finance Limited

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a **monetary penalty of ₹2.40 lakh** on **Valuecorp Securities & Finance Limited**.

Reserve Bank of India Advises Microfinance Institutions to Monitor Stress in Loan Portfolios

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has advised **microfinance institutions (MFIs)** to **closely monitor stress build-up** in their **loan portfolios** going forward.

In its **Trend and Progress of Banking in India report for FY25**, the **RBI** noted a **decline in microfinance disbursements** in **southern states**, particularly due to **regulatory and industry measures** in **Karnataka** and **Tamil Nadu**.

Reserve Bank of India Report: ATM Count Falls in FY25 Amid Growing Digital Payments

According to the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, the **total number of ATMs in India** declined as **digital payments** reduced the **need for cash withdrawals**.

Private Bank Employment Falls in FY25 Driven by ICICI Bank; PSU Bank Staff Slightly Rises

According to **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data**, **private sector banks** saw a **decline in employee numbers** in **FY25**, while **public sector banks (PSBs)** reported a **marginal increase**.

Tracxn Report: India Creates 5 Unicorns as 111 Emerge Worldwide in 2025

According to the **Tracxn India Tech Annual Funding Report 2025**, **India added 5 new unicorns in 2025**, while **111 unicorns were created globally** during the year.

The **five new Indian unicorns** in 2025 are **Navi** (**financial services**), **Jumbotail** (**B2B grocery**), **JSW One MSME** (**retail steel platform**), **Juspay** (**digital payments**), and **Raise Financial Services** (parent company of **Dhan**).

AWARDS AND HONOUR

Name of the Person/Organization	Name of the Award	Key Points
K. Vaikunth	Commemorative Postal Stamp (IFFI 2025)	Honoured at 56th IFFI; 50+ years contribution to Indian cinema; documentary 'Goa Marches On' screened.
Camikara (Piccadily Agro Industries Ltd.)	Rum Brand of the Year 2025	First Indian rum to win global title; awarded at The Spirits Business Awards (London).
Luana Lopes Lara	Youngest Self-Made Woman Billionaire	29-year-old Brazilian; Founder of Kalshi (USD 11B valuation); MIT alumna.
Perplexity AI	Microsoft Store – AI Assistant Category	Recognised for multimodal AI search, guided research, voice support.
Armand Duplantis	World Athlete of the Year 2025	Undefeated pole vault season; honoured by World Athletics.

Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone	World Athlete of the Year 2025	Awarded for 400m excellence; undefeated 2025 season.
Nicola Olyslagers	Women's Field Athlete of the Year	Won indoor & outdoor high jump world titles.
Emmanuel Wanyonyi	Men's Track Athlete of the Year	800m World Champion.
Maria Perez	Special Recognition	Double gold in 20km & 35km race walk.
Sabastian Sawe	Marathon Excellence Award	Winner of London & Berlin Marathons.
Donald Trump	FIFA Peace Prize (First-ever)	Awarded for claimed peace efforts; presented by FIFA President Gianni Infantino.
Raveena Tandon	PETA India Person of the Year 2025	Animal rights advocacy & wildlife protection.
Anant Ambani	Global Humanitarian Award for Animal Welfare	Youngest & first Asian recipient; recognised by Global Humane Society.
Neal Mohan	TIME CEO of the Year 2025	Innovation-driven leadership at YouTube.
A'ja Wilson	TIME Athlete of the Year 2025	Historic WNBA season; led Las Vegas Aces.
Leonardo DiCaprio	TIME Entertainer of the Year 2025	Recognised for three decades of cinematic excellence.
Architects of AI	TIME Person of the Year 2025	AI leaders driving global transformation.

Sree Bhumi Sporting Club	World's Largest Messi Statue	70-ft statue unveiled in Kolkata.
Dinesh Khatak	Home Minister's Efficiency Medal	Recognised for CRPF leadership & service.
Supriya Sahu	Champions of the Earth Award 2025	UN's highest environmental honour; conferred by UNEP.
D.V. Kapur Foundation Awardees	Energy Innovation Awards 2025	Clean energy & indigenous tech innovation.
Miyana Railway Station	National Energy Conservation Award	Excellence in energy efficiency; awarded by President of India.
Black Warrant (Netflix)	Best Series – Filmfare OTT Awards	Most awarded series; Best Director winners.
Neeraj Ghaywan	Oscars 2026 Shortlist	'Homebound' shortlisted for Best International Feature Film.
PM Narendra Modi	Nishan of Ethiopia (Highest Civilian Honour)	First global leader to receive Ethiopia's top honour.
Changi Airport (Singapore)	World's Best International Airport 2025	Awarded by Travel + Leisure India.
Air India	Best Domestic Airline 2025	Won at Travel + Leisure India & South Asia Awards.
PM Narendra Modi	Order of Oman (Highest Civilian Honour)	29th foreign state honour.

Photonics Odyssey (Chennai)	NASA Space Apps – Most Inspirational Award	Satellite internet concept for rural India.
PGIMER Chandigarh	India's Best HTA Institute	Won for second consecutive year at ARISE 2025.
Deepinder Goyal	Hurun India – Top Self-Made Entrepreneur	Eternal valued at ₹3.2 lakh crore.
Advocate Shubham Awasthi	40 Under 40 Lawyer Award 2025	Recognised for PIL & constitutional law work.
Ravi Deecee	Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres (France)	Honoured for contribution to literature & publishing.
24 Scientists & Teams	Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2025	Awarded across four S&T categories.
India's Young Achievers	Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2025	Highest civilian honour for children.
Vaibhav Suryavanshi	Bal Puraskar – Sports	14-year-old cricket prodigy recognised by President of India.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Name of the Person	**Appointed As**	**Succeeds**
Vivek Chaturvedi	Chairman, CBIC	Sanjay Kumar Agarwal
Vice Admiral Sanjay Sadhu	Controller of Warship Production & Acquisition (CWP&A)	Vice Admiral Rajaram Swaminathan
Praveen Kumar (IPS)	DG, BSF (Additional Charge)	Daljit Singh Chawdhary

Air Marshal Tejbir Singh	Director General (Inspection & Safety), IAF	Air Marshal P. Singh
Usha Janakiraman	Executive Director, RBI	—
Ramakrishnan Chander	Managing Director, LIC	—
Harmanpreet Kaur	Brand Ambassador, Punjab National Bank	First-ever Female Ambassador
Aparna Garg	Member (Finance), Railway Board	Naresh Salecha
Abhishek Sharma	Brand Ambassador, DP World	—
Manali Makarand Kshirsagar	Vice-Chancellor, Nagpur University	Subhash Chaudhari
Stefan Priesner	UN Resident Coordinator for India	Shombi Sharp
Ranbir Kapoor	Brand Ambassador, AU Small Finance Bank	—
Rashmika Mandanna	Brand Ambassador, AU Small Finance Bank	—
Vikram Sahu	CEO, Bank of America India	Kaku Nakhate
Jeyandran Venugopal	President & CEO, Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd.	New Post
Arun Kumar Singh	Chairman, ONGC (Tenure Extended)	—
Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo	President, National Rifle Association of India (2025–29)	Raninder Singh
Pawan Singh	Secretary General, NRAI	Kanwar Sultan Singh

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Amar Subramanya	Vice-President (Artificial Intelligence), Apple	John Giannandrea
Sachin Tendulkar	Global Brand Ambassador, Bank of Baroda	—
Field Marshal Asim Munir	Chief of Defence Forces, Pakistan	New Post (CJCSC abolished)

CURRENT AFFAIRS: SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

Event	**Location**	**Organiser (Full Form)**	**Key Points / Theme**
Global AI Conclave 2025	Chennai	IIT Madras & India AI Mission (MeitY)	Focus on responsible, trusted, safe AI; precursor to India-AI Impact Summit 2026.
60th All India DGP–IGP Conference 2025	Raipur, Chhattisgarh (IIM Naya Raipur)	Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)	Theme: "Viksit Bharat, Surakshit Bharat"; PM Modi chaired discussions on internal security reform.
7th India International Seaweed Expo & Summit 2026	Kochi	ICAR–CMFRI; Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC); CSIR–CSMCRI	Highlights Blue Economy; major global seaweed industry gathering; emerging algae sector opportunities.
India assumes Chairship of International IDEA (2026)	Stockholm, Sweden	International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance	India's first chairship; represented by CEC Gyanesh Kumar; takeover on 3 Dec 2025.

		(International IDEA)	
Regional AI Impact Conference 2025	Shillong	India AI Mission (MeitY)	Highlights: ₹10,300 cr IndiaAI Mission; 38,000 GPUs; 600+ AI/data labs; AI skilling for 1 million people.
20th Session – Inter-governmental Committee for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage (UNESCO ICH)	Red Fort, New Delhi	UNESCO & Ministry of Culture	India to host global ICH meeting; Diwali nominated for UNESCO ICH List 2025.
EARTH Summit 2025 & Launch of Sahakar Sarathi	Gandhinagar, Gujarat	Ministry of Cooperation & NABARD	Launch of 13+ services including Digi KCC, Cooperative Governance Index, ePACS, World's Largest Grain Storage Application, Sarathi digital tools.
WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine 2025	Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi	Ministry of AYUSH & World Health Organization (WHO)	Theme: "Restoring Balance: The Science and Practice of Health and Well-being"; Countdown officially launched.

MOUS AND AGREEMENT

MapmyIndia Mappls and Zoho Announce Indigenous CRM–Geospatial Integration

MapmyIndia Mappls partnered with **Zoho** to integrate advanced **location intelligence features** into **Zoho CRM**, marking India's first fully indigenous CRM–geospatial integration.

Asian Paints Becomes Team India's Official Colour Partner

Asian Paints signed a **three-year partnership** with **BCCI** as Team India's official colour partner.

National Highways Authority of India Signs MoU with Reliance Jio to Launch Mobile-Based Highway Safety Alert System

The **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** has signed an **MoU with Reliance Jio** to introduce a new **mobile-based highway safety alert system** for travellers.

India–Russia Sign Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Support (RELOS) Agreement to Strengthen Defence Cooperation

Ahead of **President Vladimir Putin's 2025 India visit**, Russia approved the **Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Support (RELOS) agreement** with India, enhancing

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology & Ministry of External Affairs Launch Paperless Passport Verification via DigiLocker

The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY)** and the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** have launched a **paperless, contactless passport verification process** through **DigiLocker**.

RailTel Signs Agreement with Nokia to Upgrade National Long-Distance and Metro Optical Networks

RailTel Corporation of India Limited, a **Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Railways**, signed an agreement with **Nokia Corporation** to upgrade its **National Long-Distance (NLD)** and **metro optical transport networks** across India.

National Mineral Development Corporation signs MoU with Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur for Cybersecurity and Digital Transformation

The **National Mineral Development Corporation**, India's largest iron ore producer, has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur** to enhance cybersecurity infrastructure and accelerate the adoption of **Artificial Intelligence** and **Machine Learning** in mining operations.

Tata Electronics & Intel Sign MoU for Semiconductor Collaboration in India

Tata Electronics and Intel Corporation signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on semiconductor manufacturing and advanced packaging in India.

Department of Posts and BSE Sign MoU to Expand Mutual Fund Access

The **Department of Posts (DoP)** and **BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange)**, Asia's oldest stock exchange, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to expand **mutual fund services across India**.

The MoU is valid for **three years**, from **12 December 2025 to 11 December 2028**.

Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya Signs MoU with Amazon to Strengthen Logistics and Warehousing Education

Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV), India's specialised university for the **transport and logistics sector**, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Amazon**, a global e-commerce major.

Ministry of MSME Signs MoU with Amazon Seller Services to Support PM Vishwakarma Artisans

The **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Amazon Seller Services** in **New Delhi** to support artisans enrolled under the **PM Vishwakarma Scheme**.

India–Jordan Relations Strengthened During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Visit to Amman

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** held **productive talks** with **King Abdullah II of Jordan** during his official visit to **Amman in December 2025**, marking a major step in strengthening bilateral ties.

India–Brazil Sign Tripartite MoU on Scorpene-Class Submarine Maintenance

India and Brazil signed a **tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to strengthen cooperation in the **maintenance of Scorpene-class submarines**.

The MoU was signed between the **Indian Navy**, **Brazilian Navy**, and **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)**.

India–Ethiopia Sign Three MoUs to Strengthen Bilateral Cooperation

India and Ethiopia signed **three Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)** during **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Addis Ababa**, marking his **first-ever official visit to Ethiopia**.

India–Saudi Arabia Sign Bilateral Visa Waiver Agreement

India and Saudi Arabia have signed a bilateral visa waiver agreement to simplify and facilitate **official travel** between the two countries.

India–Netherlands Establish Joint Trade and Investment Committee (JTIC)

India and the Netherlands have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to establish a **Joint Trade and Investment Committee (JTIC)** to strengthen bilateral trade and investment relations.

India–Netherlands Sign Memorandum of Understanding for National Maritime Heritage Complex at Lothal

India and the Netherlands signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** to support the development of the **National Maritime Heritage Complex** at **Lothal, Gujarat**, marking a major step in showcasing India's ancient maritime and seafaring legacy at the global level.

National Test House & Department of Posts Partner to Facilitate Pan-India Sample Collection and Testing

National Test House (NTH) under the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution** signed an **MoU** with the **Department of Posts**, **Ministry of Communications**, **Government of India** to strengthen **consumer protection** and expand access to **quality testing services**.

NATGRID Linked with National Population Register (NPR) to Boost Intelligence and Investigations

The **Government of India** has linked the **National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID)** with the **National Population Register (NPR)** to strengthen **intelligence gathering**, improve **criminal investigations**, and enhance **internal security**.

ACQUISITION AND MERGERS

Government to Divest 6% Stake in Bank of Maharashtra via Green Shoe OFS After Strong Investor Response

- The **Government of India** decided to exercise the **green shoe option** to divest **6% stake in Bank of Maharashtra (BoM)** through an **offer-for-sale (OFS)** following an **overwhelming investor response** on the first day of subscription.

Zaggle Acquires Fintech Startup Rio.Money in a ₹22 Crore Deal

Zaggle, a Hyderabad-based **fintech** specializing in **spend management**, has **acquired Rivpe Technology Private. Limited. (Rio.Money)** for **₹22 crore**.

ICICI Bank Buys Additional 2% Stake in ICICI AMC for ₹2,140 Crore

ICICI Bank signed a **Share Purchase Agreement (SPA)** with **Prudential Corporation Holdings Limited. (PCHL)** to acquire an **additional 2% stake** in **ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company Limited (ICICI AMC)** for **₹2,140 crore**.

JSW Paints Completes Acquisition of 61.2% Stake in Akzo Nobel India

JSW Paints has completed the acquisition of a **60.76% stake in Akzo Nobel India (ANIL)** from Akzo Nobel N.V., bringing its **total holding to 61.2%** including the earlier 0.44% acquired through an open offer.

Competition Commission of India Clears Abu Dhabi's International Holding Company to Acquire Stake in Sammaan Capital

The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approved **International Holding Company (IHC)** of Abu Dhabi to acquire a stake in **Sammaan Capital** through its affiliate **Avenir Investment RSC Limited**.

Reserve Bank of India Approves HDFC Bank Group to Acquire up to 9.5% Stake in IndusInd Bank

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** approved **HDFC Bank Limited**, along with its **group entities**, to acquire an **aggregate holding of up to 9.5%** of the **paid-up share capital or voting rights** in **IndusInd Bank Limited**.

Government to Divest Up to 3% Stake in Indian Overseas Bank via Offer for Sale

Government of India announced an **Offer for Sale (OFS)** to divest up to **3% stake** in **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)**.

The **OFS floor price** has been fixed at **₹34 per share**, which is approximately **7.6% lower** than the previous closing price of **₹36.57**.

India Holds London Roadshows to Gauge Investor Interest in GIC Minority Stake Sale

The **Indian government** conducted **roadshows in London** in **December 2025** to assess **investor interest** for selling a **minority stake** in the **General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC)**.

Shriram Finance Approves $4.4 Billion Equity Investment by MUFG Bank

Shriram Finance Limited (SFL) approved a **landmark investment agreement** with **MUFG Bank Limited.** involving a **₹39,618 crore ($4.4 billion) equity infusion** through **preferential allotment**.

Piramal Finance to Sell Its 14.72% Stake in Shriram Life Insurance

Piramal Finance has signed an agreement to **sell its entire 14.72% stake** in **Shriram Life Insurance Company (SLIC)**.

The stake will be sold to **Sanlam Emerging Markets (Mauritius) Limited (SEMM)** for **₹600 crore**.

Protean eGov gets board nod to acquire 4.95% stake in NSDL Payments Bank

Protean eGov Technologies Limited (Protean), formerly known as **NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure Limited**, has received **board approval** to acquire a **4.95% stake** in **NSDL Payments Bank (NSDL PB)**.

Competition Commission of India Clears Blackstone's 9.99% Stake Acquisition in Federal Bank via Warrants

Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved **Blackstone's acquisition of 9.99% stake in Federal Bank** through **warrants**, marking a key **foreign investment** in India's banking sector.

The acquisition will be executed via **Asia II Topco XIII Pte Ltd**, a **Blackstone arm**, with **each warrant convertible into one fully paid-up equity share** of **Federal Bank**.

Paytm Expands Overseas with New Subsidiaries in Indonesia and Luxembourg, Dilutes 49% Stake in UAE Unit

One97 Communications Limited, the **parent company of Paytm**, is **expanding its global footprint** by setting up **two wholly owned subsidiaries** in **Indonesia** and **Luxembourg** through **Paytm Cloud Technologies Limited (PCTL)**.

SBI Mutual Fund and BlackRock Pick Up 6.56% Stake in Belrise Industries via NSE Block Deals

SBI Mutual Fund and **BlackRock** jointly acquired a **6.56% stake** in **Belrise Industries** for about **₹897 crore** through **block deals on the NSE**.

SBI Mutual Fund Divests 2.43% Stake in Nazara Technologies for ₹216 Crore

SBI Mutual Fund (SBI MF) divested a **2.43% stake** in **Nazara Technologies** through **open market transactions** on **December 29, 2025**.

The **stake sale** was valued at approximately **₹216 crore**, with the **total transaction amounting to ₹216.32 crore**.

APPS & PORTALS

Name of the App/Portal	Released By	Purpose

InDApp (India's Industrial Empowerment Application)	NIRDC under MSME Ministry; launched by Union MoS B. L. Verma	Single-window platform for MSMEs: approvals, market data, opportunities.
NCS Portal (National Career Service Portal)	Ministry of Labour & Employment	Job search, counselling, job fairs, skill programmes; 2+ crore jobseekers.
MY Bharat – RDC-26 Youth Competitions Portal	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports	Portal for Essay, Painting, Slogan competitions for Republic Day 2026.
Telangana Mobile App for Urea Purchase	Telangana Agriculture Department	Online urea booking for farmers; transparent fertiliser distribution.
Meri Yojana Portal (myscheme.gov.in)	Government of Uttarakhand (launched by CM Pushkar Singh Dhami)	Information on Central & State welfare schemes; ensures timely benefits.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Russia's Soyuz MS-28 Launches Three-Member Crew to International Space Station for 8-Month Mission

- The **Russian spacecraft 'Soyuz MS-28'** was successfully launched carrying **3 crew members**—two **Russian Roscosmos cosmonauts** and one **American NASA astronaut**—to the **International Space Station (ISS)** for an **8-month mission**.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Inaugurates Skyroot Aerospace's Infinity Campus, Unveils India's First Private Orbital Launch Vehicle Vikram-I

- **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** inaugurated **Skyroot Aerospace's Infinity Campus** in **Hyderabad**, unveiling **Vikram-I**, India's **first privately developed orbital launch vehicle** capable of placing **satellites into orbit**.

Indian Space Research Organization Chief V. Narayanan Unveils India's First Private Navigation Technology Hub, ACEN, in Thiruvananthapuram

- **Narayanan**, **Chairman,Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)**, inaugurated the **Anant Centre of Excellence for Navigation (ACEN)**, India's **first private navigation technology hub**, at **Kinfra Park, Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala)**.

Goa Shipyard Limited Delivers ICGS Amulya, Third of Eight Fast Patrol Vessels Under Atmanirbhar Bharat for Indian Coast Guard

- **Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)** delivered Indian Coast Guard Ship **(ICGS) Amulya**, the **third of eight Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs)** built under **India's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative** for the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)**.
- Earlier vessels in the series, **ICGS Adamya (first)** and **ICGS Akshar (second)**, were delivered and commissioned in **2025**.

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – National Aerospace Laboratories Unveils Production Version of Indigenous Hansa-3(NG) Trainer Aircraft in Andhra Pradesh

- **CSIR–NAL (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – National Aerospace Laboratories)** launched the **production version of the indigenous Hansa-3(NG) trainer aircraft** on **29 November 2025**, with manufacturing undertaken by **Pioneer Clean Amps** at a **₹150-crore facility** in **Kuppam, Andhra Pradesh**.

Defence Research and Development Organization Successfully Tests High-Speed Rocket-Sled Emergency Escape System for Fighter Aircraft at RTRS Chandigarh

- **The Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO),** successfully conducted a **high-speed rocket-sled test** of a **fighter aircraft emergency escape system** at the **Rail Track Rocket Sled (RTRS) facility**, **TBRL (Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory) Chandigarh, Haryana**, under the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)**.

Indian Institute of Technology Madras Launches India's First Homegrown Vessel Traffic Management System for Ports

- **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)** researchers developed and deployed **India's first indigenous Vessel Traffic Management System (VTMS) for ports**.
- The system was fully designed by the **National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways and Coasts (NTCPWC)** based on requirements from the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoSPW), Government of India**.

Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences Launches Second Edition of Flagship

Industry–Research Initiative SIDDHI 2.0 in Vijayawada

- The **Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS)**, under the **Ministry of Ayush**, launched the **second edition of its flagship industry–research interface initiative, SIDDHI 2.0** in **Vijayawada**.

Nokia Partners with Bharti Airtel to Open Airtel's Network Capabilities to Developers in India

- **Nokia Corporation**, a telecom firm from **Finland**, has entered into a **strategic partnership** with **Bharti Airtel Limited** to make Airtel's **network capabilities accessible** to developers and enterprises across India.

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and IIT Kanpur Launch Second Batch of 32 Startups in Sanitation & Waste Management for Swachh Bharat

- The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**, in partnership with Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC)**, IIT Kanpur**, launched the **second cohort of startups** in **sanitation and waste management** at the **Swachhata Startup Conclave**.

Department of Biotechnology and BIRAC Renew Partnership with CEPI for Vaccine and Technology R&D

The **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)** under the **Ministry of Science and Technology (MoS&T)**, along with **Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)**, has renewed its **'Engagement Strategy'** with the **Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)** for cooperation in **vaccine and allied technology R&D**.

Ancient Spiral Galaxy 'Alaknanda' Detected by Indian Astronomers with James Webb Space Telescope

Indian astronomers from **National Centre for Radio Astrophysics -Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (NCRA-TIFR), Pune, Maharashtra** discovered a **massive ancient spiral galaxy** named **Alaknanda**, located **12 billion light-years away**, using James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) data.

Genesys Unveils India's First 3D Subsurface Mapping Technology for Adani Airports

Genesys International Corporation Limited launched **India's first 3D subsurface mapping technology** and secured a **₹17.38 crore contract** from **Bureau Veritas** to deploy it across **six Adani Group airports–Mumbai, Thiruvananthapuram, Lucknow, Jaipur, Guwahati, and Ahmedabad**.

Bharti Airtel, Google Team Up to Introduce Rich Communication Services Messaging Services in India

Bharti Airtel Limited has partnered with **Google LLC** to launch **Rich Communication Services (RCS)** messaging on its network in India.

Tata Advanced Systems Limited and Lockheed Martin to Establish C-130J MRO Facility in Bengaluru

Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Sons, and the United States of America (USA) based leading global aerospace and defence company **Lockheed Martin**, announced a new **Maintenance, Repair & Overhaul (MRO) facility** in **Bengaluru, Karnataka** to support the **Indian Air Force's (IAF) C-130J Super Hercules fleet**.

IIT-Bombay's SINE Unveils India's First Deep-Tech VC Fund Backed by an Incubator

The **Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE)** at **Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay (IIT-B), Mumbai,Maharashtra** launched **'Y-Point Venture Capital (VC) Fund'**, India's **1st deep-tech VC fund** managed by an **academia-linked incubator**, with a total investment of **₹250 crore**.

IIT Madras Inaugurates IITM C-DOT Samgnya Technologies Foundation as India's National Quantum Communication Hub

The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IITM) launched the **IITM C-DOT Samgnya Technologies Foundation**, which will function as **India's National Hub for Quantum Communication**.

NIT Rourkela Develops and Patents AI–LLM Powered Human-Like Social Robot for Real-Time Interaction

NIT Rourkela researchers have developed and patented an **AI- and Large Language Model (LLM)–based human-like social robot** capable of **natural, real-time interaction**.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration loses contact with decade-old MAVEN spacecraft orbiting Mars

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has **lost contact** with the **Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution (MAVEN) spacecraft**, which has been **orbiting Mars for over a decade**.

Google launches Disco, an experimental AI-driven browser positioned as a new web discovery tool

Google Disco is an **experimental AI-powered web browser** launched through **Google Labs**, described by Google as a **new "discovery vehicle"** for web exploration.

Apple Launches Open-Source AI Model SHARP to Convert 2D Photos into Photorealistic 3D Scenes

Apple has released a new **open-source AI model** called **SHARP**, which can convert a **single 2D photograph** into a **photorealistic 3D scene**.

Google to Invest USD 8 Million in Government-Backed AI Centres in India

Global tech giant Google announced a **USD 8 million (≈ Rs 72.4 crore)** funding commitment to support **four Government of India (GoI)–backed Artificial Intelligence (AI) Centres of Excellence (CoEs)** during **Google's Lab to Impact Dialogue**, held as part of the **India AI Impact Summit 2026** in **New Delhi, Delhi**.

DEFENCE NEWS

United Service Institution of India Organizes Third Annual Indian Military Heritage Festival in New Delhi

- The **United Service Institution of India (USI)** hosted the **Third Annual Indian Military Heritage Festival (IMHF)** at its New Delhi campus on **14-15 November 2025**, bringing together **senior military leaders, policymakers, diplomats, scholars, authors, think-tanks, industry representatives** and the public.

India–Maldives Joint Military Exercise Ekuverin Begins in Kerala

- The **14th edition of Joint Military Exercise *EKUVERIN*** between the **Indian Army** and the **Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF)** began at **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**, held from **02–15 December 2025 (14-day joint exercise)**.
- The **Indian Army** is represented by **45 personnel** from the **GARHWAL RIFLES**, while the **Maldives** also participates with an **equal-strength MNDF contingent**.

Indian Navy Provides Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Support to Sri Lanka Following Cyclone Ditwah

- The **Government of India (GoI)** launched **Operation Sagar Bandhu** to provide **Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief (HADR)** to **Sri Lanka** following **Cyclone Ditwah**.

Defence Research and Development Organisation Successfully Tests High-Speed Rocket-Sled Based Fighter Aircraft Escape System

- **The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully conducted

a **high-speed rocket-sled test** of a fighter aircraft **escape system** at a **controlled velocity** at the **Rail Track Rocket Sled (RTRS) facility**, **TBRL (Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory), Chandigarh**.

Indian Coast Guard and Philippine Coast Guard Hold First Annual Bilateral Meeting in Manila

- The **1st Annual Bilateral Meeting** between the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** and the **Philippine Coast Guard (PCG)** was held in **Manila, Philippines** on **02 December 2025**.

Bharat Dynamics Limited Bags ₹2,461.62 Crore Defence Contracts from Indian Army via Emergency Procurement

- **Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)** secured **additional defence contracts worth ₹2,461.62 crore** from the **Indian Army (IA)** through an **emergency procurement**
- The order includes supply of **Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGMs)** and **Surface-to-Air Missiles (SAMs)**.

Indian Army Successfully Carries Out Combat Test-Firing of BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile

- The **Indian Army (IA) Southern Command** conducted a **successful combat launch** of the **BrahMos supersonic cruise missile** from a **test range in the Bay of Bengal**, accurately striking its target and reaffirming India's **long-range precision strike capability** and **operational readiness**.

India to Commission INS Aridhaman, Third Indigenously Built Nuclear Submarine

- **India** is preparing to commission **INS Aridhaman**, its **third indigenously built nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN)**, enhancing the **nation's sea-based nuclear deterrent**.

India–Malaysia Joint Military Exercise Harimau Shakti Begins in the Rajasthan Desert

- The **5th edition of** India–Malaysia Joint **Exercise Harimau Shakti–2025** began at **Mahajan Field Firing Range, Rajasthan**, and will be held from **05–18 December 2025**.

8th Edition of Indo–French Bilateral Air Exercise Garuda 25 Successfully Concludes

- The **8th edition of Exercise Garuda**, a **bilateral Indo–French air exercise**, was held at **Air Base 118, Mont-de-Marsan, France**.
- The exercise **concluded on 27 November 2025**, and the **IAF contingent returned to India on 02 December 2025**.

10th India–Indonesia Joint Special Forces Exercise Garuda Shakti begins at Bakloh in Himachal Pradesh

- The **10th edition** of the **India–Indonesia Joint Special Forces Exercise *GARUDA SHAKTI*** commenced at the **Special Forces Training School, Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh**, and

is being held from **03–12 December 2025**.

Rajnath Singh and the Russian Defence Minister co-chair the 22nd India–Russia IRIGC on Military & Military Technical Cooperation in New Delhi

- **Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh** and **Russian Defence Minister Andrei Belousov** co-chaired the **22nd India–Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military & Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-M&MTC)** at the **Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi** on **December 4, 2025**.

Indian Navy showcases maritime prowess through Navy Day 2025 Operational Demonstration at Shangumugham Beach, Thiruvananthapuram

- The **Indian Navy** conducted a grand **Operational Demonstration (Op Demo)** at **Shangumugham Beach, Thiruvananthapuram**, on **03 December 2025** showcasing its **operational prowess**, **maritime capabilities**, and **technological excellence**.

Defence Research and Development Organisation Hands Over 7 Technology Development Fund-Supported Defence Technologies to India's Armed Forces

- **The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** handed over **seven indigenous technologies** developed under the **Technology Development Fund (TDF)** scheme to the **Indian Army, Navy and Air Force**.

Indian Army Eastern Command Team Achieves First Ascent of Mount Kangto, Arunachal Pradesh's Highest Peak

An **18-member Indian Army (IA) Eastern Command (EC) mountaineering team** successfully **summited Mount Kangto**, Arunachal Pradesh's **highest peak (7,042 metres / 23,103 feet)**, marking the **first-ever recorded ascent** of this **previously unconquered peak** in the **Kameng Himalayas, Arunachal Pradesh**.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Inaugurates 125 Strategic BRO Projects Across Border Areas

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated **125 strategically important Border Roads Organisation (BRO) infrastructure projects**, including **28 roads, 93 bridges, and 4 miscellaneous works**, marking the **highest number of BRO projects launched simultaneously**.

Indian Navy Sends Four Additional Ships with 1,000 Tons of HADR Supplies to Sri Lanka under Operation Sagar Bandhu

As part of **Operation Sagar Bandhu**, India deployed **four more Indian Navy ships – INS Gharial, LCU 54, LCU 51 and LCU 57** to deliver **HADR supplies** to **cyclone-affected Sri Lanka**.

Indian Army Hosts Third Edition of Chanakya Defence Dialogue 2025

The **Chanakya Defence Dialogue 2025** was held at the **Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi**, inaugurated by **President Droupadi Murmu**, bringing together **military leaders, global experts, diplomats, industry representatives, and scholars**.

General Upendra Dwivedi highlighted the **Army's transformation roadmap** with **HOP 2032, STEP 2037, and JUMP 2047**, emphasizing **indigenisation, innovation, and stronger military–industry–academia collaboration**.

Indian Coast Guard carries out two-day Sagar Kavach coastal security drill along the Maharashtra–Goa coastline

The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** conducted the **Coastal Security Exercise *Sagar Kavach-02/25*** along the **Maharashtra & Goa coastline** on **November 19–20, 2025**.

Indian Navy Set to Induct Its First Indigenous Diving Support Craft 'DSC A20'

The **Indian Navy will commission DSC A20** on **16 December 2025** at **Kochi**, under the **Southern Naval Command**, marking the induction of a major operational asset.

Indian Navy to commission second MH-60R helicopter squadron INAS 335 at INS Hansa

The **Indian Navy** will commission its **second MH-60R helicopter squadron**, **INAS 335 (Ospreys)**, on **17 December 2025** at **INS Hansa, Goa**, in the presence of **Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi**, the **Chief of the Naval Staff**.

Over 31.69 Lakh Defence Pensioners Enrolled on System for Pension Administration – Raksha, India's Largest Digital Pension System

SPARSH (System for Pension Administration – Raksha) is India's **first end-to-end digital pension platform**, launched under the **Digital India initiative** to ensure the **Right Pension to the Right Pensioner at the Right Time**.

Indian Army Team Leaves for India–UAE Joint Military Exercise DESERT CYCLONE 2025

The Indian Army contingent has departed for the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** to participate in the **2nd edition** of the **India–UAE Joint Military Exercise DESERT CYCLONE-II**.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh to preside over Defence Estates Day as the Department marks its centenary year

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh will preside over the **Defence Estates Day Celebrations** at **Raksha Sampada Bhawan, Delhi Cantonment** on **16 December 2025**.

Indian Navy Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti visits Maldives for closing ceremony of Exercise Ekatha 2025

Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti, **Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff (DCNS)**, **Indian Navy**, visited **Maldives from 15–17 December 2025** to attend the **closing ceremony of Exercise Ekatha 2025**.

Second Edition of India–UAE Exercise DESERT CYCLONE-II Starts in United Arab Emirates

The **2nd edition** of the joint military exercise **"DESERT CYCLONE-II"** between the **Indian Army (IA)** and the **UAE Land Forces** commenced at **Abu Dhabi**, the capital of the **United Arab Emirates**, and will continue till **30 December 2025**.

Indian Air Force Hosts 3rd Edition of AviaIndra Air Exercise with Russia

Exercise AviaIndra-2025 is the **3rd edition** of the bilateral air exercise between the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** and the **Russian Federation Aerospace Force (RFASF)**.

Indian Army Receives Final Batch of AH-64E Apache Attack Helicopters from Boeing

The **Indian Army (IA)** received the **final batch of three AH-64E Apache** attack helicopters from **Boeing (USA)** at **Hindon Air Force Station, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh**.

Indian Coast Guard Commissions New-Generation Fast Patrol Vessel 'Amulya' Built by Goa Shipyard Limited

Indian Coast Guard (ICG) commissioned **ICG Ship 'Amulya'** on **19 December 2025** at **Goa**.

Amulya is the **third of eight Adamya-class Fast Patrol Vessels**, representing a **new-generation indigenous patrol vessel**.

Defence Research & Development Organisation, Rashtriya Raksha University Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Strengthen Research and Technology Cooperation in Defence and Internal Security

Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) and **Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to collaborate in **research, education, training and technology support** for **defence and internal security**.

Indian Navy Retires INS Sindhughosh, Lead Kilo-Class Submarine, After 40 Years of Service

The **Indian Navy** decommissioned **INS Sindhughosh (S55)**, the lead **Kilo-class diesel-electric submarine**, after **40 years of service**.

India Optel Limited Partners with Safran for Indigenous Production of Advanced Defence Systems

India Optel Limited (IOL), a **Mini Navratna Defence PSU**, signed a **collaboration agreement** with **Safran Electronics &Defense** for **Transfer of Production (ToP)** of **two high-precision, combat-proven defence systems**, marking a major milestone under the **Make-in-India programme** envisioned by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.

INSV Kaundinya Set for Maiden Voyage as Indian Navy's Pioneering Stitched Sailing Vessel

INSV Kaundinya is the **Indian Navy's pioneering stitched sailing vessel**, aimed at reviving **India's ancient shipbuilding and seafaring traditions**.

The **maiden overseas voyage** of **INSV Kaundinya** will begin on **29 December 2025**, sailing from **Porbandar, Gujarat to Muscat, Oman**.

QUAD Nations Hold First Field Training Exercise During Operation Christmas Drop

The **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD)** partners — **India, USA, Australia and Japan** — conducted their **1st Field Training Exercise (FTX)** from **December 08–12, 2025** at **Andersen Air Force Base (AAFB), Guam (USA)** on the sidelines of **Operation Christmas Drop**.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh Unveils Guide for Preparing Detailed Project Reports for Road Infrastructure Projects

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh released the **'Guide on Preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for Road Infrastructure Projects'** prepared by the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** on **23 December 2025** in **New Delhi**.

Indian Navy Receives 'Anjadip', Third Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft

'Anjadip', the **third of eight ASW Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC)**, was **delivered to the Indian Navy on 22 December 2025** at **Chennai**.

The ship has been **indigenously designed and built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata**, in partnership with **L&T Shipyard, Kattupalli** under a **Public-Private Partnership (PPP)** model.

Indian Army Partners with Netaji Subhas University of Technology for Software and AI-Based Defence Solutions

The Indian Army signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Netaji Subhas University of Technology (NSUT)** to collaborate on **software and AI-based defence solutions**.

Defence Research and Development Organisation Successfully Completes User Evaluation Trials of Next-Gen Akash (Akash-NG) Missile System

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has **successfully completed User Evaluation Trials (UET)** of the **Next Generation Akash missile (Akash-NG)**, marking a major milestone in **India's air defence preparedness**.

Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee Highlights Critical Minerals as Key to Defence Readiness and Viksit Bharat 2047

The **Centre for Joint Warfare Studies (CENJOWS)** in collaboration with **IP Bazzaar**, hosted **Tech Talk 2025** on the theme **"Minerals That Matter: Geopolitics, Sovereignty & Value Chains"** in **New Delhi**.

Indian Coast Guard Inducts First Indigenous Pollution Control Vessel 'Samudra Pratap' Built by Goa Shipyard Limited

The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** inducted **Samudra Pratap**, **India's first indigenously designed and built Pollution Control Vessel (PCV)**, on **23 December 2025**.

Indian Coast Guard Conducts RPREX-25 Oil Spill Response Drill off Mumbai Coast

The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)**, designated as the **central coordinating authority for marine pollution**, conducted **Regional Level Pollution Response Exercise – RPREX-25** off the **Mumbai coast, Maharashtra**, to test preparedness against **oil spill incidents**.

Defence Acquisition Council Clears ₹79,000 Crore Defence Procurement Proposals

The **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)**, chaired by **Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh**, approved **procurement proposals worth ₹79,000 crore** under the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)**.

RANKING AND REPORTS

Index Name	Published By	India's Rank / Performance	Top 3 Ranks

Most-Visited Monuments (India) – FY 2024–25	Ministry of Culture / ASI	Taj Mahal: Rank 1 (6.26M visitors)	1. Taj Mahal 2. Sun Temple 3. Qutub Minar
SIPRI Top 100 Arms-Producing & Military Services Companies 2024	Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)	HAL – 44, BEL – 58, MDL – 91	Top 3 not provided
Google India Search Trends 2025	Google India	IPL – Most searched; Gemini – 2nd overall	1. IPL 2. Gemini 3. Asia Cup / ICC
UBS Billionaire Ambitions Report 2025	UBS	India among top inheritance destinations	1. USA 2. India 3. France/Germany/Switzerland
Most Polluted Cities in India – Nov 2025	Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA)	Ghaziabad – Rank 1 (PM2.5: 224 µg/m³)	1. Ghaziabad 2. Noida 3. Bahadurgarh
Global AI Vibrancy Index 2024	Stanford University	India – Rank 3 (Score: 21.59)	1. USA 2. China 3. India
Passport Index 2025	Arton Capital	India – Rank 67	1. UAE 2. Singapore, Spain 3. Belgium, France, Sweden, etc.
Asia Power Index 2025	Lowy Institute	India – Rank 3 (Major Power)	1. USA 2. China 3. India

Hurun Global 1000 Report 2025	Hurun	Indian companies included (not top 10)	1. Nvidia 2. Apple 3. Microsoft
Global Investment Risk & Resilience Index 2025	Henley & Partners + AlphaGeo	India – Rank 104	1. Switzerland 2. Denmark 3. Norway
Hurun India Rich List 2025 – Professional Managers	Hurun India	Jayshree Ullal – Richest Indian-origin professional manager globally	1. Jayshree Ullal 2. Satya Nadella 3. Sundar Pichai

BOOKS AND AUTHOR

Shikhar Dhawan Releases Autobiography "The One: Cricket, My Life and More"

Former Indian cricketer **Shikhar Dhawan** launched his autobiography titled **"The One: Cricket, My Life and More"** in New Delhi.

HarperCollins Publishers India to Release Book on Salman Khan

HarperCollins Publishers India has announced the publication of a new book titled **"Salman Khan: The Sultan of Bollywood"**, authored by **award-winning journalist and writer Mohar Basu**.

Vice President Releases Book 'Sanatan Sanskriti Ki Atal Drishti'

The Vice President of India, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan, released the book **'Sanatan Sanskriti Ki Atal Drishti'** at the **Vice President's Enclave, New Delhi**.

SPORTS NEWS

Ahmedabad Confirmed as Host City for 2030 Commonwealth Games

- **Ahmedabad** has been officially selected to host the **2030 Commonwealth Games**, winning over **Abuja, Nigeria**.
- The announcement was made at the **Commonwealth Sport's General Assembly** in Glasgow.

South Africa Hands India Record 408-Run Defeat in Second Test, Guwahati

- **South Africa** defeated India by **408 runs** in the second Test at **Barsapara Cricket Stadium, Guwahati**, marking **India's worst-ever Test defeat by runs**.
- The victory sealed a **2–0 series whitewash** in India, a rare achievement on home soil for visiting teams.

Rohit Sharma Becomes Highest Six-Hitter in ODI Cricket History

- **India's Rohit Sharma became the highest six-hitter in One-Day Internationals (ODIs)**, surpassing Pakistan's **Shahid Afridi's record of 351 sixes**.

Virat Kohli Registers Record 52nd One-Day International Century

- **Virat Kohli** scored his **52nd One-Day International (ODI) century**, surpassing **Sachin Tendulkar's record of 49 ODI hundreds**, becoming the **first male cricketer to score 50+ centuries in a single format**.

Andre Russell Announces Retirement from IPL; Joins KKR Support Staff as "Power Coach"

- **Andre Russell, one of the most explosive all-rounders in IPL history, announced his retirement from the Indian Premier League**, ending his long association with the **Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR)**.

India Wins Silver at Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2025

- The **Indian men's hockey team** won the **silver medal** at the **Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2025 held in Malaysia.**
- India lost **1-0** to **Belgium** in the final played in **Ipoh**.

Archery Premier League Wins Emerging Professional Sports Event of the Year

- The **Archery Premier League (APL)** has won the title of **Emerging Professional Sports Event of the Year** at the **India Sports Awards 2025** during **FICCI TURF 2025**, the **15th Global Sports Summit** held in **New Delhi**.

Cristiano Ronaldo Partners with Perplexity Artificial Intelligence as Investor and Brand Ambassador

The football legend **Cristiano Ronaldo** announced his partnership with **Perplexity Artificial Intelligence**, joining the company as both an **investor and brand ambassador**.

Rohit Sharma Becomes the Fourth Indian to Cross 20,000 International Runs

In a **high-stakes One Day International (ODI)** series decider against South Africa in Visakhapatnam, **Rohit Sharma** achieved a major milestone by **crossing 20,000 international runs**.

Yashasvi Jaiswal becomes the 6th Indian to score centuries in all three formats of international cricket

- **Yashasvi Jaiswal scored his maiden One Day International (ODI) century** during the third and final match against **South Africa in Visakhapatnam**.
- This innings helped India successfully chase **271 runs**, and the century placed Jaiswal in an elite category of cricketers.

Lando Norris Wins Formula 1 (F1) World Championship 2025

- **Lando Norris**, driving for **McLaren**, won the **2025 Formula 1 World Championship** after finishing **3rd** in the final race — the **2025 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix**.

India's Sarwagya Singh Kushwaha Becomes World's Youngest FIDE-Rated Chess Player

- **Sarwagya Singh Kushwaha**, a **3-year-old** from **Madhya Pradesh**, became the **youngest officially rated chess player in the world** in **December 2025**.
- He achieved this at the age of **3 years, 7 months, and 20 days**, entering the records of **FIDE (Fédération Internationale des Échecs / International Chess Federation)**.

Jasprit Bumrah Becomes First Indian Bowler to Take 100 Wickets in All Three Formats

- **Jasprit Bumrah** created history becoming the **first Indian bowler** to take **100 wickets in Tests, ODIs, and T20Is**.
- The milestone was achieved during the **1st T20I vs South Africa** at the **Barabati Stadium, Cuttack**, where he dismissed **Dewald Brevis** for his **100th T20I wicket**, later adding one more.

India to Host Squash World Cup 2025 in Chennai

- **India will host** the **Squash World Cup 2025** for the **third consecutive time** at the **SDAT Stadium, Chennai**, from **10–14 December 2025**.

33rd Southeast Asian Games (SEA Games) 2025 – Began on 9th December in Thailand

- The **33rd Southeast Asian Games (SEA Games 2025)** officially began in **Thailand**, marking the start of one of Southeast Asia's biggest multi-sport events.
- The Games are hosted across **Bangkok** and **Chonburi province**, with the **Opening Ceremony** held at the **Rajamangala National Stadium**.

FEI Asian Equestrian Championships 2025 Held in Pattaya, Thailand

- The **second edition of the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) Asian Equestrian Championships 2025** was held from **24 November to 7 December 2025** at the **Thai Polo and**

Equestrian Club, Pattaya, Thailand, featuring **80+ riders from 13 countries** competing in **Jumping, Dressage, Eventing, Para Dressage, and Endurance**.

India to Host the First-Ever Commonwealth Kho Kho Championship 2026

India will host the **first-ever Commonwealth Kho Kho Championship** from **9–14 March 2026**, marking a historic moment for the traditional Indian sport.

Germany Wins FIH Men's Junior Hockey World Cup 2025; India Secures Bronze

The **14th edition of the Fédération Internationale de Hockey Men's Junior Hockey World Cup 2025** concluded in **Chennai and Madurai, Tamil Nadu**.

In the **final match**, **Germany defeated Spain 3–2 in a shoot-out** after the match ended in a **1–1 draw at full time**.

Vaibhav Suryavanshi Smashes 171 in Under-19 Asia Cup 2025 Opener

India's 14-year-old batting prodigy Vaibhav Suryavanshi produced a sensational performance by scoring **171 runs off 95 balls** in the **opening match of the Under-19 Asia Cup 2025** against the **United Arab Emirates**.

The match was played at the **International Cricket Council Academy Ground, Dubai**, where Suryavanshi dominated the bowling attack from the outset.

R. Praggnanandhaa Wins FIDE Circuit 2025, Qualifies for Candidates Tournament 2026

Indian Grandmaster Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa won the **FIDE Circuit 2025** with **115.17 points**, topping a year-long global leaderboard in **December 2025**.

With this achievement, he became the **only male player worldwide** to qualify for the **Candidates Tournament 2026** through the **FIDE Circuit route**.

Amul Renews Partnership with Argentina Football Association as Regional Sponsor

Amul renewed its partnership with the **Argentina Football Association (AFA)** as the **Official Regional Sponsor** for the **fourth consecutive year**.

The renewed agreement will continue **through the FIFA World Cup 2026**.

MRF Tyres Wins 2025 FIA European Rally Championship Teams Title

MRF Tyres clinched the **2025 FIA European Rally Championship (ERC) Teams Title**, marking a major boost to **India's presence in global motorsport technology**.

John Cena Retires from In-Ring Competition (December 2025)

John Cena, one of the greatest WWE superstars, **officially retired from in-ring competition in December 2025**, ending a **20-year WWE career**.

His **final match was held** at **Night's Main Event**.

IPL Auction 2026: Prashant Veer and Kartik Sharma Become Joint Most Expensive Uncapped Players

The **IPL Auction 2026** witnessed a historic moment as **Prashant Veer** and **Kartik Sharma** became the **joint most expensive uncapped players** in **Indian Premier League history**.

Shafali Verma Wins ICC Women's Player of the Month for November

Indian opener **Shafali Verma** was named the **ICC Women's Player of the Month for November**, marking her **first-ever Player of the Month honour**.

Simon Harmer Named ICC Men's Player of the Month for November 2025

South Africa off-spinner Simon Harmer was awarded the **ICC Men's Player of the Month for November 2025** for his outstanding performances against **India** in the **ICC World Test Championship (WTC)**.

The Fédération Internationale de Football Association Best Football Awards 2025 Held in Doha, Qatar

The **Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) Best Football Awards 2025** were held in **Doha, Qatar**, honouring outstanding performances in **men's and women's football** during the year.

Jammu and Kashmir Hosts First-Ever International Indian Style Wrestling (Dangal) and Rustam-e-Jammu Kashmir Title 2025

Jammu and Kashmir is hosting its **first-ever International Indian Style Wrestling (Dangal)** along with the **Rustam-e-Jammu Kashmir Title 2025** at **Maulana Azad Stadium, Jammu**, marking a major milestone for **traditional sports** in the Union Territory.

Jharkhand Wins First Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy Title 2025–26

Jharkhand scripted history by winning their **first-ever Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT)** title in the **2025–26 season**, defeating **Haryana by 69 runs** in the final held at **Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium, Pune**.

East Bengal FC Wins Inaugural SAFF Women's Club Championship 2025

Indian women's football created history as **East Bengal Football Club** won the **first-ever South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Women's Club Championship 2025**.

Smriti Mandhana Becomes First Asian Batter to Cross 4,000 Runs in Women's Twenty20 Internationals

Indian Vice Captain Smriti Mandhana marked her return to international cricket by creating history in the **first Women's Twenty20 International against Sri Lanka** at **Visakhapatnam**.

Sukhman Singh Wins Indian Golf Union 124th Amateur Golf Championship of India

Indian amateur golf witnessed a major milestone as **Sukhman Singh** clinched the **Indian Golf Union 124th Amateur Golf Championship of India** with a dominant performance.

Khelo India Tribal Games: India's First National-Level Sports Event for Tribal Athletes

India has taken a major step towards **inclusive sports development** with the unveiling of the **logo, theme song, and mascot** of the **inaugural Khelo India Tribal Games** at the **Late B. R. Yadav Sports Stadium, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh**.

Alpine SG Pipers Win Global Chess League 2025 Season 3

Alpine SG Pipers, led by **Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa** and **Anish Giri**, won the **Global Chess League 2025 Season 3**, defeating defending champions **Triveni Continental Kings** in the finals held in **Mumbai**.

Rashtriya Raksha University to Host World Police and Fire Games 2029

Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU), Gujarat, will host **eight disciplines** of the **World Police and Fire Games (WPFG) 2029**, marking **India's first time as a host nation** for this prestigious international sporting event for uniformed services.

Surya Charishma Tamiri Wins Women's Singles Title at 87th Senior National Badminton Championships

Indian shuttler **Surya Charishma Tamiri** emerged champion in the **Women's Singles** category at the **87th Senior National Badminton Championships**, held in **Vijayawada**.

Bhutan's Sonam Yeshey Creates World Record in Men's Twenty20 International Cricket

Sonam Yeshey of **Bhutan** created history by becoming the **first bowler ever to take eight wickets in a men's Twenty20 International (T20I)** match.

Smriti Mandhana Becomes Second Indian Woman to Score 10,000 International Runs

Smriti Mandhana became the **second Indian woman** and the **fourth player globally** to score **10,000 runs in international cricket**.

India Wins Two Bronze Medals at FIDE World Rapid Chess Championships 2025

India delivered a strong performance at the FIDE World Rapid Chess Championships 2025, held in **Doha**, with **Koneru Humpy** winning **bronze in the Women's section** and **Arjun Erigaisi** clinching **bronze in the Open section**, highlighting India's growing dominance in world chess.

OBITUARIES

Name	Profession / Role	Native / Nationality
Tom Stoppard	Academy Award–winning British playwright	Born in Czechoslovakia; British
Nicola Pietrangeli	Italian tennis legend; 2-time French Open champion	Born in Tunisia; Italian
Swaraj Kaushal	Former Governor of Mizoram; Senior lawyer	Solan, Himachal Pradesh, India
Frank Gehry	World-renowned modern architect; Pritzker Prize laureate	Born in Canada; American
Simone Tata	Former Chairperson of Lakmé; business leader	Born in Geneva, Switzerland; Indian by marriage
Shivraj Vishwanath Patil	Former Union Home Minister; Senior INC leader	Latur region (Hyderabad State); Indian
Shamanur Shivashankarappa	Veteran INC leader; Educationist & industrialist	Davanagere, Karnataka, India
Ram Vilas Das Vedanti	Former MP; Ram Janmabhoomi movement leader	Rewa, Madhya Pradesh, India

Prafulla Govinda Baruah	Veteran journalist; Padma Shri awardee	Dibrugarh, Assam, India
Peter Arnett	Pulitzer Prize–winning journalist (Vietnam War)	Born in New Zealand; American
Ram Vanji Sutar	Legendary sculptor; Designer of Statue of Unity	Dhule, Maharashtra, India
Sreenivasan	Actor, writer, director, producer (Malayalam cinema)	Pattiyam, Kerala, India
Vinod Kumar Shukla	Jnanpith Award–winning Hindi writer	Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh, India
Ira “Ike” Schab	WWII veteran; one of last survivors of Pearl Harbor attack	Illinois, USA
Biswa Bandhu Sen	Speaker, Tripura Legislative Assembly	Tripura, India
Khaleda Zia	Former Prime Minister of Bangladesh; BNP Chairperson	Bangladeshi

JANUARY MONTH 2026

IMPORTANT DAYS

Day	Day Observed As	Key Points / Theme
1 January	Global Family Day	Also known as World Peace Day; Linked to the UN’s declaration (1997) of the International Decade for the Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for Children.
4 January	World Braille Day	First observed in 2019 and declared by UNGA in 2018.

6 January	World Day of War Orphans	UNICEF estimates nearly 140 million orphans worldwide (as of 2015).	

NATIONAL NEWS

MeitY Plans to Double Subsidy for Semiconductor Startups Under Revised DLI Scheme

- The **Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY)** is proposing a significant revamp to the **Design-Linked Incentive (DLI) scheme**, a key pillar of India's **Rs 76,000-crore semiconductor incentive programme**.

Income Tax Relief: CBDT Extends Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme Deadline to January 31, 2025

- The **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** has extended the **Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme 2024 deadline** by one month, moving it from **December 31, 2024**, to **January 31, 2025**.
- This extension gives taxpayers more time to resolve disputes at reduced tax rates, avoiding an additional 10% tax penalty.

Pharma Industry Faces Crisis as Revised Schedule M GMP Norms Take Effect in January 2025

- The revised **Schedule M guidelines** for **Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP)**, **effective January 2025**, have put significant pressure on **India's pharmaceutical industry, especially on Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises** (**MSMEs**).

Wealth Disparities Among India's Chief Ministers: ADR Report Analysis

- The **Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR)**, along with the **National Election Watch (NEW)**, has released a report analyzing the self-declared affidavits of India's 31 Chief Ministers.
- The data highlights significant wealth disparities and provides insights into criminal records, gender representation, and financial trends.

MNRE Introduces ₹100 Crore Payment Security Fund for Renewable Energy Installations

- The **Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE)** has unveiled new guidelines establishing a ₹100 crore **Payment Security Fund** (PSM) to support the **Renewable Energy Service**

Company (RESCO) and **Utility-Led or State-Led Aggregation (ULA)** models under the **PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana**.

CCI Conducts Market Study on Renewable Energy Competition Across BRICS Nations

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** is conducting a study to analyze **competition issues** in the **renewable energy sector** across **BRICS nations**.
- The study is being carried out under the **BRICS framework**, as stated by **CCI Chairperson Ravneet Kaur**.

India to Host First-ever World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES) in 2024

- **India will host the World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit** (WAVES) for the **first time in February 2025.**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced this during his 'Mann ki Baat' radio address

Delay in Subsidy Disbursal under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana Despite Installation Push

- The **government is focusing on increasing the number of installations** under the newly **launched PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana**, the disbursal of subsidy to the **households has somewhat been delayed**.
- Launched on **February 13, 2024**, with the goal of installing rooftop solar plants in **1 crore households** by 2026-27.

Union Home Ministry Amends Prison Manual to Eliminate Caste-Based Discrimination

- The Union Home Ministry has amended the **Model Prison Manual, 2016**, and the **Model Prisons and Correctional Services Act, 2023**, to address caste-based discrimination in prisons.
- **Supreme Court Ruling**: The changes follow the **October 3, 2024** order from the Supreme Court, which highlighted concerns about caste-based discrimination in prisons.

Air India Launches Wi-Fi Connectivity on Domestic and International Flights

- **Tata group airline Air India has rolled out Wi-Fi internet connectivity services on board domestic and international flights** operated by select aircraft in its fleet.

- With the rollout of this service, **Air India has become the first Indian airline** to offer internet connectivity on domestic flights.

Centre Extends Special Subsidy on Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) Fertilizer

- The **Centre has extended the special subsidy** of **₹3,500 per tonne** on **Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP)** for another year, from **January 1, 2025**, to **December 31, 2025**.
- This move aims to prevent a rise in the farmgate price of DAP, the **second most-consumed fertilizer** in India, amid pressure from the depreciating rupee against the US dollar.

EPFO to Launch New Software System EPFO 3.0 by June 2025

- Union Labour Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya** announced that the **Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** will introduce its revamped software system, **EPFO 3.0**, by **June 2025**.
- The initiative aims to modernize the organisation's operations, enhance user experience, and bring it on par with **India's advanced banking systems**.

PM Modi Inaugurates Key Infrastructure Projects in Delhi, Targets Opposition

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated a **series of transformative infrastructure and redevelopment projects in Delhi.**
- The initiatives focus on urban renewal, affordable housing, and educational advancements, emphasizing the government's commitment to improving the **Ease of Living** for Delhi residents.

Central Government Likely to Approve Three New Greenfield Airports

- The **Central Government is nearing approval** for the construction of **three new greenfield airports** in **Parandur (Tamil Nadu)**, **Kota (Rajasthan)**, and **Puri (Odisha)**.
- These projects, which are at the second stage of approval under the **Greenfield Airports (GFA) Policy**, will significantly enhance regional connectivity and economic development.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Inaugurate Grameen Bharat Mahotsav 2025

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** is set to inaugurate the **Grameen Bharat Mahotsav 2025** at Bharat Mandapam, **New Delhi.**

- The event celebrates rural India's entrepreneurial spirit and cultural legacy under the t**heme**: **"Building a Resilient Rural India for a Viksit Bharat 2047"**
  with the motto: **"गांव बढ़े, तो देश बढ़े"** (*As villages grow, the nation prospers*).

The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme till 2025-26

- Union Minister for Rural Development, Agriculture, and Farmers Welfare, Shri **Shivraj Singh Chouhan,** announced **three major Cabinet decisions** aimed at supporting Indian farmers, ensuring their prosperity, and advancing the vision of a **developed India** under Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's leadership.

Draft Rules for the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act Released

- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** (MeitY) unveiled the **Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act draft rules**.
- These rules, open for public feedback on the **MyGov portal until February 18, 2025**, aim to provide clear guidelines for implementing the Act passed in August 2023.

President Droupadi Murmu Praises NIMHANS for Integrating Yoga and Ayurveda in Mental Health Care

- During the **Golden Jubilee celebrations** of the **National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS)** in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**, President **Droupadi Murmu** lauded the institution for its innovative approach to integrating **Yoga** and **Ayurveda** into the treatment of mental health.
- President Murmu praised NIMHANS for its **integrative medicine services**, emphasizing how combining modern healthcare systems with traditional methods such as **Yoga** and **Ayurveda** has proven effective in addressing both **mental and physical distress**.

"Panchayat Se Parliament 2.0" Initiative: Empowering Women Leaders in Governance

- **The National Commission for Women** (NCW), in **collaboration with the Lok Sabha Secretariat and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs**, **inaugurated 'Panchayat Se Parliament 2.0' at the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan.**
- This initiative commemorates the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, a revered tribal leader and freedom fighter.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurates Delhi-Meerut RRTS: A Game-Changer for Connectivity

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** recently inaugurated the **Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS)** connecting **Delhi** and **Meerut**, drastically reducing travel time to just **40 minutes**.
- The RRTS is seen as a **game-changer** for **Delhi-Meerut connectivity**, marking a significant leap in regional travel and infrastructure improvement.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Advocates for Cooperatives and Rural Development to Boost Farmers' Income

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** called for establishing **five to six more cooperatives** like **Amul** to ensure **better prices for farmers' produce** and enhance their income.
- He emphasized the success of **Amul** and its model of ensuring that 80% of every rupee spent by consumers reaches **dairy farmers**.

INTERNATIONAL

Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto's Wishlist Includes BrahMos Missiles

- The **purchase of BrahMos missiles** is a key item on the agenda for **Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto** during his proposed visit to India for the Republic Day celebrations later this month.
- Indonesia could become the **third country from Southeast Asia** to purchase the BrahMos missile system, following the **Philippines** and **Vietnam**.

Russia introduces new tourist tax from January 1, 2025

- The **new tourist tax in Russia** came into effect on January 1, 2025, replacing the previous resort fee.

- **Tax Rate:**
- Initial tax rate: 1% of lodging costs in 2025.
- Gradual increase: 3% by 2027.
- Minimum daily charge: 100 rubles (approx. $0.9).
- **Purpose**: The tax aims to bolster regional tourism infrastructure as part of amendments to the Russian Tax Code introduced in July 2024, under the new chapter titled "Tourist Tax."

Japan's Iconic Sake Added to UNESCO Cultural Heritage List, Celebrating Brewers and Enthusiasts

- **Japan's traditional rice wine, sake,** has been inducted into **UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity list.**
- This recognition highlights the importance of sake in Japan's rich culinary and cultural traditions.

STATE NEWS

Gujarat Government Carves Out New District, Vav-Tharad, from Banaskantha

- The **Gujarat government** has decided to **split Banaskantha district into two parts,** creating a new district named **Vav-Tharad,** with its headquarters at Tharad.
- With the creation of Vav-Tharad, the total number of districts in Gujarat will increase to **34**.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin Offers $1 Million Reward for Decoding Indus Valley Civilization Script

- **MK Stalin, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu**, announced a **$1 million cash prize for individuals or organizations** that successfully **decipher the Indus Valley Civilization (IVC) script.**
- Despite over 100 years of efforts, the script of the IVC, discovered by Sir John Marshall in 1924, remains a mystery.

Gujarat Chief Minister introduces 'SWAR' platform to break language barriers

- **Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel** launched the **SWAR (Speech and Written Analysis Resource) platform on December 25, 2024,** marking the occasion of Good Governance Day.

- **Objective**: The SWAR platform is a citizen-centric initiative aimed at overcoming language barriers, especially in communication with the government.

Himachal Pradesh Institute of Public Administration to Be Renamed in Honor of Manmohan Singh: CM Sukhu

- **Himachal Pradesh Institute of Public Administration (HIPA)** will be **renamed in honor of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh,** as announced by **Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu during the institute's 50th-anniversary celebrations.**
- The renaming serves as a **tribute to Manmohan Singh,** who passed away on December 26, 2024, at the age of 92.

Assam Launches Northeast's Largest Eri Silk Spinning Mill in Baksa District

- The **largest Eri silk spinning mill** in the **Northeast is located in Baksa district, Assam.**
- The mill was set up by the **North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation (NEHHDC).**

Gujarat to Conduct India's First Census of Coastal and Wader Birds at Jamnagar's Marine National Park and Sanctuary from January 3 to 5

- The **Gujarat government** will conduct **India's first-ever census of coastal and wader birds** at the Marine National Park and Sanctuary in Jamnagar from January 3 to 5.
- The census will be a joint initiative between the **Gujarat State Forest Department** and the **Bird Conservation Society of Gujarat.**

Uttarakhand Forest Department establishes ethnobotanical garden in Haldwani featuring 37 plant species from the Mahabharata

- The **Uttarakhand Forest Department** has developed an **ethnobotanical garden, named "Mahabharata Vatika", in Haldwani**, spread over one acre of land.
- The garden showcases 37 plant species mentioned in 18 sections of the Mahabharata, emphasizing its ecological and environmental knowledge.

Chhattisgarh introduces innovative plan linking forest ecosystem services with Green Gross Domestic Product

- **Chhattisgarh** has introduced a plan that **connects the ecosystem services** provided by its forests to the **Green Gross Domestic Product (Green GDP),** marking a first in the state.
- **Purpose**: The initiative aims to highlight the direct link between the environmental contributions of forests (clean air, water conservation, biodiversity) and the state's economic progress.

BUSINESS NEWS

Centre's Dividend Receipts from CPSEs Likely to Exceed FY25 Target

- The Indian government has received **₹48,376 crore** in dividend receipts from **Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)** and other investments, amounting to **86% of the annual target** for the current financial year.

India Should Establish Digital Asset Regulatory Authority (DARA) by 2025, Report Suggests

- According to the **Crypto Outlook 2024-2025 report** by **Blue Aster Capital** and **Crebaco Global**, India should establish a **Digital Asset Regulatory Authority (DARA)** by the **end of 2025 or early 2026**.

Rural and Urban Poverty Decline in India: Key Insights from SBI Research

- **Rural poverty** has sharply reduced to **4.86%** in FY 2024 from **25.7%** in 2011-12.
- This decline is primarily driven by **government support programs** and higher consumption growth in the **lowest 0-5% decile**.

Nomura Revises India's FY25 GDP Growth Forecast to 6.7%

- **Nomura has revised India's GDP growth** forecast for **FY25** down to **6.7%**, from the earlier estimate of **6.9%**.
- This adjustment reflects a slowdown in the economy, influenced by several factors.

Dharavi Redevelopment Project Rebranded as Navbharat Mega Developers Private Ltd

- **Dharavi Redevelopment Project Private Ltd** (DRPPL), backed by the Adani Group, has been renamed **Navbharat Mega Developers Private Ltd (NMDPL)** to avoid confusion with the Dharavi Redevelopment Authority (DRA), a Maharashtra government entity.

EEPC Proposes Faceless GST Audit System to Enhance Ease of Doing Business

- The **Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC), India** has proposed the introduction of a **faceless GST audit system** as part of its **Budget 2025 recommendations**.
- Inspired by the success of **faceless assessment** by the Income Tax department, the proposal aims to boost efficiency and reduce compliance burdens.
- **Reduce compliance costs** through anonymity and technology.

GST Collections Dip to 3-Month Low in December but Show Year-on-Year Growth

- **Collection from Goods & Services Tax** (GST) dipped to a 3-month low in **December to ₹1.76 lakh crore**.
- However, this marks an increase of **nearly 7 per cent from ₹1.65 lakh crore collected in** the same month 2023.

Blinkit Launches 10-Minute Ambulance Service in Gurgaon

- **Blinkit,** a quick-commerce platform, has introduced a **10-minute ambulance service** in select areas of Gurgaon.
- **Testing Phase**: Currently operational with **five ambulances**, the service is in its **pilot stage**.

Government Forms Working Group to Revise WPI Base Year to 2022-23

- The **government has constituted** an **18-member working group**, led by **NITI Aayog Member Ramesh Chand**, to revise the **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** base year from **2011-12 to 2022-23**.
- This update is part of a regular revision process to reflect changes in the economy and ensure a realistic representation of price trends.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Reserve Bank of India Governor projects improved economic outlook for 2025

- Despite facing global uncertainties, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra** is optimistic about **India's economic prospects, citing high consumer and**

business confidence in 2025 and expecting an improvement in the second half of the financial year.

Reserve Bank Innovation Hub Teams Up with Digital Lender Vivifi Finance to Launch Pilot for Unsecured Loans to Gig Workers

- The **Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)** has partnered with **Vivifi Finance** to launch a pilot project **aimed** at providing unsecured loans to gig workers.
- The pilot aims to develop a digital platform for providing loans to cab-hailing app drivers, such as those working with Ola and Uber, food delivery drivers employed by Swiggy and Zomato, and other gig workers.

India's current account deficit slightly decreases to 1.2% of GDP in Q2FY25

- **India's Current Account Deficit (CAD)** marginally reduced to **1.2% of GDP in Q2 FY25,** compared to 1.3% in the same quarter of the previous year.
- Absolute CAD Figures: The CAD in absolute terms stood at **$11.2 billion in Q2 FY25**, slightly down from $11.3 billion in Q2 FY24.

Reserve Bank of India Introduces Guidelines for Reporting Gold Derivative Transactions to Clearing Corporation of India Limited Trade Repository

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) mandates that Authorized Dealer Category-I Banks** report **gold derivative transactions** to the **Clearing Corporation of India Limited. (CCIL) trade repository.**
- Effective Date: The reporting requirement will start from **February 1, 2025** for all over-the-counter (OTC) transactions in gold derivatives conducted by banks and eligible customers.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman highlights banks' role in boosting rural growth through collateral-free loan support

- **Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** highlighted the crucial role of **public sector banks (PSBs)** in driving rural empowerment by providing **collateral-free loans to small businesses** and artisans through various Central Government schemes.

Punjab & Sind Bank to Launch Instant MSME Loan Scheme Linked to GST Returns

- **Punjab & Sind Bank** plans to launch an **instant loan scheme for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs),** with loans up to **₹25 lakh**.
- The scheme will be rolled out this month as part of the bank's initiative to digitally push credit.

World Bank Approves $20 Billion Development Funding Package for Pakistan

- The **World Bank** is set to approve a **$20 billion indicative lending package for Pakistan** under a **10-year initiative called the Pakistan Country Partnership Framework 2025-35.**
- This funding package aims to safeguard funded projects from political transitions and focus on six key areas to improve social indicators in Pakistan.
-

Finance Ministry Urges Banks and Insurance Firms to Speed Up Resolution of Public Grievances

- The **Finance Ministry** urged **public sector banks (PSBs) and insurance firms** to speed up the **resolution of public grievances.**
- The meeting was chaired by **Financial Services Secretary M Nagaraju** and included complainants, PSBs, public sector insurance companies (PSICs), and regulators.

IDBI Bank to Raise ₹10,000 Crore via Long-Term Bonds

- **IDBI Bank** has approved the issuance of **Long-Term Bonds to finance Infrastructure and Affordable Housing projects, raising up to ₹10,000 crore**.
- The bond issuance will occur in tranches, with ₹5,000 crore expected to be raised by March 31, 2025, and the balance during FY 2025-26.

Banking System Faces Liquidity Deficit in December, RBI Caps Call Rate

- The **banking system** slipped into a **liquidity deficit in December 2024,** marking the **first such occurrence since June 2024.**
- This was despite the infusion of **₹1.16 lakh crore** through the easing of the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR).
- CRR Easing: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reduced the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) from **4.5% to 4% in two tranches** (December 14 and December 28, 2024).

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MicroFinance Institutions Network Grants Three-Month Extension for Compliance with Maximum Three-Lenders per Borrower Rule

- **Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN) extended the deadline** for compliance with the "**maximum three-lenders per borrower"** rule by three months, now applying until the **end of March 2025.**
- Background of Rule: The rule aims to address the microfinance sector's asset quality stress by limiting borrowers to loans from a maximum of three lenders, reducing excessive indebtedness.

Reserve Bank of India Imposes Stricter Liquidity Requirements on Deposit-Taking Housing Finance Companies

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has implemented **revised norms requiring deposit-taking housing finance companies (HFCs)** to maintain higher levels of liquid assets against their deposits.
- Effective **January 1, 2025**, these companies must hold **liquid assets equivalent to 14%** of their outstanding deposits.
- This includes 8% in unencumbered approved securities, calculated as a percentage of public deposits.

Reserve Bank of India mandates full emergency withdrawals for NBFC deposits and revises housing finance regulations

- Starting **January 1, 2025, non-banking financial companies (NBFCs)** are required to **return the full deposit amount to depositors within three months** in case of an emergency withdrawal, though such withdrawals will not accrue any interest.
- Critical Illness: If a depositor faces critical illness, as defined by the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)**, they can withdraw **100% of their deposit** within three months without interest.

Reserve Bank of India permits National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development to operate as an All-India Financial Institution in financial markets

- On January 1, 2025, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued a **circular allowing the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID)** to participate as an **All-India Financial Institution (AIFI) in financial markets.**
- The decision aligns with the RBI's earlier notifications and master directions governing AIFIs under the RBI Act, 1934.

Federal Bank introduces FedOne, a digital platform for corporate banking

- **Federal Bank**, one of India's largest private sector banks, launched **FedOne, a new digital transaction banking platform.**
- The platform is powered by Nucleus Software's FinnAxia solution.
- Implementation Timeline: The platform was implemented after a 10-month collaboration between **Federal Bank** and **Nucleus Software.**

State Bank of India introduces TAB-based digital onboarding for NRI account opening

- **State Bank of India (**SBI) has launched a **TAB-based digital onboarding process for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)** to facilitate the opening of N**RE (Non-Resident External) and NRO (Non-Resident Ordinary) accounts.**
- Purpose and Availability: The initiative aims to streamline the account opening process, offering it across SBI branches in India and select foreign offices.

Indian Bank Aims for 3.4% net interest margin in FY25

- **Indian Bank** aims to maintain a **3.4% net interest margin (NIM) in FY25**, with a possible variation of ±10-15 basis points.
- Factors Supporting NIM Maintenance:Loans linked to external benchmarks will reprice immediately when interest rates decline, helping to manage interest income.

External Debt Increases to $711.8 Billion as of September, Up 4.3% from June: Finance Ministry

- **India's external debt** reached **$711.8 billion in September 2024**, a rise of 4.3% compared to June 2024. This represents an increase of $29.6 billion over the June-end 2024 level.
- In September 2023, external debt was $637.1 billion, showing a significant year-on-year increase in 2024.
- The ratio stood at 19.4% in September 2024, up from 18.8% in June 2024.

UPI Transactions Hit Record High of 16.73 Billion in December with a Value of ₹23.25 Trillion

- According to the latest data by **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), In December 2024, Unified Payment Interface (UPI) transactions** reached an all-time high of **16.73 billion**, surpassing the previous record of 16.58 billion in October 2024.
- Month-on-Month Increase: UPI transactions increased month-on-month, rising from 15.48 billion in November to 16.73 billion in December 2024.

Reserve Bank of India Issues Guidelines for Lenders on Participation in Government Debt Relief Schemes

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued **guidelines for lenders participating in Government Debt Relief Schemes (DRS),** focusing on the sacrifice of interest, principal, and loan account status.
- DRS are typically announced by states to provide financial relief to borrowers, especially during natural calamities, or as political promises during elections.
- These schemes target specific segments of borrowers, such as farmers.

ICICI Prudential Life and RGA unveil insurance product addressing women's specific health conditions

- **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance** has partnered with **Reinsurance Group of America (RGA)** to launch a **unique health insurance product.**
- The product specifically caters to women's health, covering critical illnesses and surgeries.

State Bank of India introduces two new deposit schemes: "Har Ghar Lakhpati" and "Patrons" for senior citizens aged 80 and above

State Bank of India (SBI) has launched **two new deposit schemes "Har Ghar Lakhpati" and "Patrons" .**

- **Har Ghar Lakhpati Scheme:**
- Type: Pre-calculated Recurring Deposit.
- Objective: Accumulate a sum of ₹1 lakh or its multiple.

- Target: Simplifies achieving financial goals by helping customers plan and save effectively.

Reserve Bank of India Removes Lending Restrictions on Microfinance Lender Arohan Effective Immediately

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) lifted lending restrictions on Arohan Financial Services** as of October 21, 2024.
- This allows Arohan to resume disbursal of loans.
- **Reason for Restrictions:**The RBI had imposed restrictions on Arohan Financial Services, and other NBFCs, including Asirvad Micro Finance, DMI Finance, and Navi Finserv, due to material supervisory concerns.

Department of Financial Services Secretary Shri M. Nagaraju unveils upgraded 'BAANKNET' e-auction portal as a comprehensive platform for property auctions

- **Shri M. Nagaraju, Secretary, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance**, launched **revamped e-auction portal 'Baanknet'** in New Delhi.
- This platform consolidates information on e-auction properties from all Public Sector Banks and offers a one-stop destination for buyers and investors to discover a wide range of assets.

Securities and Exchange Board of India introduces free tools on its website and Saarthi App to enhance investor awareness

- Capital markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has launched **free tools and resources on its investor website and Saarthi App** to promote investor education.
- **Objective**: The initiative aims to empower both prospective and existing investors to make informed investment decisions.

Bharat Connect set to launch by March, marking a UPI milestone for B2B payments

- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** is expected to roll out its **Bharat BillPay for Business offering by March 2025.**

- Bharat Connect, formerly known as Bharat BillPay, will allow businesses to manage B2B payments, operating on a model similar to NPCI's partnerships with third-party application providers (TPAPs).

Enlighten Angel Fund Gets Securities and Exchange Board of India Approval to Function as an Alternate Investment Fund

- **Enlighten Angel Fund** has received **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) approval** to operate as an **Alternate Investment Fund (AIF)**.
- The fund has launched its first fund with a corpus of **₹200 crore,** including a ₹100 crore greenshoe option.
- Greenshoe Option: Allows underwriters to buy up to 15% more shares than the original offering amount at the IPO price.

AWARDS AND HONOUR

2024 Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Awardees Recognized for Exceptional Sporting Achievements

- The **Indian government** has announced the recipients of the prestigious **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award** for 2024, honouring athletes who have made exceptional contributions to sports in the country.
- This esteemed award recognizes **outstanding performances** and achievements in various disciplines.
- **Awardees and Their Achievements**
- **Manu Bhaker (Shooting):**
    - Made history at the **Paris 2024 Olympics** by becoming the **first Indian athlete** post-Independence to win **two medals in a single edition** of the Games.
- **Harmanpreet Singh (Hockey):**
    - As the **captain** of the Indian men's hockey team, led them to a **second consecutive Olympic bronze medal** in Paris.
- **Praveen Kumar (Para Athletics):**

  - Clinched **gold** at the **Paris Paralympics** in the **men's high jump T64** category, setting a **new Asian record**.
- **D Gukesh (Chess):**
  - Emerged as a **formidable force** in the world of chess, achieving significant milestones and contributing to **India's rising stature** in global chess.

Outgoing President Joe Biden Awards Presidential Citizens Medal to Capitol Attack Investigators

- **President Joe Biden** has awarded the **Presidential Citizens Medal**, the **second-highest civilian honour in the United States**, to **20 individuals**, including members of the congressional committee that investigated the **January 6, 2021, Capitol attack**.
- The awards were presented during a ceremony at the White House.

Joe Biden Awards Presidential Medals of Freedom to 19 Honorees

- **President Joe Biden** awarded the **Presidential Medal of Freedom** to **19 honorees**, recognizing their contributions to **entertainment, sports, activism**, and **diplomacy**.
- Among the recipients were **Bono** (singer and activist), **Earvin "Magic" Johnson** (basketball legend), **Lionel Messi** (soccer superstar), **Denzel Washington** and **Michael J. Fox** (actors), and **Ralph Lauren** (fashion designer).
- **Jane Goodall** (primate researcher) and **Hillary Clinton** (former First Lady, senator, and US secretary of state) were also recognized.
- The **Presidential Medal of Freedom** was awarded posthumously to **Fannie Lou Hamer**, a **Black civil rights activist**, and **Robert F. Kennedy**, former US attorney general and presidential candidate.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Name of the Person	Appointed As	Succeeds
Bhuvnesh Kumar	Chief Executive Officer, UIDAI	-

Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra	Commander, Western Air Command (IAF)	Air Marshal Pankaj Mohan Sinha
Arif Mohammad Khan	42nd Governor of Bihar	Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar	23rd Governor of Kerala	Arif Mohammed Khan
Faiz Ahmed Kidwai	Director General, DGCA	D.C. Sharma
Kevan Parekh	Chief Financial Officer, Apple Inc.	Luca Maestri
Jyoti Sharma	Chief Executive Officer, Nasscom Foundation	Nidhi Bhasin
Manish Singhal	Secretary General, ASSOCHAM	Deepak Sood
K. N. Renuka Pujar	Guest Lecturer, Vijayanagara Sri Krishnadevaraya University	-
Dr. Sandip Shah	Chairperson, NABL (QCI)	Prof. Subbanna Ayyappan
Amitava Mukherjee	CMD, NMDC Limited (Tenure Extended)	-
Vitul Kumar	Director General, CRPF	Anish Dayal Singh
Hari Babu Kambhampati	27th Governor of Odisha	Raghubar Das
Ajay Kumar Bhalla	19th Governor of Manipur	-
Anil Kapoor	Brand Ambassador, Matrimony.com	-
Amit Ganorkar	MD & CEO, TATA AIG General Insurance	Neelesh Garg

MOUS AND AGREEMENT

Power Grid Corporation of India Signs Landmark Green Loan Agreement with SMBC

- **Power Grid Corporation of India Limited** (POWERGRID), a 'Maharatna' PSU under the Ministry of Power, has signed a significant **green loan agreement** with **Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC)**.
- The agreement was finalized, at GIFT City, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, marking a pivotal step in India's renewable energy journey.
- **Loan Details**:
    - **Currency**: Japanese yen (JPY)
    - **Amount**: Equivalent to **$200 million**, with an additional **green shoe option** of **$150 million**.

Uttarakhand Government Signs MoU with ITBP to Boost Tourism in Border Areas

- **Uttarakhand government** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** to promote tourism in the **border areas** of the state.
- This agreement allows the use of ITBP's **helipads** for tourism-related activities, enhancing accessibility to otherwise hard-to-reach locations.

DPIIT Partners with Startup Policy Forum to Bolster India's Startup Ecosystem

- The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, **has entered into a historic collaboration** with the **Startup Policy Forum (SPF)**, an influential industry body representing India's new-age companies.
- **SPF Baithak**:
    - Scheduled for **January 15-16** at **Bharat Mandapam**, as part of **National Startup Week**.

DPIIT Partners with Stride Ventures to Accelerate Growth of Indian Startups

- The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** has partnered with **Stride Ventures**, a leading venture debt firm, to catalyze the growth of **Indian startups** and expand their **global reach**.

- This collaboration will provide **financial support**, **strategic mentorship**, and **market access**, driving the growth of startups and contributing to India's economic agenda of fostering **innovation** and **entrepreneurship** for overall growth.

RANKING AND REPORTS

LEADS 2024 Report: Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra Lead Logistics Efficiency Rankings

- The **Ministry of Commerce and Industry's LEADS (Logistics Ease Across Different States) 2024 report** highlights the performance of states and Union Territories (UTs) in logistics, a vital factor for boosting exports and economic growth.
- The **"Achievers"** are states and UTs demonstrating top-tier logistical efficiency:
- **Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and Delhi.**
- Others in this category: Chandigarh, Haryana, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Assam, and Arunachal Pradesh.

India: Second Most Targeted Nation for Cyberattacks in 2024

- **India ranked second** globally for **cyberattacks** in 2024, with **95 entities** targeted in data theft incidents, according to the **CloudSEK ThreatLandscape Report 2024**.
- **The United States** led with **140 attacks**, while **Israel** came third with **57 incidents** due to **geopolitical tensions**.

ACQUISITION AND MERGERS

SBI Life to Acquire 10% Stake in Bima Sugam India Federation for ₹6.6 Crore

- **SBI Life's board** has approved the **acquisition of a 10% stake in Bima Sugam India Federation for ₹6.6 crore.**
- Bima Sugam India Federation is an unlisted company, incorporated on June 18, 2024, to create and operate a centralized marketplace for insurance products and services.

Reserve Bank of India approves merger of National and Cosmos Co-operative Banks, effective January 6, 2025

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has approved the **merger of National Co-operative Bank (Bangalore) with Cosmos Co-operative Bank (Maharashtra)**, effective January 6, 2025.
- The RBI sanctioned the merger under **Sub-Section (4) of Section 44A and Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.**

BharatPe to Divest Up to 25% Stake in Unity SFB, Appoints Rothschild for Advisory

- **BharatPe**, a new-age non-bank lender, plans to sell between **10% and 25% of its stake in Unity Small Finance Bank (SFB),** depending on buyer interest.
- BharatPe currently holds around **49% of the stake in Unity SFB.**
- BharatPe has hired **Rothschild & Co., an investment bank**, to assist in finding potential buyers, primarily focusing on private equity firms and large family offices.

Competition Commission of India Clears Avenue-Mavco and MHM Merger Through Green Channel Route

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** granted **automatic approval for the Avenue-Mavco acquisition of MHM Holding GmbH under the Green Channel route.**
- The Green Channel route is a fast-track approval process used for transactions with no significant competition concerns or overlaps in the Indian market.

Reserve Bank of India approves HDFC Bank's acquisition of 9.5% stake in Kotak Bank, AU, and Capital Small Finance Banks

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has approved **HDFC Bank's plan** to acquire an **aggregate stake of up to 9.5% in Kotak Mahindra Bank, AU Small Finance Bank,** and **Capital Small Finance Bank.**
- The RBI's approval is valid until **January 2, 2026**.
- HDFC Bank and its group entities (including HDFC Mutual Fund, HDFC Life Insurance, HDFC ERGO General Insurance, and HDFC Pension Fund) are restricted to an aggregate holding of 9.5% of the share capital or voting rights in the three banks.

DEFENCE NEWS

Indian Navy to commission 3 key fleet assets: Nilgiri, Surat, and Vagsheer

- **15 January 2025** is set to become a **landmark day in India's history as the Indian Navy prepares to commission three frontline combatants - Nilgiri,** the lead ship of the Project 17A stealth frigate class; **Surat**, the fourth and final ship of the Project 15B stealth destroyer class; and **Vaghsheer**, the sixth and final submarine of the Scorpene-class project - together at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai.

Ministry of Defence designates 2025 as the 'Year of Reforms'

- The **Ministry of Defence** has declared **2025 as the "Year of Reforms"** to **modernize India's armed forces** and prepare them for future challenges.
- Reforms will enhance Jointness and Integration initiatives, aiming for the establishment of Integrated Theatre Commands.
- The reforms will prioritize new domains like Cyber and Space, as well as emerging technologies such as **Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Hypersonics, and Robotics.**

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

China Introduces World's Fastest High-Speed Train Prototype

- **China** unveiled its **CR450 prototype, a high-speed bullet train designed to achieve 450 km/h during test runs,** making it the world's fastest high-speed train.
- The CR450 surpassed the previous CR400 Fuxing model, which had a maximum speed of 350 km/h.
- China's High-Speed Rail Network:China's operational HSR network spans about **47,000 km,** connecting major cities across the country.

China Unveils New Amphibious Assault Ship to Boost Naval Combat Capabilities

- **China** launched a **new amphibious assault ship, named Sichuan,** designed to enhance the navy's combat capabilities, particularly in distant seas.
- Ship Specifications:The Sichuan is the first ship of the 076 type and is China's largest amphibious assault ship to date, displacing **40,000 tonnes.**

- The ship is equipped with an electromagnetic catapult that allows fighter jets to launch directly from its deck.

About China :

- President : Xi Jinping
- Capital : Beijing
- Currency : Renminbi

Tata Elxsi Partners with Qualcomm Technologies to Develop Virtual Models of Snapdragon Digital Chassis Solutions for Cloud-Native Applications

- **Tata Elxsi** has announced a collaboration with **Qualcomm Technologies, Inc**. to develop **virtual models of Snapdragon Digital Chassis solutions** for cloud-native application development aimed at accelerating the adoption of Software-Defined Vehicles (SDV) in next-gen mobility.
- Technology Demonstration at CES 2025:The collaboration will be demonstrated at the **Consumer Electronics Show (CES) 2025,** where Tata Elxsi will showcase the development of a virtual electronic control unit (ECU) platform.

IIT Bombay Develops Bacteria to Absorb Toxic Pollutants in Soil and Generate Beneficial Nutrients

- **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay researchers** have identified **bacteria** that can **consume toxic pollutants in the soil** and produce helpful nutrients as byproducts.
- The research was published in the **journal Environmental Technology and Innovation.**
- The bacteria are capable of removing organic pollutants from the soil, including aromatic compounds, which are commonly used in pesticides and other industrial products.

IIT Madras collaborates with Ministry of Agriculture on Project Virtually Integrated System to Access Agricultural Resources to enhance agricultural resource access

- The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** has announced a collaboration with the **Ministry o Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare on Project VISTAAR (Virtually Integrated System to Access Agricultural Resources).**

- The initiative **aims** to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the agricultural extension system th digitalisation.
- This will help farmers and other stakeholders access the capabilities and offerings of these start-ups r easily.

SPORTS NEWS

67th National Shooting Championship: Adarsh Singh Secures Gold in Standard Pistol

- **Adarsh Singh was in top form**, clinching the **men's 25-metre standard pistol gold** with a seven-point margin over Udhayveer Sidhu, Omkar Singh and Olympian Gurpreet Singh in the **67th National shooting championship at the Dr. Karni Singh Range, Tughlakabad.**
- **Men's 25m Standard Pistol:**
  - **Gold:** Adarsh Singh
    - Won with a **seven-point margin**, showcasing his dominance.
  - **Silver:** Udhayveer Sidhu
  - **Bronze:** Omkar Singh
    - Both Udhayveer and Omkar edged out Olympian Gurpreet Singh for podium finishes based on a better count of inner-10s.

Kiran Jadhav Shines at the 15th Lakshya Cup

- **Kiran Jadhav** of the **Navy emerged victorious** in the **10m air rifle event** at the **15th Lakshya Cup** held in Mumbai, securing his **first gold medal** after consistently making finals since 2018.
- **Event Highlights**
- **Gold Winner**:
  - Kiran Jadhav clinched gold with a score of **251.7 points**, marking a major milestone in his shooting career.

Luke Littler Becomes Youngest World Darts Champion

- **Luke Littler**, 17, became the **youngest-ever World Darts Champion** after defeating **Michael van Gerwen** 7-3 in the final at **Alexandra Palace**, London.
- Littler's win at the age of 17 makes him the **youngest** player to ever claim the prestigious title.

Kaamya Karthikeyan: The Youngest Female to Scale the Seven Summits

- At just **17 years old**, Kaamya Karthikeyan, a student from Navy Children School in Mumbai, achieved the remarkable feat of becoming the **youngest female in the world** to conquer the **Seven Summits**, a challenge involving scaling the highest peaks on all seven continents.
- **Details of the Seven Summits**
- **Africa:** Mount Kilimanjaro (Tanzania)
- **Europe:** Mount Elbrus (Russia)
- **Australia:** Mount Kosciuszko (Australia)
- **South America:** Mount Aconcagua (Argentina)
- **North America:** Mount Denali (USA)
- **Asia:** Mount Everest (Nepal)
- **Antarctica:** Mount Vinson (Antarctica)

Controversy Surrounds Carlsen and nepomniachtchi's Shared World Blitz Championship Title

- **Magnus Carlsen and Ian Nepomniachtchi's** decision to share the **World Blitz Championship** title at the **FIDE Rapid and Blitz Championship** in New York has sparked widespread debate and criticism in the chess community.
- A leaked video further fueled the controversy, raising concerns over possible **match-fixing** and **manipulation of tournament rules**.

Hemanth Muddappa: India's "Drag King" Secures Triple Crown

- **Hemanth Muddappa**, celebrated as the **"Drag King" of Indian motorsport**, etched his name in history by achieving a **triple crown** during the final round of the **MMSC FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Drag Racing Championship** at the **Madras International Circuit (MIC)**.
- With this feat, he reached a total of **15 National titles**, becoming India's most decorated motorsport athlete.

R Vaishali Clinches Bronze at World Blitz Championship, Capping Off a Stellar Year for Indian Chess

- **R Vaishali**, a rising star in Indian chess, ended 2024 with an outstanding achievement by winning a **bronze medal** at the **World Blitz Championship** in New York.
- Her performance at the prestigious event solidified her positio among the world's top chess players.
- The championship followed a **Swiss system** with the top eight players advancing to the knockout phase.

OBITUARIES

Name	Profession / Role	Native / Nationality
Acharya Kishore Kunal	Retired IPS Officer, Founding Secretary of Patna Mahavir Mandir	Indian (Bihar)
Charles F. Dolan	Founder of Home Box Office (HBO) and Cablevision	American
Jimmy Carter	39th President of the United States	American
Agnes Keleti	Olympic Gymnast, Holocaust Survivor	Hungarian
Osamu Suzuki	Former Chairman, Suzuki Motor Corporation; Pioneer of Maruti	Japanese
Dr. K. S. Manilal	Botanist, Scholar of Hortus Malabaricus	Indian (Kerala)
Costas Simitis	Former Prime Minister of Greece, Socialist Leader	Greek
Na. D'Souza	Veteran Novelist and Literary Figure	Indian (Karnataka – Malnad region)

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Krishan Datta	Veteran Sports Journalist, Former Sports Editor of TOI	Indian
Dr. Rajagopala Chidambaram	Nuclear Scientist, Former Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission	Indian

JANUARY 2026

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day Observed As	Key Points / Theme
Jan 1	Global Family Day	Promotes peace & unity; also called World Peace Day
Jan 4	World Braille Day	Honors Louis Braille; awareness for visually impaired
Jan 6	World Day of War Orphans	Highlights challenges of war-affected children
Jan 8	ANC Foundation Day	African National Congress founded in 1912
Jan 9	Pravasi Bharatiya Divas	Marks Mahatma Gandhi's return (1915); NRI contribution

Jan 10	World Hindi Day	Promotes Hindi globally; linked to 1975 conference
Jan 11	National Human Trafficking Awareness Day	Raises awareness on trafficking
Jan 11	Death Anniversary of Lal Bahadur Shastri	Former PM; died in 1966
Jan 12	National Youth Day	Birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda
Jan 15	Indian Army Day	K.M. Cariappa became first Indian Army Chief
Jan 23	Parakram Diwas (Netaji Jayanti)	Honors Subhas Chandra Bose; courage & patriotism
Jan 24	International Day of Education	Promotes access to quality education
Jan 24	National Girl Child Day	Focus on rights & issues of girl child
Jan 25	National Tourism Day	Promotes tourism's role in development
Jan 25	National Voters Day	Theme: My India, My Vote
Jan 26	Republic Day (India)	Constitution adopted (1950); 77th Republic Day
Jan 26	International Day of Clean Energy	First observed in 2026; clean energy awareness

Jan 26	International Customs Day	Honors customs role in global trade
Jan 27	International Holocaust Remembrance Day	Remembers Holocaust victims
Jan 28	International Data Privacy Day	Awareness on data protection
Jan 30	Martyrs' Day (India)	Death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi
Jan 30	World Leprosy Day	Theme: Leprosy is curable, stigma is the challenge
Jan 30	World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day	Theme: Unite. Act. Eliminate

NATIONAL AND STATE NEWS

India's First Sleeper Vande Bharat Train Launched Between Howrah and Guwahati

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** flagged off **India's first sleeper Vande Bharat train**, connecting **Kolkata (Howrah)** with **Guwahati (Kamakhya)**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Lays Foundation Stone of Kaziranga Elevated Corridor, Flags Off Amrit Bharat Express Trains

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** laid the foundation stone of the **₹6,957 crore Kaziranga Elevated Corridor** in **Assam** and **virtually flagged off two Amrit Bharat Express trains**, aiming to improve road, rail, wildlife protection, tourism, and employment in the region.

Two MSME Technology Centres Approved in Himachal Pradesh

- The **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** has approved the establishment of **two MSME Technology Centres** in **Himachal Pradesh** at **Pandoga (Una district)** and **Parwanoo (Solan district)** as part of a nationwide expansion initiative.

India AI Impact Summit 2026: Driving Inclusive and Responsible AI

- **India will host the India AI Impact Summit 2026** from 16–20 February at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**, as the first global AI summit in the **Global South**.

Telangana Explores UAE Partnership for Bharat Future City

- **Telangana and the UAE agreed to explore cooperation for Bharat Future City** during the World Economic Forum 2026.
- **Bharat Future City** is planned as **India's first net-zero greenfield smart city**, designed to be a **global urban and economic centre** with a focus on **sustainability, smart infrastructure, and innovation**.

Andhra Pradesh to Get New Spaceport at Hope Island

- **Andhra Pradesh CM N. Chandrababu Naidu announced a new spaceport at Hope Island** under the Space City initiative to **support private and commercial launch missions**.
- The facility will focus on **small and medium-lift launch vehicles** and **complement existing national launch centres**.

SAMPANN Pension System Integrated with UMANG Platform

- The **SAMPANN pension portal** has been integrated with the **UMANG (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance)** platform, enabling nearly **4 lakh pensioners of the Department of Telecommunications** to access **Pension Payment Order (PPO) details** and **Life Certificate validity** online.

Assam Government Announces Monthly Financial Assistance for Research Scholars

- The **Government of Assam** announced a **monthly financial assistance scheme** for research scholars under the **Atal Vichal Agragami Assam programme**.
- The scheme will be **launched on February 11, 2026**.

Vice President Releases Book on Ram Janmabhoomi Issue

- **Vice President of India Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan** released the book titled **"Chalice of Ambrosia: Ram Janmabhoomi – Challenge and Response"** at the **Vice President's Enclave, New Delhi**.

Rajasthan to develop Alwar Biological Park in NCR region

- **Rajasthan government has planned a new Biological Park in Alwar district**, which will become the **first biological park of its kind in the National Capital Region (NCR)**.

India notifies GEI targets under Carbon Credit Trading Scheme

- **Government of India notified Greenhouse Gas Emission Intensity (GEI) targets in January 2026** for **additional carbon-intensive sectors** under the **Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS)**.

India delivers cancer medicines to Afghanistan as humanitarian medical aid

- **India delivered 7.5 tonnes of life-saving cancer medicines to Kabul**, reinforcing its humanitarian support to the **people of Afghanistan**, particularly in the **health sector**.

Odisha imposes complete ban on gutkha, pan masala, and tobacco products

- **Odisha State Health and Family Welfare Department announced a complete ban on gutkha, pan masala, and all products containing tobacco or nicotine** to safeguard public health and prevent misuse.

Tamil Nadu announces Semmozhi Illakiya Virudhu to promote multilingual Indian literature

- **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin announced a new annual state-sponsored literary award named "Semmozhi Illakiya Virudhu (Classical Language Literary Award)"** during the valedictory ceremony of the **Chennai International Book Fair**.

Lucknow becomes first Zero Fresh Waste Dump city in Uttar Pradesh

- **Lucknow Municipal Corporation (LMC)** has adopted a **scientific and modern waste management system** to manage solid waste generated by a population of around **40 lakh** and nearly **7.5 lakh establishments**.

Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana Marks 11 Years of Empowering the Girl Child

- **Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY)** completed **11 years since its launch in January 22, 2015**.
- The scheme was launched under the **Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao initiative** to support the **education and marriage needs of the girl child**.

Gujarat Witnesses Launch of India's First Integrated Private Satellite Manufacturing Unit at Sanand

- **Gujarat marked a major milestone in India's space sector** with the laying of the **foundation stone for India's first integrated private satellite manufacturing unit** at **Khoraj in Sanand, Gujarat**.

Punjab Launches Mukhya Mantri Sehat Yojana for Free Cashless Healthcare

- The **Punjab government** has introduced the **Mukhya Mantri Sehat Yojana** to provide **free and cashless medical treatment up to ₹10 lakh per family per year**.

Hindustan Zinc Develops India's First Zinc Tailings Recycling Facility

- **Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL)**, a **Vedanta Group company** and one of the **world's largest integrated zinc producers**, has awarded contracts to **CIMIC Group companies Sedgman and Leighton Asia**.

India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management – ECINET Launch

- The **India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management** is being held in **New Delhi**.
- On the **second day of the conference**, **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar**, along with **Election Commissioners Dr Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Dr Vivek Joshi**, launched **ECINET**, a **unified digital platform** of the Election Commission of India.

86th All India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC) 2026 Held in Uttar Pradesh

- **Anandiben Patel**, **Governor of Uttar Pradesh**, inaugurated the **86th All India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC 2026)** at the **Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**.

Government e-Marketplace and World Trade Centre Mumbai Sign MoU to Strengthen MSME Participation in Public Procurement

- **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** and **World Trade Centre (WTC) Mumbai** have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to **boost outreach and strengthen MSME participation** in **public procurement**.

Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati Develops Technique to Predict Glacial Hazards in Eastern Himalayas

- Researchers from **Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati** have developed a new scientific framework to **predict glacial hazards** in the **Eastern Himalayan region**.

Uttarakhand Implements Uniform Civil Code (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026

- The **Government of Uttarakhand** has implemented the **Uniform Civil Code (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026** after receiving approval from the **Governor of Uttarakhand**, giving the ordinance immediate legal effect.

Gujarat Government Announces Financial Assistance under Namo Laxmi Scheme

- The **Government of Gujarat** has announced **Indian Rupees 1,250 crore** financial assistance under the **Namo Laxmi Scheme** for the **2025–26 academic year**.

Kerala Declares Bacillus subtilis as State Microbe

- **Kerala** has officially declared **Bacillus subtilis** as its **State Microbe**, becoming the **first Indian state** to accord formal recognition to a microorganism.

New Solid Waste Management Rules Notified; To Come into Force from April 1, 2026

- The **Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026** have been notified by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986** and will come into force from **1 April 2026,** replacing the 2016 rules.

National Biodiversity Authority Disburses Rs 17 Lakh to Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation Under ABS Mechanism

- The **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)** is strengthening India's commitment to sustainable use of biological resources and fair benefit sharing under the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) framework.

AI Solution 'Pancham' Chatbot to Ensure Direct Digital Connect between the Government & Panchayat Functionaries

- On the eve of the **77th Republic Day**, Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj **Prof. S. P. Singh Baghel** honoured elected Panchayat representatives invited as Special Guests for the Republic Day celebrations in New Delhi.

New Aadhaar App dedicated to the nation

- Minister of State for Commerce and Industry and Electronics & IT **Jitin Prasada** dedicated the **new Aadhaar App** to the nation.

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) in association with INSOL India organized the 3rd International Conclave

- The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI),** in association with INSOL India, organised the **3rd International Conclave** to mark a decade of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) and discuss the future of insolvency resolution in India.

Government Integrates Artificial Intelligence Across Education and Skilling Ecosystem; CCSU Becomes India's First Artificial Intelligence-Enabled State University Pilot

- **Shri Jayant Chaudhary**, **Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** and **Minister of State, Ministry of Education (MoE)**, outlined the Government of India's vision for integrating **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** across education and skilling ecosystems at **Google's AI for Learning Forum** held in **New Delhi**.

Meghalaya's Living Root Bridges Nominated to UNESCO World Heritage List

- **India** has formally submitted the nomination dossier of **Meghalaya's living root bridges**, titled **"Jingkieng Jri / Lyu Chrai Cultural Landscape"**, to the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** for the **2026–27 World Heritage evaluation cycle**.

Montra Electric Becomes First Heavy-Duty Electric Truck Manufacturer to Receive PM E-DRIVE Certification

- **Montra Electric**, the electric commercial vehicle business vertical of the **Murugappa Group**, became the **first heavy-duty electric truck manufacturer in India** to receive certification under the **Prime Minister Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement Scheme (PM E-DRIVE)** of the **Government of India**.

Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Forms High-Level Committee to Strengthen Farmer Producer Organisations in Tamil Nadu

- The **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** constituted a **high-level Committee** to review and strengthen the functioning of **Farmer Producer Organisations** in **Tamil Nadu**.

Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

- **Union Minister**: **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** (Vidisha Constituency, Madhya Pradesh)
- **Ministers of State**: **Ram Nath Thakur** (Rajya Sabha, Bihar); **Bhagirath Choudhary** (Ajmer Constituency, Rajasthan)

National Institution for Transforming India Launches Sampoornata Abhiyan 2.0

- The **National Institution for Transforming India** launched **Sampoornata Abhiyan 2.0** to ensure essential services reach the most remote and underserved populations.
- The campaign aims to **fast-track development** and achieve **100 percent saturation of key development indicators** across **Aspirational Districts and Aspirational Blocks** in India.

India–European Union Leaders Visit India as Chief Guests for 77th Republic Day

- **Ursula von der Leyen**, President of the **European Union Commission**, and **Antonio Luis Santos da Costa**, President of the **European Union Council**, paid an official visit to **India from January 25 to January 27, 2026**, as **Chief Guests for the 77th Republic Day of India**, on the invitation of **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.

Karnataka Cabinet Approves Statewide Rollout of 'Akka Pade' Scheme and Clears Multiple Development Projects

- The **Karnataka Cabinet** has approved the **statewide implementation of the 'Akka Pade' scheme** across **all 31 districts and five police commissionerates**, in coordination with the **Home Department**.

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia Launches Speed Post 24 and Speed Post 48 Services

- **Union Minister for Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia** announced the launch of two new India Post services: **Speed Post 24** and **Speed Post 48**.
- These services ensure **time-bound delivery within 24 hours and 48 hours**, respectively.

Andhra Pradesh Approves Dagadarthi Greenfield Airport in Nellore District

- The **Andhra Pradesh Cabinet** has approved the **Dagadarthi Greenfield Airport project** in **Nellore district**.
- With this approval, **Dagadarthi will become the 8th airport in Andhra Pradesh**, strengthening the state's aviation network.

India to Host 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) in New Delhi

- **India** will host the **28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC)** in **New Delhi**.

Punjabi Singer Kaka Launches 'Friendo' Women's Safety Mobile Application

- **Punjabi singer Kaka** has launched a women's safety mobile application named **Friendo**, marking his initiative beyond the music industry.
- The launch reflects increasing concern over **crimes against women in India** and highlights the role of **technology and social responsibility** in creating safer communities.

Rajasthan's First Fully Organic Village Body: Bamanwas Kankar Panchayat

- **Bamanwas Kankar Panchayat in Rajasthan has been declared the state's first fully organic village body**, covering **seven hamlets**.

Kerala Leads India in Personal Four-Wheeler Electric Vehicle Adoption (2025)

- **Kerala recorded the highest share of personal four-wheeler electric vehicle adoption in 2025** among the top electric vehicle-selling states in India.

Delhi High Court on PM CARES Fund and Right to Privacy under RTI Act

- The **Delhi High Court** held that the **PM CARES Fund enjoys the right to privacy under the Right to Information Act, 2005**, even if it is considered a public authority.

Andhra Pradesh to Host World's Largest Green Ammonia Project at Kakinada

- **Andhra Pradesh** will host the **world's largest green ammonia project** at **Kakinada**, being developed by **AM Green**, with a total investment of **USD 10 billion**.

India Post Delivers First Online Order Through Open Network for Digital Commerce Platform

- The **Department of Posts** successfully delivered its **first-ever online order through the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)**, marking its entry as a **Logistics Service Provider (LSP)** on the platform.

A Decade of Startup India Movement Completed on National Startup Day

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** marked the completion of **10 years of the Startup India Movement** on **National Startup Day (16 January)**.

Bharat Electricity Summit 2026 to Be Held in New Delhi from March 19–22

- **Bharat Electricity Summit 2026** will be held from **19–22 March 2026** at **Yashobhoomi, New Delhi**.

Female Labour Force and Workforce Participation Reach Yearly Highs in December 2025: PLFS

- As per the **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) Monthly Bulletin for December 2025**, **female Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)** and **Worker Population Ratio (WPR)**

reached their **highest levels of the year**, while the **overall unemployment rate (UR)** remained **broadly stable at 4.8%**, indicating resilience in India's labour market.

The Government e-Marketplace Completes 7 Years of Womaniya Initiative to Promote Women Entrepreneurship

- The **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** has completed **seven years of the Womaniya Initiative**, a flagship programme aimed at enhancing the participation of **women-led Micro and Small Enterprises** in **government public procurement**.

Government Blocks 242 Illegal Betting and Gambling Website Links

- The **Government of India** blocked **242 illegal betting and gambling website links** in **January 2026** as part of an intensified enforcement drive.

India's First NAMO Book Fest Launched in New Delhi

- **India witnessed** a new literary initiative with the launch of the **first-ever NAMO Book Fest** in **New Delhi**.

Karnataka Amends Land Revenue Law to Reform Jamma Bane Lands in Kodagu

- The **Karnataka government** amended the land revenue law to address long-pending documentation issues related to **Jamma Bane lands** in **Kodagu district**.
- The **Karnataka Land Revenue (Second Amendment) Act, 2025** received the **Governor's assent on January 7, 2026**, and has been officially notified.

Supreme Court Rules Unreserved Seats Open to All Candidates on Merit

- The **Supreme Court of India** ruled that **unreserved (general) category seats** in public recruitment are **open to all candidates purely on merit**, irrespective of social category.

India's First Sleeper Vande Bharat Train Launched Between Howrah and Guwahati

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched India's first Sleeper Vande Bharat train**, flagging it off from **Malda, West Bengal**.
- The train connects **Howrah (Kolkata)** with **Kamakhya (Guwahati)**, strengthening **rail connectivity between eastern and northeastern India**.

MSME Ministry Approves Two New Technology Centres in Himachal Pradesh

- **The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises approved two new MSME Technology Centres** in **Himachal Pradesh** at **Pandoga (Una district)** and **Parwanoo (Solan district)**.
- **Each Technology Centre will be developed at an estimated cost of ₹10 crore**, aimed at strengthening **industrial growth, skill development and employment generation** in the state.

Jharkhand Implements PESA Act After 25 Years

- **Jharkhand has notified rules under the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA)** nearly **25 years after its enactment**, marking a significant step towards **tribal self-governance in Fifth Schedule areas**.

Spituk Gustor Festival Begins in Ladakh

- The **two-day Spituk Gustor Festival** has commenced at **Spituk Monastery** in **Ladakh**, marking the **first monastic festival of the year** in the region.

India's Electronics Exports Cross $47 Billion in 2025

- India's **electronics exports crossed $47 billion** for the first time in **2025**, with **smartphone exports under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme** contributing nearly **two-thirds** of the total value.

Maharashtra Cabinet Approves Bembla River Irrigation Project and MAHIMA Agency

- The **Maharashtra Cabinet** approved the **₹4,775 crore Bembla River Irrigation Project** in **Yavatmal district** and cleared the establishment of a new overseas employment facilitation agency named **MAHIMA**.

India Notifies First Tailings Policy to Recover Critical Minerals

- **India** has notified its **first-ever Tailings Policy** to enable recovery of **critical and strategic minerals** from mining waste such as **tailings, mine dumps and overburden**.

India Launches First Open-Sea Marine Fish Farming Project

- **India** has launched its **first-ever open-sea marine fish farming pilot project** in the **Andaman Sea**, marking a shift from coastal aquaculture to **open-ocean farming**.
- The initiative supports **sustainable fisheries**, **livelihood generation**, and India's expanding focus on the **Blue Economy**.

Prasar Bharati to Resume Thadou Language Broadcasts in Manipur

- **Prasar Bharati** has initiated efforts to resume **live radio programmes in the Thadou language** from **All India Radio Imphal**, halted during Manipur's ethnic violence in 2023.

Badalta Bharat Mera Anubhav Campaign Recognises Citizen Participation

- The **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** announced the winners of four creative challenges under the **Badalta Bharat Mera Anubhav** campaign, organised in collaboration with **MyGov**.
- The campaign encouraged citizens to share **personal experiences and creative expressions** showcasing India's transformation over the past 11 years, highlighting **development, governance reforms, and social change**.

India Releases Literary Works to Promote Classical Languages and Inclusive Access

- Union Education Minister **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan** will release **55 literary works** developed by Centres of Excellence for **Classical Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam, and Odia**, along with **Tirukkural books** and a **sign language series** in New Delhi.

India's Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy (AYUSH) System Gains Global Recognition

- India's traditional healthcare system **AYUSH** has been formally recognised in **bilateral trade agreements** with **Oman and New Zealand**, finalized.
- The agreements cover **traditional medicine and health-related services**, providing **regulatory clarity** and facilitating smoother trade.

Nutrient-Based Subsidy (NBS) Scheme – Rabi 2025–26

- In **January 2025**, the Government of India approved **NBS rates** for the **Rabi 2025–26** season, effective from **1 October 2025 to 31 March 2026**, covering **Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers**, including **DAP** and multiple NPKS grades.

India to Launch First Hydrogen-Powered Train in Haryana

- India's **first hydrogen-powered train** is set to operate in **Haryana**.
- The pilot project between **Jind and Sonipat** is in the **final commissioning stage**, with the hydrogen plant ready at Jind.

Government Creates 3-Year PPP Infrastructure Project Pipeline worth ₹17+ Lakh Crore

- **Department of Economic Affairs (DEA)** has operationalised a major **Union Budget 2025–26** announcement by creating a **three-year Public Private Partnership (PPP) project pipeline**.

Union Government Relaxes Norms to Support Deep-Tech Startups with DSIR Funding

- The **Union Government** has **relaxed funding norms** to support **deep-tech startups**, allowing them to receive **up to ₹1 crore financial assistance** from the **Department of Scientific and Industrial Research** (DSIR).

Tamil Nadu Announces Tamil Nadu Assured Pension Scheme (TAPS) for Government Employees

- **Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced the Tamil Nadu Assured Pension Scheme (TAPS)** guaranteeing **50% of last drawn monthly salary as pension** for state government employees and teachers.

India's Largest Integrated Inland Rainbow Trout Farm Inaugurated in Telangana

- **Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Rajiv Ranjan Singh**, along with **Union Coal & Mines Minister G. Kishan Reddy**, inaugurated **India's largest integrated inland Rainbow Trout farm** in **Ranga Reddy district, Telangana**.

India Launches e-Production Investment Business Visa (e-B-4) for Chinese Nationals

- **India introduced** a new electronic business visa category **e-B-4 Visa** for **Chinese nationals** to facilitate structured and legitimate business engagement.

Assam Governor Launches 'Sanskaar Shaala' Value-Based Education Programme

- **Assam Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya** inaugurated the **Sanskaar Shaala** programme in **Guwahati**.

'SAMPANN' System Transforming Pension Administration for Department of Telecommunications Pensioners

- The Government of India announced that **SAMPANN (System for Accounting and Management of Pension)** enables pensioners to securely **access, store, and retrieve official pension documents anytime and anywhere**.

Ministry of Corporate Affairs Introduces New Triennial KYC Requirement for Directors (Companies Act, 2013)

- **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)** has revised the **Director KYC compliance** under the **Companies Act, 2013**.
- The **annual KYC filing** has been replaced with a **once in 3 years (triennial)** process.

India to Host Inaugural India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management (IICDEM) 2026

- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** will host the **first India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management (IICDEM) 2026** from **January 21-23, 2026** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**.

India Becomes First Country to Commercially Produce Bio-Bitumen

- **India h**as become the **first country in the world** to **commercially produce bio-bitumen** for **road construction**.

Launch of 'History That India Ignored' – Second Edition in Goa

- **Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant** launched the **second edition** of the book **'History That India Ignored'** in **Panaji, Goa** in **January 2026**.
- The book is authored by **Prem Prakash**, veteran journalist and **Chairman of Asian News International (ANI)**, and was first published in **April 2025** by **Vitasta Publishing Private Limited**.

Rajasthan Regional AI Impact Conference 2026 Held

- The **Rajasthan Regional AI Impact Conference** was held bringing together policymakers, industry experts, startups, and academia to discuss **inclusive, ethical, and responsible AI**.

India's First Fully Paperless District Court Inaugurated in Kalpetta, Kerala

- **Chief Justice of India Surya Kant** virtually inaugurated **India's first fully paperless district court** in **Kalpetta, Wayanad, Kerala**.

National Textiles Ministers' Conference 2026 Held in Guwahati, Assam

- The **National Textiles Ministers' Conference 2026** was held in **Guwahati, Assam**.

National Crime Records Bureau Releases ICJS 2.0 Rankings: Uttarakhand Police Tops National List

- **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** under the **Ministry of Home Affairs** released the **2nd edition of Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) 2.0 rankings**.

Tamil Nadu Unveils India's First Deeptech Startup Policy 2025–26

- **Tamil Nadu Deep-Tech Startup Policy 2025–26** is the **first dedicated policy in India** for science-driven entrepreneurship, aiming to convert cutting-edge research into **commercial solutions**.

Centre Launches ₹235 Crore Port Infrastructure & Digital Governance Projects in Tamil Nadu

- The **Central Government rolled out projects worth ₹235 crore** in Tamil Nadu to strengthen **port infrastructure** and enhance **digital maritime governance**.

India Launches Raisina Science Diplomacy Initiative (RSDI) 2026

- **India launche**d the **Raisina Science Diplomacy Initiative (RSDI) 2026** to strengthen the link between **science, technology, and diplomacy**.

First Phase of All-India Tiger Estimation (AITE-26) Begins at Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, Tamil Nadu

- The **first phase of All-India Tiger Estimation 2026 (AITE-26)** began at **Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary**, Erode Forest Division, **Tamil Nadu**.

Public Investment Board Approves Kamala Hydroelectric Project, Arunachal Pradesh

- The **Kamala Hydroelectric Project** in **Arunachal Pradesh** has been approved by the **Public Investment Board (PIB)**.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah Inaugurates National Improvised Explosive Device Data Management System (NIDMS)

- **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** inaugurated **National Improvised Explosive Device Data Management System (NIDMS)**.

Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary Renamed as Kerala's First Aralam Butterfly Sanctuary

- **Kerala Government** officially renamed **Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary** in Kannur as **Aralam Butterfly Sanctuary**.

National Highways Authority of India Sets 4 Guinness World Records on Bengaluru–Kadapa–Vijayawada Economic Corridor

- **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** created **4 Guinness World Records** during the construction of the **Bengaluru–Kadapa–Vijayawada Economic Corridor (NH-544G)**.

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology Launches PARAM SHAKTI Supercomputing Facility at IIT Madras

- **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** launched **'PARAM SHAKTI'** supercomputing facility at **IIT Madras**.

Keyi Panyor to Become India's First 'Bio-Happy District'

- Newly formed **Keyi Panyor district (Arunachal Pradesh)** will become **India's first Bio-Happy District**.

UIDAI Launches Aadhaar Mascot 'Udai (उदय)' to Strengthen Citizen-Centric Communication

- **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** launched a new **Aadhaar mascot named 'Udai (उदय)'** to improve public communication.

3rd International Conference on Indian Languages inaugurated by Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan – Promotes Protection & Global Promotion of Indian Languages

- **Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan** inaugurated the **3rd International Conference on Indian Languages** in **New Delhi**.

Gujarat Launches 'Asha Van' Mobile Cancer Screening Unit

- **Gujarat** launched a **mobile cancer screening unit named 'Asha Van'** in **Gandhinagar**, inaugurated by **Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel**.

Chhattisgarh Leads Large States in APAAR ID Generation (January 2026)

- **Chhattisgarh** has emerged as the **top-performing large state** in generating **APAAR (Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry) IDs**, achieving **around 88.63% coverage** of enrolled students as of early **January 2026**.

25th All India Major Port Cultural Meet 2025–26 Concludes at Paradip Port

- The **25th All India Major Port Cultural Meet 2025–26** concluded at **Jayadev Sadan, Paradip Port**, after four days of cultural performances.

  • The event was **organized by Paradip Port Authority (PPA)** in association with the **Major Ports Sports Control Board**.

India Records Sharp Growth in Fisheries Sector; Becomes 2nd Largest Fish Producer Globally

- **India's fish production** increased to **197.75 lakh tonnes in FY 2024–25**, up from **95.79 lakh tonnes in FY 2013–14**, marking a **106% rise** in a decade.

APEDA Inaugurates Regional Office in Raipur, Chhattisgarh to Boost Agricultural Exports

- The **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** has **inaugurated its Regional Office in Raipur, Chhattisgarh**.

Uttar Pradesh Regional AI Impact Conference 2026 to Promote Responsible AI Adoption

- **IndiaAI**, **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** and **Government of Uttar Pradesh (UP)** are set to host the **Uttar Pradesh Regional AI Impact Conference 2026** in **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**.

India Records Highest-Ever Trademark Registrations in FY 2024–25

- **India achieved** its **highest-ever trademark registrations** in a single financial year during **Financial Year 2024–25**, marking a major milestone for the country's **innovation and business ecosystem**.

Parvati–Arga Bird Sanctuary Declared Eco-Sensitive Zone in Uttar Pradesh

- The **Union Government** has declared the **Parvati–Arga Bird Sanctuary** in **Uttar Pradesh** as an **Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ)** to strengthen biodiversity conservation and ecological protection.

India Approves Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnets (REPM)

- The **Government of India** has approved the **Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnets (REPM)** as a major strategic step towards **self-reliance in critical minerals and advanced manufacturing**.

Himachal Pradesh Launches 'Green to Gold' Initiative for Industrial Hemp Cultivation

- **Himachal Pradesh** has initiated the cultivation of **industrial hemp** as part of a major policy shift aimed at transforming the **rural economy**, promoting **sustainability**, and strengthening the **bio-economy**.

Dulhasti Stage-II Hydroelectric Project Approved on Chenab River

- The **Union Government's environmental clearance mechanism** has approved the **Dulhasti Stage-II Hydroelectric Project** on the **Chenab River** in **Kishtwar district, Jammu and Kashmir**.

Ayushman Bharat Expansion and Digital Healthcare Growth in India in 2025

- The year **2025 marked a major milestone for India's public healthcare system** with the expansion of **Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)** and rapid growth in **digital healthcare initiatives**.

National Highways Authority of India Withdraws Know Your Vehicle (KYV) Requirement for Car FASTags

- The **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** has announced the **withdrawal of the Know Your Vehicle (KYV) requirement** for **Car/Jeep/Van FASTag category**.

Government Extends Import Restrictions on Low-Ash Metallurgical Coke

- The **Government of India** has **extended the import restrictions on low-ash metallurgical coke** for another six months, from **1st January 2026 to 30th June 2026**.

Gujarat to Host Indian AI Research Organization at GIFT City from 2026

- **India is set to strengthen** its **artificial intelligence research ecosystem** with the establishment of the **Indian AI Research Organization (IAIRO)** at **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City), Gandhinagar**.

NITI Aayog Praises Gujarat Biotechnology University as Benchmark for Globalisation of Higher Education

- A recent **NITI Aayog report on the globalisation of higher education** praised **Gujarat Biotechnology University (GBU)** at **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City)** as a benchmark initiative aligned with national education reforms and India's goal of becoming a global education hub.

Assam Constitutes India's First 8th State Pay Commission

- **Assam became the first state in India to constitute its 8th State Pay Commission**, marking a proactive step in government pay reforms.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurates Grand International Exposition of Sacred Piprahwa Relics

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Grand International Exposition of Sacred Piprahwa Relics in New Delhi**, showcasing rare Buddhist relics linked to **Bhagwan Buddha** and highlighting India's civilisational and spiritual heritage.

Delhi Mandates QR Codes on Road Signages for Transparency and Quality Control

- **Delhi Public Works Department has made QR codes mandatory on all new road signages**, as per guidelines issued on **January 1, 2026**, to improve transparency, accountability, and quality standards.

Surat Set to Become India's First Slum-Free City

- **Surat in Gujarat is close to becoming India's first slum-free city**, due to large-scale redevelopment of slum clusters into permanent housing with basic civic amenities.

India's Broadband Subscriber Base Crosses 100 Crore in November 2025

- **India crossed the historic milestone of 100 crore broadband subscribers** in **November 2025**, reflecting rapid digital expansion and deepening internet penetration across the country.

Goa to Get a Third District with Headquarters at Quepem

- The **Goa government** has announced the formation of a **third district**, carved out of the existing **South Goa district**, to improve administrative efficiency and governance outreach.

Gujarat Sets Up Cyber Security Panels to Protect Energy Infrastructure

- The **Gujarat government** has constituted an **11-member Core Committee** and a **19-member Task Force** to protect the state's **energy infrastructure from cyber-attacks**.

India Records Sharp Rise in Tiger Deaths in 2025

- India recorded **166 tiger deaths in 2025**, which is **40 more than in 2024**, according to data released by the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)**.

E-Bill System for Fertiliser Subsidy Launched to Enhance Transparency

- The **E-Bill System for fertiliser subsidies** has been inaugurated by **Jagat Prakash Nadda, Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers**, in **New Delhi**.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah Inaugurates Development Projects in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

- **Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah** inaugurated and laid the **foundation stone of multiple development projects** of the **Andaman and Nicobar Administration** at **Sri Vijaya Puram**.

Vice President Inaugurates 9th Siddha Day Celebrations in Chennai

- **Vice President of India Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan** inaugurated the **9th Siddha Day celebrations** at **Kalaivanar Arangam, Chennai, Tamil Nadu**.

Prime Minister to Inaugurate 72nd National Volleyball Tournament in Varanasi

- **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** will inaugurate the **72nd National Volleyball Tournament** through **video conferencing**.

Union Minister to Inaugurate Smart Green Aquaculture Farm and RAS Facility in Hyderabad

- **Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh (Lalan Singh)**, **Union Minister** for the **Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying** and the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**, will inaugurate the **Smart Green Aquaculture Farm and Research Institute** along with a **state-of-the-art Recirculatory Aquaculture System (RAS) Facility**.

Rajasthan Regional AI Impact Conference 2026 to be Held in Jaipur

- As part of India's preparatory engagements for the **India AI Impact Summit 2026**, the **Rajasthan Regional AI Impact Conference 2026** will held in **Jaipur, Rajasthan**.

IndiaAI to Convene Human Capital Working Group Meeting at IIT Guwahati

- **IndiaAI**, under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India**, in collaboration with the **Government of Assam** and **Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IIT Guwahati)**, will organize the **Human Capital Working Group Meeting** at the **IIT Guwahati campus**.

European Union Leaders Likely to Be Chief Guests at India's Republic Day 2026

- **India's Republic Day celebrations on 26th January 2026** are expected to have strong diplomatic significance, with **European Union (EU) leaders likely to attend as chief guests**.

Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) Completes 9 Years

- The **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)** completed **nine years of implementation on 1st January 2026**, marking a significant milestone in India's efforts to strengthen **maternal health, nutrition, and women's welfare**.

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation Unveils New Logo and Official Mascot 'Sankhyiki (सांख्यिकी)'

- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** unveiled its **new logo and official mascot 'Sankhyiki (सांख्यिकी)'** in **New Delhi, Delhi**, marking a step towards **modernising its institutional identity** and strengthening **public outreach**.

Kalai-II Hydropower Project in Arunachal Pradesh and Concerns Over White-Bellied Heron

- The **Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC)** of the **Union Environment Ministry** has recommended **environmental clearance** for the **1,200-MW Kalai-II hydropower project** on the **Lohit River** in **Anjaw district, Arunachal Pradesh**.

India Becomes World's Largest Rice Producer

- **India has achieved** a major agricultural milestone by becoming the **world's largest producer of rice**, overtaking China.

Andhra Pradesh Emerges as India's Top Investment Destination in FY26

- **Andhra Pradesh** has emerged as **India's leading investment destination** in the current financial year, reflecting **strong investor confidence**.

Karnataka Records First Sighting of Rare 'Sandalwood Leopard'

- **Karnataka** has recorded its **first-ever sighting of an ultra-rare strawberry-coloured leopard**, popularly named the **"Sandalwood Leopard"**, drawing **national and global attention**.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Japan's Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi Pays Official 3-Day Visit to India (January 15–17, 2026)

- **Japan's Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi** undertook a **3-day official visit to India from January 15–17, 2026**, to strengthen **India–Japan bilateral relations**.

Ministry of External Affairs Clarifies 'BRICS Naval Exercise' Was South Africa-Led, Not an Official BRICS Activity

- **The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** clarified that the so-called **'BRICS Naval Exercise'** was **not an official BRICS activity** and was **entirely a South Africa–led initiative**.

Global Unemployment Rate to Remain at 4.9% in 2026: International Labour Organisation's Employment and Social Trends 2026

- The **International Labour Organisation (ILO)** released the report titled **'Employment and Social Trends 2026: World of Work Series'** from **Geneva, Switzerland**.

Global Risks Report 2026 by World Economic Forum Identifies Geoeconomic Confrontation as Top Global Threat

- The **World Economic Forum (WEF)** published the **21st edition** of its annual risk assessment titled **'Global Risks Report: 21st Edition Insight 2026'**.

Spain Finance Minister Jose Manuel Albares Visits India to Strengthen Bilateral Ties

- **Spain's Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares**, Minister for Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, undertook a **one-day official visit to India** at the invitation of **Dr. S. Jaishankar**, Minister of External Affairs (MEA), India.

United States President Donald Trump Launches Board of Peace Initiative at Davos to Promote Global Stability

- **Donald Trump**, **President of the United States**, officially launched the **Board of Peace** initiative at the **World Economic Forum** in **Davos, Switzerland**, aimed at promoting **global geopolitical stability**.

United States formally exits World Health Organization after 78 years, one year after Trump announced withdrawal

- **The United States** (US) has officially finalised its **withdrawal** from the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, one year after **President Donald Trump** announced the decision, ending America's **78-year membership** since WHO's founding in **1948**.

Draft National Electricity Policy 2026 Released by Ministry of Power

- The **Ministry of Power** has released the **Draft National Electricity Policy 2026** to transform India's power sector in line with the vision of **Viksit Bharat at 2047**.

India–European Union Conclude Free Trade Agreement at 16th Summit

- **India and the European Union** announced the **conclusion of negotiations on the India–EU Free Trade Agreement** during the **16th India–EU Summit** hosted by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.

India Makes Historic Debut as Partner Country at Gulfood 2026 in Dubai

- **India** has participated as a **Partner Country** at **Gulfood 2026**, the world's largest annual **food and beverage sourcing exhibition**, marking its **first- ever partner role in the event's 31-year history**.

UNEP Report 2026 Highlights 30:1 Imbalance Between Nature-Negative Investments and Conservation Spending

- The **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** released the **4th edition** of the report titled **"State of Finances for Nature: Nature in the Red – Powering the Trillion Dollar Nature Transition Economy"**, based on global financial data of **2023**.

Brazilian Play Passado Presente Zenturo to Make International Debut in India and Russia in 2026

- The **Brazilian theatre production Passado Presente Zenturo** was scheduled for its **international debut** in **2026**, with performances in **India** and **Russia**, marking a major milestone for **Brazil's contemporary theatre**.

Highlights of the 56th World Economic Forum Annual Meeting at Davos-Klosters (Part II)

- The **56th Annual Meeting** of the **World Economic Forum (WEF)** was held from **19–23 January 2026** at **Davos-Klosters, Switzerland**, with the theme **"A Spirit of Dialogue."**

Bangladesh and Pakistan Restart Direct Air Services After 14 Years

- **Pakistan and Bangladesh** have resumed **direct air connectivity** after a **14-year gap**, indicating a notable improvement in **bilateral relations**.

Union Minister Jaishankar Launches BRICS India 2026 Chairship Logo, Theme, and Website

- **Union Minister Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar**, **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**, unveiled the **logo**, **theme**, and **official website** of **India's BRICS Chairship 2026** at a launch ceremony in **New Delhi** on **January 13, 2026**.

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz's India Visit Highlights: 12–13 January 2026

- **Federal Chancellor of Germany**, **Friedrich Merz**, visited India on a two-day official visit from **12 to 13 January 2026** at the invitation of **PM Narendra Modi**, marking his **first official visit** to India and the **Asian region**.

India and Israel Sign Joint Declaration to Boost Cooperation in Fisheries and Aquaculture

- A high-level Indian delegation led by **Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh** (Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying) visited **Israel** from **13–15 January 2026** to participate in the **Second Global Summit on "Blue Food Security: Sea the Future 2026"** held in **Eilat**.

European Council President Costa and European Commission President von der Leyen to Attend 77th Republic Day as Chief Guests

- **European Council President António Costa** and **European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen** will visit India from **25–27 January 2026** as **Chief Guests** for the **77th Republic Day** celebrations, at the invitation of **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.

Vietnam Hosts 6th ASEAN–India Digital Ministers' Meeting in Virtual Mode

- The **6th ASEAN–India Digital Ministers' Meeting (ADGMIN)** was hosted **virtually** by **Vietnam** under the theme **"Adaptive ASEAN: From Connectivity to Connected Intelligence."**

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, Mitsui OSK Lines Join Hands to Set Up Two Joint Ventures for Ethane Shipping Operations

- The **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)**, under the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG)**, partnered with **Mitsui OSK Lines (MOL)** of **Japan** to enter the **ethane shipping business** through **two Joint Ventures (JVs)**.

UN General Assembly Proclaims 2026 as International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists

- **The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** declared **2026** as the **International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP 2026)** during its **76th session** held in **New York, USA**.

United States Exits 66 Global Organisations, Including India-Led International Solar Alliance

- The **United States of America (USA)** announced its withdrawal from **66 international organisations, treaties, and commissions** through an **Executive Order (EO) 14199** and a **Presidential Memorandum** issued by **President Donald Trump** as part of the **"America First"** policy review.

Akasa Air Becomes India's Fifth Airline to Join International Air Transport Association

- **Akasa Air** has become a member of the **International Air Transport Association (IATA)**, a global body representing over **360 airlines** accounting for **80% of global air traffic**.

Malaysia Temporarily Bans Elon Musk's xAI Chatbot Grok Over Sexualised and Non-Consensual Images

- **Malaysia** has temporarily **blocked access to Grok**, the **generative AI chatbot** developed by **Elon Musk-led xAI**, following allegations that it enabled the **creation and circulation** of **sexualised and non-consensual images**.

European Union Implements Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism on Carbon-Intensive Imports from January 2026

- The **European Union (EU)** has implemented the **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)** from **January 1**,2026 imposing a **carbon-linked levy** on **carbon-intensive imports** such as **steel, aluminium, cement, fertilisers, chemicals, glass, and power-related products**.

India and Bangladesh Start Joint Water Measurement as Ganges Water Sharing Treaty Nears Expiry

- **India and Bangladesh** have initiated **joint water measurement** on the **Padma and Ganga rivers** as the **30-year Ganges Water Sharing Treaty** enters its **final year**.

Bulgaria Switches to Euro as Official Currency Effective January 1, 2026

- **Bulgaria adopted the Euro (EUR) as its official currency from January 1, 2026**, replacing the **Bulgarian lev (BGN)** after approval by the **Council of the European Union (EU)** on **July 8, 2025**, confirming compliance with all **Maastricht convergence criteria**.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal Announces Zero-Duty on All Australian Tariff Lines for Indian Exports from 1 January 2026

- **Union Minister Piyush Goyal** announced that **100% of Australian tariff lines** will become **zero-duty for Indian exports** from **1 January 2026**, providing a major boost to **India's export competitiveness**.

Indian Oil Corporation Sources First Crude Oil Cargo from Colombia to Reduce Dependence on Russian Supplies

- **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)** purchased its **first-ever crude oil cargo from Colombia** under an **optional supply agreement with Ecopetrol**, marking a strategic move to **diversify crude oil imports away from Russia**.

BANKING AND BUSINESS

International Monetary Fund Upgrades India's FY26 Growth Projection to 7.3%

- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** released the **World Economic Outlook (WEO)** titled **"Global Economy: Steady amid Divergent Forces"**, revising **India's GDP growth for FY26 to 7.3%**, up from **6.6% (October 2025 estimate)**.

Cabinet Approves Extension of Atal Pension Yojana (APY) with Funding Support for Promotion, Development, and Gap Financing Until FY 2030-31

- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi**, approved the continuation of **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)** up to **FY 2030-31**.

Cabinet sanctions equity infusion in Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)

- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi**, approved **equity support** of **Rs 5,000 crore** to the **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**.

Moody's Forecasts India's GDP Growth at 7.3% in FY26, Boosting Household Income

- **Global credit rating agency Moody's Ratings** projected that **India** will record a **GDP growth rate of 7.3% in FY26**, higher than **6.5% in FY25**.

Indian fintech firm ZET Secures National Payments Corporation of India Nod to Enable UPI Payments via RuPay Credit Cards

- Credit-focused Indian fintech firm **ZET** has received approval from the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** to operate as a **Third-Party Application Provider (TPAP)**.

Razorpay POS Obtains Reserve Bank of India Approval to Operate as Offline Payment Aggregator

- Fintech major **Razorpay's** offline payments arm, **Razorpay POS**, has received authorisation from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to operate as an **offline payment aggregator (PA-P)**.

Reserve Bank of India Gives In-Principle Nod to Payoneer India to Operate as Cross-Border Payment Aggregator

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** granted **in-principle approval** to **Payoneer India Private Limited** to operate as a **Payment Aggregator – Cross Border (PA-CB)**.

Reserve Bank of India Releases Operational Guidelines for Interest Subvention on Export Credit under Niryat Protsahan

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued **operational guidelines** for extending **interest subvention** on **pre- and post-shipment export credit** under the **Export Promotion Mission (EPM) – NIRYAT PROTSAHAN (1st Component)**.

Bank of Baroda Enters Memorandum of Understanding with India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited for Joint Infrastructure Lending and Loan Syndication

- **Bank of Baroda** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited. (IIFCL)** to facilitate **joint lending** and **loan syndication** for a wide range of infrastructure projects.

Suryoday Small Finance Bank Collaborates with HyperVerge to Deploy Video KYC

- **Suryoday Small Finance Bank** partnered with **HyperVerge** to deploy an **AI-powered Video KYC (VKYC)** solution for **digital customer onboarding**.

India's Foreign Direct Investment Inflows Jump 73% to USD 47 Billion in 2025: UNCTAD

- **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** inflows into India rose sharply by **73%** to **USD 47 billion** in **2025**, driven largely by investments in **manufacturing**, **services**, **digital infrastructure**, **IT**, and **R&D**.

Reserve Bank of India Releases Report on State Finances 2025–26 Highlighting Demographic Transition Impacts

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** released the report **"State Finances: A Study of Budgets of 2025–26"**, themed **"Demographic Transition in India – Implications for State Finances."**

Receivables Exchange of India Limited Becomes First TReDS Platform in India to Return Capital to Shareholders

- **Receivables Exchange of India Limited (RXIL)**, a **Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS)** platform, has declared and paid an **interim dividend of 21.6%** on the **face value** of its shares.

PFRDA Forms Strategic Asset Allocation and Risk Governance Committee to Strengthen NPS Investment Framework

- The **PFRDA** has constituted a committee named **SAARG (Strategic Asset Allocation and Risk Governance)** to review, recommend, and **modernize the investment framework** under the **National Pension System (NPS)**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India approves PhonePe IPO, aiming to raise ₹10,000 crore via OFS

- **PhonePe** has received **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) approval** to launch its **Initial Public Offering (IPO)**.

Juspay Becomes India's First Homegrown Unicorn of 2026 After $50 Million Series D Funding

- **Juspay**, a **Bengaluru-based** payments infrastructure company, has become **India's first homegrown unicorn of 2026** after raising **USD 50 million** in a **Series D follow-on funding round** led by **WestBridge Capital**.

World Bank Approves $815 Million Financing for Tata Power's Dorjilung Hydropower Project in Bhutan

- **Tata Power** has secured **World Bank Group financing** for the **1,125 MW Dorjilung Hydropower Project (DHPL)** in **Bhutan**, strengthening **India–Bhutan cross-border clean energy cooperation**.

Buyforex Gets In-Principle Payment Service Provider Nod at GIFT IFSC

- **EbixCash World Money**, a flagship subsidiary of **Eraaya Lifespaces Limited**, announced that its wholly owned entity **Buyforex** received **in-principle approval** for **Payment Service Provider (PSP)** authorisation.

Reserve Bank of India Issues 2026 Amendment Directions on CRR and SLR for Commercial Banks

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued **amendment directions** for **Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)** and **Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)** applicable to **commercial banks**, updating the **2025 directions**.

World Bank Approves ₹5,700 Crore for Haryana's Jal Sanrakshit Project

- The **World Bank** has approved **₹5,700 crore** in technical and financial assistance for **Haryana** under the **Jal Sanrakshit Haryana Project**, aiming to make the state **self-reliant** in the **water sector**.

India to Become Fastest-Growing Major Insurance Market with 6.9% Annual Premium Growth: Swiss Re

- According to **Swiss Re**, India's **insurance premiums** are projected to grow at a real annual rate of **6.9%** during **2026–2030**, making India the **fastest-growing major insurance market** globally.

Reserve Bank of India Flags PSL Compliance Gaps at HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank over Agricultural Loan Misclassification

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** flagged deficiencies in **Priority Sector Lending (PSL)** compliance at **HDFC Bank** and **ICICI Bank** during its **annual supervisory review**, mainly due to **misclassification** of **agricultural loans**.

Reserve Bank of India and European Securities and Markets Authority Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Cooperate on Central Counterparties Regulation

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and the **European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** on **January 27, 2026**, for cooperation and information exchange related to **Central Counterparties (CCPs)** regulated by RBI.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Survey Shows Only 9.5% of Indian Households Invest in Securities Markets

- A survey by the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** revealed that out of **33.72 crore** Indian households, only **3.21 crore households (9.5%)** invested in securities markets such as **equities, mutual funds, and corporate bonds**.

Bharti AXA Life Launches "Swabhimaan Retirement" Deferred Annuity Plan to Ensure Lifelong Guaranteed Income

- **Bharti AXA Life Insurance** has launched a **non-linked, non-participating individual deferred annuity plan** named **"Swabhimaan Retirement"** to help customers lock in current annuity rates and secure **guaranteed lifelong income**.

Reserve Bank of India Issues Priority Sector Lending Amendment Directions 2026 to Align Framework with Updated 2025 Norms

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued the **Priority Sector Lending** (**PSL) (Targets and Classification) Amendment Directions, 2026**, to align the **Priority Sector Lending (PSL)** framework with updated capital adequacy, credit risk transfer, securitisation, and regulatory norms notified in 2025.

Reserve Bank of India Notifies Revised Integrated Ombudsman Scheme to Strengthen Complaint Resolution from 1 July 2026

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued the revised **Integrated Ombudsman Scheme**, which will come into effect from **1 July 2026**, to strengthen the **RBI Ombudsman framework** and improve efficiency in **complaint resolution**.

SMFG India Credit Partners with Google Pay to Provide Collateral-Free Personal Loans Nationwide

- **SMFG India Credit (SMICC)** has partnered with **Google Pay** to offer **collateral-free personal loans** to users across India.

- **Eligible Google Pay users** can now apply for personal loans **directly within the app**, enabling **quick and seamless digital loan disbursement** (often within minutes).

Reserve Bank of India Notifies Foreign Exchange Management Regulations 2026, Replacing 2015 Rules Effective 1 October, 2026

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has notified the **Foreign Exchange Management (Export and Import of Goods and Services) Regulations, 2026**, replacing the 2015 regulations, effective from **1 October 2026**.

Reserve Bank of India Proposes Changes to Banks' FX Exposure Framework and Capital Requirements for FX Risk

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has proposed changes to the framework for calculating banks' **net foreign exchange (FX) exposure** and the **capital requirements** for **FX risk**.

Reserve Bank of India May Postpone Mandatory Climate Risk Reporting for Banks

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has put on hold plans to require **domestic banks** to disclose and manage **climate-related risks**.

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation Releases Expert Group Report on Comprehensive Update of Consumer Price Index

- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** released the **Report of the Expert Group** on **Comprehensive Updation** of the **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**.

Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Introduces NPS Swasthya Pension Scheme as Regulatory Sandbox Pilot

- **The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** permitted the launch of **'NPS Swasthya Pension Scheme'** as a **Proof of Concept (PoC)** under its **Regulatory Sandbox Framework** to integrate **health benefits** with **pension savings**.

India Aims to Become Global Financial Hub with GIFT City IFSC and GCC Expansion: Economic Survey 2025–26

- The **Economic Survey 2025–26** highlights **India's ambition** to become a **global financial and services hub**, led by **GIFT City IFSC** and large-scale **Global Capability Centre (GCC)** expansion.

Punjab & Sind Bank Gets Reserve Bank of India Nod to Open Branch at GIFT City IFSC, Gandhinagar

- **Punjab & Sind Bank** has received **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approval** to open a branch at the **International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)** in **GIFT City**, Gandhinagar.

India Permits EU Banks to Open 15 Branches in Four Years under India–EU FTA

- **India** has agreed to allow **European Union (EU) banks** to open **up to 15 branches** over a **four-year period** under the **India–EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA)**.

Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs Secretary Surjit Bhujabal Launches ICEGATE–LPMS Integration at Agartala ICP, Enhancing Customs Digitisation

- **Surjit Bhujabal**, **Special Secretary & Member (Customs),Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC)**, under the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**, inaugurated the Indian Customs Electronic Gateway – Land Port Management System **(ICEGATE – LPMS) integration** at the **Integrated Check Post (ICP)**, **Agartala, Tripura**.

Tripura Gramin Bank Becomes India's First Regional Rural Bank to Launch Fully Solar-Powered Mobile ATM Van 'TGB on Wheels'

- **Tripura Gramin Bank (TGB)** created a national milestone by becoming the **1st Regional Rural Bank (RRB)** in India to introduce India's first **fully solar-powered mobile Automatic Teller Machine (ATM) van**, named **'TGB on Wheels'**.

National Statistics Office Reports Retail Inflation Rises to Three-Month High of 1.33% in December 2025

- The **National Statistics Office (NSO)** under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** released the **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** for rural, urban, and combined segments for **December 2025**.

State Bank of India to Facilitate India–Israel Bilateral Trade Settlements in INR

- **State Bank of India (SBI)**, the only Indian bank with a branch in **Israel**, plans to facilitate bilateral trade between India and Israel in **Indian Rupees (INR)**.

India Registers 49 Cryptocurrency Exchanges with FIU-IND in FY 2024–25, Majority Domestic

- **49 cryptocurrency exchanges** were registered with India's **Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU-IND)** during **FY 2024–25**, most of them domestic.

Reserve Bank of India Grants Innoviti Approval to Operate as Online and Offline Payment Aggregator

- **Innoviti Technologies Private Limited,a payments-centric retail Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) platform,** received a **Certificate of Authorization** from the Reserve Bank of India **(RBI)** to operate as a **Payment Aggregator (PA)** under the **Payments and Settlement Systems (PSS) Act, 2007** across India.

India's Insurance Penetration Stagnates at 3.7% in FY25, Half of Global Average

- **India's insurance penetration** remained stagnant at **3.7% in FY25**, which is almost half of the **global average of 7.3%** in 2024, indicating low insurance coverage in India.

Amazon Pay Launches Fixed Deposit Services in Partnership with 7 Banks and NBFCs

- **Amazon Pay** has launched **fixed deposit (FD)** services on its fintech app as part of its expansion into **fixed-income assets**.

Department of Financial Services Launches Composite Salary Account Package for Central Government Employees with Public Sector Banks

- The **Department of Financial Services (DFS)**, **Ministry of Finance**, has advised **Public Sector Banks** to introduce a **Composite Salary Account Package** to enhance the financial well-being and social security of **Central Government employees**.

World Bank Estimates India's Economic Growth at 7.2% for FY26 and 6.5% for FY27

- The **World Bank Group (WBG)** released its flagship report titled **"Global Economic Prospects (GEP): January 2026"**, which projected **India's GDP growth at 7.2%** in **FY26**, revised upward from the **6.3%** forecast in June 2025.

Department of Financial Services Launches Paripoorna Mediclaim Ayush Bima for CGHS Beneficiaries

- The **Government of India** has launched **Paripoorna Mediclaim Ayush Bima** as an **optional retail health insurance** product for **Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS)** beneficiaries.

Karnataka Bank Launches Net Banking Facility for Khajane-2 e-Receipts

- **Karnataka Bank Limited** has enabled its **net banking platform** to support payment and receipt of **electronic receipts (e-receipts)** for **Government of Karnataka** transactions through the **Khajane-2 system**.

Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Forms 15-Member Panel Under M. S. Sahoo for National Pension System Payout Framework

- The **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)**, a **statutory body** under the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**, has constituted a **15-member high-level expert committee** to formulate a regulatory framework for **assured payouts** under the **National Pension System (NPS)**.

Reserve Bank of India Recognises FEDAI as Self-Regulatory Organisation for Forex Authorised Dealers

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has recognised the **Foreign Exchange Dealers' Association of India (FEDAI)** as a **Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO)** for all **Authorised Dealers (ADs)** in the foreign exchange market.

Reserve Bank of India Grants In-Principle Approval to SMBC, Japan, to Set Up Wholly-Owned Subsidiary in India

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has granted **in-principle approval** to **Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC)**, Japan, to establish a **Wholly-Owned Subsidiary (WOS)** in India.

Reserve Bank of India Directs Banks and Eligible non-banking financial companies to Implement Automated Complaint Management System with Internal Ombudsman/Deputy IO Access

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has mandated banks and eligible **non-banking financial companies (NBFCs)** to implement a **fully automated Complaint Management System (CMS)** with direct access for the **Internal Ombudsman (IO)** and **Deputy IO (DIO)**.

India's Wholesale Inflation Rises to 0.83% in December, First Positive year-on-year After Two Months of Deflation

- **Wholesale inflation (WPI)** rose to **0.83%** in **December 2025**, marking the first positive year-on-year print after two months of deflation and the **highest in eight months**.

Canara Bank Joins Hands with NBSL to Offer UPI Services via Canara ai1Pe App

- **Canara Bank** has partnered with **NPCI BHIM Services Limited (NBSL)** to integrate bank plug-ins for providing **UPI services** on its **Canara ai1Pe** banking app.

State Bank of India Hikes ATM Charges from December 1, 2025 Amid Rising Interchange Fees

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** has increased **ATM charges** effective from **December 1, 2025**, due to higher **interchange fees** paid when customers use other banks' ATMs.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Finalises Global Minimum Corporate Tax Deal with US and Over 100 Countries

- The **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** has finalised an agreement on the **global minimum corporate tax**, with participation from the **United States** and over **100 countries**.

Reserve Bank of India Notifies Reserve Bank – Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS), 2026 to Streamline Customer Grievance Redressal Mechanism

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued the **Reserve Bank – Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS) 2026** to simplify and strengthen **grievance redressal** for customers of banks and financial institutions.

Reserve Bank of India Extends Interest Subvention on Short-Term Crop and Allied Loans Through Kisan Credit Cards for FY 2025-26

- The **Government of India** has continued the **Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS)** for **2025-26** to provide **short-term crop loans** and **allied activity loans** to farmers through **Kisan Credit Cards (KCC)**.

Reserve Bank of India Releases Draft Guidelines on Tier-1 Capital Calculation and Credit-Investment Limits for NBFCs and ARCs

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued draft amendment directions to clarify the calculation of **Owned Fund / Tier-1 Capital** for **NBFCs** and **Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs)** to comply with **credit and investment concentration limits** and invited public comments till **28 January 2026**.

Piramal Finance Raises USD 350 Million in Multilateral Funding from International Finance Corporation and Asian Development Bank

- **Piramal Finance Limited (PFL)** secured **USD 350 million** multilateral funding, marking its **first borrowing** from **Development Finance Institutions (DFIs)**.

Reserve Bank of India Plans to Reopen Urban Co-operative Bank Licences, Prioritising Large Credit Societies After Two Decades of Suspension Due to Past Urban Co-operative Banks Failures

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has proposed **reopening the licensing window** for new **Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs)** after **22 years**, as the previous window was closed in **2004** due to widespread failures of newly licensed banks.

World Bank Approves USD 286 Million for West Bengal Health System Reform Program to Enhance Healthcare Access and Life Expectancy

- The **World Bank (WB)** approved **USD 286 million** financing for the **West Bengal Health System Reform Program (WBHSRP)** to improve quality of life and life expectancy for over **90 million people** through equitable access to quality healthcare services.

State Bank of India Signs Memorandum of Understanding with Tamil Nadu Government to Offer Enhanced Corporate Salary Package Benefits to PSU Employees

- The **State Bank of India (SBI)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Government of Tamil Nadu (TN)** to provide enhanced benefits under the **Corporate Salary Package (CSP)** for **State Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)** employees.

IGGEFIL Approves First Overseas Green Energy Loan for Solar Power Project in Zambia

- **IREDA Global Green Energy Finance IFSC Limited (IGGEFIL)**, a **wholly-owned subsidiary** of **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA)**, has sanctioned its **first international green energy loan**.

SBI Life Introduces 'Smart Platina Advantage' Life Insurance Savings Plan with Guaranteed Benefits

- **SBI Life Insurance** launched **'SBI Life – Smart Platina Advantage'**, an individual, **non-linked, non-participating** life insurance savings plan offering long-term **guaranteed benefits** and life insurance protection to support financial goals across life stages, such as children's education, retirement, and wealth creation.

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India Introduces Revised Electronic Forms for Liquidation Process from January 2026 to Simplify Compliance

- The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** has introduced **revised electronic forms** for the **liquidation process**, effective **January 2026**, to **simplify compliance** and improve the **quality of regulatory filings**.

IDFC FIRST Bank Introduces Zero-Forex Diamond Reserve Credit Card for Global Travellers

- **IDFC FIRST Bank** launched the **'Zero-Forex Diamond Reserve Credit Card'**, a **premium credit card** designed for **frequent international travellers**, offering **zero foreign exchange (Forex) markup** along with **travel and lifestyle benefits**.

India Ratings Forecasts 6.9% GDP Growth for India in FY27 Despite Global Challenges

- **India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra)**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the **Fitch Group**, projected **India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth at 6.9% in FY27**, lower than the estimated **7.4% growth in FY26**.

Financial Software and Systems Becomes First Payments Firm Across India, Middle East, Asia-Pacific and South Africa to Earn ISO/IEC 42001 Certification

- **Financial Software and Systems (FSS),a payment solutions and transaction processing company, has** become the **first payments company** in **India, the Middle East (ME), Asia-Pacific (APAC), and South Africa (SA)** to receive the **International Organization for Standardization (ISO)/ International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) 42001 (ISO/IEC 42001) Certification.**

Reserve Bank of India Proposes Banks to Cap Dividend Payouts at 75% of Net Profit

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has proposed to **raise the dividend payout cap for banks** to **75% of net profit**, up from the earlier **40%**, subject to conditions.

Reserve Bank of India Reports Supervisory Data Quality Index Score of Scheduled Commercial Banks Rises to 90.7 in September 2025

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** reported that the **Supervisory Data Quality Index (sDQI) score** of **Scheduled Commercial Banks** improved to **90.7** in the **September 2025 quarter**, up from **89.9** in **April–June 2025**.

Federal Bank Launches New Brand Identity 'The Fortuna Wave'

- **Federal Bank Limited**, an **Indian private sector bank**, launched a refreshed brand identity named **'The Fortuna Wave'** as part of a **strategic brand refresh** to signal **modernization and future-readiness**.

Axis Bank Introduces 'Safety Centre' on Mobile App to Enhance Customer Control Over Digital Banking

- **Axis Bank** has launched a new **'Safety Centre'** on its **mobile banking app, open**, to help customers **protect their accounts** from **unauthorised or suspicious activities**.

HDFC Bank Enables Digital Rupee (CBDC) Payments on SmartGateway

- **HDFC Bank** integrated the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**'s **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)**, known as the **Digital Rupee (e₹)**, into its **online merchant payment platform, SmartGateway**.

Reserve Bank of India Revokes Registration of 35 Non-Banking Financial Companies Over Regulatory Violations

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** exercised powers under **Section 45-IA(6) of the RBI Act, 1934** to cancel the **Certificate of Registration (CoR)** of **35 Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)** for **non-compliance with regulatory requirements**, with effect from **December 9 to 31, 2025**.

Reserve Bank of India Proposes Mandatory 3-Year Cooling-Off Period for Co-operative Bank Directors After 10 Years

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has proposed **amendments to the Governance Directions, 2025** for **Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs)** and **State/Central Co-operative Banks**, introducing a **mandatory cooling-off period** for **directors**.

Axis Finance Launches Collateral-Free Vyapar Business Loan for Micro and Small Businesses

- **Axis Finance Limited**, a **Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)**, has launched **Axis Finance Vyapar Business Loan**, a **collateral-free credit product** aimed at supporting **Micro and Small Businesses (MSMEs)**.

National Statistics Office Projects 7.4% Real GDP Growth in FY26 in First Advance Estimates

- The **National Statistics Office (NSO)**, **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** released the **First Advance Estimates (FAE)** of **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** for **FY2025-26 (FY26)** at **Constant (2011-12)** and **Current Prices**.

Reserve Bank of India Sets ₹890 Crore Ways and Means Advances Limit for Delhi Government

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has fixed the **Ways and Means Advances (WMA)** limit for the **Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD)** at **₹890 crore**.

Reserve Bank of India Issues 2026 Amendment to All India Financial Institutions Prudential Norms on Capital Adequacy

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued the **All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs) – Prudential Norms on Capital Adequacy (Amendment) Directions, 2026**, which are **effective immediately**.

Bank of Baroda Gets Reserve Bank of India Nod to Transfer Primary Dealer Operations to Wholly Owned Subsidiary

- **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** has received **in-principle approval** from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to transfer its existing **Primary Dealer (PD) authorisation** to a **wholly owned subsidiary**.

Reserve Bank of India Grants Payment Aggregator–Cross Border Licence to Bengaluru-Based Fintech Skydo

- **Skydo**, a Bengaluru-based payments firm, has received **final authorisation** from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to operate as a **Payment Aggregator–Cross Border (PA-CB)**.

Morgan Stanley Projects India's Economy to Grow 7.6% in FY26, Surpassing Government's 7.4% Estimate

- **Morgan Stanley** projected India's **real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth** at **7.6% Year-on-Year (Y-o-Y)** for **FY26**, which is **20 basis points** higher than the **NSO's** latest estimate of **7.4%**.

PhonePe Payment Gateway Rolls Out 'Bolt' for Visa and Mastercard with Device Tokenization

- **PhonePe Payment Gateway (PhonePe PG)** has launched **'PhonePe PG Bolt'** for **Visa and Mastercard** credit and debit card transactions.

PayG Gets Reserve Bank of India Nod to Operate as Payment Aggregator-Physical and Cross-Border

- **PayG**, one of India's most-trusted payment gateway service providers, has received **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approval** to operate as a **Payment Aggregator-Physical (PA-P)** and **Cross-Border (PA-CB)**.

Choice Wealth to Launch Digital Investment Platform for India Post Payments Bank

- **Choice Wealth Private Limited**, a subsidiary of **Choice International Limited**, received a contract from **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** under the **Department of Posts (DoP)**, Ministry of Communications, to launch a comprehensive **digital investment platform**.

India's Gold Exchange Traded Funds Holdings Rise 65% to 95 Tonnes, Becomes 6th Largest Globally

- **Domestic gold Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) in India** saw their holdings jump **65% to 95 tonnes** in **2025**, making India the **6th largest holder** of gold ETFs globally, up from **8th place in 2024**.

India's Retail Inflation Slows to 1.33% in December, Stays Below RBI's Tolerance Band

- **India's retail inflation (CPI)** eased to **1.33%** in **December 2025**, marking the **lowest level in three months** and remaining well below the **RBI's tolerance band**.

India Overtakes Japan to Emerge as the World's Fourth-Largest Economy: Government

- **India has surpassed Japan** to become the **world's 4th-largest economy**, with a **GDP of USD 4.18 trillion**, and is expected to **overtake Germany by 2030** to rank **3rd globally**.

Reserve Bank of India Releases Annual Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India (2024-25)

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** released the **"Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India 2024-25"** under **Section 36(2)** of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**, analysing the **banking sector performance** during **FY25** and **H1 FY26**.

Reserve Bank of India Grants Final Payment Aggregator–Cross Border Authorization to Prosus-Backed Fintech BRISKPE

- **BRISKPE**, a **Prosus-backed fintech**, has received **final authorisation** from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to operate as a **Payment Aggregator–Cross Border (PA-CB)** under the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**.

IDFC First Bank Launches 'Gaj', an Invitation-Only Premium Metal Credit Card

- **IDFC First Bank** has launched **'Gaj'**, a **premium metal credit card** offered exclusively on an **invitation-only basis** for **High-Net-Worth Individuals (HNIs)**.

Syria Introduces New Banknote Series Effective January 1, 2026

- **Syria** unveiled a **new series of banknotes** at a ceremony in **Damascus**, led by **President Ahmed al-Sharaa** and **Central Bank Governor Abdul Qadir Husrieh**.

Rediff.com Gets Final NPCI Approval to Operate as UPI Third-Party Application Provider (TPAP)

- **Rediff.com India Limited**, a subsidiary of **Infibeam Avenues Limited**, has received final approval from the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** to operate as a **Third-Party Application Provider (TPAP)**.

Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer, IDFC First Bank Unveil New Cohort of IGNITE Startup Programme

- The **Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT)**, the **technology transfer and incubation arm of IIT-Delhi (New Delhi)**, in partnership with **IDFC First Bank**, launched a **new cohort** under the **Innovation Growth & Nurturing Initiative for Technology Entrepreneurs (IGNITE)**

Reserve Bank of India Relaxes Capital Adequacy Norms for Non-Banking Finance Companies Financing High-Quality Infrastructure Projects

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has **eased capital adequacy norms for Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs)** lending to **high-quality infrastructure projects** through the **NBFC (Prudential Norms on Capital Adequacy) Amendment Directions, 2026**.

Government Announces Floating Rate Savings Bond 2020 (Taxable) Interest Rate for January–June 2026

- The **Floating Rate Savings Bond, 2020 (Taxable) – FRSB 2020(T)** interest rate has been announced for the period **January 1, 2026, to June 30, 2026**.

Reserve Bank of India Projects Scheduled Commercial Banks' Gross Non-Performing Assets Ratio to Improve to 1.9% by March 2027

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** projects that **Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPAs)** of **Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs)** will improve to **1.9% by March 2027** under the **baseline scenario**, from **2.1% in September 2025**, indicating continued improvement in **asset quality**.

Credit Guarantee Scheme for Exporters Operational on Jan Samarth Portal from December 1, 2025

- **Exports are a critical pillar of India's economy**, contributing nearly **21% of GDP**, generating **robust foreign exchange inflows**, supporting the **current account balance**, and ensuring **macroeconomic stability**.

Reserve Bank of India Imposes Nearly ₹27 Crore in Penalties on Banks in 40 Cases During 2025

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed nearly **₹27 crore in monetary penalties** across **40 instances** on **banks during calendar year 2025 (CY25)** for various **regulatory violations**.

Reserve Bank of India Report Flags Divergent Bank Strategies for Resolving Stressed Loans in FY25

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, in its **Report on Trend and Progress in Banking**, highlighted **significant differences in resolution strategies** adopted by banks for **stressed loans in FY25**.

Ministry of Finance Issues Rules Allowing 100% foreign direct investment in Insurance Sector

- The **Ministry of Finance** has notified the **Indian Insurance Companies (Foreign Investment) Amendment Rules, 2025**, aligning regulations with the **100% foreign direct investment (FDI) limit** approved by **Parliament in December 2025**.

Reserve Bank of India Warns 2–4 Banks May Tap Capital Conservation Buffers Under Stress Scenarios

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** warned that under a **moderate stress scenario**, **two Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs)** may need to utilise their **Capital Conservation Buffers (CCBs)** unless **fresh capital is infused**, and under a **severe stress scenario**, this number could rise to **four banks**.

Reserve Bank of India Reports Household Debt Rises to 41.3% of GDP by March 2025

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** reported that **household debt** rose to **41.3% of GDP by March 2025**, above the **five-year average of 38.3%**, indicating a **sustained rise in borrowing**.

Reserve Bank of India Warns 9 Non-Banking Finance Companies May Fall Below Minimum Capital If Top 3 Borrowers Default

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** stated that if the **top three individual borrowers of NBFCs default**, the **system-level Capital to Risk-Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR)** would fall by **223**

basis points (bps), and **9 Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs)** would see their **CRAR drop below the regulatory minimum of 15%**.

Reserve Bank of India Launches "RBI Talks: Paisa to Policy" Podcast to Boost Financial Awareness

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has launched an **official podcast series** titled **"RBI Talks: Paisa to Policy"** to enhance **public communication and financial awareness**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Tightens Capital, Compliance, and Governance Norms for Merchant Bankers from January 3, 2026

- **The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has strengthened **capital, compliance, certification, governance, and operational norms** for **merchant bankers** to enhance **financial stability** and **investor protection**, effective from **January 3, 2026**.

Ministry of Finance Maintains Small Savings Scheme Interest Rates for Q4 FY26

- **The Department of Economic Affairs (DEA–Budget Division)** under the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)** kept **interest rates unchanged** across **all Small Savings Schemes (SSS)** for **Q4 FY26 (1 Jan–31 Mar 2026)**.

Raajmarg Infra Investment Trust (RIIT) Sponsored by NHAI Gets AAA (Stable) Rating from CARE Ratings

- **Raajmarg Infra Investment Trust (RIIT)**, sponsored by **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)**, has received a **AAA (Stable) rating** for its **long-term bank facilities** from **CARE Ratings Limited**.

Finance Ministry Notifies New Tax Regime for Sin Goods Effective February 1, 2026

- **The Ministry of Finance (MoF)** has **notified a revised tax framework for 'sin goods'** such as **tobacco, pan masala, gutkha and cigarettes**, effective from **1 February 2026**.

Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited Begins Maritime Lending, Sanctions ₹4,300 Crore in First Loan Approvals

- **Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited (SMFCL)**, India's **first NBFC dedicated to maritime financing**, commenced **lending operations** and sanctioned loans worth **around ₹4,300 crore** during its **51st Board Meeting** held on December 30, 2025.

Asian Development Bank Sanctions ₹4,100 Crore Loan to Telangana for Musi Riverfront Development Project

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has granted **in-principle approval** for a **₹4,100 crore ($500 million) loan** to the **Telangana Government** for **Phase-I** of the **Musi River Development Project**.

States and Union Territories Likely to Borrow ₹5 Lakh Crore in Q4FY26, Up from Last Year

- **States and Union Territories (UTs)** are expected to **borrow around ₹5 lakh crore** in **Q4FY26 (January–March 2026)**, higher than **₹4,73,477 crore** borrowed in the same quarter last year.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Grants In-Principle Approval to Ashika Group to Sponsor and Set Up Ashika Mutual Fund

- **Ashika Group** received **in-principle approval from Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** to act as a **Sponsor** and establish **Ashika Mutual Fund (MF)**, enabling the formation of an **Asset Management Company (AMC)**, subject to final registration.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Makes National Institute of Securities Markets Certification Mandatory for AIF Compliance Officers Starting January 2027

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India** (**SEBI**) has **mandated National Institute of Securities Markets (NISM) certification** for **Compliance Officers of Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) managers**, effective from **January 1, 2027**, to strengthen regulatory compliance.

ICICI Bank Introduces Capital Gains Account Scheme Effective 1 January 2026

- **ICICI Bank Limited** launched the **Capital Gains Account Scheme (CGAS), 1988** under the **Income Tax (IT) Act, 1961**, effective from **1 January 2026**, to help taxpayers **deposit un-invested long-term capital gains** and **claim tax exemptions**.

Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Approves Key Policy Reforms to Boost Governance and Growth of National Pension System

- The **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** approved **major policy reforms** to **strengthen governance, increase competition, and ensure sustainable growth** of the **National Pension System (NPS)**.

India's Unified Payments Interface Records Record 21.63 Billion Transactions in December 2025: National Payments Corporation of India

- **India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** recorded an **all-time high of 21.63 billion transactions** in **December 2025**, according to **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**

Reserve Bank of India Conducts Inaugural Payments Regulatory Board Meeting in Mumbai Under Governor Sanjay Malhotra

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** held the **first meeting of the Payments Regulatory Board (PRB)** in **Mumbai**, chaired by **Governor Sanjay Malhotra**.

Reserve Bank of India Signs Agreement with Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Under Section 21A(1) of RBI Act, 1934

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** signed an agreement with the **Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD)** under **Section 21A(1) of the RBI Act, 1934**.

Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ties Up with TechFini to Strengthen UPI Infrastructure

- **Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB)** entered into a **strategic partnership with TechFini**, a **Unified Payments Interface (UPI) infrastructure and fintech solutions provider**, to **strengthen its UPI acquiring and issuing capabilities**.

AWARDS AND HONOUR

Name of the Person / Organisation	Name of the Award	Key Points
Centre for Development of Telematics	SKOCH Award 2025	Won for Cell Broadcast Solution (CBS), an indigenous multi-hazard disaster alert platform delivering geo-targeted emergency alerts in 21 Indian languages.
Ilaiyaraaja	Padmapani Award	To be honoured at the 11th Ajanta–Ellora International Film Festival 2026 for extraordinary

		contribution to cinema and arts.
Karnataka Bank	IBA Banking Technology Award 2026	Won “Best Fintech & DPI Adoption” category for excellence in digital banking and fintech integration.
Namita Gokhale	Bhartendu Harishchandra Lifetime Achievement Award	Honoured at the 2nd Banaras Lit Fest Book Awards 2026 for contribution to Indian literature.
Graca Machel	Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development 2025	Recognised for lifelong work in education, women empowerment, peace, and social justice.
Padma Awards	Padma Awards 2026	India’s civilian honours announced in Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri categories.
Shubhanshu Shukla	Ashok Chakra	Awarded India’s highest peacetime gallantry honour; became first Indian to visit the International Space Station.
Department of Food and Public Distribution	Franz Edelman Award 2026 (Finalist)	Anna Chakra initiative selected among top six global finalists for optimizing India’s Public Distribution System logistics.

Sikkim Police	President's Police Colour Award	Honoured for exceptional service, discipline, professionalism, and bravery.
Chandrakant Lahariya	Wiley Research Heroes Prize 2025	First Indian winner in Impact Beyond Academia category for policy-oriented public health research.
Taylor Swift	Songwriters Hall of Fame Induction	To become the second-youngest inductee in the Hall of Fame's history.
Indian Navy	Best Marching Contingent – Republic Day Parade 2026	Selected as the best among the three defence services contingents.
Delhi Police	Best Marching Contingent (CAPFs/Other Forces)	Won Republic Day Parade 2026 contingent award.
Maharashtra	Best Tableau Award	Won for "Ganeshotsav: A Symbol of Aatmanirbharta" at Republic Day Parade 2026.
Ministry of Culture	Best Tableau (Central Ministries)	Awarded for "Vande Mataram – The Soul Cry of a Nation".
Jensen Huang	IEEE Medal of Honor 2026	Recognised for pioneering work and leadership in accelerated computing.

Pawan Kalyan	Induction into Samurai Kenjutsu Tradition	Became first Indian formally inducted into the ancient Japanese samurai swordsmanship tradition.
Toby Kiers	Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement	Honoured for groundbreaking research on mycorrhizal fungal networks and ecosystem stability.
Chandana Sinha	Indian Railways' Highest Award for Child Trafficking Prevention	Recognised for rescuing trafficked and runaway children through railway safety initiatives.
98th Academy Awards	Best Picture Eligibility Recognition	Five Indian films became eligible for the Best Picture category at Oscars 2026.
Swathi Shantha Kumar	UN Secretary-General's Award 2025	Honoured for promoting gender-inclusive peacekeeping in South Sudan under UNMISS.
Shrinivas Dempo	Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia	Received Italy's prestigious civilian honour for promoting India–Italy relations.
Donald Trump	Israel Prize for Peace 2026	Israel announced special peace honour recognising his role in diplomatic initiatives and bilateral relations.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Name of the Person	Appointed As	Succeeds
Yoweri Museveni	President of Uganda (7th Term)	-
Kaizad Bharucha	Whole-Time Director, HDFC Bank	-
Albinder Dhindsa	Group CEO, Eternal Ltd	Deepinder Goyal
Ganesh Lakshminarayanan	MD & CEO, Tata Communications	A.S. Lakshminarayanan
Nitin Nabin	National President, BJP	-
Arijit Basu	Chairman, IndusInd Bank	Sunil Mehta
Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani	President, Olympic Council of Asia	Randhir Singh
Amelia Valverde	Head Coach, India Women's Football Team	-
Dina Powell McCormick	President & Vice Chairman, Meta	-
Abhishek Dev	Chairman, APEDA (Extension)	-
Rakesh Aggarwal	DG, NIA	Sadanand Vasant Date
Anup Kumar Saha	Whole-Time Director, Kotak Mahindra Bank	-
Praveen Vashista	Vigilance Commissioner, CVC	-
Sandeep Bakshi	MD & CEO, ICICI Bank (Extended)	-
Shaea Muhssin Al-Zindani	Prime Minister, Yemen	Salem bin Braik

Ida Liu	CEO, HSBC Private Bank	Gabriel Castello
A.K. Balasubrahmanian	Chairman, AERB	D.K. Shukla
Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta	Chief Justice, Uttarakhand HC	Justice G.Narendra
Justice Soumen Sen	Chief Justice, Kerala HC	Justice N.M. Jamdar
Justice Revati Mohite-Dere	Chief Justice, Meghalaya HC	Justice Soumen Sen
D.B. Venkatesh Varma	Chair, UN ABDM	-
Gagan Narang	Director, National Olympic Academy	-
Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor	Vice Chief of Air Staff	Narmdeshwar Tiwari
Zohran Mamdani	Mayor, New York City	-
Hardeep Singh Ahluwalia	MD & CEO (Additional Charge), Canara Bank	K. Satyanarayana Raju
Lav Aggarwal	DG, DGFT	Ajay Bhadoo
Rabindra Kumar Agarwal	CMD, FCI	-
Karthikeyan Manickam	Chairman, ESAF SFB	-
Justice Mahesh Sonak	Chief Justice, Jharkhand HC	T.S. Chauhan
Jaideep Iyer	Executive Director, RBL Bank	Rajeev Ahuja
Justice A. Muhamed Mustaque	Chief Justice, Sikkim HC	Biswanath Somadder

MOUS AND AGREEMENT

India–UAE Agree to Double Bilateral Trade to USD 200 Billion by 2032

- **India and the United Arab Emirates** agreed to **double bilateral trade to USD 200 billion by 2032** during delegation-level talks held in **New Delhi** between **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and **UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**.

India–Namibia Fifth Foreign Office Consultations 2026

- **India and Namibia held the 5th round of Foreign Office Consultations (FOC)** and agreed to **deepen cooperation in defence, critical minerals, health, agriculture, and Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)**, reaffirming commitment to **South–South Cooperation**.

Odisha–Meghalaya MoU to Strengthen Early Childhood Care, Education and Development

- The **Governments of Odisha and Meghalaya** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to strengthen **Early Childhood Care, Education and Development (ECCED)** through **inter-state collaboration**.

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship signs MoU with World Economic Forum to strengthen vocational education and skills

- The **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the World Economic Forum (WEF)** to strengthen **vocational education, training and skill development in India**.

Goa Government Signs MoU with Starlink to Boost Digital Connectivity and Disaster Preparedness

- The **Goa government** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Starlink Satellite Communications**, led by **Elon Musk**, to strengthen **digital connectivity**, expand **internet access in remote areas**, enhance **disaster resilience**, and improve **emergency response and smart governance** across the state.

Uttarakhand Government Signs MoU with ITBP Under 'Swasth Seema Abhiyan' to Strengthen Healthcare in Border Areas

- The **Uttarakhand government** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** under a new initiative named **'Swasth Seema Abhiyan'** to improve healthcare facilities in **remote border villages** of the state.

Drip Capital Signs Memorandum of Understanding with Government of Maharashtra to Support Export-Oriented Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

- **Drip Capital** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Maharashtra** to expand access to **trade finance for micro, small and medium enterprises engaged in exports**.

Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad Establishes Krishnamurthy Tandon School of Artificial Intelligence

- **Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA)** exchanged a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Ms. Chandrika Krishnamurthy Tandon** and **Mr. Ranjan Tandon** for the establishment of the **Krishnamurthy Tandon School of Artificial Intelligence** at IIMA.

All India Institute of Ayurveda Signs Memorandum of Understanding to Boost Digital Health and Ayurveda Outreach

- The **All India Institute of Ayurveda**, the apex institution under the **Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga, and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy)**, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** with the **Centre for Ayurveda Education, Innovation and Technology**, marking a significant step towards strengthening **digital health initiatives in Ayurveda**.

Tamil Nadu Signs MoU with Sarvam AI to Establish Sovereign AI Park

- The **Tamil Nadu government** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Sarvam AI** to set up a **full-stack Sovereign AI Park**.
- The project involves an **initial investment of ₹10,000 crore** and is expected to generate around **1,000 high-skilled jobs** in **advanced computing and artificial intelligence research**.

Madhya Pradesh Signs MoU with Digital India BHASHINI to Strengthen Multilingual AI Governance

- The **Government of Madhya Pradesh** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Digital India BHASHINI Division** to integrate **multilingual and AI-powered language technologies** across state government digital platforms.

India–Germany Sign Joint Declaration of Intent on Telecommunications Cooperation

- **India and Germany** signed a **Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) on Telecommunications Cooperation** during the official visit of **German Federal Chancellor Friedrich Merz to India in January 2026**.

India-Bhutan Judicial Exchange MoU

- The **Supreme Court of India** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bhutan** to exchange young legal professionals.

Memorandum of Understanding between Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Department of Posts for Nationwide Logistics of Agro-Input Samples

- The **Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW)** and the **Department of Posts (DoP)** signed an **MoU** to establish a **nationwide logistics mechanism** for transporting **pesticide, seed and fertiliser samples** to designated laboratories across India.

Department of Posts & Ministry of Rural Development sign Memorandum of Understanding to Boost Rural Financial & Digital Inclusion

- The **Department of Posts (DoP)** and **Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen rural development, financial inclusion, digital empowerment, logistics and livelihood opportunities for **Self Help Groups (SHGs)** and rural households.

Tamil Nadu Government Signs Memorandum of Understanding with UN Women to Strengthen Gender Equality & Women Empowerment

- The **Government of Tamil Nadu** signed an Memorandum of Understanding with **UN Women** to strengthen cooperation in advancing **gender equality, women's safety, and women empowerment** in the State.

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. Secures 'Excellent' MoU Rating for FY 2024–25

- **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA)** received an **'Excellent' rating** in the **MoU evaluation** with the **Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE)** for **FY 2024–25**.

ICAR – NDDB Sign MoU to Strengthen Dairy Research and Development (January 2026)

- **The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** and **National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to enhance cooperation in **dairy research, innovation, technology integration and extension services**.

India–Germany Sign Key Agreements on Migration, Security, Clean Energy; Germany Announces Visa-Free Transit for Indians

- **India and Germany** signed major agreements covering **migration, mobility, security cooperation, clean energy, and cultural partnership** during bilateral talks between **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and **German Chancellor Friedrich Merz** in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat.**

Indian Air Force and IIT Madras Partner to Develop Indigenous Airborne Digital Communication System

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)** to jointly develop an **indigenous digital communication system for airborne platforms**.

Delhi Government Partners with Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur to Develop Artificial Intelligence Based Grievance Redressal System

- The **Delhi Government**, in collaboration with the **Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur**, will implement an **Intelligent Grievance Monitoring System**, aimed at improving **speed, transparency, and accountability** in public service delivery through **artificial intelligence and data analytics**.

National Test House and National Highways Authority of India Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Improve Quality of Highway Construction

- **National Test House** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding with the National Highways Authority of India** to strengthen **quality control, transparency, and safety** in national highway construction projects, supporting India's vision of **world-class infrastructure**.

NTPC Signs MoA with Gujarat Cancer & Research Institute to Upgrade Radiotherapy Services

- **NTPC Limited – Western Region–I Headquarters, Mumbai** signed a **Memorandum of Agreement (MoA)** with the **Gujarat Cancer & Research Institute (GCRI)** for the **upgradation of radiotherapy services**.

RANKING AND INDEX

Index / Report Name	Published By	India's Rank / Performance	Top 3 Ranks
Numbeo Global Safety Ranking	Numbeo	Abu Dhabi ranked safest city for 10th consecutive year; India performance not mentioned	1. Abu Dhabi
Responsible Nations Index (RNI)	World Intellectual Foundation	India ranked 16th globally	1. Singapore 2. Switzerland 3. Denmark
Brand Finance Global 500 2026 – IT Services Brands	Brand Finance	Infosys – 3rd globally; TCS – 2nd globally	1. Accenture 2. TCS 3. Infosys
Numbeo Safety Index 2026	Numbeo	India ranked 70th globally; Mangaluru safest Indian city	1. Qingdao 2. Abu Dhabi 3. Doha
Asia Manufacturing Index 2026	Dezan Shira & Associates	India ranked 6th among 11 Asian countries	Top 3 not mentioned

Global Information Technology Services Brand Valuation Report 2026	Brand Finance	TCS – 2nd; Infosys – 3rd	1. Accenture 2. TCS 3. Infosys
PESA Rankings	Government of India	Maharashtra ranked 1st	1. Maharashtra 2. Madhya Pradesh 3. Himachal Pradesh
Henley Passport Index 2026	Henley & Partners	India ranked 80th globally	1. Singapore 2. Japan & South Korea 3. Denmark, Luxembourg, Spain, Sweden & Switzerland
Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2024	NITI Aayog	Maharashtra ranked 1st among large states	1. Maharashtra 2. Tamil Nadu 3. Gujarat
Global Risks Report 2026	World Economic Forum	India rank not applicable	No rank-based list
City Inclusion Index 2025	Avtar	Bengaluru ranked best city for women in India	1. Bengaluru 2. Chennai 3. Pune

ENVIRONMENT

New Genus and Species *Indiaphonte bijoyi* Discovered in Lakshadweep Waters

- **Researchers from Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT)** discovered a **new genus and species of microscopic harpacticoid copepod** from the **Kavaratti lagoon, Union Territory of Lakshadweep**.

Researchers Discover Two New Rare Ant Fly Species in Delhi Ridge and Western Ghats

- Researchers from **Kerala** and **Tamil Nadu (TN)** discovered two new rare **ant fly species** named ***Metadon ghorpadei*** and ***Metadon reemeri***.

Zoological Survey of India Unveils New Rare Caecilian Species in Northern Western Ghats

- A team of scientists led by the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)**, **Western Regional Centre, Pune** discovered a new **subterranean amphibian species** named **Gegeneophis valmiki** in the **northern Western Ghats** of **Maharashtra**, marking the first discovery in the **genus Gegeneophis** in over a **decade**.

Mizoram University Scientists Discover New Reed Snake Species *Calamaria mizoramensis* in Mizoram

- **Scientists from Mizoram University**, in collaboration with researchers from **Russia, Germany, and Vietnam**, discovered a **new reed snake species**, named ***Calamaria mizoramensis***, in **Mizoram**.

Scientists Discover Two New Slender-Armed Frog Species in Arunachal Pradesh

- Indian scientists from the **University of Delhi** discovered **two new species** of **slender-armed frogs** from remote mountain habitats of **Arunachal Pradesh (AR)**.

SUMMITS & CONFERENCE

Event	Location	Organiser (Full Form)	Key Points / Theme
28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) 2026	New Delhi, India	Parliament of India	Hosted at Samvidhan Sadan; chaired by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla; theme focused on parliamentary

			cooperation among Commonwealth nations.
India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management (IICDEM 2026)	New Delhi, India	Election Commission of India (ECI) through India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM)	Theme: 'Democracy for an inclusive, peaceful, resilient, and sustainable world'.
9th International Spice Conference (ISC 2026)	Kochi, Kerala, India	All India Spices Exporters Forum (AISEF)	Theme: 'Spice 360 – Getting Future Ready'; focused on future of global spice industry.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

GalaxEye to Launch First Satellite 'Mission Drishti' in Q1 2026, Boosting India's Private Space Sector

- **GalaxEye**, an Indian **space start-up**, is set to launch its **first satellite 'Mission Drishti'** in the **first quarter of 2026**, marking a major milestone for India's private space sector.

China Reveals Advanced Type 096 Tang-Class SSBN to Strengthen Sea-Based Nuclear Deterrence

- **China** unveiled its most advanced **ballistic missile submarine (SSBN)**, the **Type 096 Tang-Class**, marking a major upgrade in its **sea-based nuclear deterrence**.

Union Minister Manohar Lal Inaugurates Centre of Excellence for Power Sector Regulation at IIT Delhi

- **Union Minister Manohar Lal** of **Ministry of Power (MoP)** and **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** inaugurated the **Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Regulatory Affairs in the Power Sector** at **IIT Delhi**, New Delhi.

Pixxel-Led Consortium to Develop India's First Private National Earth Observation Satellite Constellation with Launches Planned Next Year

- **India's first privately built national Earth Observation (EO) satellite constellation** will be developed by a **consortium led by Pixxel Space**, with the first satellite launches expected **next year**.

China's Fengyun-3D Satellite Detects Antarctic Iceberg A23a Approaching Complete Disintegration

- **China's Fengyun-3D meteorological satellite** detected that **iceberg A23a**, once the **largest iceberg in the world** by surface area, has entered the **final stage of disintegration**.

Ex-Google and Flipkart Executive Peeyush Ranjan Launches AI-First Edtech Startup Fermi.ai

- **Peeyush Ranjan**, former executive of **Google, Airbnb, and Flipkart**, launched an **AI-first edtech startup Fermi.ai** to transform **high-school STEM education** with a focus on **deep learning**.

Indian Railways Introduces Humanoid Robot 'ASC ARJUN' at Visakhapatnam Station

- **Indian Railways** has introduced a **humanoid robot** named **"ASC ARJUN"** at **Visakhapatnam Railway Station** to enhance **passenger safety, security, and service delivery**.

Austrian Brown Swiss Cow Veronika Becomes First Known Cow to Use Tools, Redefining Cattle Intelligence

- Scientists have identified **Veronika**, a **13-year-old Brown Swiss cow** from **Austria**, as the **first known cow to use a tool**, challenging assumptions about **cattle intelligence**.

Kavach 4.0, India's Indigenous Automatic Train Protection System, Launched on Gujarat's Bajwa (Vadodara)–Ahmedabad Route

- **Kavach 4.0** has been commissioned on **Gujarat's Bajwa (Vadodara)–Ahmedabad section (96 km)**, covering **17 stations** with infrastructure including **23 towers**, **20 Kavach buildings/huts**, **192 km optical fibre cable**, and **2,872 RFID tags**.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration Rolls Out Space Launch System (SLS) Rocket at Kennedy Space Center for Lunar Mission Milestone

- **The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** has rolled out its **Space Launch System (SLS)** rocket to the launch pad at **Kennedy Space Center**, marking a major milestone in **lunar exploration**.

Zoho Launches New ERP Platform to Serve India's Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

- **Zoho Corporation** has launched a new **Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)** platform, targeting **India's small and medium enterprises (SMEs)**.

Japan Restarts Reactor No. 6 at Kashiwazaki-Kariwa Nuclear Plant, Advancing Return to Nuclear Energy

- Japan has restarted **Reactor No. 6** at the **Kashiwazaki-Kariwa Nuclear Power Plant**, marking a major step in its gradual return to **nuclear energy**.

Japan Returns Its Last Two Giant Pandas to China, Ending Panda Presence Since 1972

- **Japan** decided to return its last two **giant panda cubs** to **China**, leaving the country **without any pandas** for the first time since **1972**.

Ola Electric Gets BIS Certification to Commercially Launch Residential Battery Energy Storage System

- **Ola Electric** has received **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** certification to commercially launch its residential **Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)**, marking its entry into the **clean energy storage** segment.

Embraer Partners with Adani Defence & Aerospace to Develop Made-in-India Regional Transport Aircraft

- **Brazilian** aerospace major **Embraer** has partnered with **Adani Defence & Aerospace** to develop a **made-in-India Regional Transport Aircraft (RTA)**.

Microsoft Launches Maia 200 AI Chip to Strengthen Integrated AI Ecosystem

- **Microsoft** has introduced the **second generation** of its in-house **artificial intelligence processor**, **"Maia 200"**, along with a new suite of **AI-focused software tools**, strengthening its push to build an **integrated AI ecosystem**.

National Institution for Transforming India Aayog Collaborates with NIIT Foundation to Promote Digital Skills in Aspirational Blocks

- The **National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog** signed a **Statement of Intent (SoI)** with **NIIT Foundation** to advance **digital literacy**, **financial inclusion**, and **skill development** across **Aspirational Blocks**.

Department of Posts Partners with Stock Holding Services Limited to Expand Capital Market Services via India Post Network

- The **Department of Posts (DoP)**, Ministry of Communications, signed an agreement with **Stock Holding Services Limited (SSL)** at Dak Bhawan, New Delhi, to expand **regulated capital market services** across India through the **India Post (IP) network**.

Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences and Central Sanskrit University Conduct 15-Day Workshop on Ayurvedic Manuscripts in Kerala

- The **Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS)**, under the **Ministry of Ayush**, in collaboration with the **Central Sanskrit University (CSU)**, successfully completed a **15-day Transliteration Capacity-Building Workshop** on **Ayurvedic manuscripts** in **Kerala**.

2026 Doomsday Clock Set at 85 Seconds to Midnight, Signalling Record High Global Risks

- The **2026 Doomsday Clock** was moved to **85 seconds to midnight**, the **closest point ever**, highlighting **heightened risks** to humanity from **nuclear weapons**, **climate change**, and **artificial intelligence**.

India's Space Economy Worth USD 8.4 Billion with 399 Start-ups in Launch Vehicles, Satellites, and Space Technology

- **India's space economy** is currently valued at **USD 8.4 billion**, with **399 space start-ups** operating in **launch vehicles**, **satellites**, **propulsion systems**, and **space-grade electronics**.

Reliance Industries Limited and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited Ink Deal to Share Offshore Energy Assets

- **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)** and **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC)** signed a **resource-sharing agreement** during **India Energy Week (IEW) 2026** in **Goa** (**27–30 January 2026**) to enhance **operational efficiency** and strengthen **India's energy security**.

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation Launches PAIMANA Portal to Monitor Central Sector Infrastructure Projects Above ₹150 Crore

- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** has operationalised **PAIMANA** (**Project Assessment, Infrastructure Monitoring & Analytics for Nation-building**) to monitor **Central Sector Infrastructure Projects** worth **₹150 crore and above**.

APEDA Hosts BHARATI Startup Challenge at IndusFood 2026, Selected Startups to Gain Global Exposure in Gulfood Dubai and BIOFACH Germany

- **APEDA** (**Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority**) launched a new initiative named **BHARATI** to support **agri-food and agritech startups**.

Ministry of Information & Broadcasting,Principal Scientific Adviser, and Netflix Fund Launch 'Inspiring Innovators – Naye Bharat Ki Nayi Pehchaan' Skilling Initiative

- The **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (MIB)**, in partnership with the **Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA)**, **Government of India (GoI)**, and the **Netflix Fund for Creative Equity**, launched the **'Inspiring Innovators – Naye Bharat Ki Nayi Pehchaan'** skilling initiative.

University of New South Wales to Launch Bengaluru Campus by August 2026, Providing Global Education

- The **University of New South Wales (UNSW)**, a leading Australian university, announced plans to establish a new campus at **Manyata Tech Park, Bengaluru, Karnataka** by **August 2026**.

Wikipedia Partners with Microsoft, Meta, Amazon, and AI Startups to Monetise Content

- **Wikipedia (Wikimedia Foundation)** has entered partnerships with **Big Tech** firms such as **Microsoft**, **Meta**, **Amazon**, along with **AI startups** like **Perplexity** and France's **Mistral AI** to **monetise corporate use** of its content.

World's First Global Ice Vault Launched in Antarctica to Preserve Melting Glacier Ice Cores

- Scientists have inaugurated the **world's first global ice vault** in **Antarctica** to preserve **mountain ice core samples** threatened by rapid **glacier melting** due to **global warming**.

Adani Group, Embraer to Establish India's First Commercial Aircraft Final Assembly Line

- The **Adani Group** has partnered with Brazil's **Embraer** to set up India's first **Final Assembly Line (FAL)** for **commercial fixed-wing aircraft**.

Galgotias University Inaugurates IIT Mandi Catalyst Satellite Centre in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh

- **Galgotias University**, ranked among the world's leading universities by **QS (Quacquarelli Symonds)** and **Times Higher Education (THE)**, inaugurated the **IIT Mandi Catalyst Satellite Centre** at its campus in **Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh (UP)**.

Dr. Jitendra Singh Inaugurates ₹40 Crore DST-Funded NIDHI Centre of Excellence at IIM Ahmedabad

- The **DST–NIDHI Centre of Excellence (CoE)** has been launched at **IIM Ahmedabad** to promote **deep-tech entrepreneurship** and **technology translation**.

Indian Institute of Technology Madras Creates Data-Driven Dashboard to Enhance Road Safety Governance

- The **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)** has developed an **Integrated Road Safety Dashboard** to strengthen **road safety governance** and help reduce road accidents across India.

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited Partners with Viasat to Enhance Indian Navy's Satellite Communication Upgrade

- **BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited)** has partnered with **Viasat, Inc. (USA)** to support the next phase of the **Indian Navy's Satellite Communications (SATCOM)** upgrade programme.

Milma Partners with National Dairy Development Board to Set Up Food-Testing Laboratory in Kochi

- **Kerala Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation (Milma)** has partnered with the **National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)** to operationalise a **food-testing laboratory** in **Kochi**.

Cochin Shipyard Hands Over First HS EcoFreighter Multipurpose Vessel to Germany

- **Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)** has delivered **MS Heinz**, the first vessel of the **HS EcoFreighter series** of **Multi-Purpose Vessels (MPVs)**.

E-commerce Platforms Penalised by Central Consumer Protection Authority for Selling Unauthorised Walkie-Talkies

- The **Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)** took **suo motu** action against **e-commerce platforms** for selling **unauthorised walkie-talkies**, violating the **Consumer Protection Act, 2019** and **telecom laws**.

National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bengaluru Develops Deep-Learning Tool 'Disobind' to Predict Binding of Intrinsically Disordered Proteins

- **National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS)**, under the **Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR)**, Bengaluru, has developed a **deep-learning tool** named **Disobind** to predict how **intrinsically disordered proteins (IDPs)** bind to their partners.

Dr. Jitendra Singh Inaugurates NSEL and National Primary Standard Facility for Solar Cell Calibration at CSIR-NPL on 80th Foundation Day

- **Union Minister of State (MoS) IC Dr. Jitendra Singh**, Ministry of Science and Technology, inaugurated the **National Environmental Standard Laboratory (NSEL)** and the **National Primary Standard Facility for Solar Cell Calibration** at **CSIR-NPL, New Delhi**, during its **80th Foundation Day** (held in January 2026).

Indian Scientists Use Supercomputer Simulation to Explain the Mpemba Effect

- **Indian scientists** from the **Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR)**, **Bengaluru (Karnataka)**, under the **Ministry of Science and Technology (MoS&T)**, developed the **first-ever supercomputer-powered simulation** to explain the **Mpemba effect**.

Pakistan Successfully Tests Indigenous 'Taimoor' Air-Launched Cruise Missile

- **Pakistan Air Force (PAF)** successfully conducted a **flight test of the indigenously developed Taimoor Air-Launched Cruise Missile (ALCM)** during a live-trial exercise.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Hubble Telescope Identifies Starless, Dark Matter–Dominated Gas Cloud 'Cloud-9'

- The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)**'s **Hubble Space Telescope** discovered a **starless, gas-rich, dark-matter-dominated cloud** named **'Cloud-9'**.

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited Launches World's Largest LC-Max Residue Upgradation Unit at Visakhapatnam Refinery, Andhra Pradesh

- **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)**, under the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG)**, successfully commissioned the **world's first and largest Liquid Conversion–Maximum (LC-Max) Residue Upgradation Facility (RUF)** at its **Visakhapatnam (Vizag) Refinery, Andhra Pradesh**.

Indian Institute of Technology Madras Unveils Indigenous 3.1 Petaflop Supercomputer 'Param Shakti'

- **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)** has launched **Param Shakti**, an **indigenously developed supercomputing system** with a computing capacity of **3.1 petaflops**.

European Space Agency Officially Cancels Mars Sample Return Mission with NASA, Reshaping Planetary Exploration Plans

- The **European Space Agency (ESA)** has officially **cancelled the Mars Sample Return Mission**, a **joint project with NASA**, marking a major shift in planetary exploration plans.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Empanels RANext Technologies as Digital Connectivity Rating Agency for Property Infrastructure

- **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** has **empanelled RANext Technologies** as a **Digital Connectivity Rating Agency (DCRA)** to assess digital infrastructure in properties.

India to Deploy First Indigenous Quantum Computer for Commercial Use at IIIT Dharwad

- **India's first indigenously built quantum computer** will be deployed for **commercial use** at **IIIT Dharwad**, marking a major milestone in India's **quantum journey**.

Union Minister of State Dr. Jitendra Singh Launches Two Global-Standard Labs at Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi

- **Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Dr. Jitendra Singh**, Ministry of Science and Technology, inaugurated **two apex national facilities** at **CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL)** during its **80th Foundation Day**.

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology Inaugurates 'Param Shakti' Supercomputing Facility at IIT Madras, Tamil Nadu

- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** inaugurated **Param Shakti**, a state-of-the-art supercomputing facility, at Indian Institute of Technology (**IIT) Madras**, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Fastest-Spinning Asteroid 2025 MN45 Discovered by Vera C. Rubin Observatory

- Scientists analysing the first images from the **Vera C. Rubin Observatory** have identified the **fastest-spinning asteroid** ever observed in its size category, designated **2025 MN45**.

Indian Space Research Organisation to Kick Off 2026 Launches with PSLV-C62 Carrying EOS-N1 and 14 Co-Passenger Satellites

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** will begin its **2026 launch calendar** on **12 January** with the **PSLV-C62 mission** to deploy the **EOS-N1 Earth Observation Satellite (Anvesha)** along with **14 other co-passenger satellites**.

Google Expands Gemini AI Chatbot into Virtual Shopping Assistant with Walmart, Shopify, and Wayfair Partnerships

- **Google** is expanding **shopping features** in its **Gemini AI chatbot** by partnering with **Walmart**, **Shopify**, **Wayfair**, and other retailers, turning Gemini into a **virtual shopping assistant** and **merchant**.

Google Launches Universal Commerce Protocol to Transform AI-Driven Digital Commerce

- **Google** has unveiled the **Universal Commerce Protocol (UCP)**, a new **open standard** designed to reshape **digital commerce** in the age of **artificial intelligence (AI)**.

India's PSLV Faces Back-to-Back Launch Failures, 16 Satellites Destroyed

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** launched the **PSLV-C62 mission**, its first launch of **2026**, from the **First Launch Pad** at **Sriharikota**.

Apple Partners with Google to Integrate Gemini AI into Its Foundation Models

- **Apple** has signed a **multi-year deal** with **Google** to use **Google's Gemini AI models** to power its **Apple Foundation Models**.

Defence Research and Development Organization Successfully Tests Third-Generation Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile at Ahilya Nagar, Maharashtra

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**, under the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)**, successfully conducted the **flight test** of the **Third-Generation Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM)**.

Ola Electric Unveils 'Shakti', Its First Home Battery Storage System, at Krishnagiri Gigafactory

- **Ola Electric** has launched its first **portable home battery energy storage system (BESS)** named **'Shakti'** at its **Gigafactory** in **Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu**.

GAIL and Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Roll Out #NonStopZindagi Initiative under National PNG Drive 2.0

- **GAIL (India) Limited** partnered with the **Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB)** for the **National PNG Drive 2.0**.

Chinese Scientists Develop World's First Lunar Time-Keeping Software LTE440

- Chinese scientists from the **Purple Mountain Observatory**, Nanjing, have developed the world's first **lunar time-keeping software** called **LTE440 (Lunar Time Ephemeris)**.

Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu Flags Off Indigenous Dhruv-NG Helicopter at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Bengaluru

- **Union Minister Ram Mohan Naidu (Civil Aviation)** inaugurated and flagged off the **inaugural flight of the indigenous Dhruv-NG helicopter** at **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Bengaluru, Karnataka**, on **30 December 2025**.

China Sets World Record: Superconducting Maglev Hits 700 km/h in Just 2 Seconds

- **China set a new world record** by accelerating a **superconducting electric maglev train to 700 km/h in just 2 seconds**, marking the **fastest maglev acceleration test ever conducted**.

Defence Research and Development Organisation Carries Out Successful Simultaneous Test Launch of Two Pralay Missiles from Odisha Coast

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully conducted a **salvo launch (simultaneous firing)** of **two indigenously developed Pralay missiles** in quick succession from the **same launcher** at the **Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha**, as part of **user evaluation trials**.

Hyderabad Space Start-ups Integrate Mini Satellite in Ahmedabad, Send to Sriharikota for ISRO PSLV Launch

- **Two Hyderabad-based space start-ups – TakeMe2Space and EON Space Labs** – have **successfully tested and integrated** a **14-kg Earth observation satellite (MOI-1)** along with a **miniature space telescope (MIRA)**.

Indian Space Research Organisation Successfully Tests Enhanced SSLV Third Stage (SS3) at Sriharikota,Andhra Pradesh

- **Indian Space Research Organisation** (**ISRO**) successfully conducted a **static ground test** of the **enhanced 3rd stage (SS3)** of the **Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)** at the **Solid Motor Static Test Facility**, **Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh**.

SpaceX Successfully Launches Italy's COSMO-SkyMed Second-Generation Earth Observation Satellite

- **SpaceX** launched the **COSMO-SkyMed Second Generation–Flight Model 3 (CSG-FM3)**, an **Earth Observation Satellite (EOS)**, for the **Italian Space Agency (ASI)** and the **Italian Ministry of Defence**, aboard a **Falcon 9 rocket** from **Vandenberg Space Force Base, California, USA**.

External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar Launches IITM Global to Position IIT Madras as World's First Multinational University

- **Union Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar Subrahmanyam**, from the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**, launched the **IITM Global Research Foundation** at the **Indian Institute of Technology–Madras (IIT-M)** campus in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**, highlighting IIT-M's vision to become the **world's first multinational university**.

Abu Dhabi Becomes World's First to Administer ITVISMA Gene Therapy for Spinal Muscular Atrophy

- **Yas Clinic – Khalifa City**, in collaboration with the **Abu Dhabi Stem Cells Centre (ADSCC)** and **Vertex Pharmaceuticals**, and under the **support and oversight of the Department of Health – Abu Dhabi**, successfully administered the **first gene-therapy injection for hemoglobinopathies in the UAE** using **CASGEVY**, a **CRISPR-Cas9–based gene-editing therapy**.

India and Pakistan Conduct Annual Exchange of Nuclear Installations List to Strengthen Strategic Transparency

- **India and Pakistan** exchanged the **list of nuclear installations and facilities** through **diplomatic channels** to maintain **strategic transparency and confidence-building**.

Indian Researchers Develop Indigenous 3D-Printed Automatic Weather Stations Under Mission Mausam

- **Indian scientists**, led by the **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune**, under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**, developed **indigenously manufactured 3D-printed**

Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) under **Mission Mausam**, strengthening **India's weather observation and forecasting capabilities**.

AYUSH Systems Gain Formal Recognition in India–Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement and India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement

- **Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MoC&I)** announced that **India's traditional medical systems under AYUSH—Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy**—have been **formally recognised in bilateral agreements**, including the **India–Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** and the **India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA)**.

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan Highlights 'Viksit Bharat – G Ram G' Law to Build Atmanirbhar Villages

- **Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan**, speaking in **Erode, Tamil Nadu**, stated that the **'Viksit Bharat – G Ram G' law** is a major initiative to build **self-reliant (Atmanirbhar) villages** through **employment generation, basic infrastructure, and public participation**.

System for Accounting and Management of Pension Digitises Pension Management to Enhance Services for Department of Telecommunications Pensioners

- **SAMPANN (System for Accounting and Management of Pension)** is an **integrated online pension management system** developed for **Department of Telecommunications (DoT) pensioners**.

China Commissions Upgraded Guided Missile Destroyer to Accelerate Naval Expansion and Challenge US Maritime Power

- **China** has commissioned a new **upgraded guided missile destroyer** as part of its rapid **naval expansion** to narrow the gap with **United States maritime power**.

PERSON IN NEWS

Indian-Origin National Aeronautics and Space Administration Astronaut Sunita Williams Concludes 27-Year Space Career

- The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** announced the retirement of **Indian-origin astronaut Sunita Lyn Williams** from service effective **27th December 2025**, ending her **27-year career** in human space exploration.

Siddaramaiah Becomes Karnataka's Longest-Serving Chief Minister, Surpassing D. Devaraj Urs

- **Siddaramaiah** became the **longest-serving Chief Minister of Karnataka** on **January 7, 2026**, completing over **seven years and eight months (2,793+ days)** in office across **two non-consecutive terms**, surpassing his mentor **Devaraj Urs**.

Mumbai's Kaamya Karthikeyan, 18, Becomes Youngest Woman to Complete Seven Summits

- **Kaamya Karthikeyan**, an **18-year-old from Mumbai**, became the **youngest female in the world** to scale the **Seven Summits** (the highest peaks on all seven continents).

ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

Competition Commission of India Clears Emirates NBD Bank's Acquisition of Majority Stake in RBL Bank Limited.

- **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved the proposed acquisition of a significant stake in **RBL Bank Limited** by **Emirates NBD Bank (P.J.S.C.) (ENBD)**.

Competition Commission of India Clears Tata Steel's Acquisition of Majority Stake in Thriveni Pellets Private Limited

- **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved **Tata Steel Limited's (TSL)** acquisition of **50.01% equity share capital** of **Thriveni Pellets Private Limited (TPPL)** from **Thriveni Earthmovers Private Limited**.

Competition Commission of India approves merger deal between Bhushan Power & Steel, JSW Sambalpur, JFE Steel Corp. and JSW Kalinga Steel

- **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approved the proposed combination involving **Bhushan Power and Steel Limited (BPSL)**, **JSW Sambalpur Steel Limited**, **JFE Steel Corporation (Japan)** and **JSW Kalinga Steel Limited**.

Life Insurance Corporation of India Cuts ICICI Bank Stake Below 5% Following Market Sales

- **LIC (Life Insurance Corporation of India)** has **reduced its shareholding** in **ICICI Bank** to **below 5%** after a series of market transactions.

State Bank of India Rises 6% in January, Surpasses ICICI Bank in Market Capitalisation After 6 Years

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** surpassed **ICICI Bank** to regain its position as the **second-most valuable bank** by market capitalization after a gap of more than **six years**.

GAIL Joins K LINE and J M Baxi for Equity Participation in LNG Carrier Company

- **GAIL (India) Limited** has signed a **term sheet** for **equity participation** in a **ship-owning company** based in **Singapore**, in partnership with **J M Baxi Marine Services** and Japan's **Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha (K LINE)**.

Competition Commission of India Clears Emirates NBD Bank's Acquisition of Majority Stake in RBL Bank

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approved the proposed acquisition of a **majority stake** in **RBL Bank Limited** by UAE-based **Emirates NBD Bank**, allowing the lender to take **control** of the **Indian private sector bank**.

ONGC to Acquire 50% Stake in Two JVs with Japan's Mitsui OSK Lines for Ethane Transport to India's Petrochemical Sector

- **ONGC** has decided to take a **50% stake** in two joint ventures — **Bharat Ethane One IFSC Private Limited** and **Bharat Ethane Two IFSC Private Limited** — formed with Japan's **Mitsui OSK Lines (MOL)** to transport **ethane** for India's petrochemical sector.

Bajaj Finserv Acquires Allianz's 23% Stake in Bajaj Allianz Insurance Businesses

- **Bajaj Finserv** has completed the **acquisition of Allianz SE's stake** in **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance** and **Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance**, ending a long-standing partnership.

SoftBank Sells 2.15% Stake in Ola Electric Through SVF II Ostrich

- **SoftBank**, through its investment arm **SVF II Ostrich (DE) LLC**, sold a **2.15% stake** in **Ola Electric Mobility Limited**.

APPS & PORTALS

App / Portal Name	Released By	Purpose
Gruha Lakshmi Digital Marketing Portal	Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Karnataka	To promote women entrepreneurship, digital inclusion, and global sale of Karnataka products.
PANKHUDI Portal	Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD)	To facilitate CSR partnerships and contributions for women and child welfare.

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DEFENCE NEWS

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Inaugurates Medium Calibre Ammunition Manufacturing Unit at Solar Defence, Nagpur

- **Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** inaugurated a **Medium Calibre Ammunition Manufacturing Facility** at **Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited (SDAL)** in **Nagpur, Maharashtra**.

Indian Air Force to Showcase Operation Sindoor Formation at Republic Day Parade

- **India's 2026 Republic Day Parade** on **Kartavya Path** will mark a major shift from **traditional static displays** to an **operational, battle-based narrative**, reflecting **modern warfare preparedness** and **defence communication strategy**.

Bharat Forge Aerospace Division Bags Rs 300 Crore Contracts for Indigenous Unmanned Systems for Indian Army and Navy

- **Bharat Forge Limited (BFL)**'s aerospace division secured contracts worth nearly **Rs 300 crore** under the **Emergency Procurement-VI (EP-VI)** framework for the supply of **indigenously built unmanned systems** to the **Indian Army (IA)** and **Indian Navy (IN)**.

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan Unveils Military Quantum Mission Policy Framework

- **General Anil Chauhan**, **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)**, released the **Military Quantum Mission Policy Framework** in **New Delhi**, providing a comprehensive policy roadmap for adopting quantum technologies across the **Indian Army (IA)**, **Indian Navy (IN)** and **Indian Air Force (IAF)**.

Indian Army Performs India's First 3D Flex Aqueous Angiography with iStent at Army Hospital Delhi Cantt

- **Indian Army** achieved a major medical milestone as the **Ophthalmology Department, Army Hospital (Research & Referral)**, Delhi Cantt successfully performed **India's first-ever 3D Flex Aqueous Angiography with iStent**, marking a breakthrough in **advanced glaucoma care**.

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and Indian Army Inaugurate Foundation of Helicopter MRO Hub at Missamari, Assam

- **P.B. Rangarao**, **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of **Helicopter Complex**, **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**, along with the **General Officer Commanding (GOC)**, **Gajraj Corps**, laid the **foundation stone** for **HAL's Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) hub** at **Missamari, Assam**.

Ministry of Defence Signs Rs 4,666 Crore Deals for Close Quarter Battle Carbines and Heavyweight Torpedoes

- The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** signed contracts worth **Rs 4,666 crore** for the procurement of **Close Quarter Battle (CQB) Carbine** and **Heavy Weight Torpedoes** in New Delhi, in the presence of **Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh**.

Indian Navy Awards Contract to M/s Suryadipta Projects, Thane for Three 200T Bottom-Opening Non-Propelled Barges

- The **Indian Navy** signed a contract with **M/s Suryadipta Projects Private Limited**, a **Thane-based MSME shipyard**, for the construction and delivery of **three 200-tonne bottom-opening non-propelled barges**.

Indian Army, Indian Institute of Science Bengaluru Partner to Develop Indigenous Artificial Intelligence System

- The **Indian Army (IA)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru (Karnataka)** to jointly develop a **fully indigenous Artificial Intelligence (AI) system**.

Indian Navy's First Training Squadron Enhances Maritime Ties with Indonesia

- The **Indian Navy's First Training Squadron (1TS)** departed **Belawan, Indonesia**, after a successful **three-day port call**, aimed at strengthening **maritime engagement** with Indonesia under the **IONS framework** and the **MAHASAGAR vision**.

Defence Research and Development Organisation Unveils Long Range Anti-Ship Hypersonic Missile at 77th Republic Day Parade

- At the **77th Republic Day Parade** on **Kartavya Path**, the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** unveiled the **Long Range Anti-Ship Hypersonic Missile (LR-AShM)** for the first time, highlighting India's advances in **hypersonic weapon systems**.

Taiwan Completes Maiden Underwater Sea Trial of Indigenous Submarine to Boost Maritime Deterrence Against China

- **Taiwan** has successfully completed the **first underwater sea trial** of its **domestically developed submarine**, marking a major milestone in strengthening **maritime deterrence** against **China**.

INSV Kaundinya Arrives in Muscat, Strengthening 5,000-Year-Old India–Oman Maritime Ties

- **INSV Kaundinya**, a traditionally built **stitched-plank** Indian sailing vessel, completed a maiden overseas voyage of about **1,400 km** from **Porbandar, Gujarat** to **Muscat, Oman** in **17 days**.

INS Sagardhwani Flagged Off from Kochi for 5th Edition of Sagar Maitri by DRDO's Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory

- **INS Sagardhwani**, India's **oceanographic research vessel** under the **Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL)** of **DRDO**, was flagged off for the **5th edition** of **Sagar Maitri (SM-5)** from **Southern Naval Command, Kochi** on **17 January 2026**.

16th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting -Plus Counter Terrorism Experts Group Meeting Scheduled in New Delhi

- The **16th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM)-Plus Experts Working Group (EWG)** on **Counter Terrorism (CT)** will be held in **New Delhi** from **14–16 January 2026**.

India, Sri Lanka & Maldives Hold 17th Trilateral Coast Guard Exercise 'DOSTI 17' in Maldives

- The **17th edition** of the biennial trilateral Coast Guard exercise **'DOSTI 17'** commenced in **Male, Maldives**, involving the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)**, **Sri Lanka Coast Guard (SLCG)**, and **Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF)** Coast Guard from **17–19 January 2026**.

Indian Coast Guard and Japan Coast Guard Hold Joint HNS Response Exercise on ICGS Samudra Prahari in Mumbai

- The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** and the **Japan Coast Guard (JCG)** conducted a joint **Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS)** response drill in **Mumbai**, strengthening maritime partnership and commitment to a **free and open Indo-Pacific**.

Indian Air Force Marks 25 Years of Tejas Light Combat Aircraft's Historic Maiden Flight

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** marked the **25th anniversary** of the historic **maiden flight** of the **indigenously developed Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)**, showcasing India's progress in **aerospace self-reliance**.

Indian Army Inks ₹293 Crore Emergency Deal with NIBE for Suryastra Rocket Launcher System

- **Indian Army (IA)** under the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** signed an **Emergency Procurement (EP) contract worth ₹293 crore** with **NIBE Limited** for procurement of the **Suryastra rocket launcher system**.

Indian Army Launches 'Bhairav' Modern Warfare Force with Large-Scale Drone Integration

- **Indian Army (IA)** announced the creation of a modern warfare force named **'Bhairav'**, aimed at enhancing **combat capabilities** through large-scale **drone integration** and creation of a pool of **over 1 lakh trained drone operatives**.

Defence Research and Development Organisation Commemorates Its 68th Foundation Day at Headquarters in New Delhi

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**, under the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)**, celebrated its **68th Foundation Day** at **DRDO Headquarters, New Delhi, Delhi**.

Indian Army Awards Pinaka Multiple Launch Rocket Systems Overhaul Contract to Tata Advanced Systems

- The **Indian Army (IA)** granted a **supply order** to **Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL)** for the **overhaul-cum-upgradation** of **in-service first-generation Pinaka Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (MLRS)** and **Battery Command Posts (BCPs)**.

Indian Navy's First Training Squadron Undertakes Long-Range Training Deployment to Southeast Asia

- The **First Training Squadron (1TS) of the Indian Navy (IN)** began its **Long-Range Training Deployment (LRTD) to Southeast Asia** as part of the **110th Integrated Officers' Training Course (IOTC)**, providing **real operational sea experience** to naval cadets.

Indian Navy Sets Up New Naval Detachment at Haldia, West Bengal

- The **Indian Navy (IN)** has **initiated a new naval base** at **Haldia, West Bengal (WB)** to strengthen **operational presence**, **maritime surveillance**, and **rapid response capabilities** in the **Bay of Bengal (BOB)**.

Indian Army and HDFC Bank Extend Memorandum of Understanding for Three More Years

- The **Indian Army** and **HDFC Bank** have renewed their **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** till **2029** to continue providing banking services and insurance cover to Army personnel.

Indian Army Orders Rs.168 Crore Solar-Powered UAV from NewSpace Research & Technologies

- The **Indian Army (IA)** has placed a **Rs.168 crore order** with **NewSpace Research & Technologies (NRT)** for the **Medium Altitude Persistent Surveillance System (MAPSS)**, a fully electric, **solar-powered UAV** designed for **long-endurance surveillance missions**.

Indian Army Introduces 'DIME' Digital Platform to Transform Logistics Management

- The **Indian Army (IA)** launched **'Depot Integration Management Edition (DIME)'**, a **digital platform** aimed at transforming **logistics management** and enabling faster, **data-driven decisions** for commanders.

Defence Research and Development Organisation Successfully Tests Full-Scale Actively Cooled Scramjet Engine in Extended Ground Trial

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation** (**DRDO**), under the **Department of Defence Research & Development (DDR&D)**, **Ministry of Defence (MoD)**, successfully conducted a **long-duration ground test** of a **full-scale, actively cooled scramjet engine/combustor**, marking a major milestone in **India's Hypersonic Cruise/Missile Programme**.

Indian Army Holds Military–Civil Fusion Exercise 'Sanjha Shakti' in Maharashtra

- The **Indian Army (IA)** conducted the **first-ever** two-day joint **Military–Civil Fusion (MCF)** exercise named **'Sanjha Shakti'**.
- The exercise was held at the **Diggi Range**, **Khadki Military Station**, **Pune, Maharashtra** from **8–9 January 2026**.
- It was conducted under the aegis of the **Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Goa (MG & G) Area** of the **Southern Command**.

Indian Army Inaugurates 'Radio Sangam' Community Radio Station in Rajouri, Jammu & Kashmir

- The **Indian Army (IA)**, in collaboration with the **civil administration** and **local residents**, launched **"Radio Sangam"**, a **Community Radio Station**, at **Keri village** in **Doongi block, Rajouri district, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)**, located near the **Line of Control (LoC)**.

Indian Army Designates 2026 as the Year of Networking and Data Centricity

- The **Indian Army (IA)**, under the leadership of **Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Upendra Dwivedi**, declared **2026 as the 'Year of Networking & Data Centricity'**, aligning with the **Indian Army's 2026 vision** to build a **future-ready and technology-driven force**.

Indian Army to Debut Remount & Veterinary Corps Animal Contingent at Republic Day Parade Showcasing Strategic Military Roles

- The **Indian Army** will showcase a **special animal contingent of the Remount & Veterinary Corps (RVC)** at the **Republic Day Parade on Kartavya Path** for the **first time**, highlighting the strategic use of animals in military operations.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Commissions ICGS Samudra Pratap, India's First Indigenous Pollution Control Vessel by Goa Shipyard Limited

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** commissioned **Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) 'Samudra Pratap'** in **Goa** on **January 05, 2026**, marking a major boost to **Aatmanirbharta in shipbuilding**.

Defence Research and Development Organisation Develops 'SWaDeS' Portable Seawater Desalination System for Armed Forces

- The **Defence Laboratory Jodhpur (DLJ)**, under the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**, developed a **portable water purification system** named **Sea Water Desalination System (SWaDeS)** to provide **safe drinking water** to **soldiers deployed in remote, coastal, and water-scarce regions**.

SPORTS NEWS

BCCI Signs ₹270 Crore Sponsorship Deal with Gemini Ahead of IPL 2026

- The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** has signed a **₹270 crore sponsorship agreement** with **Google's AI platform Gemini** for the **Indian Premier League (IPL)**, starting from the **2026 season**, providing a major commercial boost to the league.

Saina Nehwal Announces Retirement from Competitive Badminton

- **Saina Nehwal**, one of India's most celebrated badminton players, has **officially retired** after nearly two years of inactivity due to severe knee injuries, including **cartilage degeneration and arthritis**.

National Paralympic Powerlifting Championship 2026 Hosted by Uttarakhand

- **Uttarakhand hosted the National Paralympic Powerlifting Championship in January 2026**, which was **inaugurated by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami** through a **virtual ceremony from COER University, Roorkee**.

Nat Sciver-Brunt Becomes First Centurion in Women's Premier League History

- **Nat Sciver-Brunt** became the **first batter to score a century in Women's Premier League history** during **WPL 2026**.

Sixth Edition of Khelo India Winter Games 2026 Inaugurated in Ladakh

- The **sixth edition of the Khelo India Winter Games 2026** was inaugurated by **Lieutenant Governor Kavinder Gupta** at the **Nawang Dorjan Stobdan Stadium**, **Leh**, **Union Territory of Ladakh**.

National Sports Governance (National Sports Bodies) Rules, 2026 Notified

- The **Union Government** has notified the **National Sports Governance (National Sports Bodies) Rules, 2026**.

Alyssa Healy Announces Retirement from International Women's Cricket

- **Australia women's cricket captain Alyssa Healy** has announced her **retirement from all formats of international cricket**.

Mitchell Starc Named ICC Men's Player of the Month for December 2025

- **Australian fast bowler Mitchell Starc** has been awarded the **ICC Men's Player of the Month for December 2025** for his outstanding performances in the **Ashes series**.

Laura Wolvaardt Named ICC Women's Player of the Month for December 2025

- **South Africa captain Laura Wolvaardt** won the **ICC Women's Player of the Month for December 2025** for her **record-breaking performances against Ireland** across **T20I and ODI formats**.

Vijender Singh Appointed Member of Asian Boxing Council

- Indian boxing icon **Vijender Singh** has been appointed as a **member of the Asian Boxing Council (ABCO)**, strengthening **India's representation in Asian boxing governance**.

India's Aaryan Varshney Becomes 92nd Chess Grandmaster

- Indian chess player **Aaryan Varshney** became **India's 92nd Grandmaster** after securing his final GM norm at the **Andranik Margaryan Memorial Tournament** in **Armenia**.

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Vidarbha Wins Maiden Vijay Hazare Trophy

- **Vidarbha** won their **first-ever Vijay Hazare Trophy title**, defeating **Saurashtra by 38 runs** in the final held at the **BCCI Centre of Excellence, Bengaluru**.

Virat Kohli Becomes 2nd Highest Run-Scorer in International Cricket

- **Virat Kohli**, Indian cricketer, has become the **second-highest run-scorer in international cricket**, surpassing **Kumar Sangakkara (Sri Lanka)**.

Deepti Sharma Becomes Highest Wicket-Taker in Women's Twenty20 International Cricket

- **Indian women's cricket** achieved a major milestone as **Deepti Sharma** became the **highest wicket-taker in Women's Twenty20 International (T20I) cricket**.

National Sports Governance Act, 2025 Comes into Force from January 1, 2026

- **Select provisions of the National Sports Governance Act, 2025 came into effect from January 1, 2026**, marking a major reform in **India's sports governance framework**.

World Blitz Chess Championship 2025: Magnus Carlsen Wins 9th Title, Arjun Erigaisi Secures Bronze

- The **World Rapid and Blitz Chess Championship 2025** was held in **Doha, Qatar**, featuring elite players from across the world and delivering high-intensity competition.

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation Launches New Logo and Mascot to Strengthen Data-Driven Governance

- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** has unveiled a **new official logo and mascot** as part of its efforts to modernise institutional identity and strengthen public outreach.

Hockey India Appoints Sjoerd Marijne as Chief Coach of Indian Women's Hockey Team

- **Hockey India** has announced the appointment of **Sjoerd Marijne** as the **Chief Coach of the Indian women's hockey team**, giving a major boost to the team ahead of key international events.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

Title	Author	Key Details	Event Highlights

The Life and Legacy of Arun Jaitley	Sumant Batra	Published by Om Books International; chronicles Arun Jaitley's life and contributions	Launched with Former Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu as chief guest
Agni Sarsulu Vikasinchina Kamalam Draupadi Murmu	Yarlagadda Lakshmi Prasad	Telugu book on President Draupadi Murmu's journey from tribal roots to Rashtrapati Bhavan	Released by sanitation worker Lakshamma at Andhra University

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OBITUARIES

Name	Profession / Role	Native / Nationality
Ilyas Pasha	Indian Footballer (Defender)	India
Ajit Pawar	Politician, Deputy CM Maharashtra	India
Michael Nobbs	Hockey Player & Coach	Australia
Ueli Kestenholz	Snowboarder	Switzerland
Thomas Kuthiravattam	Politician, Former MP	India
Manoj Kothari	World Billiards Champion & Coach	India

Suresh Kalmadi	Politician, Former MoS Railways	India
Madhav D. Gadgil	Ecologist & Conservationist	India
Kabindra Purkayastha	Politician, Former Union Minister	India
Davinder Singh Garcha	Hockey Player, Olympian	India

FEBRUARY 2026

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day Observed As	Key Points / Theme
01 February	Indian Coast Guard Day	• Celebrated annually on 1 Feb • Multi-mission maritime force • Established in 1977 to prevent sea-borne smuggling
02 February	World Wetlands Day	• Raises awareness about wetlands • Marks Ramsar Convention 1971 • Focus on conservation
02 February	Rheumatoid Arthritis Awareness Day	• Awareness about autoimmune disorder

		• Affects joints and causes inflammation • Term coined by Alfred B. Garrod (1858)
04 February	World Cancer Day	• Led by UICC • Theme 2026: “United by Unique” • Second leading cause of death globally
04 February	International Day of Human Fraternity	• Promotes peace & tolerance • Linked with Interfaith Harmony Week • Led by UN initiatives
06 February	International Day Against Female Genital Mutilation	• Raises awareness on FGM • Human rights issue • UNFPA-UNICEF programme since 2007
01–07 February	World Interfaith Harmony Week	• Promotes inter-religious harmony • Based on “A Common Word” initiative • UN-led observance
12 February	National Productivity Day	• Promotes productivity culture • Focus on innovation & efficiency

		• NPC established in 1958
13 February	World Radio Day	• UNESCO initiative • Promotes access to information • Important medium of communication
20 February	Arunachal Pradesh Foundation Day	• Statehood in 1987 • 24th state of India • Strategic NE location
20 February	World Day of Social Justice	• Focus on equality & employment • Poverty eradication • Global observance
21 February	International Mother Language Day	• Promotes linguistic diversity • Declared by UNESCO (1999) • Honors Bangladesh language movement
22 February	World Scout Day	• Honors scouting movement • Service to society • Global celebration
24 February	Central Excise Day	• Honors CBEC officers • Encourages duty integrity • Annual observance

27 February	World NGO Day	• Recognizes NGOs' contribution • Promotes civil society role • Global impact
28 February	Rare Disease Day	• Awareness of rare diseases • First observed in 2008 • Health focus
28 February	National Science Day	• Marks Raman Effect discovery • By C.V. Raman • Promotes scientific awareness

NATIONAL AND STATE NEWS

Mumbai to Host 6th National Crop Nutrition Summit 2026

- **Mumbai** will host the **6th National Crop Nutrition Summit** on **5–6 February 2026** at the **National Stock Exchange Complex, Bandra Kurla Complex**, Mumbai.

Indian Railways Commissions Record 472.3 km of Kavach Version 4.0 in a Single Day

- **Indian Railways** commissioned **Kavach Version 4.0 over 472.3 route kilometres in a single day**, the **highest-ever Kavach rollout** in India.

Supreme Court Declares Menstrual Health as Part of Article 21

- The **Supreme Court of India** has declared **menstrual health and hygiene** as an **integral part of the Right to Life and Personal Liberty under Article 21** of the Constitution.

Mumbai–Ahmedabad Bullet Train Project Achieves Major Engineering Milestone

- **India** successfully completed a **100-metre-long steel bridge** for the **Mumbai–Ahmedabad Bullet Train Project** at **Ahmedabad, Gujarat**.

Assam Launches Mukhya Mantrir Eti Koli Duti Paat Scheme for Tea Garden Workers

- The **Government of Assam** has launched the **Mukhya Mantrir Eti Koli Duti Paat Scheme** to

provide **one-time financial assistance** to tea garden workers across the state.

Third Edition of Tri-Services Future Warfare Course Launched in New Delhi

- The **third edition of the Future Warfare Course** commenced in **New Delhi from February 2 to February 25, 2026**.

Gujarat Becomes India's Largest Renewable Energy Contributor

- **Gujarat emerged** as the **largest contributor to India's renewable energy capacity**, accounting for **16.50% of the national total** as of **31 December 2025**.

Assam Govt Announces ₹50 Crore Grant to Preserve Koch Dynasty Heritage

- **Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma** announced a **₹50 crore grant** to preserve and restore the heritage of the **Darrang kings of the Koch dynasty** during **Mahabir Chilarai Divas** celebrations in **Darrang district**.

National Statistics Office to Conduct Nationwide Survey on Migration (2026–27)

- The **National Statistics Office (NSO)** has announced a **nationwide Survey on Migration**, scheduled to be conducted from **July 2026 to June 2027**.

Andhra Pradesh Launches Pilloo AI Voice-Based Billing and Accounting App

- **Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu** launched **Pilloo AI**, a **voice-based billing and accounting application** in Andhra Pradesh.

India Emerges as a Major Engine of Global Urban Growth in 2025: UN Report

- A **United Nations report (2025)** states that **around 45% of the global population lives in urban areas**, a sharp rise from **20% in 1950**.

Supreme Court Directs Centre to Set Up Pennaiyar River Water Disputes Tribunal

- The **Supreme Court of India**, directed the **Union Government** to constitute a **tribunal for the Pennaiyar (Thenpennai) river water dispute** between **Tamil Nadu and Karnataka**.

Andhra Pradesh Plans Exclusive Women Industrial Park to Boost Women Entrepreneurship

- **Andhra Pradesh** government has proposed an **exclusive industrial park for women entrepreneurs**, marking a strong step towards women empowerment and inclusive industrial growth.

India Joins BRICS Centre for Industrial Competencies

- **India has officially joined the BRICS Centre for Industrial Competencies (BCIC)** to strengthen **skill development, industrial training, and workforce cooperation** among BRICS nations (**Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa**).

World Government Summit 2026 Opens in Dubai

- The **World Government Summit 2026** opened in **Dubai, United Arab Emirates**, under the

theme **"Shaping Future Governments"**.

Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs Unveils Upgraded National Youth Parliament Scheme (NYPS 2.0) Portal

- The **Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (MoPA)** launched an upgraded version of the **National Youth Parliament Scheme (NYPS) web portal**, known as **NYPS 2.0**, to expand the **reach, inclusivity and participation** of the Youth Parliament Programme across India.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Narendra Modi's Visit to Punjab

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** visited **Punjab** to take part in **commemorative, developmental and infrastructure-related programmes**.

India–Arab Engagement and West Asia Diplomatic Balancing

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** received a **delegation of Arab Foreign Ministers**, the **Secretary General of the League of Arab States**, and heads of Arab delegations in New Delhi during the **2nd India–Arab Foreign Ministers' Meeting**.

India Adds Two New Wetlands to Ramsar List Ahead of World Wetlands Day 2026

- Ahead of **World Wetlands Day 2026**, the **Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change** announced the inclusion of **two new wetlands** in India's **Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance**.

Government of India Withdraws 18% Central Excise Duty on Unmanufactured Tobacco

- The **Government of India (GoI)** withdrew the **18% Central Excise Duty** on **unmanufactured tobacco or tobacco refuse**.

National Statistical Office to Conduct India's First National Household Income Survey and ASISSE

- The **National Statistical Office (NSO)**, under the **Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**, announced plans to conduct **India's first-ever National Household Income Survey (NHIS)** and the **Annual Survey of Incorporated Service Sector Enterprises (ASISSE)**.

Government Launches Survey and Waqf Property Lease Modules on UMEED Portal

- The **Government of India** has launched the **Survey Module** and the **Waqf Property Lease Management Module** on the **UMEED Central Portal** to ensure **transparent, people-friendly, and accountable management of Waqf properties**.

Pariksha Pe Charcha 2026 Held at New Delhi

- **Pariksha Pe Charcha (PPC) 2026**, the **9th edition** of the annual interaction programme, was held at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**.

NCDC Implements Yuva Sahakar Scheme and Swayamshakti Sahakar Yojana

- The **National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)** is implementing **Yuva Sahakar Scheme** and **Swayamshakti Sahakar Yojana** to promote **innovation, inclusivity, youth entrepreneurship, and women empowerment** in India's cooperative sector.

Karnataka Introduces Automatic Property Mutation System

- The **Karnataka government** announced the rollout of an **automatic property mutation system** to speed up **land and property transactions** and improve transparency in revenue administration.

Kerala Becomes First State to Announce Elderly Budget for FY27

- **Kerala** has become the **first Indian state** to announce a **dedicated Elderly Budget** in its **Financial Year 2026–27 (FY27) State Budget**, drawing national attention to ageing-related policy challenges.

Amit Shah Launches Bharat Taxi, India's First Cooperative-Based Ride-Hailing Platform

- **Union Minister of Home Affairs and Cooperation Amit Shah** launched **Bharat Taxi**, India's **first cooperative-based ride-hailing platform**, at **Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi**.

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs Approves Over 3.53 Lakh Houses Under PMAY-U 2.0

- The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** approved construction of **over 3.53 lakh houses** under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0)**.

Airbus Inaugurates Centre of Excellence for Aerospace Studies at Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya

- **Airbus** inaugurated a **Centre of Excellence (CoE) for aerospace studies** at **Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV)**, Vadodara, **Gujarat**.

PLASTINDIA 2026 to be Held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

- **PLASTINDIA 2026**, one of the **world's largest plastics exhibitions**, will be held from **5 February to 10 February 2026** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**.

NITI Aayog Drafts Blueprint to Make Andhra Pradesh a Clean Energy Hub by 2035

- **NITI Aayog released a draft clean energy blueprint** to transform **Andhra Pradesh into a major renewable energy hub by 2035**.

Centre Signs Tripartite Pact to Create Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority (FNTA)

- **Central Government, Nagaland Government, and Eastern Nagaland Peoples Organization (ENPO)** signed a **tripartite agreement** to create the **Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority (FNTA)**.

Delhi Police Launches Operation Shastra Against Social Media Misuse

- **Delhi Police launched a city-wide crackdown named 'Operation Shastra'** to curb the misuse

of **social media platforms for intimidation and fear-mongering**.

Nationwide 'Self-Reliance in Pulses Mission' Launched from Madhya Pradesh

- The **Self-Reliance in Pulses Mission** was launched at the **Food Legumes Research Centre (FLRP), Amlaha**, with the goal of making **India self-reliant in pulses production**.

Ministry of Mines Issues 2026 Rules to Prevent Illegal Offshore Mineral Mining

- The **Ministry of Mines (MoM)** notified the **Offshore Areas Mineral (Prevention of Illegal Mining and Transportation) Rules, 2026**, which came into immediate effect to regulate and prevent illegal mining, storage, transportation, and export of all offshore minerals except **hydrocarbons**.

V.O. Chidambaranar Port in Thoothukudi Becomes First Indian Port to Install Advanced 'Anti-Drone System'

- **V. O. Chidambaranar (VOC) Port** in **Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu** becomes the **first port in India** to initiate installation of an advanced **'Anti-Drone System'**, enhancing protection of **critical port infrastructure**.

Himachal Pradesh Launches 'Padhai with AI' Initiative

- **Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu** launched **'Padhai with AI'** at **Barthin in Bilaspur district, Himachal Pradesh**.

Alwar Becomes India's First Fully Insured District Under 'Insurance for All by 2047'

- **Alwar district of Rajasthan** became **India's first district** to achieve **100% insurance coverage** under the **'Insurance for All by 2047'** roadmap.

Black Swan Summit India 2026 Launched in Bhubaneswar

- **Black Swan Summit India 2026** was inaugurated in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.

Qualcomm Launches 2 nm Semiconductor Chip in India

- **Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw** launched a **2 nanometre (nm) semiconductor chip designed by Qualcomm** in **Bengaluru**.

Government Revises Startup Recognition Framework under Startup India

- The **Government of India has revised the startup recognition framework** to further strengthen the **Startup India Action Plan** and advance the Prime Minister's vision of making India a global innovation powerhouse, **a manufacturing-led economy, and a hub for emerging technologies.**

World's First Doctor-Led AI-Powered Home Healthcare Ecosystem 'iLive Connect' Launched

- **India** launched **'iLive Connect'**, the **world's first doctor-led, Artificial Intelligence-powered home healthcare ecosystem**.

Amaravati to Become India's First Quantum Valley

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for **Science & Technology, Earth Sciences** and **MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space**, **Dr Jitendra Singh**, addressed the Foundation Ceremony of **Amaravati Quantum Valley** in **Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh**.

India Named Country of the Year at BIOFACH 2026

- **India has been designated Country of the Year at BIOFACH 2026**, the **world's largest and most influential organic trade fair**, to be held from **10–13 February 2026 in Nuremberg, Germany**.

Uttar Pradesh Presents First Economic Survey 2025–26, Targets $1 Trillion Economy

- **Uttar Pradesh presented its first-ever Economic Survey 2025–26** in the State Assembly, similar to the Union Government's Economic Survey.

India–Netherlands Launch Hydrogen Fellowship Programme and Strengthen Green Hydrogen Research Cooperation

- **India and the Netherlands** launched the **India–Netherlands Hydrogen Fellowship Programme**, to enhance cooperation in **green hydrogen research and capacity building**.

Standardization Testing and Quality Certification Lab Automation Portal 'SATYA' Launched

- Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Electronics and Information Technology Shri **Jitin Prasada** inaugurated the **STQC Lab Automation Portal 'SATYA'**.

Uttar Pradesh Budget 2026–27 Announced with ₹9.13 Lakh Crore Outlay

- The **Uttar Pradesh Budget 2026–27** has been presented with a total outlay of **₹9.13 lakh crore**, marking a **2% increase** over the previous financial year.

Ministry of Home Affairs MHA Issues New Guidelines on Singing of Vande Mataram

- The **Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has issued fresh guidelines, laying down the first formal protocol for the **National Song, Vande Mataram**.

National Productivity Council to Celebrate 68th Foundation Day

- The **National Productivity Council (NPC)** will celebrate its **68th Foundation Day on 12 February 2026**.

High-Speed Rail in India: Union Budget 2026–27 Expansion and Mumbai–Ahmedabad Corridor

- The **Union Budget 2026–27 announced seven new high-speed rail corridors**, signalling expansion beyond the **Mumbai–Ahmedabad corridor.**

Global Finance and Technology Network and Startup Policy Forum Announce Strategic

Collaboration at Black Swan Summit 2026

- **Global Finance and Technology Network (GFTN)** and the **Startup Policy Forum (SPF)** announced a **strategic collaboration** to accelerate **financial technology and digital innovation**.

Unemployment Rate Declines to 4.8% in Q3 FY 2025–26: PLFS Data

- India's **unemployment rate** eased to a **three-quarter low of 4.8 per cent** in **October–December (Q3) FY 2025–26**, as per the **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** released by the **National Statistics Office (NSO)**.

Dr. Jitendra Singh Launches First Technology Development Board Open Call under RDI Fund of ANRF

- **Union Minister of State (Independent Charge)** for **Science and Technology** and **Earth Sciences**, and **Minister of State for Prime Minister's Office, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space**, **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, launched the **first Open Call of the Technology Development Board (TDB)**.

Delhi Government Launches 'Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana' for Girl Child Welfare

- The **Delhi Government** launched the **Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana** in **2026** to secure the educational and financial future of girl children in the **National Capital Territory of Delhi.**

Indian Railways Approves Key Line Expansion and Bypass Projects in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh

- **Indian Railways** approved major infrastructure projects including **third-line construction, line doubling, and bypass alignment** to enhance **operational efficiency, safety, capacity and regional connectivity**.

Union Government Releases 2nd Installment of XV Finance Commission Untied Grants to Five States

- The **Union Government** sanctioned and released the **2nd installment of Fifteenth Finance Commission Untied Grants for FY 2025–26** to **Panchayati Raj Institutions/Rural Local Bodies** in **Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal**.

NSSTA Celebrates 18th Foundation Day with Focus on Viksit Bharat@2047

- **National Statistical Systems Training Academy** (NSSTA), under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), celebrated its **18th Foundation Day** at **Mahalanobis Auditorium, Knowledge Park-II, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh**.

NITI Aayog Releases 6th Edition of Trade Watch Quarterly (Q2 FY26)

- **NITI Aayog** released the **6th edition of "Trade Watch Quarterly"** for **Q2 FY26 (July–September 2025)** in **New Delhi**.

Uttar Pradesh Tables First-Ever Economic Survey 2025-26; Charts Roadmap for $1 Trillion Economy

- **The Government of Uttar Pradesh presented its first-ever Economic Survey 2025-26 in the State Legislature**, outlining a data-driven strategy to transform the state into a **$1 trillion economy** in the medium term.

V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority Becomes First Major Port to Receive IGBC Platinum and Shunya Certifications

- **V.O. Chidambaranar (VOC) Port Authority** became the **first Major Port in India** to receive the **Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) Platinum Rating**.

Rajasthan Budget 2026–27 Presented with Focus on Fiscal Consolidation and Vision 2047

- The **Rajasthan Government** presented the **State Budget 2026–27** in the Legislative Assembly.

First Meeting of BRICS Sherpas and Sous Sherpas Held in New Delhi under India's Chairship

- The **first meeting of BRICS Sherpas and Sous Sherpas** under **India's Chairship 2026** was held **in New Delhi**

MeitY Amends IT Rules, 2021 to Mandate Labelling of AI-Generated Content and Reduce Takedown Timelines

- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** amended the **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021** through the Amendment Rules, 2026

Union Budget Sanctions National Large Solar Telescope and National Large Optical-Near Infrared Telescope

- In the **Union Budget**, the Government sanctioned the establishment of two major telescopes:

Sangtam Naga Tribal Body in Nagaland Bans Pangolin Hunting and Trade

- The **United Sangtam Likhum Pumji (USLP)**, apex tribal body of the Sangtam Naga community in **Nagaland**, passed a resolution banning **pangolin hunting and trade** within its jurisdiction

India Becomes Second-Largest Active Smartphone Installed Base Globally in 2025: Counterpoint

Research

- India has emerged as the **second-largest active installed base of smartphones globally** in 2025, according to **Counterpoint Research**

Delhi Approves Chief Minister Skill Development Scheme; 3,728 Artisans to Be Trained in 2025–26

- The **Delhi Government** approved the **Chief Minister Skill Development Scheme** to support artisans associated with **khadi, handloom, and cottage industries**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurates Seva Teerth in New Delhi; PMO, NSCS and Cabinet Secretariat Shifted Under One Roof

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated **Seva Teerth** in **New Delhi** marking a major step in administrative reforms

Kerala Launches Sthree Suraksha Scheme; ₹1,000 Monthly Pension for Women and Transwomen

- **Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan** launched the **Sthree Suraksha Scheme** at **Malayinkeezhu, Thiruvananthapuram**

Bharat Bodhan AI Conclave 2026 Held at Bharat Mandapam; Bodhan AI Centre of Excellence Launched

- The **Bharat Bodhan AI Conclave 2026** commenced at **Bharat Mandapam** to promote integration of **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** in India's education ecosystem

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs Approves India's First Underwater Road-Cum-Rail Tunnel Under River Brahmaputra in Assam

- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, approved the construction of a **4-lane access-controlled greenfield corridor** in **Assam**.

India to Establish First National Cow Culture Museum in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh

- **India** will establish its first-ever **National Cow Culture Museum** in **Mathura, Uttar Pradesh**

Union Cabinet Approves Conversion of North and South Blocks into 'Yuge Yugeen Bharat' National Museum; Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurates Seva Teerth

- The **Union Cabinet** approved the conversion of **North Block and South Block** into the **'Yuge Yugeen Bharat' National Museum**

President Droupadi Murmu Inaugurates Centenary Celebrations of Ol Chiki Script in New Delhi

- **President Droupadi Murmu** inaugurated the **centenary celebrations of the Ol Chiki script** in **New Delhi**.

Unique Identification Authority of India Reports 14 Million Downloads of Aadhaar App; Over 1

Million Mobile Updates Completed

- **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** reported nearly **14 million downloads** of the **Aadhaar App**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurates India AI Impact Expo 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **India AI Impact Expo 2026** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**

India's Sugar Exports Cross 2.01 Lakh Tonnes in Marketing Year 2025–26; United Arab Emirates Emerges as Top Importer

- **India's sugar exports** have reached **2,01,547 tonnes** till February in the **2025–26 marketing year (October 2025 – September 2026)**, as per data released by the **All India Sugar Trade Association (AISTA)**.

India's Unemployment Rate Rises to 5% in January 2026 – Periodic Labour Force Survey

- India's **unemployment rate** increased to **5% in January 2026**, marking a **three-month high**, as per the **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** released by the **National Statistics Office (NSO)**.

Union Health Minister Launches SAHI and BODH at India Artificial Intelligence Summit 2026

- Union Health Minister **Jagat Prakash Nadda** will launch **SAHI** and **BODH** at the **India Artificial Intelligence Summit 2026** held at **Bharat Mandapam**.

India Hosts AI Impact Summit 2026 at Bharat Mandapam

- **India is hosting** the **AI Impact Summit 2026** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**, marking the first-ever global AI summit held in the **Global South**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurates Kumar Bhaskar Varma Setu and Northeast's First Emergency Landing Facility in Assam

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated major infrastructure projects in **Assam** worth over **₹5,450 crore**, aimed at boosting connectivity and strategic preparedness in the Northeast.

Union Cabinet Approves ₹10,000 Crore Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0

- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, approved the **Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 (FoF 2.0)** with a **₹10,000 crore corpus**.

Cabinet Approves PM RAHAT Scheme to Ensure Cashless Treatment for Road Accident Victims

- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, approved the launch of **PM RAHAT (Road Accident Victim Hospitalization and Assured Treatment)**.

Union Cabinet Approves ₹1 Lakh Crore Urban Challenge Fund (UCF) to Transform Urban

Infrastructure

- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, approved a **₹1 lakh crore Urban Challenge Fund (UCF)** to strengthen urban infrastructure.

National Green Tribunal Clears Great Nicobar Project Worth Rupees 81,000 Crore

- **The National Green Tribunal** has approved the **Rupees 81,000 crore Great Nicobar Project**, cited its strategic importance while imposed strict environmental safeguards.

Demwe Lower Hydel Project in Arunachal Pradesh Gets Environmental Clearance Extension till 2037

- The **1,750-megawatt Demwe Lower Hydel Project** in **Arunachal Pradesh** has received an **11-year extension of environmental clearance till 2037**.

Losar Festival 2026 Celebrated in McLeod Ganj, Himachal Pradesh

- The **Losar Festival 2026**, marking the **Tibetan New Year**, is being celebrated from 18 to 20 February in McLeod Ganj**, Himachal Pradesh**.

Mumbai Climate Week 2026 Inaugurated in Maharashtra

- **Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis** inaugurated the **first Mumbai Climate Week** at the **Jio World Convention Centre in Bandra, Mumbai**.

India–France Year of Innovation 2026 Launched During President Emmanuel Macron's Visit to India

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and President **Emmanuel Macron** launched the **India–France Year of Innovation 2026** during the three-day visit of the French President to India from 17–19 February 2026.

India France National Centre of Excellence in Aeronautics and Defence to be Set Up in Kanpur

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** announced the establishment of a **National Centre of Excellence for Skilling in Aeronautics and Defence** at **Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh** during a joint press statement with the President of France while inaugurating the **India France Year of Innovation**.

India Joins United States Led Pax Silica Coalition for Artificial Intelligence and Semiconductor Supply Chains

- **India has officially** joined **Pax Silica**, a **United States** led strategic coalition aimed at building **secure and resilient supply chains for Artificial Intelligence, semiconductors and critical minerals**.

New Delhi Frontier AI Impact Commitments Launched at India AI Impact Summit 2026

- At the **India AI Impact Summit 2026**, Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology **Ashwini Vaishnaw** announced the **New Delhi Frontier AI Impact Commitments**.

Assam Cabinet Approves 3 Percent Reservation for Tea Tribes and Expands Mukhyamantri Mahila Udyamita Abhiyaan Scheme

- The **Assam Cabinet** has approved **3 percent reservation** for **Tea Tribes and Adivasi communities** in **Class One and Class Two state government jobs** within the **Other Backward Classes quota**.

India Attends United States Gaza Board of Peace Meeting as Observer

- **India participated** as an observer in the **inaugural Gaza Board of Peace meeting** convened by **United States President Donald Trump**.

Andhra Pradesh Secures India's Largest Lithium-Ion Battery Gigafactory

- In a major clean energy development, **Andhra Pradesh has secured India's largest integrated lithium-ion battery Gigafactory by Waaree** Energies with an investment of **Rupees 8,175 crore**.

Gujarat Budget 2026–27 Presented with ₹4.08 Lakh Crore Outlay

- The **Gujarat Budget 2026–27** was presented by **Finance Minister Kanu Desai** in the Assembly at Gandhinagar.

Madhya Pradesh Budget 2026–27 Presented with ₹4.38 Trillion Outlay

- The **Madhya Pradesh Budget 2026–27** was presented by **Finance Minister Jagdish Devda** in the State Assembly.

India Creates Guinness World Record for Responsible Artificial Intelligence Pledges

- **India created** a **Guinness World Record** by collecting **2,50,946 valid pledges for responsible Artificial Intelligence use within 24 hours**.

Gujarat Assembly Passes Gujarat Shops and Establishments Amendment Bill 2026

- The **Gujarat Legislative Assembly** has unanimously passed the **Gujarat Shops and Establishments Amendment Bill 2026**, allowing **night shifts for women, increasing daily working hours to 10 hours and raising the overtime limit to 144 hours**.

India France Launch Indo French Centre for Artificial Intelligence in Health at All India Institute of Medical Sciences New Delhi

- **India and France** jointly inaugurated the **Indo French Centre for Artificial Intelligence in Health** at **All India Institute of Medical Sciences New Delhi** during the **Rencontres Universitaires Et Scientifiques De Haut Niveau 2026 meetings**

Eight-Year-Old Ranvir Sachdeva Becomes Youngest Speaker at India AI Impact Summit 2026

- In a remarkable moment at the **India AI Impact Summit 2026 held at Bharat Mandapam** in **New Delhi**, eight-year-old **Ranvir Sachdeva** became **the youngest speaker at the event.**

Vice President Releases Tamil and Gujarati Editions of Constitution of India

- Vice President **C. P. Radhakrishnan** released the updated **Tamil and Gujarati editions of the Constitution of India** along with the **8th Edition of the Legal Glossary (English–Hindi)** at **Uprashtrapati Bhavan**.

Indian Railways Integrates Artificial Intelligence into Passenger and Operational Systems

- **Indian Railways has integrated Artificial Intelligence** into key passenger facing and operational applications to improve grievance redressal, **ticket prediction, crowd management and freight planning.**

Waaree Energies to Set Up India's Largest Lithium Ion Battery Gigafactory in Andhra Pradesh

- **Andhra Pradesh has secured India's largest integrated lithium ion battery Gigafactory** by **Waaree Energies** with an investment **of ₹8,175 crore**.

Cash Payments Discontinued at National Highway Toll Plazas from 1 April 2026

- The **Government of India** has decided to **discontinue cash payments at all National Highway toll plazas from 1 April 2026**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurates India's First Namo Bharat Regional Rapid Transit System and Dedicates Delhi–Meerut Corridor

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated India's **first Namo Bharat Regional Rapid Transit System and dedicated** the **Delhi–Meerut Namo Bharat Corridor** to the nation in **Meerut, Uttar Pradesh**.

Vice President Releases Book Atal Bihari Vajpayee: The Eternal Statesman in New Delhi

- Vice President **C. P. Radhakrishnan** released **the coffee table book Atal Bihari Vajpayee: The Eternal Statesman in New Delhi**.

Ministry of Home Affairs Launches 'Prahaar' – India's New National Counter-Terrorism Policy

- **The Ministry of Home Affairs** has launched **'Prahaar'**, India's new national counter-terrorism policy, outlining a **zero-tolerance framework against terrorism**.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah Laid Foundation Stone Laid for 10th Assam Police Battalion Headquarters in Kamrup

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah laid the foundation stone of the **10th Battalion Headquarters of the Assam Police** in Kamrup and asserted that strict action against infiltration will continue.

Punjab Launches 'Meri Rasoi' Scheme for 40 Lakh Families

- **The Punjab government** has launched the **'Meri Rasoi' scheme** to provide nutritional support to nearly **40 lakh economically weaker families** across the state.

India Removes Most Favoured Nation Clause from India–France Tax Treaty

- **India has removed** the **Most Favoured Nation clause** from its **Double Taxation Avoidance Convention with France.**

Delhi Airport Ranked 5th Busiest in Asia Pacific in 2025

- **Indira Gandhi International Airport** has been ranked the **5th busiest airport in the Asia Pacific region in 2025**, according to the latest data released by OAG.

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways Launches Mobile Quality Control Vans to Enhance National Highway Quality

- To strengthen construction standards and ensure durability of highways, the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** has launched **Mobile Quality Control Vans (MQCVs)** for on-site monitoring of ongoing National Highway projects.

AI Impact Summit 2026 Concludes with Adoption of New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact

- The **AI Impact Summit 2026** concluded in **New Delhi** with the adoption of the **New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact**, endorsed by **89 countries and international organizations**

Jharkhand Presents ₹1.58 Lakh Crore 'Abua Dishom Budget' for FY 2026–27

- The **Government of Jharkhand** presented a **₹1.58 lakh crore Budget** for the Financial Year 2026–27 in the State Assembly.

Delhi Approves 20% Quota for Ex-Agniveers in Police Constable Recruitment

- **Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena** has approved a **20 per cent reservation for former Agniveers in Delhi Police constable** (executive) posts.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Address Israeli Parliament During Historic Israel Visit 2026

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will become the **first Indian Prime Minister** to address the plenary session of the **Knesset** during his two-day official visit to **Israel**.

"Badhna Hai Toh Yahan Judna Hai" Campaign Launched to Strengthen Digital Skilling Ecosystem

- The **Government of India launched** a nationwide awareness campaign titled **"Badhna Hai Toh Yahan Judna Hai"** to expand participation in the **Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH)**.

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology Launches Blockchain India Challenge

- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** launched the **Blockchain India Challenge in New Delhi** to promote blockchain-based digital governance solutions.

Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) Celebrates 75th Foundation Year at New Delhi

- The **Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)** commenced its **75th Foundation Year celebrations** at **Bharat Mandapam**, marking over seven decades of service to workers and their families across India.

7th All India Conference of Government Railway Police Chiefs Concludes in New Delhi

- The **7th All India Conference of Government Railway Police (GRP) Chiefs** was convened by the **Railway Protection Force** and successfully concluded at **Vigyan Bhawan**.

Uttar Pradesh CM Inaugurates IBM's AI GovTech Innovation Centre in Lucknow

- **Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** inaugurated **IBM's AI GovTech Innovation Centre** in Lucknow to strengthen technology-driven governance in the state.

Delhi to Implement 'Rah-Veer' Scheme to Encourage Road Accident Assistance

- The **Government of Delhi** has decided to implement the Centre's **'Rah-Veer' Scheme** in the national capital to encourage citizens to help seriously injured road accident victims.

National Arogya Fair 2026 to be Held in Shegaon, Maharashtra

- The **Ministry of Ayush**, Government of India, in collaboration with the **All India Ayurvedic Congress**, will organise the **National Arogya Fair 2026** from **25–28 February 2026** at **Shegaon**, **Buldhana district**.

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs Approves Minimum Support Price for Raw Jute for Marketing Season 2026–27

- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, has approved the **Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Raw Jute for the Marketing Season 2026–27**.

Sikkim to Rename Pakyong Airport After Freedom Fighter Trilochan Pokhrel

- **Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang** announced that **Pakyong Airport**, the only airport in the Himalayan state, will be **renamed after freedom fighter Trilochan Pokhrel**.

India Launches Zero Prize for Verified Pollution Reduction

- **India has launched its first-ever results-based environmental award**, the **Zero Prize**, with a total corpus of **Rs 5 crore**, aimed at rewarding scientifically verified reduction in pollution.

CBDC-Based Food Subsidy Distribution Pilot Launched under PMGKAY in Puducherry

- The Government of India launched a **CBDC-based Food Subsidy Distribution Pilot** under the **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)** in **Puducherry**.

President Droupadi Murmu Flies LCH 'Prachand' in Historic Sortie

- **Droupadi Murmu** flew a **25-minute sortie** in the **Light Combat Helicopter** (LCH) **'Prachand'** near the India–Pakistan border in **Jaisalmer, Rajasthan**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Launch Nationwide HPV Vaccination Campaign

- **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** will launch the nationwide **HPV vaccination campaign** from **Ajmer**.

Haryana to Launch CM Shri Schools on PM Shri Model

- **Haryana Education Minister Mahipal Dhanda** announced the launch of **CM Shri Schools** on the lines of **PM Shri Schools** during the Budget Session of the Haryana Vidhan Sabha.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

UN Environment Programme Releases "State of Finance for Nature 2026" Report Highlighting Global Environmental Finance Imbalance

- The **UN Environment Programme (UNEP)** released **The State of Finance for Nature 2026** report, highlighting a stark imbalance in global environmental financing.

United States to Launch $12-Billion Critical Rare Minerals Reserve to Curb Dependence on China

- The **United States** announced plans to create a **$12-billion critical rare minerals stockpile** to reduce **dependence on China** for key resources.

Spain Becomes First European Country to Ban Social Media for Children Under 16, Second Globally After Australia

- **Spain** has announced a **nationwide ban** on **social media access** for **children under the age of 16**, becoming the **second country globally** after **Australia** and the **first in Europe** to impose such a restriction.

United States Congress Approves $200 Million Security Aid for Baltic Nations Amid Rising Russian Activity

- The **United States Congress** approved a **$200 million security assistance package** for the **Baltic nations** amid intensified **Russian military activity** along **NATO's eastern flank**.

New York City,United States of America Becomes Member of World Health Organization's Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network

- **New York City,United States of America (USA)** joined the **World Health Organization (WHO)**'s **Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN)**, strengthening global public health cooperation.

Union Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar's United States of America Visit Highlights, February 2–4, 2026

- **Union Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar**, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), visited the **United States of America (USA)** from **February 2–4, 2026** to participate in the **Critical Minerals Ministerial Meeting** in Washington D.C.

India and United States of America Agree on Interim Trade Agreement Framework Ahead of Full Bilateral Deal

- **India** and the **United States of America (USA)** agreed on a framework for an **Interim Trade**

Agreement (ITA), marking a major step towards a full **USA-India Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA)**.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Official Two-Day Visit to Malaysia on February 7–8, 2026

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** visited **Malaysia** on a **two-day official trip** from **February 7–8, 2026**, at the invitation of **Malaysian PM Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim**.

India and Bhutan Review Steps to Strengthen Power Sector Cooperation

- **India and Bhutan** reviewed and reaffirmed their long-standing partnership in the **power sector**, focusing on **hydropower**, **cross-border transmission**, and future energy cooperation.

External Affairs Minister Jaishankar Emphasizes Global Collaboration on Critical Minerals at First Ministerial

- **External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar** highlighted the risks of **excessive concentration** of **critical minerals** and stressed the need to **de-risk global supply chains** through **structured international cooperation**.

India and Seychelles Adopt SESEL Framework to Strengthen Sustainability, Economic Growth, and Security

- **India and Seychelles** adopted a **Joint Vision for Sustainability, Economic Growth and Security through Enhanced Linkages (SESEL)** during talks between **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and **President Patrick Herminie**.

India Signs Social Security Agreement with United Kingdom to Facilitate Cross-Border Workforce

- **India** signed a bilateral **Social Security Agreement (SSA)** with the **United Kingdom (UK)** focusing on **social security contributions** for cross-border workers.

Reunion Island's Piton de la Fournaise Volcano Erupts Again in 2026

- **Piton de la Fournaise** volcano on **Reunion Island** erupted for the **second time in 2026**, marking a period of **renewed activity**.

Australia Allocates US$2.8 Billion for Nuclear Submarine Facility under AUKUS Pact

- **Australia** announced an initial investment of **US$2.8 billion (AU$3.9 billion)** to build a new facility for **nuclear-powered submarines** under the **AUKUS security pact**.

du, Datawave Networks Join Hands to Deploy Singapore-India-Gulf Submarine Cable System in UAE

- Dubai-based telecom **du** signed a **strategic partnership** with Cyprus-based **Datawave Networks** Limited to invest in the **Singapore-India-Gulf (SING)** submarine cable system.

India and Nepal Sign Agreement for Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters

- The **Government of India (GoI)** signed a **Mutual Legal Assistance Agreement on Criminal**

Matters with **Nepal** in **Kathmandu, Nepal**.

Switzerland to Host 2027 AI Summit in Geneva; UAE to Host 2028 Edition

- **Switzerland** will host the **2027 AI Summit** in **Geneva**, while the **UAE** is set to host the **2028 edition**, demonstrating **global continuity** in **AI governance efforts**.

Japan Scraps Arakurayama Sengen Park Cherry Blossom Festival Over Tourist Misconduct Near Mount Fuji

- **Japan** cancelled the decade-old **Cherry Blossom Festival** at **Arakurayama Sengen Park**, **Fujiyoshida**, due to **overtourism** and its negative impact on local residents.

India and Israel Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Boost Defence Collaboration and Technology Sharing

- **India and Israel** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to strengthen **defence cooperation**, focusing on **joint seminars**, **industrial collaboration**, and **technology sharing**.

India Becomes Part of United States-Led Pax Silica Coalition to Boost AI and Semiconductor Supply Chains

- **India** formally joined as the **12th country** in the **USA-led Pax Silica Coalition**, a strategic alliance focused on **secure**, **resilient**, and **innovation-driven supply chains** for **critical minerals**, **semiconductors**, and **Artificial Intelligence (AI) infrastructure**.

South African Cheetah Gamini Gives Birth to Three Cubs at Kuno National Park

- Female cheetah **Gamini**, translocated from **South Africa**, gave birth to **three cubs** at **Kuno National Park**, Madhya Pradesh, marking the **9th successful cheetah litter** at the park.

European Union Opens Legal Gateway Office in New Delhi to Facilitate Legal Migration to EU Countries

- The **European Union (EU)** launched the **European Legal Gateway Office** in **New Delhi, India**, to serve as a **one-stop hub** for facilitating **safe and legal migration** of Indian **students, researchers, and professionals** to EU member countries.

South Korea's Former President Yoon Suk Yeol Gets Life Imprisonment for 2024 Martial Law Order

- Former South Korean President **Yoon Suk Yeol** was sentenced to **life imprisonment** for imposing **martial law** in **2024**.

India and Kenya collaborate to introduce DigiLocker pilot in Kenya

- **India and Kenya** signed an **Implementation Framework Agreement** to launch a **DigiLocker pilot project** in **Kenya**.

Poland's withdrawal from 1997 Ottawa Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty comes into force

- **Poland** has officially **withdrawn from the Ottawa Convention** (1997 Anti-Personnel Mine Ban

Treaty), with the exit taking legal effect.

United States President Trump's Board of Peace holds first meeting on Gaza reconstruction; India attends as observer

- United States (US) President **Donald Trump's "Board of Peace"** held its first meeting in **Washington, D.C.**, to discuss **Gaza's reconstruction**, with **India** attending only as an **observer**, reflecting a **cautious diplomatic approach**.

President of the Federative Republic of Brazil Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's State Visit to India from 18–22 February 2026

- **Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva**, President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, undertook a **State Visit to India** from **18–22 February 2026** at the invitation of **Narendra Modi**.

Saudi Arabia Bans Poultry & Egg Imports from 40 Countries Including India

- **Saudi Arabia** has imposed a **complete ban on poultry meat and table egg imports from 40 countries**, including **India** and **Bangladesh**, to safeguard public health.

Indian Mountaineer from Arunachal Pradesh Successfully Summits Mount Aconcagua — Highest Peak of the Western Hemisphere

- A six-member team from the **Nehru Institute of Mountaineering (NIM)**, Uttarkashi, and the **Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering and Winter Sports (JIM&WS)** successfully summited **Mount Aconcagua** in **Argentina**, marking a major achievement for Indian mountaineering.

BANKING AND BUSINESS

Reserve Bank of India Imposes ₹2.70 Lakh Penalty on Northern Arc Capital Limited

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a **monetary penalty** of **₹2.70 lakh** on **Northern Arc Capital Limited**.

Nirmala Sitharaman Becomes Longest-Serving Continuous Finance Minister, to Present Ninth Straight Union Budget on 1 February 2026

- **Nirmala Sitharaman** is the **longest-serving Finance Minister** in **continuous office**, set to present her **ninth consecutive Union Budget** on **1 February 2026**.

World Bank Pledges $8–10 Billion Annual Financing to India for Next Five Years

- **India** and the **World Bank Group (WBG)** announced a new **Country Partnership Framework (CPF)** to support India's next phase of growth and its **Viksit Bharat**

State Bank of India Unveils CHAKRA to Mobilise ₹100 Trillion Investment in Sunrise Sectors Over

Five Years

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** launched **CHAKRA (Centre of Excellence)** to finance **sunrise sectors** vital for India's **economic transformation** and **sustainable growth**.

Slice Launches India's First Fully UPI-Integrated Digital Banking Platform

- **Slice Small Finance Bank (Slice SFB)** introduced three financial products: **Digital Savings Account** linked to the **Repo rate**, **UPI-integrated credit card**, and **digital Fixed Deposits (FDs)**.

United Arab Emirates Central Bank Approves Country's First USD-Linked Stablecoin

- The **Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates (UAE)** approved the country's **first USD-backed stablecoin**, marking a major step in regulating **digital assets** and **payment tokens**.

Paysharp Gets RBI's Payment Aggregator–Physical (PA-P) Licence to Offer Offline Payment Services

- **Fintech startup Paysharp** received the **Payment Aggregator–Physical (PA-P)** licence from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, enabling it to operate as a **physical (offline) payment aggregator** and enhance its payment service offerings.

State Bank of India Enhances Trade Finance and Global Banking Services with GTFC Launch in Kolkata

- **State Bank of India (SBI)**, India's **largest Public Sector Bank (PSB)**, launched a **Global Trade Finance Centre (GTFC)** in **Kolkata, West Bengal**, to strengthen **trade finance** and **global banking operations**.

Union Budget 2026-27 Proposes Self-Help Entrepreneur Marts to Boost Women-Led Enterprises and Strengthen SHG Ecosystem

- The **Union Budget 2026-27** announced the establishment of **Self-Help Entrepreneur (SHE) Marts** as **community-owned retail outlets** to strengthen **women-led enterprises** and deepen the **self-help group (SHG)** ecosystem across states.

Union Budget 2026-27 Allocates ₹73,990.94 Crore to DoT to Revive Telecom Infrastructure and Strengthen BSNL

- The **Union Budget 2026-27** allocated **₹73,990.94 crore** to the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)**, focusing on **telecom infrastructure revival** and strengthening state-owned **BSNL**.

Union Budget 2026-27 Proposes Excise-Duty Exemption on Biogas Component in Blended CNG to Boost Renewable Gas Use

- The **Union Budget 2026-27** proposed an **excise-duty exemption** on the **biogas** or **compressed biogas (CBG)** component in **blended compressed natural gas (CNG)** to promote **renewable gas use** and reduce India's **dependence on imported fossil fuels**.

Union Budget 2026-27 Promotes Astronomy Through New Telescopes and Planetarium Initiatives

- The **Union Budget 2026-27** announced a **major expansion** of India's **ground-based astronomy infrastructure**, with plans to **establish and upgrade four key facilities** across **Ladakh and southern India**.

Government Notifies Baggage Rules 2026, New Customs Regulations, and Master Circular

- The **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)** has notified the **Baggage Rules, 2026**, along with **Customs Baggage (Declaration and Processing) Regulations, 2026** and a **Master Circular** to simplify **international passenger clearance**.

Secretary, Department of Financial Services Delivers Keynote at PSB Alliance Annual Strategy Meet 2026 in New Delhi

- The **PSB Alliance Annual Strategy Meet 2026** was held in **New Delhi**, where the **Secretary, Department of Financial Services (DFS)** highlighted that **PSB Alliance** has evolved into a **strategic partner** by combining **technology, data, and purpose** to build an **inclusive and innovative banking sector**.

Union Government to Table Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2025 in Budget Session from March, 2026

- The **Union government** plans to introduce the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2025** in the **second half of the Budget session** of Parliament beginning **March 9, 2026**.

Central Bank of India Partners with HSBC Asset Management to Offer Mutual Fund Products to Customers

- **Central Bank of India (CBI)**, a leading **Public Sector Bank (PSB)**, signed a **distribution agreement** with **HSBC Asset Management (India) Private Limited** to offer **Mutual Fund (MF) products** to its customers.

Matrixport Secures In-Principle Regulatory Approval to Operate Financial Services in Bhutan's GMC

- **Matrixport**, a leading **digital asset financial services platform**, received **In-Principle Approval (IPA)** for its Bhutan-based entity **Matrix Bhutan Pte Ltd** from the **Gelephu Financial Services Office (GFSO)**.

National Statistical Office to Launch NHIS and ASISSE from April 2026 to Strengthen India's Statistical System

- The **National Statistical Office (NSO)** under the **Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** will launch two major national surveys—the **National Household Income Survey (NHIS)** and the **Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE)**—

from **April 2026** to strengthen India's statistical system.

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation Revises Consumer Price Index Base Year to 2024, Lowers Food & Beverages Weight to 36.75%

- **The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** has revised the **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** base year to **2024**, reducing the weight of **Food & Beverages** from **45.86% to 36.75%**.

Tripura Gramin Bank Introduces India's First RRB Co-Branded RuPay Credit Card in Partnership withPunjab National Bank

- **Tripura Gramin Bank (TGB)**, in collaboration with its sponsor bank **Punjab National Bank (PNB)**, launched a **Co-branded RuPay Credit Card**.

Punjab National Bank Launches 'LUXURA Metal Credit Card' on Visa Infinite Platform for Premium Customers

- **Punjab National Bank (PNB)**, a leading **Public Sector Bank (PSB)**, launched the **'LUXURA Metal Credit Card'** on the **Visa Infinite platform** targeting **high-net-worth and lifestyle-driven customers**.

World Bank Sanctions USD 830 Million Funding for PM-SETU to Modernise India's Industrial Training Institutes

- The **World Bank Group (WBG)** approved an **USD 830 million loan** for India's **Pradhan Mantri – Skilling and Employability Transformation Through Upgraded Industrial Training Institutes (PM-SETU)** Programme to revamp **Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs)** and boost youth employment opportunities.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Tables 16th Finance Commission Report; States' Tax Share Retained at 41% for 2026–31

- **Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** tabled the **16th Finance Commission (16th FC)** report in Parliament alongside the **Union Budget 2026–27**.

Goldman Sachs Raises India's Calendar Year 2026 Gross Domestic Product Growth Projection to 6.9%

- **Goldman Sachs** upgraded **India's CY26 (Calendar Year 2026)** real **Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast** by **20 basis points (bps)** from **6.7% to 6.9%**.

Reserve Bank of India Levies ₹18.76 Lakh Compounding Penalty on One 97 Communications for Foreign Exchange Management Act Breach

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a **compounding fee of ₹18.76 lakh** on **One 97 Communications Limited (OCL)**, the parent company of Paytm Payments Services Limited

(PPSL).

Equitas Small Finance Bank Enters Strategic Bancassurance Tie-Up with Bharti AXA Life to Boost Insurance Reach in India

- **Equitas Small Finance Bank (Equitas SFB)** signed a **strategic bancassurance partnership** with **Bharti AXA Life Insurance**, backed by Bharti Enterprises and France's AXA, to expand life insurance reach across India.

Reserve Bank of India's Gold Purchases Plunge to 4 Tonnes in 2025 from 73 Tonnes in 2024 Due to High Prices

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** bought only **4 tonnes of gold in 2025**, significantly lower than **73 tonnes in 2024**, mainly due to **very high gold prices**.

100% Foreign Direct Investment in Insurance Sector Allowed as Insurance Laws (Amendment) Act, 2025 Comes into Force from 5 February 2026

- The **Insurance Laws (Amendment) Act, 2025** came into force on **5 February 2026**, allowing **100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** in the insurance sector.

SBI Mutual Fund Launches InvesTap Nxt, AI-Powered Next-Generation Digital Investment Platform

- **SBI Mutual Fund (SBIMF)** launched **InvesTap Nxt**, a next-generation **digital investment platform** designed to make investing simpler and smarter.

State Bank of India Secures $1 Billion Social Loan from Japan's MUFG

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** raised a **$1 billion** (₹7,100 crore) **social loan** from Japan's **Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group (MUFG)**.

Axis Bank Introduces "Rooftop Solar Finance" to Support Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises in Adopting Solar Energy Systems

- **Axis Bank** launched **"Rooftop Solar Finance"**, a new financing product aimed at helping Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (**MSMEs**) adopt solar energy systems on their commercial rooftops.

Alwar Becomes First District in India to Attain Complete Insurance Coverage

- **Alwar district** in Rajasthan became the **first district in India** to achieve **100% insurance coverage** under the **"Insurance for All by 2047"**

Reserve Bank of India Announces Compensation Framework of Up to ₹25,000 for Victims of Small-Value Digital Frauds

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** announced a **compensation framework** for victims of **small-value digital frauds**, offering relief of up to **₹25,000 per customer**.

Reserve Bank of India to Double Collateral-Free Loan Limit for Micro, Small, and Medium

Enterprises to ₹20 Lakh from April 1, 2026

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has announced plans to **double the limit** for **collateral-free loans for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** from **₹10 lakh to ₹20 lakh**, effective **April 1, 2026**, to boost credit access for the micro, small, and medium sector.

Reserve Bank of India Removes ₹2.5 Lakh Crore Investment Cap for Foreign Portfolio Investors under Voluntary Retention Route

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has removed the **₹2.5 lakh crore investment limit** for **Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs)** under the **Voluntary Retention Route (VRR)**.

India Contributes USD 35.18 Million to UN 2026 Regular Budget, Enters 'Honour Roll'

- The **Government of India (GoI)** paid **USD 35.18 million** to the **United Nations (UN) Regular Budget** for **2026**.

Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation, With Reserve Bank of India Approval, Introduces Risk-Based Premium Framework for Deposit Insurance

- The **Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)**, with the approval of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, has issued guidelines for implementing a **Risk-Based Premium (RBP)** framework for deposit insurance.

Reserve Bank of India Releases Draft Rules for Credit Index and Total Return Swap Derivatives on Corporate Bonds

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has released **draft rules** for **derivatives on credit indices** and **total return swaps (TRS)** linked to **corporate bonds**.

Reserve Bank of India Proposes Exemption from Mandatory Registration for non-banking financial companies with Assets Below ₹1,000 Crore

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has proposed **exempting non-banking financial companies (NBFCs)** with assets **below ₹1,000 crore** from **mandatory registration**, citing their **low systemic risk**.

Key Highlights of Reserve Bank of India's 6th Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy for FY 2025–26

- The **59th Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** meeting (6th bi-monthly of FY 2025–26) was held from **4–6 February 2026** under the chairmanship of **Sanjay Malhotra**, Governor, **RBI**.

Reserve Bank of India Imposes ₹1 Lakh Penalty on Vinayaka Capsec Private Limited

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a **monetary penalty of ₹1 lakh** on **Vinayaka Capsec Private Limited**.

Reserve Bank of India Announces Four Measures to Strengthen Urban Co-operative Banks,

Boosting Credit and Capacity

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** announced **four regulatory and developmental measures** to strengthen **Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs)**, focusing on **credit expansion**, efficiency, and **capacity building**.

Kotak Mahindra Bank Becomes First in India to Grant Fully Digital Foreign Portfolio Investor Licence

- **Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL)** became the **first custodian** in India to issue a **Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) licence** and complete the entire onboarding process through **electronic signatures (e-signature)**.

HDFC Life Forms Strategic Partnership with Muthoot FinCorp, Flagship of Muthoot Pappachan Group

- **HDFC Life** has entered into a **strategic partnership** with **Muthoot FinCorp Limited.**, the flagship company of the **Muthoot Pappachan Group**.

Reserve Bank of India Introduces Reforms to Boost Cooperative Banks' Financial Stability, Governance, and Digital Capabilities

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, in consultation with the **Government of India**, announced that **loans sanctioned by banks** to **National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)**e.f. **January 19, 2026**, for **on-lending to cooperative societies** are eligible for classification as **priority sector lending (PSL)** under the respective categories.

Historic Low: Gross NPAs of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) Fall to 2.15% for Domestic Operations as of September 2025

- The **gross NPA ratio** of **Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs)** has continuously declined over the last eight financial years, reaching a **historic low of 2.15%** as on **30 September 2025**, lower than the 2010–11 level.

Reserve Bank of India Increases Collateral-Free Loan Limit for micro, small and medium enterprises to ₹20 Lakh

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued the **Lending to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) Sector (Amendment) Directions, 2026** on **9 February 2026**, under **Sections 21 and 35A** of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.

Reserve Bank of India Launches Financial Literacy Week 2026 Highlighting Importance of KYC Compliance

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has been observing **Financial Literacy Week (FLW)** annually since **2016** to promote financial awareness among citizens.

Reserve Bank of India Proposes Banks to Lend to REITs with Prudential Safeguards to Boost Real Estate Financing

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has allowed banks to **lend directly to Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)** with **prudential safeguards** to deepen credit access for the real estate sector.

Reserve Bank of India Grants In-Principle Approval to Transcorp International for Centralized Payment Systems

- **Transcorp International Limited** received **in-principle approval** from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to participate in **Centralized Payment Systems (CPS)**, marking a major development in its banking services infrastructure.

IIFL Capital Secures SEBI Nod to Set Up Wholly Owned Subsidiary at GIFT IFSC

- **IIFL Capital Services Limited** received **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) approval** to establish a **Wholly Owned Subsidiary (WOS)** at **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City – International Financial Services Centre (GIFT IFSC)**.

Asian Development Bank Approves USD 182 Million Funding to Strengthen Assam's Flood and Riverbank Erosion Resilience

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** approved **USD 182 million** in **additional financing** to expand support for strengthening **Assam's resilience** to chronic flooding and riverbank erosion along the **Brahmaputra River**.

Moody's Forecasts India's FY27 GDP Growth at 6.4%, Leading G20 Economies

- **Moody's Ratings**, an American rating agency, released the report titled **'Banking System Outlook – India: Outlook stable, backed by strong economic growth and robust bank fundamentals'**.

Reserve Bank of India Issues Draft Amendments for Lending Rules of Urban Co-operative Banks

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued **draft amendment directions** for **Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs)** to revise norms on **unsecured loans** and **concentration risk**.

Axis Bank Introduces Gold Loan Scheme for micro, small, and medium enterprises

- **Axis Bank** has launched a **gold loan product** specifically targeting **micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs)**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Directs Alternative Investment Funds to Submit Unit Net Asset Values to Depositories by May 1, 2026

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has directed **Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)** to report the **Net Asset Value (NAV)** of their units to **depositories** by **May 1, 2026**.

Reserve Bank of India Forms Committee to Review Regulatory Framework for Business

Correspondents

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has constituted a **committee** to review the **regulatory framework** for **business correspondents (BCs)**.

FDI Inflows into Banking Sector Dropped to USD 115 Million in FY25: Ministry of Finance

- Union Minister of State (**MoS**) **Pankaj Chaudhary**, Ministry of Finance (**MoF**), informed the **Rajya Sabha** that **FDI equity inflows** in the **banking sector** declined to **USD 115 million** in **FY25**.

Reserve Bank of India to Review and Standardise Rules for Recovery Agents in Banks, NBFCs, and Digital Lending

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** will review and **harmonise regulations** governing the engagement of **recovery agents** by **banks**,**Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)**, and **digital lending entities**.

PB Pay Gets Reserve Bank of India Approval to Operate as Payment Aggregator

- **PB Pay Private Limited**, a **wholly-owned subsidiary** of **PB Fintech Limited** (parent company of **Policybazaar** and **Paisabazaar**), received a **Certificate of Authorisation (CoA)** from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to operate as a **Payment Aggregator (PA)**.

Reserve Bank of India Proposes Kisan Credit Card Overhaul with Extended 6-Year Tenure and Increased Loan Limits

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** is set to issue **revised guidelines** for banks under the **Kisan Credit Card (KCC)** scheme to strengthen support for the farm sector.

BOBCARD Launches Braille-Enabled Premier Credit Card in Manipal, Karnataka

- **BOBCARD Limited**, the credit card issuing arm of **Bank of Baroda (BoB)**, introduced a **Braille-enabled** version of its **Premier Credit Card** at **Manipal, Karnataka**.

Punjab National Bank Announces 'Soldierathon 2026' Themed Half Marathon in New Delhi

- **Punjab National Bank (PNB)**, a leading **Public Sector Bank (PSB)**, announced **'PNB Soldierathon 2026'**, a themed **half marathon**, at its **Corporate Office** in **Dwarka, New Delhi**.

EximPe Receives Reserve Bank of India Approval as Payment Aggregator-Cross Border

- **EximPe**, a **Singapore-headquartered** cross-border payments fintech, secured final **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Payment Aggregator-Cross Border (PA-CB)** authorisation.

Shri M. Nagaraju Chairs Meeting in New Delhi to Formulate Roadmap for Financial Inclusion 2.0

- **Shri M. Nagaraju**, **Secretary**, **Department of Financial Services (DFS)**, Ministry of Finance, chaired a meeting in **New Delhi** to deliberate on the preparation of the **roadmap for Financial Inclusion 2.0**.

Reserve Bank of India Reports Continued Growth in Digital Payments for Six Months Ending September 2025

- The **Reserve Bank of India** reported further improvement in **Digital Payments** during the **six months ending September 2025**, continuing the upward growth trend.

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation unveils India's first retail inflation figures under the new CPI series (Base Year: 2024=100)

- **The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** released India's first retail inflation data under the new **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** series (**Base Year: 2024=100**).

NPCI International Signs Pact with PayNet Malaysia to Enable QR-Based Merchant Payments Between India and Malaysia

- **NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL)**, the international arm of **NPCI**, signed an agreement with **Payments Network Malaysia Sdn Bhd (PayNet)** to enable **QR-based merchant payments** between **India and Malaysia**.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launches Bharat-VISTAAR, a multilingual AI platform integrating AgriStack and ICAR agricultural systems

- Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** announced the launch of **Bharat-VISTAAR** (**Virtually Integrated System to Access Agricultural Resources**), a **multilingual AI tool** integrating **AgriStack portals** and **ICAR** agricultural practice packages with AI systems.

Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance Releases Report on Socio-Economic Impact of RuPay Debit Card & Low-Value BHIM-UPI (P2M) Incentive Scheme at Chintan Shivir 2026

- The **Department of Financial Services (DFS)**, Ministry of Finance, released a report titled **"Socio-Economic Impact Analysis of the Incentive Scheme for Promotion of RuPay Debit Card and low-value BHIM-UPI (Person-to-Merchant) transactions"** during **Chintan Shivir** (13–14 February 2026).

Indian Overseas Bank Signs Memorandum of Understanding with Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode to Develop Customised Training Programmes for Senior Leadership

- **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Indian Institute of Management-Kozhikode (IIM-K)**, Kerala to collaborate on the **design, delivery, and certification** of customised training programmes and workshops for IOB's **senior leadership and executives**.

Reserve Bank of India Reinstates Default Loss Guarantees for NBFCs, Reversing May 2025 Provisioning Norms

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has **restored the use of Default Loss Guarantees**

(DLGs) for **Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs)**, reversing the stricter provisioning norms imposed in **May 2025**.

Reserve Bank of India Permits Bank Loans to National Cooperative Development Corporation for On-Lending to Cooperatives to Qualify as Priority Sector Lending

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has allowed **bank loans** to the **National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)** for **on-lending** to cooperative societies to be classified as **Priority Sector Lending (PSL)** from **January 19, 2026**.

DBS First in Asia-Pacific to Pilot Visa Intelligent Commerce for Everyday Payments

- **DBS Bank Limited**, Southeast Asia's largest lender, entered into a **strategic partnership** with **Visa** to drive the future of **agent-initiated payments** under a joint pilot of **Visa Intelligent Commerce (VIC)**.

Reserve Bank of India Imposes Rs 1.35 Crore Penalties on 5 Banks and Non-Banking Financial Companies for Regulatory Non-Compliance

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed **monetary penalties** totaling **Rs 1.35 crore** on **5 financial institutions (FIs)**, including **3 banks—CSB Bank Limited**, **Bank of Maharashtra (BoM)**, **DCB Bank Limited**—and **2 Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)—IIFL Finance Limited** and **Navi Finserv Limited**.

Union Minister Amit Shah Launches India's First CBDC-Based Digital Food Currency Pilot under PDS in Gandhinagar, Gujarat

- **Union Minister Amit Shah**, Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) and Ministry of Cooperation (MoC), launched **India's first Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)-based Digital Food Currency pilot** under the **Public Distribution System (PDS)** in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.

Reserve Bank of India proposes mandatory reporting of OTC forex and interest rate derivatives by AD Cat-I banks

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has proposed **mandatory reporting** of **Over-the-Counter (OTC)** foreign exchange and interest rate derivative contracts by **Authorised Dealer Category-I (AD Cat-I) banks**.

National Stock Exchange Gets Securities and Exchange Board of India Nod to Introduce Indian Natural Gas Futures

- The **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** has received approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to launch **Indian Natural Gas futures**.

Reserve Bank of India revises External Commercial Borrowings rules, allows companies to raise

up to $1 billion

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** released the **final guidelines** on **External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs)**, aiming to **rationalise fundraising** through the route.

India's Wholesale Price Index inflation climbs to 1.81% in January 2026, marking a 10-month high

- **India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation** rose to a **10-month high of 1.81% (YoY)** in **January 2026**, up from **0.83% in December 2025**.

16th Finance Commission boosts Urban Local Government grants by 230% to ₹3.56 trillion

- The **16th Finance Commission (2025–30)** has increased **grants to Urban Local Governments (ULGs)** by **230%**, allocating **₹3.56 trillion**, up from ₹1.55 trillion under the 15th FC.

IDFC First Bank Introduces FD-Backed 'Hello Cashback Credit Card' for First-Time Users

- **IDFC First Bank** launched **'Hello Cashback Credit Card'**, a **Fixed Deposit (FD)-backed** credit card aimed at **first-time users** and individuals with **no credit history**.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development and National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Launch Price Protection Scheme to Help Farmers Hedge Against Price Volatility

- **The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** and **National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX)** launched a **Price Protection Scheme** to help farmers manage **price volatility** through **put options trading** in **turmeric, jeera, and dhaniya (coriander)**.

Mastercard Conducts India's First AI-Powered Fully Authenticated Agentic Commerce Transaction at India AI Impact Summit 2026

- **Mastercard** completed **India's first fully authenticated agentic commerce transaction** at the **India AI Impact Summit 2026**, showcasing **AI-led payments**.

Airtel Money Gets Reserve Bank of India Approval to Operate as Type II Non-Deposit NBFC-ICC

- **Airtel Money**, a subsidiary of **Bharti Airtel**, has received a **Certificate of Registration (CoR)** from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to operate as a **Type II – Non-Deposit Taking Non-Banking Financial Company – Investment and Credit Company (Type II NBFC-ND (ICC))**.

Seven public sector banks Implement 32 Generative AI Applications under EASE 8.0 Banking Reforms

- **Seven public sector banks (PSBs)** have deployed **32 generative AI use cases** under the **EASE 8.0 programme** as part of the government's banking reform push.

Axis Bank Partners with IndiGo to Launch Co-branded Travel and Lifestyle Credit Cards

- **Axis Bank Limited**, India's 3rd largest private sector bank, partnered with **IndiGo (InterGlobe Aviation Limited)** to launch two co-branded travel and lifestyle credit cards — **IndiGo Axis Bank**

Credit Card and **IndiGo Axis Bank Premium Credit Card**.

ASK Asset & Wealth Management Gets SEBI Nod to Enter Mutual Fund Business

- **ASK Asset & Wealth Management Group**, a leading financial services company, received **regulatory approval from Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** to operate as an **investment manager** for the **Mutual Fund (MF) business** in India.

Reserve Bank of India to Make Unique Transaction Identifier Mandatory for Over-the-Counter Derivatives from January 1, 2027

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has mandated the use of **Unique Transaction Identifier (UTI)** for all **Over-the-Counter (OTC) derivative transactions** from **January 01, 2027**, deferring from the earlier proposed date of **April 01, 2026**.

Union Budget 2026–27 Allocates ₹5.01 Lakh Crore to Gender Budget, Up 11.55% from Previous Year

- **Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** presented the **Union Budget 2026-27**, highlighting a significant rise in **gender-focused allocations**.

India Raises Climate Action Spending to 5.6% of Gross Domestic Product, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Confirms

- **Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** stated that **India** has increased its **climate action spending** to nearly **5.6% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**, up from **3.7 per cent** six years ago.

Reserve Bank of India Imposes ₹38.60 Lakh Penalty on UCO Bank for Regulatory Non-Compliance

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a **₹38.60 lakh monetary penalty** on **UCO Bank** for **non-compliance** with regulatory directions.

National Payments Corporation of India Launches UPI One World Wallet for International Delegates at India AI Impact Summit 2026

- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** launched the **'UPI One World' Wallet** for **international delegates** attending the **India AI Impact Summit 2026** in **New Delhi**.

Gujarat International Finance Tec-City City Signs Memorandum of Understanding with AJNIFM to Boost Financial Education and FinTech Collaboration

- **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management (AJNIFM)**, Faridabad, under the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**, in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.

Ministry of Commerce & Industry Updates Base Year of Merchandise Trade Indices to 2022–23

- The **Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S)** under the **Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MoC&I)** revised the **base year** of India's **merchandise**

trade indices from **2012–13** to **2022–23**.

ICICI Prudential Launches India's First NPS-Based Swasthya Pension Scheme with Healthcare Benefits

- **ICICI Prudential Pension Funds Management Company Limited** launched India's first **Swasthya Scheme** named **"ICICI PF NPS Swasthya Equity Plus"**, integrating **retirement planning** with **healthcare benefits** under the **National Pension System (NPS)**.

World Bank Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency Issues USD 197.67 Million Guarantee to Support SBI Rooftop Solar Refinancing via Citibank

- The **Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)**, the guarantee arm of the **World Bank Group (WBG)**, issued a **USD 197.67 million guarantee** for **five years** to **Citibank N.A.** for its **non-shareholder loan** to the **State Bank of India (SBI)**.

Reserve Bank of India Establishes High-Security Data Centre in Odisha to Mitigate Threat and Seismic Risks

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has launched its second **high-security Data Centre** in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**, to strengthen the **safety, resilience, and continuity** of critical financial infrastructure.

ICRA Projects India's Gross Domestic Product Growth to Moderate to 7.2% in Q3 FY26

- **ICRA Limited** (formerly Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency of India Limited) has projected that **India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth** will moderate to **7.2%** in **Q3 FY26** (**Oct–Dec 2025**) from **8.2%** in **Q2 FY26**.

Reserve Bank of India raises banks' acquisition financing exposure limit to 20% of Tier-1 capital

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** increased the aggregate exposure limit for **acquisition financing** by banks from **10% to 20%** of **Tier-1 capital**, allowing higher participation in **M&A transactions**.

Reserve Bank of India revises NBFC registration norms under NBFC Amendment Directions 2026

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued the **NBFC Amendment Directions, 2026**, effective from **1 April 2026**, to revise **registration norms** and regulatory treatment for **Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)** without **public funds** and **customer interface**.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launches NMP 2.0 asset monetisation pipeline in New Delhi

- **Nirmala Sitharaman**, Union Minister of Finance (MoF), launched the second phase of the National Monetisation Pipeline called **National Monetisation Pipeline 2.0 (NMP 2.0)** in **New Delhi**.

New India Co-operative Bank Limited removed from Second Schedule of the Reserve Bank of India

Act, 1934 from February 2026

- **New India Co-operative Bank Limited., Mumbai**,**Maharashtra** has been removed from the **Second Schedule** of the **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**, which lists **scheduled banks** in India, effective from **February 2026**.

Reserve Bank of India Issues Regulatory Guidelines for Bank Lending to Real Estate Investment Trusts

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** released **draft amendment directions** across five regulatory frameworks covering **commercial banks**, **small finance banks (SFBs)**, and **All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs)** regarding credit facilities, concentration risk management, and financial disclosure norms.

Reserve Bank of India revises Lead Bank Scheme to boost priority sector credit flow at district level

- The **Reserve Bank of India** issued **revised guidelines** on the **Lead Bank Scheme (LBS)**, superseding earlier instructions to strengthen **credit coordination** and **financial inclusion**

Reserve Bank of India proposes stricter norms for loan recovery agents to protect borrowers from harassment

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued **draft amendment directions** to standardize **loan recovery practices** and regulate the conduct of **recovery agents** across regulated financial entities.

Reserve Bank of India issues revised Kisan Credit Card guidelines to boost agricultural credit access

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued **draft revised guidelines** for **Kisan Credit Card (KCC)** to expand coverage, improve **agricultural financing**, and streamline loan operations.

Reserve Bank of India tightens norms to curb mis-selling of financial products through new draft marketing and sales rules

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued draft **Responsible Business Conduct Amendment Directions, 2026** under **Section 35A** of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**, to strengthen **customer protection** in financial product marketing and sales.

Slice Small Finance Bank Appoints Rajan Bajaj as MD & CEO

- **Slice Small Finance Bank** has appointed its founder **Rajan Bajaj** as the new **Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**.

Asian Development Bank Signs USD 108 Million Financing Deal with Aavas Financiers Limited

- **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** signed a **senior secured debt financing package of up to**

USD 108 million (about ₹983 crore) with **Aavas Financiers Limited**.

Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited Raises USD 400 Million External Commercial Borrowing from Japan's SMBC and MUFG Bank

- **Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited (IRFC)**, a **Schedule 'A' Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)** under the **Ministry of Railways (MoR)**, signed a loan agreement with a **consortium of Japanese banks**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Proposes T+1 Pricing System for ETFs to Improve Price Alignment and Reduce Lag

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** issued a consultation paper, proposing to shift **Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs)** to a **T+1 reference price system** to reduce pricing lag and improve alignment with underlying asset movements.

State Bank of India Becomes India's 4th Most Valuable Company, Surpasses Tata Consultancy Services in Market Cap

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** became India's **4th most valuable company** with a market capitalization of **₹10.9 lakh crore**, surpassing **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)**.

PERSON IN NEWS

17-Year-Old Gujarat Student Aditya Pandya Becomes India's Youngest Male Analog Astronaut After Lunar Habitat Simulation Mission

- **Aditya Pandya**, a **17-year-old** Indian student and young **space technologist** from **Gujarat**, became **India's youngest male analog astronaut** after completing a **lunar habitat simulation mission**.

AWARDS AND HONOUR

Name of the Person / Organisation	Award Name	Key Points
Government of Tamil Nadu / Tamil Film Industry	Tamil Nadu State Film Awards (2016–2022)	Awards announced for 2016–2022; honoured socially conscious Tamil cinema; ceremony scheduled at Kalaivanar

		Arangam, Chennai on 13 February 2026
Gargi	Best Film (First Prize) – Tamil Nadu State Film Awards 2022	Film focused on justice and women's rights; Sai Pallavi won Best Actress
Jai Bhim	Best Film (First Prize) – Tamil Nadu State Film Awards 2021	Recognised for strong social justice and constitutional themes
Dhanush	Best Actor – Tamil Nadu State Film Awards 2018	Won for Vada Chennai
Lokesh Kanagaraj	Best Director – Tamil Nadu State Film Awards 2016	Won for Maanagaram
A. R. Rahman	Best Music Director – Tamil Nadu State Film Awards 2022	Won for Ponniyin Selvan: I
Uttarakhand	Best State for Promotion of Aviation Ecosystem	Awarded at Wings India 2026 for aviation infrastructure, tourism, heli-services and regional connectivity
Billie Eilish	Grammy Award 2026 – Song of the Year	Won for song "Wildflower"
Olivia Dean	Grammy Award 2026 – Best New Artist	Recognised as emerging global music talent
Kendrick Lamar	Grammy Award 2026 – Best Rap Album	Won for album "GNX"; also won multiple rap category awards
Veerabhadran Ramanathan	Crafoord Prize 2026	Honoured for pioneering contributions to climate science and greenhouse gas research

Paradip Port Authority	Swachhata Pakhwada Awards 2025 – First Prize	Recognised as India's cleanest major port for sustainability and cleanliness initiatives
Gyalyum Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck	22nd Upendra Nath Brahma 'Soldier of Humanity' Award 2025	Recognised for humanitarian service, leadership and cultural preservation
Rouble Nagi	Global Teacher Prize 2026	Won at World Government Summit, Dubai; received USD 1 million award
Oil India Limited	FIPI Award 2025 – Oil & Gas Production Company of the Year	Honoured during India Energy Week for strong production performance
Dr Haripriya Aravind and Dr R Venkatesh	Chang-Crandall Humanitarian Award 2026	Doctors from Aravind Eye Care System selected for humanitarian eye care contributions
Shashi Tharoor	Honorary Doctor of Letters (Honoris Causa)	Conferred by St Xavier's University during seventh convocation
Boong	BAFTA Awards 2026 – Best Children's and Family Film	First Indian film to win in this category at the British Academy Film Awards
Our Lady of Grace Cathedral	UNESCO Asia-Pacific Award of Merit 2025	475-year-old cathedral recognised for cultural heritage conservation; only Indian religious site honoured in 2025 edition

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Name of the Person	Appointed As	Succeeds
Sunetra Pawar	Deputy CM, Maharashtra	Ajit Pawar
Sarah Mullally	Archbishop of Canterbury	Justin Welby
Kota Ravi	CMD, HAL	Dr. D.K. Sunil
Hari Shankar Verma	Member (Operations & Business Development), Railway Board	—
Divakar Jayant	Director General of Naval Armament	P. Upadhyay
Yumnam Khemchand Singh	Chief Minister, Manipur	N. Biren Singh
Vinay Muralidhar Tonse	MD & CEO, Yes Bank	Prashant Kumar
Kenta Kon	President & CEO, Toyota Motor Corporation	Koji Sato
Rohit Rishi	Managing Director, IIFCL	P. R. Jaishankar
Soraya Aghaei Hajiagha	IOC Member	—
Thanya Nathan C.	Judge, Kerala	—
R. Vijay Anandh	MD & CEO, City Union Bank	—
Shikhar Dhawan	Brand Ambassador, Delhi Khel Mahakumbh	—
Prasanna Kumar D	President, ICAI	Charanjot Singh Nanda
Deepak Gupta	CMD, GAIL	Sandeep Kumar Gupta

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Uday Kotak	Chairman, GIFT City	Hasmukh Adhia
Sanjay Agarwal	MD & CEO, AU Small Finance Bank (Reappointed)	—
Andrey Gyurov	Interim PM, Bulgaria	—
Mia Amor Mottley	Prime Minister, Barbados (Re-elected)	—
Om Birla	Representative at Bangladesh Swearing-in	—
Tarique Rahman	Prime Minister, Bangladesh	—
Rob Jetten	Prime Minister, Netherlands	Dick Schoof
Humphrey Kayange	IOC Athletes' Commission Vice-Chair	Abhinav Bindra
Baroruchi Mishra	CEO, HOEC	—
Nidhi Chhibber	Additional CEO, NITI Aayog	V. R. Subrahmanyam
Hitesh Rameshchandra Joshi	CMD, GIC Re (Recommended)	—
Arvind KC	Chief People Officer, OpenAI	—
B. Ravindran	UN AI Panel Member	—
Sachin Tendulkar	UN Global Champion for Road Safety	—

ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

Power Finance Corporation Approves In-Principle Merger with REC Limited Following Union Budget 2026 NBFC Restructuring Plan

- **Power Finance Corporation (PFC)** has approved an **in-principle merger** with **REC Limited**, in line with the **Union Budget 2026** proposal to restructure **public sector NBFCs**.

Reserve Bank of India Clears Blackstone's Acquisition of Up to 9.99% Shareholding in Federal Bank

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** approved American private equity firm **Blackstone** to acquire up to **99% stake** in **Federal Bank Limited**, a private sector bank in India.

Corporate Affairs Ministry Clears Amalgamation of 17 POWERGRID Subsidiaries into Two Units

- **The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)** approved two **composite schemes of arrangement** for **merger and amalgamation** of **17 wholly-owned subsidiaries** of **Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL / POWERGRID)**.

Power Finance Corporation Approves In-Principle Merger with REC Limited Following Union Budget 2026 NBFC Restructuring Plan

- **Power Finance Corporation (PFC)** has approved an **in-principle merger** with **REC Limited**, in line with the **Union Budget 2026** proposal to restructure **public sector NBFCs**.

Government of India to Sell Up to 5% Stake in Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited via Offer for Sale

- The **Government of India** will sell up to **5% stake** in **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)** through an **Offer for Sale (OFS)**.

Technology Development Board Signs Agreement with Prantae Solutions for Proflo-U Renal Diagnostic Platform

- The **Technology Development Board (TDB)** under the **Department of Science and Technology** signed an agreement with **M/s Prantae Solutions Private Limited, Odisha** for financial assistance.

Reserve Bank of India Approves ICICI Prudential AMC to Acquire Shareholdings in Eight Banks

- **ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company**, along with group entities of **ICICI Bank**,

received **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** approval to acquire up to **9.95% paid-up share capital** or **voting rights** in select banks.

Reserve Bank of India Approves ICICI Prudential AMC to Acquire Shareholdings in Eight Banks

- **ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company**, along with group entities of **ICICI Bank**, received **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** approval to acquire up to **9.95% paid-up share capital** or **voting rights** in select banks.

Competition Commission of India Approves Hinduja Leyland Finance Merger with NDL Ventures

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved the **proposed merger** of **Hinduja Leyland Finance Limited (HLFL)** with **NDL Ventures Limited (NDL)**.

Ministry of Power Forms Panels to Oversee Proposed Power Finance Corporation and REC Merger

- The **Ministry of Power (MoP)** constituted a **three-member High-Level Committee** and a **three-member Working Group** to supervise the proposed **merger** of **Power Finance Corporation (PFC)** and **REC Limited** (**Rural Electrification Corporation Limited**).

Tata Consumer Products Limited acquires advanced food and nutrition technologies from CSIR-National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology

- **Tata Consumer Products Limited (TCPL)** formalised the transfer of indigenously developed **food and nutrition technologies** from the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (CSIR-NIIST)** to promote national goals in **health, nutrition, and food security**.

RANKING AND INDEX

Index / Report Name	Published By	India's Rank / Performance	Top 3 Ranks / Performance
Numbeo Cost of Living Index by City 2026	Numbeo	Indian cities among lowest-cost cities globally; Indore – 477, Bhopal – 473, Patna – 470	1. Zurich (Switzerland) 2. Geneva (Switzerland) 3. Basel (Switzerland)

Global Soft Power Index 2026	Brand Finance	India ranked 32nd (Score: 48.0)	1. United States 2. China 3. Japan
Responsible Nations Index 2026	World Intellectual Foundation	India ranked 16th (Score: 0.5515)	1. Singapore 2. Switzerland 3. Denmark
QS Best Student Cities 2026 (Affordable Student Cities)	QS with Knight Frank & Deloitte India	Delhi ranked 1st globally; Mumbai – 11th; Bengaluru – 15th	1. Delhi 2. — 3. — (only India-related ranks mentioned)
Countries Spending the Most on R&D (2024)	World Intellectual Property Organization	India identified as expanding R&D investment; rank not specified	1. China 2. USA (implied) 3. —
LEED-Certified Green Building Space 2025	U.S. Green Building Council	India ranked 2nd globally	1. Mainland China 2. India 3. Canada
Network Readiness Index 2025	Portulans Institute	India ranked 45th	1. USA 2. Finland 3. Singapore
Women, Peace and Security Index 2025–26	Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security & Peace Research Institute Oslo	India ranked 131st (Score: 0.607)	1. Denmark 2. Iceland 3. Norway
Corruption Perceptions	Transparency	India ranked	1. — 2. — 3. —

Index (CPI) 2025	International	91st (Score: 39/100)	(top ranks not mentioned in given data)
UBS Billionaire Ambitions Report 2025	UBS	India ranked 3rd in billionaire wealth growth presence	1. USA 2. China 3. India
Global Wool Production Ranking FY24	—	India ranked 9th globally in wool production; 2nd in sheep population	1. — 2. — 3. — (top countries not mentioned)
Henley Passport Index 2026	Henley & Partners	India climbed 10 places; exact rank not mentioned in this passage	1. Singapore 2. Japan & South Korea 3. Denmark, Luxembourg, Spain, Sweden & Switzerland
World's Largest Company by Revenue 2026	—	No India rank	1. Amazon 2. Walmart (overtaken) 3. —

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Alpha Design Technologies Limited Completes Major Upgrade of Indian Air Force's Pechora Missile System, Boosting Indigenous Modernisation

- **Bengaluru-based** defence manufacturer **Alpha Design Technologies Limited (ADTL)** completed a major upgrade of the **Indian Air Force's (IAF) Pechora surface-to-air missile (SAM)** system, supporting India's push to modernise ageing military platforms

through **indigenous capability**.

Union Minister of State Dr Jitendra Singh Inaugurates ₹32 Crore CSIR–NIO Shore-Based Regional Centre at Visakhapatnam

- **Jitendra Singh**, **Union Minister of State (Independent Charge)** for **Ministry of Science & Technology (MoS&T)** and **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**, inaugurated the **Shore-Based Laboratory** of **CSIR–National Institute of Oceanography (CSIR–NIO) Regional Centre** at **Visakhapatnam**, Andhra Pradesh.

Indian Oil Corporation Limited Signs Letter of Intent with Akasa Air to Explore Future Supply of Sustainable Aviation Fuel at Wings India 2026 in Hyderabad

- **Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)**, under the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG)**, signed a **Letter of Intent (LoI)** with **Akasa Air** to explore the future supply of **Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)** during the **Wings India 2026** airshow in **Hyderabad, Telangana**.

Japan Achieves World-First Recovery of Rare Earth Minerals from Deep-Sea Sediments

- **Japan** announced it had successfully **recovered rare earth minerals** from **deep-sea sediments**, marking a **world-first achievement**.

New START, the Last Russia-U.S. Nuclear Arms Control Treaty, Set to Expire on February 5, 2026

- The last **Russia-U.S. nuclear arms control treaty**, known as **New START**, is due to expire on **February 5, 2026**.

Department of Science and Technology Scientists Develop Solar-Powered Device for Integrated Energy Capture and Storage

- **Indian scientists** at the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** have developed a **solar-powered energy storage device** that can both **capture and store energy in a single unit**, marking a major step towards **clean and self-sustaining power systems**.

Moltbook, AI-Only Social Platform by OctaneAI Chief Executive Officer Matt Schlicht, Gains Global Attention as Major Artificial Intelligence Socialisation Experiment

- **Moltbook** is a newly launched **social platform** for **artificial intelligence (AI) agents**, created by **OctaneAI Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Matt Schlicht**, drawing global attention as a **large-scale Artificial Intelligence (AI) socialisation experiment**.

Guatemala's Volcán de Fuego Erupts Dramatically, Activity Intensifies in Early February 2026

- **Guatemala's Volcán de Fuego**, one of Central America's most **active volcanoes**, produced a **dramatic explosive eruption** in **late January 2026**, intensifying around the turn of **February**.

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh Launches First RDI Fund Call to Support High-Risk Technology

Commercialisation

- **Union Minister of State Dr. Jitendra Singh** launched the **first Open Call** of the **Technology Development Board (TDB)** under the **RDI Fund** of the **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)** to strengthen India's innovation ecosystem.

Walmart Becomes First Retail Company Worldwide to Reach USD 1 Trillion Market Capitalisation

- **Walmart Inc.**, an American multinational retail corporation, became the **first retail company globally** to achieve a **market capitalisation of USD 1 trillion**.

HMG Stones Secures ISO 9001:2015 and 5S Gold Grade Certifications for Quality and Workplace Excellence

- **HMG Stone LLP (HMG Stones)**, a premium natural stone importer, exporter, manufacturer, and supplier, achieved **ISO 9001:2015 certification** for its **Quality Management System (QMS)** and **5S Gold Grade certification** for workplace excellence.

Bharat Earth Movers Limited Signs Tripartite Master Research Agreement to Boost Collaborative Research Initiatives

- **Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML)**, a **Public Sector Undertaking (PSU)** under the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)**, signed a **Tripartite Master Research Agreement (MRA)** to strengthen research collaboration.

Digantara Signs Pact with Singapore's Defence Science and Technology Agency to Develop Satellite Protection and Space Situational Awareness Technologies

- **Digantara Industries**, a space technology firm based in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**, signed a partnership agreement with Singapore's **Defence Science and Technology Agency (DSTA)** to co-develop technologies for **satellite protection** and **Space Situational Awareness (SSA)**.

Adani Defence Signs Memorandum of Understanding with Leonardo to Develop Helicopter Manufacturing Ecosystem in India

- **Adani Defence & Aerospace**, the defence arm of Adani Enterprises Limited (AEL), signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Leonardo**, an Italian aerospace, defence and security company.

Australia Approves Genetically Modified (GM) Purple Bliss Tomatoes for Direct Sale in Shops

- **Australia** has approved **Genetically Modified (GM) Purple Bliss tomatoes** for fresh sale, allowing them to be sold directly in shops.

Indian Researchers Develop Affordable Biosensor for Early Detection of Heart Attacks

- Researchers have developed a **flexible and economical biosensor** capable of rapidly

detecting **myoglobin**, a critical **cardiac biomarker** linked to the early stages of a **heart attack**.

Apogee Aerospace Orders 15 Amphibian Aircraft from Australia's Amphibian Aerospace Industries for ₹3,500 Crore

- **Apogee Aerospace Private Limited**, an air defence company, placed an order worth **₹3,500 crore** for **15 amphibian aircraft (seaplanes)** with **Amphibian Aerospace Industries (AAI), Australia**.

Indian Institute of Technology Madras Launches ₹600 Crore 'IITM-Unicorn Frontier Fund I' to Support Deep-Tech Startups

- **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras Research Park (IITMRP)**, in partnership with **Unicorn India Ventures (UIV)**, launched the **'IITM-Unicorn Frontier Fund I'**, a venture capital fund worth **₹600 crore** to support **deep-technology startups** in India.

India Successfully Test-Fires Agni-III IRBM from Chandipur Integrated Test Range, Odisha

- **India** successfully test-fired the **Agni-III intermediate-range ballistic missile (IRBM)** from the **Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha**, on **6 February 2026**.

Indian Space Research Organisation Selects Mons Mouton-4 Near Moon's South Pole as Landing Site for Chandrayaan-4 Sample-Return Mission

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) has identified **Mons Mouton-4 (MM-4)** near the **Moon's south pole** as the prospective landing site for **Chandrayaan-4**, India's first **lunar sample-return mission**.

Dr. Jitendra Singh Launches ₹2,000 Crore BIRAC–RDI Fund Under ₹1 Lakh Crore RDI Programme to Scale Biotechnology Innovations

- Union Minister **Dr. Jitendra Singh** announced the **first national call** for the **BIRAC–RDI Fund**, under the **₹1 lakh crore Research, Development, and Innovation (RDI)** initiative of the Government of India.

Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre Selects Three Indian Startups for Satellite Bus as a Service Initiative

Defence Research and Development Organisation and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research Join Hands for Collaborative Research and Development

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**, under the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)**, signed a collaborative agreement with the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)**, under the **Ministry of Science and Technology (MoS&T)**, to jointly undertake **Research and Development (R&D)** activities.

Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Unicorn India Ventures Launch ₹600-Crore Deeptech Fund with ₹400-Crore Greenshoe to Back Early-Stage Startups

- **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)** and **Unicorn India Ventures** jointly launched the **₹600-crore IITM Unicorn Frontier Fund I** with an additional **₹400-crore greenshoe option** to support **early-stage deeptech startups**.

Mud Volcano Erupts Near Jol Tekri in Diglipur; Authorities Restrict Public Access in Andaman & Nicobar Islands

- **mud volcano eruption** occurred near **Jol Tekri, Diglipur** in the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**, leading authorities to restrict public access as a precautionary measure.

IIT Bombay and Columbia University Sign MoU to Launch Columbia–IIT Bombay Center of AI for Manufacturing

- **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay** and **Columbia University, USA** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to establish the **Columbia–IIT Bombay Center of AI for Manufacturing**.

GalaxEye Ties Up with NewSpace India Limited to Market Satellite Imagery Services

- **GalaxEye**, a leading Indian **space-tech startup**, signed a **Data Reseller Partnership Agreement (MoU)** with **NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)**.

Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research Bengaluru Scientists Uncover Unusual Heat Transport Mechanism in Solids

- Researchers at **Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR)**, Bengaluru, discovered an **unusual mechanism of heat transport** in solids, challenging conventional understanding.

Bodhan AI to Build Bharat EduAI Stack as Digital Public Infrastructure for Education on the Lines of UPI

- The **Government of India** plans to integrate **Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools** in school education from **pre-primary to higher secondary levels** starting from the next academic session.

Rocket debris bearing Indian Space Research Organisation logo discovered near uninhabited island in Maldives

- **Debris bearing the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) logo** and **India's National Emblem** was found on **Kunahandhoo island** in the **Maldives** in **December 2025**.

Defence Research and Development Organisation shortlists Tata, L&T-Bharat Forge consortium for AMCA fighter jet prototype development

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has shortlisted **Tata**

Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL) and a consortium led by **Larsen & Toubro (L&T) with Bharat Forge** for the **prototype design and development** of the **Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)**.

Reliance Consumer Products Establishes Majority Stake Joint Venture with Nigeria's Tropical General Investments Group

- **Reliance Consumer Products Limited (RCPL)** signed a definitive agreement to form a **majority-owned Joint Venture (JV)** with **Tropical General Investments Group (TGI Group), Nigeria**.

Bengaluru Startup Sarvam AI Unveils India's First Indigenous large language models: Sarvam-30B and Sarvam-105B

- **Bengaluru-based startup Sarvam AI** has launched two **indigenous large language models (LLMs)—Sarvam-30B** and **Sarvam-105B**—that are fully developed in India.

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju Launches NIGRANI App, Haj Wrist Band, and AI Chatbots at Minority Affairs Chintan Shivir

- The **Ministry of Minority Affairs** organized a two-day **National Chintan Shivir** at **Nalanda University**, Rajgir, Bihar, to formulate a policy roadmap for **minority welfare** and **socio-economic empowerment**.

Indian Institute of Technology Madras Global Research Foundation Launches First International AI Innovation Centre in Dubai, United Arab Emirates

- The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras Global Research Foundation** launched its **first international Applied Artificial Intelligence (AI) Innovation Centre** at **Dubai CommerCity**, Dubai,United Arab Emirates (UAE).

TVS Supply Chain Solutions Signs Memorandum of Understanding with ALA Group to Strengthen Aerospace and Defence Supply Chain Operations

- **TVS Supply Chain Solutions (TVS SCS)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **ALA Group**, an Italy-based aerospace and defence supply chain integrator, to jointly tap India's **USD 28 billion Aerospace & Defence (A&D) supply chain market**.

Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs Sets Up High-Level Advisory Group on Ease of Doing Business Headed by Gyaneshwar Kumar Singh

- The **Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA)**, under the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)**, set up a high-level **Advisory Group on Ease of Doing Business (EoDB)** to strengthen and modernise India's corporate regulatory framework, particularly compliance under the **Companies Act, 2013**.

VoicERA Launched on BHASHINI Platform for Multilingual Voice AI at India AI Impact Summit 2026

- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** launched **VoicERA**, an **open-source**, **end-to-end Voice AI stack**, at the **India AI Impact Summit 2026**.

Tata Group–OpenAI Join Hands to Develop India's First AI-Ready Large-Scale Data Centre

- The **Tata Group** partnered with **OpenAI** to establish **India's first large-scale AI-ready data centre** under the global **Stargate initiative**, with **OpenAI** becoming the **first customer** of **TCS HyperVault** data centre business.

Indian Space Research Organisation to Set Up Liquid Methane Plant at Mahendragiri for Next-Generation NGLV Missions

- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** plans to establish a **liquid methane production plant** at the **Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu** to support next-generation rocket propulsion technologies.

AuraML Unveils AuraSim, India's First Multimodal Robotics Simulation Model at India AI Impact Summit 2026

- Indian AI startup **AuraML** launched **AuraSim**, India's **first multimodal world simulation model for robotics**, at the **India AI Impact Summit 2026** in **New Delhi**.

Unique Identification Authority of India Launches AI-Based Biometric Deduplication Platform to Enhance Aadhaar Security and Authentication

- The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** launched an **AI-enabled biometric deduplication** and **document verification platform** to strengthen India's **digital security framework** and improve **Aadhaar authentication accuracy**.

Fractal AI Unveils Vaidya 2.0 Healthcare Reasoning Model at India AI Impact Summit 2026

- **Fractal AI** launched **Vaidya 2.0**, a next-generation **healthcare reasoning AI model**, at the **India AI Impact Summit 2026** in **Mumbai** (held at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**).

Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda Launches Indigenous Td Vaccine at CRI, Kasauli to Boost Health Self-Reliance

- Union Health and Family Welfare Minister **J.P. Nadda** launched the **indigenously manufactured Tetanus and Adult Diphtheria (Td) Vaccine** at the **Central Research Institute (CRI)**, Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh, strengthening India's **healthcare self-reliance**.

India's 11,099 km Coastline and 24 Lakh sq. km Exclusive Economic Zone Remain Underutilised for Deep-Sea Fishing Resources

- **India** has a coastline of **~11,099 km** and an **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)** of **24 lakh sq. km**, but fishing is mostly limited to **40–50 nautical miles**, leaving deep-sea resources like **tuna**

North Atlantic Treaty Organization launches Arctic Sentry mission to enhance Arctic security and surveillance

- **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** launched the **"Arctic Sentry"** mission, to strengthen **security**, **surveillance**, and **military coordination** in the **Arctic and High North**.

Union Minister of State Dr. Jitendra Singh Unveils 'SUJVIKA' AI Product Data Portal on 40th Foundation Day of Department of Biotechnology

- **Jitendra Singh**, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Science & Technology, launched **'SUJVIKA'**, an **AI-driven Biotech Product Data Portal**, on the **40th Foundation Day** of the **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)** in **New Delhi** on **26 February 2026**.

Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission Launches Pakistan's Second Indigenous Earth Observation Satellite EO-2 from China

- **The Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO)** successfully launched Pakistan's second indigenous **Earth Observation Satellite, EO-2** from China's **Yangjiang Seashore Launch Centre**.

DEFENCE NEWS

Indian Army Signs Deal with US Firm Shield AI to Procure V-BAT VTOL Drones Made in India

- The **Indian Army (IA)** signed an agreement with **USA defence technology firm Shield AI** for the procurement of **V-BAT VTOL Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS)** to be manufactured in India.

Indian Army and Indo-Tibetan Border Police Conduct Joint "Agni Pariksha" Exercise in Arunachal Pradesh to Boost Combat Synergy

- The **Indian Army** and the **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** conducted a joint training exercise named **"Agni Pariksha"** at **Sigar** in **East Siang** district, **Arunachal Pradesh** from **January 19 to 24,2026** to enhance **inter-force combat synergy** and **operational integration**.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Grants Miniratna Category-I Status to Yantra India Limited

- **Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh** approved the grant of **Miniratna (Category-I) status** to **Yantra India Limited (YIL)**, a **Defence Public Sector Undertaking (DPSU)**.

Defence Research & Development Organisation Successfully Demonstrates Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet Technology

- **The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully demonstrated **Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR)** technology from the **Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur**, off the coast of **Odisha on February 3, 2026**.

Indian Navy's Inaugural Training Squadron Reaches Phuket Deep Sea Port, Thailand

- Indian Navy's **First Training Squadron (1TS)** comprising **INS Tir, INS Shardul, INS Sujata** along with **ICGS Sarathi** arrived at **Phuket Deep Sea Port, Thailand** as part of its training deployment to **Southeast Asia**.

Border Roads Organisation Executes High-Altitude Rescue and Road Clearance Mission at Chatergala Pass, Jammu & Kashmir

- The **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** successfully conducted a **high-altitude rescue** and **road restoration operation** under **Project Sampark** at **Chatergala Pass**, located at an altitude of **10,500 ft** in the **Bhaderwah–Chatergala axis**, **Jammu & Kashmir**.

India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise KHANJAR Begins in Assam

- The **13th edition** of the **India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise KHANJAR (KHANJAR-XIII)** is being conducted from **4 to 17 February 2026** at **Missamari, Assam**.

INS Sudarshini of Indian Navy Makes First Lokayan 26 Port Call at Salalah, Oman

- Indian Navy's sail training ship **INS Sudarshini** arrived at the port of **Salalah, Oman**, marking the **first international port call** of her transoceanic voyage – **Lokayan 26**.

Sagar Defence Delivers First Batch of Unmanned Surface Vessels to Indian Navy

- **Sagar Defence Engineering Private Limited (Sagar Defence)**, based in Mumbai, Maharashtra, successfully delivered the **first two Unmanned Surface Vessels (USVs)** to the **Indian Navy (IN)**, marking its maiden batch delivery.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Flags Off Joint Indian Expedition to Mount Aconcagua, Argentina – Tallest Peak Outside Asia

- **Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** flagged off a **joint Indian mountaineering expedition** to **Mount Aconcagua, Argentina**, the **highest peak in South America** and the tallest mountain **outside Asia** at about **6,960 metres (m)**, from New Delhi, Delhi.

Indian Coast Guard Commemorates 50 Years of Dedicated Service on Raising Day

- The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** is commemorating its **50th Raising Day** on **1 February 2026**, marking five decades of dedicated service to the nation.

India and Greece Ink Joint Declaration to Strengthen Defence Industry Collaboration

- **India and Greece** signed a **Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI)** in **New Delhi** to strengthen bilateral **defence industrial cooperation**.

Indian Army Sets New World Record in Silver Jubilee Everest Expedition 2025, Recognized by Guinness

- The **Indian Army** created a new **world record** during its **Silver Jubilee Everest Expedition**

2025, recognized by **Guinness World Records**.

Indian Army, IDFC FIRST Bank Ink Memorandum of Understanding to Offer Tailored Banking Services and Enhanced Insurance for Army Personnel

- The **Indian Army** and **IDFC FIRST Bank** signed a **three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** valid till **February 2029** to provide **specialised banking services** and **enhanced insurance benefits** to serving and retired Army personnel.

India–Tanzania Convene 4th Joint Defence Cooperation Committee Meeting in Zanzibar

- The **4th Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC)** meeting between **India and Tanzania** was held in **Zanzibar** from **02–03 February 2026**.

Indian Air Force, Royal Thai Air Force Hold Joint In-Situ Exercise to Boost Operational Coordination

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** and the **Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF)** are conducting a **joint in-situ air exercise** to enhance **operational coordination** and **interoperability** between the two air forces.

Indian Navy Takes Command of Combined Task Force (CTF) 154 for the First Time

- The **Indian Navy** has assumed command of **Combined Task Force (CTF) 154**, a multinational **training task force** under the **Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)**, reflecting India's growing role in **maritime security** and **capacity building** in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)** and beyond.

Defence Acquisition Council Approves ₹3.60 Lakh Crore Defence Procurement to Strengthen Armed Forces' Combat Capabilities

- The **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)**, chaired by **Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh**, approved **Acceptance of Necessity (AoN)** for various proposals of the Services valued at about **₹3.60 lakh crore** on **12 February 2026**.

Ministry of Defence Signs ₹2,312 Crore Hindustan Aeronautics Limited Contract for Eight Dornier 228 Aircraft Under Buy (Indian) Scheme

- The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** signed a contract with **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**, Transport Aircraft Division, Kanpur, for the acquisition of **eight Dornier 228 aircraft** along with **Operational Role Equipment** for the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** at a cost of **₹2,312 crore** under the **Buy (Indian)** category.

Agneevasthraa Partners with Indian Army to Provide Advanced Carbon and Composite Materials

• **Agneevasthraa**, a domestic manufacturer of **carbon fabrics** and **advanced composite materials**, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Indian Army (IA)** to supply materials for **defence applications**.

Indian Air Force to Showcase Combat Strength at Exercise Vayushakti-26 in Pokhran on 27 February 2026

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** will conduct **Exercise Vayushakti-26** on **27 February 2026** at **Pokhran Air-to-Ground Range, Jaisalmer**, showcasing its combat readiness and **firepower capability**.

Indian Army to conduct inaugural International Military Adventure Challenge Cup 2026 in Eastern Himalayas

- The **Indian Army** will host the inaugural **International Military Adventure Challenge Cup (IMACC) 2026** from **18–23 February 2026** in the foothills of the **Eastern Himalayas**.

India, United Kingdom to deepen military training with IAF instructors training British fast jet pilots for first time

- **India and the United Kingdom (UK)** have agreed to deepen **military training cooperation**, with **Indian Air Force (IAF)** instructors set to train **British fast jet pilots** for the first time.

Indian Coast Guard Chief Paramesh Sivamani Inaugurates MJP Waterjet Production Facility in Goa, Boosting Maritime Aatmanirbharta

- **Paramesh Sivamani**, Director General of **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)**, inaugurated the **Waterjet Production & Testing Facility** of **Marine Jet Power (MJP) India** at **Goa**, marking a major step toward **Maritime Aatmanirbharta**.

Second Edition of Indian Navy Half Marathon Held in New Delhi

- The **second edition** of the **Indian Navy Half Marathon** was conducted in **New Delhi**, featuring three race categories: **21.1 km, 10 km, and 5 km**.

Indian Navy Launches MILAN Village at Visakhapatnam as Part of Exercise MILAN 2026

- The **Indian Navy** inaugurated the **MILAN Village** at the **Eastern Naval Command**, as part of its flagship international naval exercise, **MILAN 2026**.

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh and French Counterpart to Co-Chair 6th India-France Annual Defence Dialogue in Bengaluru

- **Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh** will co-chair the **6th India-France Annual Defence Dialogue** with **Ms Catherine Vautrin**, Minister of Armed Forces and Veterans Affairs of France, in **Bengaluru, Karnataka on 17 February 2026**.

Defence Acquisition Council Approves ₹3.25 Lakh Crore Deal to Procure 114 Additional Rafale Fighter Jets from France

- The **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)**, chaired by Union Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh**, approved a proposal worth **₹3.25 lakh crore** (≈ USD 40 billion) to acquire **114 additional Rafale** fighter jets from France.

United States Conducts First Airlift of Micro Nuclear Reactor Demonstrating Rapid Deployment Capability

- The **United States (US)** conducted its **first-ever air transport** of a **micro nuclear reactor** aboard a **military cargo aircraft**, demonstrating **rapid nuclear deployment capability**.

INS Tarangini to Participate in IFR 2026 and MILAN Exercises at Visakhapatnam

- **INS Tarangini**, the Indian Navy's **sail training ship**, is among the prominent vessels arriving at **Visakhapatnam** for the **International Fleet Review (IFR) 2026** and multinational naval exercise **MILAN**, commencing **February 18, 2026**.

Indigenous Cadet Training Ship 'Krishna' Launched by Indian Navy at L&T Kattupalli Shipyard Near Chennai

- The first **indigenously designed and built Cadet Training Ship (CTS) 'Krishna (Yard 18003)'** of the **Indian Navy** was launched at **Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Shipbuilding** facility, **Kattupalli** near Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh Holds Talks with ASEAN Navy Chiefs in Visakhapatnam

- **Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh** interacted with visiting **Navy Chiefs and Naval delegations** from **nine ASEAN member states** in **Visakhapatnam**, Andhra Pradesh on **February 19, 2026**.

First-Ever United Nations Fellowship on Small Arms and Light Weapons Control Held by Indian Army in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh

- The **Indian Army (IA)** is hosting the **first-ever United Nations (UN) Fellowship Training Programme** on **Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) Control** for the **Asia-Pacific region** from **16 February to 6 March 2026**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron virtually launch H-125 Light Utility Helicopter Final Assembly Line at Vemagal, Karnataka

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and French President **Emmanuel Macron** virtually inaugurated the **Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) Final Assembly Line (FAL)** of the **Airbus H-125 Light Utility Helicopter** at **Vemagal, Karnataka**, from **Mumbai**.

Defence Research and Development Organisation Successfully Tests Drogue Parachute for

Gaganyaan Human Spaceflight Mission

- India's **human spaceflight programme Gaganyaan** achieved a major milestone with the successful **qualification-level load test** of the **Drogue Parachute** at the **Rail Track Rocket Sled (RTRS)** facility of **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** at **Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL)**, **Chandigarh**.

Indian Navy Hosts Exercise MILAN 2026, International Fleet Review 2026, and 9th Indian Ocean Naval Symposium Conclave at Visakhapatnam

- The **Indian Navy (IN)** hosted three major international engagements at **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP)** from **15–25 February 2026**, including **Exercise MILAN 2026**, **International Fleet Review (IFR) 2026**, and the **9th Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Conclave**.

Indian Army's Konark Corps Conducts Successful Live Firing of Strela-10 VSHORADS at Pokhran,Rajasthan

- The **Indian Army (IA)** under its **Konark Corps**, including the **Air Defence Warriors** of the **Blazing Skies Brigade**, successfully conducted a **high-intensity live firing test** of the **Strela-10 Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS)** at the **Pokhran Field Firing Range**, **Rajasthan**.

INS Sudarshini Makes Historic Port Visit to Safaga, Egypt Under Lokayan-26 Deployment

- **Indian Navy's Sail Training Ship INS Sudarshini** arrived at **Safaga, Egypt** as part of its **Lokayan-26 deployment**.

India–US Special Forces Exercise Vajra Prahar 2026 Held in Himachal Pradesh

- The **16th edition** of the **India–US joint Special Forces exercise Vajra Prahar** is being held at the **Special Forces Training School, Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh**, from **23 February to 15 March 2026**.

Embraer and Mahindra Partner to Set Up C-390 Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul Facility in India

- **Embraer (Brazil)** and **Mahindra Group (India)** have announced collaboration plans to establish a state-of-the-art **Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO)** facility in India for the **C-390 Millennium** military transport aircraft.

Indian Navy to Commission INS Anjadip to Boost Anti-Submarine Warfare Capability

- The **Indian Navy (IN)** is set to enhance its **Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW)** capability with the commissioning of **INS Anjadip**, the **third vessel** of the eight-ship **ASW Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)**

7th Edition of Joint Military Exercise 'Dharma Guardian' Begins in Chaubattia, Uttarakhand

- **Dharma Guardian**, the **7th edition** of the **India–Japan Joint Military Exercise**, began

at **Chaubattia, Uttarakhand**, from **24 February to 9 March 2026**.

Army Chief Flags In Bharat RanBhoomi Darshan Expedition at National War Memorial

- Chief of the Army Staff **General Upendra Dwivedi** flagged in the **Bharat RanBhoomi Darshan Expedition** at the **National War Memorial**, in the presence of senior civil and defence dignitaries.

Kalari Leap: Southern Air Command Conducts Joint Maritime Exercise in Lakshadweep & Minicoy

- The **Southern Air Command** of the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** successfully conducted a high-tempo joint maritime exercise named **Kalari Leap** in the **Lakshadweep and Minicoy archipelago**.

Indian Army Conducts 'Exercise Agni Varsha' at Pokhran to Test Combat Readiness and Battlefield Capability

- The **Indian Army (IA)** conducted **'Exercise Agni Varsha'** at the **Pokhran Field Firing Ranges**, Pokhran, Rajasthan, to test and demonstrate **operational readiness** and combat capabilities in a realistic battlefield environment.

MOUS AND AGREEMENT

IHMCL Signs MoU with National Forensic Sciences University to Strengthen Cyber Security in Highway Operations

- **Indian Highways Management Company Limited (IHMCL)** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU)** to enhance **cyber security and data protection** in national highway operations.

India–European Union Sign Administrative Arrangement on Advanced Electronic Signatures and Seals

- **India and the European Union** signed an important **administrative arrangement** to enable **secure cross-border use of advanced electronic signatures and electronic seals**.

India–China Trade Surges to Historic USD 155 Billion Amid Diplomatic Recalibration

- In **2025**, **India and China recorded a historic bilateral trade volume of USD 155.6 billion**, the highest ever between the two countries.

Elon Musk Becomes World's First $800 Billion Individual

- In **February 2026**, Elon Musk became the **first individual globally to cross a net worth of USD 800 billion**, marking a historic milestone in global wealth creation.

India–GCC Sign Terms of Reference for Free Trade Agreement

- **India and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)** signed the **Terms of Reference (ToR)** for the **India–GCC Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** at **Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi**, formally initiating FTA negotiations.

Gujarat Signs Letter of Intent with Starlink to Expand Satellite Internet Connectivity

- **Government of Gujarat signed a Letter of Intent with Starlink Satellite Communications**, a subsidiary of **SpaceX**, in **Gandhinagar**.

AAI Signs MoU with Bharat Taxi for Surge-Free Airport Cab Services

- **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Bharat Taxi** to improve **last-mile connectivity** at select airports.

AIIA Signs MoU with General Insurance Council for Cashless Ayurveda Coverage

- The **All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA)** signed a **Common Empanelment Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **General Insurance Council** in **New Delhi**.

Agneevasthraa Signs MoU with Indian Army for Advanced Carbon Fabrics; Boost to Indigenous Defence Manufacturing

- Mumbai-based company **Agneevasthraa** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Indian Army** for supply of advanced carbon fabrics and high-performance composite materials

India–France Sign Joint Declaration of Intent on Critical Minerals Cooperation

- **India and France** signed a **Joint Declaration of Intent on Critical Minerals Cooperation** during the visit of **French President Emmanuel Macron** to India.

Food Corporation of India Signs Five-Year Memorandum of Understanding with World Food Programme to Supply 2 Lakh Metric Tonnes of Rice Annually

- **India has strengthened** its commitment to **global food security** as the **Food Corporation of India** signed a **five-year Memorandum of Understanding** with the **World Food Programme**.

L and T Vyoma Signs Memorandum of Understanding with Gujarat for 250 Megawatt Green Artificial Intelligence Ready Data Centre

- At the India **Artificial Intelligence Impact Summit** 2026, **Larsen & Toubro** through its Vyoma unit signed a **Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Gujarat** to conduct a feasibility study for setting up a 250 Megawatt green Artificial Intelligence ready data centre at Dholera Special Investment Region.

NIPER Raebareli Signs MoU with Boehringer Ingelheim India;

- The **National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research Raebareli** (Uttar Pradesh), including its **Centre of Excellence for Novel Drug Delivery Systems**, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding with Boehringer Ingelheim India Private Limited** to strengthen pharmaceutical education, research collaboration and innovation.

India's First Quantum and Artificial Intelligence University Campus to be Set Up in Amaravati

- The **National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology** (NIELIT), under

the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Andhra Pradesh on** at the India Artificial Intelligence Impact Summit to establish **India's first dedicated Quantum and Artificial Intelligence University campus in Amaravati**.

NDMA Signs MoU with AcSIR and CSIR-NIScPR to Strengthen Disaster Management Research & Response

- The **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)**, under the Ministry of Home Affairs, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR)** and the **CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR)** to enhance collaborative efforts in **Disaster Management Research and Response (DMRR)**.

India–Israel Launch First Round of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Negotiations

- **India and Israel officially commenced the first round of negotiations for a proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** in **New Delhi** from **23 to 26 February 2026**.

India–Nepal Sign MoU on Forests, Wildlife & Climate Cooperation

- **India and Nepal signed a new MoU in New Delhi** to strengthen cooperation in **forests, wildlife, biodiversity conservation and climate change**.

APPS & PORTALS

App / Portal Name	Released By	Purpose
NYPS 2.0 Portal	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (MoPA)	To broaden participation in Youth Parliament programmes across India.
NE-RACE Portal	North Eastern Region Agri-Commodity E-Connect Initiative	To connect farmers, FPOs, SHGs, and buyers across India.
CoO Digital Portal	National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)	To issue electronic Certificates of Origin for cultivated medicinal plants.

MCP Server for eSankhyiki	National Statistics Office (NSO)	To connect official datasets with AI tools and applications.
TRAI DND & MySpeed Apps	Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)	To curb spam and monitor telecom network quality.
PMS Portal	Government of Assam	To streamline provincialization of venture educational institutions.
CM Jan Sunwai Portal	Delhi Government	To strengthen grievance redressal and citizen engagement.
Teacher App 2.0	Ministry of Education with Bharti Airtel Foundation & CK-12 Foundation	To accelerate AI adoption in K-12 education.

ENVIRONMENT

Archaeologists Unearth 1,400-Year-Old Zapotec Tomb in Oaxaca, Shedding Light on Indigenous Funerary Traditions

- Archaeologists in **southern Mexico** discovered a **1,400-year-old tomb** belonging to the **Zapotec civilization** at **San Pablo Huitzo, Oaxaca** in **2025**, providing insights into **Indigenous funerary traditions** and **social organisation**.

Zoological Survey of India Scientists Discover New Diplura Species "Lepidocampa sikkimensis" in Eastern Himalayas

- Scientists from the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** have discovered a **new species of Diplura** in the **eastern Himalayas**, named **"Lepidocampa sikkimensis"**, marking a milestone in **Indian entomology**.

SPORTS NEWS

Novak Djokovic Becomes Oldest Australian Open Finalist in Open Era (2026)

- **Novak Djokovic** created history at the **Australian Open 2026** by becoming the **oldest man in the Open Era** to reach the final, breaking a **53-year-old record**.

Devika Sihag Wins Maiden BWF Super 300 Title at Thailand Masters 2026

- Indian badminton player **Devika Sihag** won her **first BWF Super 300 title** at the **Thailand Masters 2026**, marking the **biggest breakthrough of her career**.

Australian Open 2026: Carlos Alcaraz Wins Men's Singles Title and Completes Career Grand Slam

- Spain's **Carlos Alcaraz** defeated Serbia's **Novak Djokovic** in the **Australian Open 2026 men's singles final**, becoming the **youngest male player to complete a Career Grand Slam** at the age of **22 years**.

Devika Sihag Wins Maiden BWF Super 300 Title at Thailand Masters 2026

- **Indian badminton player Devika Sihag** won her **first BWF Super 300 title** at the **Thailand Masters 2026**, marking the **biggest achievement of her career** so far.

Haryana Thunders Win Pro Wrestling League (PWL) 2026 Title

- **Haryana Thunders** won the **Pro Wrestling League (PWL) 2026** title after defeating **Delhi Dangal Warriors** by **5–4** in a thrilling final held at **Noida Indoor Stadium**.

Asian Rifle & Pistol Shooting Championships 2026 Begin in New Delhi

- The **Asian Rifle & Pistol Shooting Championships 2026** have officially begun at the **Dr Karni Singh Shooting Ranges, New Delhi**.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru Clinch Back-to-Back WPL Titles in 2026

- **Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB)** won the **Women's Premier League (WPL) 2026 title**, defeating **Delhi Capitals (DC)** by **6 wickets** in the final held at **Vadodara**.

India Dominates Asian Rifle/Pistol Championship 2026 as Elavenil Valarivan and Shambhavi Kshirsagar Win Gold

- **Asian Rifle/Pistol Championship 2026** is being held in **New Delhi**, where **India continued its dominance** in shooting events.

Jharkhand Women Win Gold at Para Throwball National Federation Cup 2026

- **Jharkhand women's team won the gold medal** at the **Para Throwball National Federation Cup 2026**, delivering a disciplined and confident performance at the national level.

Manu Bhaker Wins Silver in 25m Pistol at Asian Shooting Championships 2026

- **Indian shooter Manu Bhaker** won the **silver medal in the women's 25m pistol event** at the **Asian Shooting Championships 2026**, held in **New Delhi**.

India Tops Asian Rifle/Pistol Championship 2026 with 94 Medals

- **India finished 1st in the medal tally** at the Asian Rifle/Pistol Championship 2026 held at **Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range, New Delhi**.

Magnus Carlsen Wins 2026 FIDE Freestyle Chess World Championship; Claims 21st World Title

- **Magnus Carlsen** won the **2026 FIDE Freestyle Chess World Championship**

Lucas Pinheiro Braathen Wins Giant Slalom Gold; Brazil Secures First-Ever Winter Olympics Medal at Milano Cortina 2026

- **Lucas Pinheiro Braathen** won **gold in the giant slalom** event at the **Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics**

Johannes Klaebo Wins Record 9th Winter Olympic Medal as Norway Secures Gold in Men's 4×7.5km Relay at Milano Cortina 2026

- **Johannes Klaebo** won his **ninth Winter Olympic medal** at the **Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics**

Rashid Khan Becomes First Bowler to Reach 700 T20 Wickets During ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026

- Afghanistan spinner **Rashid Khan** became the **first bowler in history** to take **700 T20 wickets**

Smriti Mandhana Wins BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year 2025

- **Smriti Mandhana** was named the **BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year 2025** for her outstanding role in India's historic **Women's World Cup 2025 victory**.

Paras Dogra Becomes Fastest to 10,000 Runs in Ranji Trophy History

- **Paras Dogra**, captain of **Jammu & Kashmir**, created history by completing **10,000 runs in the Ranji Trophy** during the semi-final against **Bengal**.

India Defeats Pakistan in ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026

- **India defeated Pakistan** in the **27th Match of Group A** of the **International Cricket Council Men's T20 World Cup 2026** at **R. Premadasa Stadium, Colombo**.

Tejaswin Shankar Wins Gold at Asian Indoor Athletics Championships 2026

- **India's Tejaswin Shankar** clinched a historic gold medal at the **Asian Indoor Athletics Championships held in Tianjin, China**.

International Paralympic Committee Lifts Ban on Russian Athletes for Milan Cortina 2026 Winter Paralympics

- The **International Paralympic Committee** has **lifted the ban on Russian athletes** for the **Milan Cortina 2026 Winter Paralympics**. Russian and Belarusian athletes will now compete under their **national flags**, and their **national anthems** will be played during medal ceremonies.

Norway Sets Record with 17 Gold Medals at 2026 Winter Olympics

- **Norway created history** at the **Milan Cortina Winter Olympics** by winning its **17th gold medal**, the highest number of gold medals won by any nation at a single Winter Games.

Harmanpreet Kaur Becomes Most-Capped Player in Women's International Cricket

- India captain **Harmanpreet Kaur** created history by **becoming the most-capped player in women's international cricket.**

Delhi Open 2026: Stefanos Sakellaridis Clinches Maiden ATP Challenger Singles Title

- **The Delhi Open 2026** concluded with an exciting finish as Greece's **Stefanos Sakellaridis** won the men's singles title after defeating **Great Britain's Oliver Crawford** in a closely contested final.

OBITUARIES

Name	Profession / Role	Native / Nationality
Father Thomas V. Kunnunkal	Jesuit Priest & Educationist	Indian
Hugh Gantzer	Travel Writer	Indian
Andre Beteille	Sociologist	Indian
James Van Der Beek	Actor	American
David J. Farber	Computer Scientist	American
Robert Duvall	Actor	American
Frederick Wiseman	Documentary Filmmaker	American
Ricky Andrew J Syngkon	Politician (MP)	Indian
Mani Shankar Mukhopadhyay	Author / Novelist	Indian
Mukul Roy	Politician	Indian
Jatinder Mehra	Steel Industry Leader	Indian

MARCH 2026

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day Observed As	Key Points / Theme

1 March	Zero Discrimination Day	Promotes inclusion, compassion and peace; launched by UNAIDS; first observed in 2014
1 March	World Civil Defence Day	Highlights importance of civil defence and disaster preparedness
1 March	Self-Injury Awareness Day	Raises awareness about self-injury and mental health support
3 March	World Hearing Day	Promotes ear and hearing care worldwide
3 March	World Wildlife Day	Raises awareness about wildlife conservation and CITES
4 March	National Safety Day	Theme: “Engage, Educate & Empower People to Enhance Safety”
8 March	International Women’s Day	Theme: “Rights. Justice. Action For ALL Women and Girls.”
10 March	CISF Raising Day	Marks establishment of CISF in 1969
11 March	National No Smoking Day	Encourages quitting tobacco and spreading awareness
13 March	World Sleep Day	Theme: “Sleep Well, Live Better.”
14 March	International Day of Action for Rivers	Theme: “#ProtectRiversProtectPeople”
14 March	Pi Day / International Day of Mathematics	Celebrates mathematical constant π and importance of mathematics

15 March	World Consumer Rights Day	Promotes consumer rights and fair market practices
16 March	National Vaccination Day	Marks launch of Pulse Polio Programme in India
17 March	World Social Work Day	Theme: “Co-Building Hope and Harmony: A Harambee Call to Unite a Divided Society.”
18 March	Ordnance Factories Day	Commemorates establishment of first ordnance factory in India
20 March	World Sparrow Day	Raises awareness about sparrow conservation
20 March	World Oral Health Day	Theme: “A Happy Mouth is a Happy Life”
20 March	International Day of Happiness	Promotes happiness and well-being
20 March	UN French Language Day	Promotes multilingualism and cultural diversity
21 March	International Day of Forests	Highlights forest conservation and sustainable management
21 March	World Poetry Day	Promotes reading, writing and teaching of poetry
21 March	World Down Syndrome Day	Theme: “Together Against Loneliness”
22 March	World Water Day	Theme: “Water and Gender: Where Water Flows, Equality Grows”
23 March	World Meteorological Day	Theme: “Observing Today, Protecting Tomorrow”
24 March	World Tuberculosis Day	Theme: “Yes! We can end Tuberculosis!”

25 March	International Day of the Unborn Child	Promotes respect for human dignity before birth
25 March	International Day of Remembrance of Victims of Slavery	Honours victims of transatlantic slave trade
27 March	World Theatre Day	Theme: "Theatre and a Culture of Peace."

NATIONAL AND STATE NEWS

Sarbananda Sonowal Inaugurates Key Projects on National Waterway-2 in Assam

Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways **Sarbananda Sonowal** inaugurated **three major infrastructure projects** on **Brahmaputra River** under **National Waterway 2** in Dibrugarh, **Assam**.

Soundala Village in Maharashtra Declares Itself 'Caste-Free' Through Gram Sabha Resolution

Soundala village in **Maharashtra**, located about 350 km from **Mumbai**, has declared itself a **"caste-free village" after passing a unanimous resolution in the gram sabha.**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Inaugurate India's First Semiconductor ATMP Plant in Sanand

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will **inaugurate India's first semiconductor ATMP (Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging) facility** set up by **Micron Technology** at Sanand in **Gujarat**.

Indian Railways Launches Rail Tech Policy 2026, Rail Tech Portal and e-RCT

The **Indian Railways** has launched the **Rail Tech Policy 2026**, **Rail Tech Portal**, and **e-Railway Claims Tribunal (e-RCT)** in New Delhi.

Rajasthan Renames Mount Abu as Aburaj; Kaman and Jahazpur Also Renamed

The **Rajasthan Government** has approved the **renaming of three towns in the state as part of its cultural heritage initiative.**

Raksha Rajya Mantri Inaugurates Restored Chungthang–Lachen Axis and Taram Chu Bridge in North Sikkim

Raksha Rajya Mantri **Shri Sanjay Seth** inaugurated the restored **28 kilometre Chungthang–Lachen Axis** and the **400 feet Bailey Suspension Taram Chu Bridge** in **North Sikkim**.

Maharashtra Launches Divyang Sahayak Portal for Digital Delivery of Disability Welfare Schemes

The **Government of Maharashtra** launched the **Divyang Sahayak Portal in**, described as **India's first fully integrated online platform for disability welfare schemes**.

Varanasi Sets Guinness World Records by Planting 2,51,446 Saplings in One Hour

Varanasi has created a new **Guinness World Records** milestone by planting **2,51,446 saplings within one hour** at the **Sujabad Domari area**, surpassing China's **2018 record of 1,53,981 saplings**.

Chhattisgarh Finance Minister O. P. Chaudhary Presents ₹1.72 Lakh Crore Budget for Financial Year 2026–27

Chhattisgarh Finance Minister Om Prakash Chaudhary presented the **₹1,72,000 crore** annual Budget for the **Financial Year 2026–27** in the State Legislative Assembly at **Raipur, Chhattisgarh**.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari Launches Upgraded Rajmarg Pravesh Version 2.0 Web Portal

Union Minister **Nitin Gadkari**, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, launched the upgraded **Rajmarg Pravesh Version 2.0** web portal to facilitate easy issuance of **No Objection Certificates for facilities and utilities along National Highways**.

Tamil Nadu Inaugurates First Dark Sky Park at Kolli Hills

Tamil Nadu Forest Minister R S Rajakannappan inaugurated the State's first Dark Sky Park at **Ariyur Shola Reserve Forest**, Kolli Hills, in **Namakkal** district, positioning Tamil Nadu as an emerging **astro-tourism destination**.

President Droupadi Murmu Launches Four Women-Centric Welfare Schemes under 'Sashakt Nari, Samriddh Delhi' Programme

The **Hon'ble President of India, Droupadi Murmu**, launched four women- centric welfare schemes of the Delhi Government at the **"Sashakt Nari, Samriddh Delhi"** programme held in **New Delhi**.

Pink National Common Mobility Card

The **Pink National Common Mobility Card** was launched to provide **seamless and integrated access to public transport** for women.

Free LPG Cylinders Scheme

The Delhi Government announced provision of **two free Liquefied Petroleum Gas cylinders annually** to **ration card-holding families**.

Delhi Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana

Under the **Delhi Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana**, an amount of **₹56,000 will be deposited in instalments** in the name of a girl child.

Meri Punji Mera Adhikaar

The **Meri Punji Mera Adhikaar** initiative focuses on **clearing pending financial dues** and ensuring citizens' **financial rights are addressed transparently**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Launches HPV Vaccination Programme and Inaugurates Major Projects; Dr Jitendra Singh Unveils Biotechnology Facilities

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi visited Rajasthan and Gujarat** to launch a major **healthcare initiative** and inaugurate **large-scale development and industrial projects.**

Bureau of Energy Efficiency Celebrates 25th Foundation Day in New Delhi

The **Bureau of Energy Efficiency** celebrated its **25th Foundation Day** at **India Habitat Centre**, marking a milestone in India's energy conservation journey.

Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary to Host Second Indian Bison Fest on 8 March 2026

The second edition of the **Indian Bison Fest** will be held on **8 March 2026** at Zeropoint inside **Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary** in Sambalpur, Odisha

Project HANUMAN Launched in Andhra Pradesh to Address Human–Wildlife Conflict

Deputy Chief Minister **of Andhra Pradesh Pawan Kalyan** launched **Project HANUMAN** to tackle the rising incidents of **human–wildlife conflict** in the state.

India to Host Bharat Steel 2026 Summit in New Delhi from 16 April 2026

India will host the Bharat Steel 2026 Summit in **New Delhi** from **16 April 2026** for two days, bringing together global leaders from **steel, technology, mining and trading sectors to deliberate on the future of the next-generation steel ecosystem**.

Haryana Budget 2026–27 Presented with ₹2.23 Lakh Crore Outlay

Chief Minister and Finance Minister **Nayab Singh Saini** presented **the Haryana** Budget 2026–27 with a total outlay of **₹2,23,658 crore**, marking a **10.28 percent increase** over the revised estimate of ₹2,02,816 crore for 2025–26.

Central Warehousing Corporation Celebrates 70th Foundation Day; Reports Record Financial Performance

The **Central Warehousing Corporation** celebrated its **70th Foundation Day** at **Bharat Mandapam**, **New Delhi**.

India Becomes Second Highest Country Globally in Childhood Obesity: World Obesity Atlas 2026

According to the **World Obesity Atlas** released by the **World Obesity Federation**, **India has overtaken the United States to become the second highest country globally for childhood obesity**, ranking **just behind China**.

Maharashtra Launches Saksham Skill Census, India's First Artificial Intelligence-Powered Skill Survey

Ashish Shelar, Minister of Information Technology and Cultural Affairs, Government of

Maharashtra, launched the **Saksham Skill Census** at **R. D. National College**, Bandra West, Mumbai.

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology Launches Indigenous 30 Kilowatt Wide Band Gap-Based Integrated Drive System at Indian Institute of Technology Madras

S. Krishnan, Secretary of the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**, launched an indigenously developed **30 kilowatt Wide Band Gap- based Integrated Drive System** for electric vehicle applications at **Indian Institute of Technology Madras**, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

NITI Aayog and Japan International Cooperation Agency Sign Record of Discussions for Phase Two of Sustainable Development Goals Cooperation

The **NITI Aayog** and the **Japan International Cooperation Agency** signed a **Record of Discussions** for **Phase Two of the Japan–India Cooperative Actions towards Sustainable Development Goals**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Launches Development Projects Worth Over Rs 7,100 Crore in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry

Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi, visited the State of **Tamil Nadu (TN)** and the Union Territory (UT) of **Puducherry** to inaugurate, dedicate to the nation and lay foundation stones for multiple infrastructure and development projects worth **over Rs 7,100 crore**, with a strong focus on **regional connectivity, economic growth and public welfare**.

Under the National Highway development initiatives:

The **Marakkanam–Puducherry project on National Highway-332A (NH-332A)** is a four-laning project with an investment of **over Rs 2,100 crore**. It is expected to **reduce travel time by nearly 50%** and improve connectivity to important locations such as **Mamallapuram, Kalpakkam Atomic Power Station and Auroville**.

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan Announces New Seed Act 2026 and Revised Pesticide Act 2026

Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union Minister of the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoAFW)**, announced two major legislative reforms — the **New Seed Act 2026** and the **Revised Pesticide Act 2026** in **Mussoorie, Uttarakhand.**

Gujarat Launches herSTART 5.0 Programme to Promote Women-Led Startups

The Government of **Gujarat** launched **herSTART 5.0**, a major initiative aimed at **strengthening women-led startups and entrepreneurship** in the state.

Andhra Pradesh Announces ₹25,000 Incentive for Second and Third Child to Address Declining

Fertility Rate

The Government of **Andhra Pradesh** has announced a **financial incentive of ₹25,000** for couples who have a **second or third child** as part of a **population boost policy**.

Adani Group Selected as Official Partner for World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development 2026

The **Adani Group** has been selected as the **official partner for World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development (WED) 2026**.

Operation Centre (ENOC) using **Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning technologies**.

Waterless robotic cleaning systems will be used to clean solar panels, helping address **water scarcity in the Kutch region**.

Kerala Launches 'MeHEALTH' Mobile Application to Improve Access to Public Healthcare Services

The **Kerala Health Department** launched the **MeHEALTH mobile application** to help citizens easily access information about **public healthcare facilities and services in nearby locations**.

Sarvam AI Launches 'Sarvam Startup Program' to Support Generative AI Startups in India

Indian generative Artificial Intelligence startup **Sarvam AI** launched the **Sarvam Startup Program** to support **early-stage startups developing Artificial Intelligence based products in India**.

GI-Tagged Karbi Anglong Ginger from Assam Exported to London for the First Time

Assam achieved a major milestone in **agricultural exports** as **GI-tagged Karbi Anglong Ginger was exported to London for the first time**.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah Unveils 'Pragati' and 'Vikas' Mascots and Digital Tools for Census 2027

Shri Amit Shah, **Union Minister of Home Affairs**, soft launched **digital tools and unveiled the official mascots 'Pragati' and 'Vikas' for Census 2027 in New Delhi**.

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal Lays Foundation Stone for India's First Riverine Lighthouses on Brahmaputra

Union Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal**, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (**MoPSW**), laid the **foundation stone for India's first Riverine Lighthouses** on the **Brahmaputra River**, marking a major step in strengthening **inland water navigation infrastructure**.

Government Suspends Television Rating Points for TV News Channels for Four Weeks

The **Government of India** directed the **Broadcast Audience Research Council** to **suspend Television Rating Points (TRP) reporting for TV news channels for four weeks**.

Punjab Budget 2026–27 Presented with ₹2,60,437 Crore Outlay; Mukh Mantri Mawan Dhiyan Satkar Yojana Announced

The **Punjab Budget 2026–27** was presented by Finance Minister **Harpal Singh Cheema** in **Punjab** with a **total outlay of ₹2,60,437 crore**.

Karnataka Proposes Social Media Ban for Children Under 16 in Budget 2026

The Government of **Karnataka** proposed a **ban on social media usage for children below 16 years** in the **Karnataka Budget 2026–27**.

Government e-Marketplace Celebrates Seven Years of SWAYATT Initiative to Promote Inclusive Public Procurement

The **SWAYATT Initiative** on the **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** completed **seven years**, marking a major milestone in promoting **inclusive public procurement in India**.

Karnataka Budget 2026–27 Presented with ₹4.48 Trillion Outlay

The **Karnataka Budget 2026–27** was presented by **Siddaramaiah**, Chief Minister of **Karnataka**, with a **total outlay of ₹4.48 trillion for Financial Year 2026–27 (FY27)**.

India Expands Network of Free Trade Agreements with 38 Countries

India has significantly expanded its **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** network over the last decade, reaching **nine FTAs covering 38 countries**, strengthening its global trade presence.

Ministry of Panchayati Raj Launches 'Say No To Proxy Sarpanch' Campaign

The **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** launched the **"Say No To Proxy Sarpanch" campaign** on **International Women's Day** to address the issue of proxy leadership in village governance.

Maharashtra Celebrates International Women's Day 2026 with Guinness World Record Lezim Dance

Maharashtra celebrated **International Women's Day** 2026 with rallies, marathons, sports events, awareness campaigns and cultural programmes under the theme **"Give to Gain."**

Kerala Introduces Cyber Safety Protocol 2026 for Schools

The government of **Kerala** has introduced the **Cyber Safety Protocol 2026**, a comprehensive framework aimed at protecting students in the era of **Artificial Intelligence** and digital learning.

India's First Ring Metro Inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in Delhi

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, inaugurated **India's first Ring Metro corridor** in **Delhi**, marking a major expansion of the **Delhi Metro**

India Notifies Green Ammonia and Green Methanol Standards under National Green Hydrogen Mission

The **India Government** has officially notified **standards for green ammonia and green methanol**

under the **National Green Hydrogen Mission** to accelerate the adoption of **hydrogen-based fuels and support the transition to cleaner energy systems**.

Uttar Pradesh Launches Project GANGA to Expand Rural High-Speed Internet Connectivity

The **Uttar Pradesh Government** launched **Project GANGA** to provide **high-speed internet connectivity to more than 20 lakh rural households** over the next **two to three years**.

India Plans to Increase Inter-Regional Power Transmission Capacity to 143 Gigawatts by 2027

The **India** Government announced that the country's **inter-regional power transmission capacity** will increase to **143 Gigawatts (GW) by 2027** to strengthen electricity flow across regions.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurates 11th Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi

Prime Minister Shri **Narendra Modi**, inaugurated the **11th edition of the Raisina Dialogue** in **New Delhi**.

Indian Railways Launches SHINE App to Report Workplace Sexual Harassment

Indian Railways launched the **SHINE App** on **International Women's Day (8 March 2026)** to strengthen **workplace safety for women employees**.

Narcotics Control Bureau Dismantles Pan-India Drug Trafficking Network "Team Kalki"

The **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)** dismantled a major **pan-India drug trafficking network named "Team Kalki"** that operated through **darknet marketplaces and encrypted messaging platforms**.

Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Passes Land Revenue Code Amendment Bill and Stamp Amendment Bill 2026

The **Maharashtra Legislative Assembly** passed two important bills: the **Maharashtra Land Revenue Code Amendment Bill** and the **Maharashtra Stamp Amendment Bill 2026** to improve **administrative efficiency and better utilisation of government land**.

Mizoram Legislative Assembly Passes Resolution to Include Mizo Language in Eighth Schedule of the Constitution

The **Mizoram Legislative Assembly** unanimously passed a resolution seeking the **inclusion of the Mizo language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India**.

India Sends 1,000 Metric Tons of Rice to Malawi as Humanitarian Assistance after El Niño Drought

India has dispatched **1,000 metric tons of rice** to **Malawi** as **humanitarian assistance** to help the country address food shortages caused by a severe drought.

Cheetah Population in India Reaches 53 after Birth of Five Cubs at Kuno National Park

The **cheetah population in India has reached 53** after **Cheetah Jwala**, a Namibian cheetah, gave

birth to **five cubs at Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh**.

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs Approves ₹3,630.77 Crore Greenfield Connectivity Corridor to Noida International Airport

The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs**, chaired by **Narendra Modi**, approved the **revised total capital cost of ₹3,630.77 crore** for the **Greenfield connectivity corridor to Noida International Airport (Jewar International Airport)**.

Union Cabinet Approves Extension of Jal Jeevan Mission till 2028 with Revised Outlay

The **Union Cabinet of India** chaired by **Narendra Modi** approved the **extension of the Jal Jeevan Mission till December 2028** with an enhanced financial outlay.

Chhattisgarh Cabinet Approves Draft Freedom of Religion Bill 2026

The **Chhattisgarh State Cabinet** approved the **draft Freedom of Religion Bill 2026** aimed at **preventing illegal religious conversions in the state**.

Gujarat Launches 'Lake and Air Watch' Initiative to Monitor Urban Air Quality and Lake Health

The **Gujarat Government** launched the **'Lake and Air Watch' initiative** to **monitor and improve air quality and lake health in urban areas** across the state.

India Becomes Largest Exporter of Cotton Products to the United States in 2025

India overtook **China** to become the **largest exporter of cotton products to the United States in 2025**, according to analysis by the **United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Launches Development Projects Worth ₹5,600 Crore in Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu

Prime Minister Shri **Narendra Modi**, **inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for multiple development projects worth about ₹5,600 crore in Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu**.

Unique Identification Authority of India Launches First Structured Bug Bounty Program to Strengthen Aadhaar Security

The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** launched its **first structured Bug Bounty Program** to strengthen the **security of the Aadhaar digital ecosystem**.

NITI Aayog Releases Fiscal Health Index 2026 Assessing Financial Performance of States

NITI Aayog released the **Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2026**, which evaluates the **fiscal performance and financial sustainability of Indian states**.

New Delhi Deploys India's First Microalgae-Based PureAir Tower to Combat Urban Air Pollution

New Delhi has deployed **India's first microalgae-based PureAir Tower** along the **Aerocity highway corridor** to address **urban air pollution caused by vehicular emissions**.

Supreme Court Clarifies Criteria for Creamy Layer Exclusion in Other Backward Classes

Reservation

The **Supreme Court of India** clarified that **parental income alone cannot be the sole criterion for determining "creamy layer" status in the Other Backward Classes reservation system**.

President Droupadi Murmu Addresses Global Conference on the Role of Women in Agri-Food Systems 2026

President of **India, Droupadi Murmu**,addressed the **inaugural session of the Global Conference on the Role of Women in Agri-Food Systems 2026** held in **New Delhi**.

India Plans ₹1 Trillion Semiconductor Fund to Boost Domestic Chip Manufacturing

India is preparing to launch a **₹1 trillion (about $11 billion) semiconductor fund** to strengthen **domestic chip manufacturing and develop a strong semiconductor ecosystem**.

Prime Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme: 22nd Installment Released to Over 9 Crore Farmers

The **22nd installment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme** was released by Shri **Narendra Modi** from **Guwahati**, **Assam**.

International Rail Coach Expo 2026 Inaugurated at Integral Coach Factory in Chennai

The **International Rail Coach Expo 2026** was inaugurated at the **Integral Coach Factory** premises in **Chennai**.

V. O. Chidambaranar Port Launches India's First Digital Twin Platform for Port Management

V. O. Chidambaranar Port launched the **Digital Twin initiative**, becoming the **first port in India to adopt this advanced technology for port management**.

Andhra Pradesh Launches 'Araku Kouni', State's First Tribal Millet-Based Food Menu

N. Chandrababu Naidu, Chief Minister of **Andhra Pradesh**, launched **'Araku Kouni'**, the state's **first tribal millet-based food menu**, during the **Collectors' Conference at the State Secretariat**.

Supreme Court Allows Withdrawal of Life Support in Harish Rana Passive Euthanasia Case

The **Supreme Court of India** permitted the **withdrawal of artificial life support in the Harish Rana passive euthanasia case**, marking an important development in the **legal and ethical debate on end-of-life decisions in India**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Announces ₹24,000 Crore Development Projects During Assam Visit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi began a **two-day visit to Assam** and **inaugurated and laid foundation stones for development projects worth more than ₹24,000 crore** aimed at strengthening **infrastructure, energy, transport, and welfare of local communities**.

Purple Fest 2026 Celebrated at Rashtrapati Bhavan to Honour Divyangjan

A special celebration called **Purple Fest** was organised at **Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi** to recognise the **talent, achievements, and aspirations of Divyangjan (persons with disabilities)** and promote **inclusion, respect, and awareness about their abilities**.

Bokaro Steel Plant Receives Bureau of Indian Standards Certification for Four New High Strength Low Alloy Steel Grades

The **Bokaro Steel Plant**, a unit of the **Steel Authority of India Limited**, received certification from the **Bureau of Indian Standards** for four new steel grades – **ISC 440 LA, ISC 470 LA, ISC 510 LA, and ISC 550 LA**.

Chirag Paswan Inaugurates Common Incubation Centre at Tezpur University under Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme

Chirag Paswan, Union Minister of Food Processing Industries, inaugurated a **modern Common Incubation Centre at Tezpur University in Sonitpur district, Assam**.

AMRUT Mitra Mahotsav 2026 Celebrates Women SHGs' Role in Urban Water Services

The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** organised the **AMRUT Mitra Mahotsav 2026** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi** to recognise the contributions of **women Self-Help Groups (SHGs)** working as **AMRUT Mitras** under **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation 2.0 (AMRUT 2.0)**.

Government Launches Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0 to Strengthen Rural Drinking Water Supply

The **Ministry of Jal Shakti** is implementing **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0** to ensure **safe drinking water supply to every rural household in India**.

Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi Launches Inland Waterway Projects Worth ₹526 Crore in Assam

Prime Minister of India shri **Narendra Modi**, **dedicated an elevated road corridor connecting Pandu Port to National Highway-27 and laid the foundation for key inland waterway projects in Assam**.

Government Initiatives to Prevent Child Marriage in India

Child marriage remains a serious social issue in India, affecting the **rights, health, education, and overall development of children**, particularly **girls**.

Union Public Service Commission Clarifies Rules for Appointment of State Director General of Police

The **appointment process for State Director General of Police (DGP)** has been clarified following new directions involving the **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)** and the **Supreme**

Court of India.

Indian-Origin Entrepreneur Surya Midha Becomes Youngest Self-Made Billionaire in 2026

Indian-origin entrepreneur Surya Midha has gained global attention after matching the **youngest self-made billionaire milestone**, which was earlier associated with **Mark Zuckerberg**.

Government Approves Perpetual Validity for Food Safety and Standards Authority of India Licences to Ease Business Compliance

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has approved **perpetual validity for registrations and licences issued by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India** to improve the **ease of doing business in India**.

National Highways Authority of India Revises FASTag Annual Pass Fee from April 1, 2026

The **National Highways Authority of India announced a revision in the FASTag Annual Pass fee for private non-commercial vehicles**.

SATHEE Application Launched by Ministry of Education and Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur for Competitive Exam Preparation

The **SATHEE Application** has been developed by the **Ministry of Education in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur** to support students preparing for major competitive examinations.

Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden Opens for Visitors in Srinagar

The **Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden in Srinagar,** known as Asia's largest tulip garden, was opened to visitors.

Gujarat Launches Statewide Foot and Mouth Disease Vaccination Drive

The **Gujarat Government launched a statewide vaccination drive against Foot and Mouth Disease to** protect livestock and prevent the spread of the disease.

Kusunpur Village in Odisha to Become State's First Smart Village Under Council of Scientific and Industrial Research Initiative

Kusunpur village in Kendrapada district of Odisha is set to become the first smart village in the state under an initiative of the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research** functioning under the **Ministry of Science and Technology**.

India's Unemployment Rate Declines to 4.9% in February 2026: Periodic Labour Force Survey

India's **unemployment rate declined marginally to 4.9 percent in February 2026**, according to the **National Statistics Office** through the **Periodic Labour Force Survey**.

Department of Posts Launches '24 Speed Post' Service for Next-Day Delivery

The **Department of Posts**, under the **Ministry of Communications**, has launched the **'24 Speed**

Post' service to provide **next-day guaranteed delivery for urgent consignments**.

India Submits First National Report on Nagoya Protocol to Convention on Biological Diversity

India has submitted its **first National Report on the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing to the Convention on Biological Diversity**.

APEDA Facilitates First Export of GI-Tagged Joha Rice from Assam to United Kingdom and Italy

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry facilitated the **first export consignment of 25 metric tonnes of Geographical Indication tagged Joha rice from Assam to the United Kingdom and Italy**.

NMDC Limited Becomes First Mining Company in India to Produce 50 Million Tonnes of Iron Ore in a Financial Year

NMDC Limited, a Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the **Ministry of Steel**, has become the **first mining company in India to produce 50 million tonnes of iron ore in a single financial year (Financial Year 2025–26)**.

Government Sanctions ₹100 Crore Integrated Aqua Park in Jammu and Kashmir to Boost Cold-Water Fisheries

Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying and Panchayati Raj, announced the sanction of a **₹100 crore Integrated Aqua Park Project** in **Anantnag district, Jammu and Kashmir**.

Supreme Court Removes Age Limit on Maternity Leave for Adoptive Mothers

The **Supreme Court of India** has **struck down the age restriction on maternity leave for adoptive mothers**, declaring the provision unconstitutional.

Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati Develops MXene-Based Material for Hydrogen Fuel and Desalination

Researchers at the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati** developed a **MXene-based material** capable of both **hydrogen fuel production** and **seawater desalination**.

India Tourism Development Corporation Tribal Homestay Capacity Building Programme 2026 Launched

The **India Tourism Development Corporation**, in collaboration with the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**, launched the **Tribal Homestay Capacity Building Programme 2026** in **New Delhi**.

Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana (BHAVYA) Scheme Approved by Union Cabinet to Develop 100 Industrial Parks

The **Union Cabinet** approved the **BHAVYA (Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana) Scheme** to develop

100 plug-and-play industrial parks across India.

Maharashtra Freedom of Religion Bill 2026 Passed

.The Bill was passed by **voice vote** and targets conversions through **coercion, fraud, inducement, or marriage**.

Transgender Rights Amendment Bill 2026 Introduced in Parliament

The **Transgender Rights Amendment Bill 2026** has been introduced in Parliament to amend the **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019**, proposing **major changes in recognition of transgender identity** in India.

Small Hydro Power Development Scheme Approved by Union Cabinet

The **Union Cabinet** approved the **Small Hydro Power Development Scheme** for the period **Financial Year 2026–27 to Financial Year 2030–31** with an outlay of **₹2,584.60 crore**.

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited Launches India's First Liquefied Petroleum Gas Automated Teller Machine in Gurugram, Haryana

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, launched **India's first Liquefied Petroleum Gas Automated Teller Machine** in **Gurugram, Haryana**.

Lok Sabha Extends JPC Tenure on One Nation One Election Proposal till Monsoon Session 2026

The Lok Sabha extended the tenure of the Joint Parliamentary Committee examining the **One Nation One Election** proposal until the **first day of the last week of the Monsoon Session 2026**.

Kalinjar Fort Hill in Banda, Uttar Pradesh Declared National Geo-Heritage Site by Geological Survey of India (GSI)

The **Kalinjar Fort Hill** in **Banda district, Uttar Pradesh** has been declared a **National Geo-Heritage Site** by the Geological Survey of India.

RELIEF Scheme 2026 Launched under Export Promotion Mission (EPM) to Support Exporters Amid West Asia Crisis

The Government of India launched the Resilience and Logistic Intervention for Export Promotion (**RELIEF) Scheme 2026** on **19 March 2026** under the **Export Promotion Mission (EPM)** to support exporters affected by disruptions in **West Asia**, especially near the **Strait of Hormuz**.

National Productivity Council (NPC) Designated as Environment Audit Designated Agency (EADA) under Environment Audit Rules, 2025

The **National Productivity Council (NPC)** signed an agreement with the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)** to function as the **Environment Audit Designated**

Agency (EADA).

Telangana Budget 2026: Indiramma Family Life Insurance Scheme and Cashless Health Scheme Announced

The **Telangana State Budget 2026** was presented by Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka in the State Assembly.

New Income-tax Rules 2026 Notified; Effective from 1 April 2026 under Income-tax Act, 2025

The **New Income-tax Rules 2026** will come into effect from **1 April 2026** as part of reforms under the **Income-tax Act, 2025**.

Tata Steel Limited Inaugurates India's First Scrap-Based Electric Arc Furnace Facility in Ludhiana, Punjab

Tata Steel Limited inaugurated **India's first scrap-based Electric Arc Furnace facility** in **Ludhiana, Punjab**, marking a major step towards **sustainable steel production in India**.

National District Mineral Foundation Summit 2026 Held in New Delhi

The **National District Mineral Foundation Summit 2026** was scheduled to be held on **23–24 March 2026** at **SCOPE Convention Centre**, **New Delhi.**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Becomes India's Longest-Serving Elected Head of Government

Prime Minister Narendra Modi became the **longest-serving elected head of government in India**, completing **8,931 days in office** and entering his **25th year in executive leadership**.

Chandigarh University Uttar Pradesh Launches Centre of Excellence in Smart Healthcare

Chandigarh University, **Uttar Pradesh**, India's **first private Artificial Intelligence-augmented multidisciplinary university**, launched a **Centre of Excellence in Smart Healthcare**.

Central Electricity Authority Releases National Generation Adequacy Plan 2026–27 to 2035–36

The **Central Electricity Authority under** the Ministry of Power released the **midterm review of the 20th Electric Power Survey titled "National Generation Adequacy Plan (2026–27 to 2035–36)"**.

Department of Telecommunications Launches 5G Innovation Hackathon 2026 under 100 5G Use Case Laboratories Programme

The **Department of Telecommunications** under the Ministry of Communications launched the **5G Innovation Hackathon 2026**, the **second edition** of its flagship initiative under the **100 5G Use Case Laboratories Programme**.

National Biodiversity Authority Constitutes Expert Committee on Invasive Alien Species

The **National Biodiversity Authority,** a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, constituted a **multi-disciplinary Expert Committee on Invasive Alien Species** under the **Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (amended in 2023)**.

Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Bill, 2026 Proposed to Retain Indian Police Service Leadership in CAPFs

The Government of India is set to introduce the **Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Bill, 2026** to formalise the **administrative control and leadership structure** in **Central Armed Police Forces**.

Delhi Budget 2026–27 Presented with Green Development Focus and Outlay of ₹1.03 Trillion

Rekha Gupta, Chief Minister of **Delhi**, presented the **Delhi Budget 2026–27** with a total outlay of **₹1,03,700 crore (₹1.03 trillion)**.

Gujarat Becomes Second State After Uttarakhand to Pass Uniform Civil Code Bill 2026

The Government of Gujarat passed the **Uniform Civil Code Bill, 2026** in the State Assembly, becoming the **second state after Uttarakhand (2024)** to pass a **Uniform Civil Code law**.

Government of India Constitutes Seven Empowered Committees to Address Impact of West Asia Crisis

The Government of India constituted **seven empowered committees** to manage the **economic, energy, trade, logistics, inflation, and national security impact** arising from the escalating **West Asia crisis**.

Indian Railways Revises Ticket Cancellation and Refund Policy 2026

Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister for Railways, introduced **major reforms in the ticket cancellation and refund policy of Indian Railways**.

GHADC Makes Scheduled Tribe Certificate Mandatory to Contest Council Elections in Meghalaya

The **Garo Hills Autonomous District Council** in **Meghalaya** passed an amendment making a **Scheduled Tribe certificate mandatory** to contest its elections.

NITI Aayog Sanctions ₹1.55 Crore to Rural Innovations Incubation Skilling and Entrepreneurship Centre in Andhra Pradesh to Promote Rural Women Entrepreneurship

The **NITI Aayog** sanctioned **₹1.55 crore** for the **Rural Innovations Incubation Skilling and Entrepreneurship (RISE) Centre** located at **Guntupalli** in **NTR District**.

Government Revamps PM Internship Scheme 2026: Expands Scope, Eases Eligibility & Increases Stipend

The Government revamped the **PM Internship Scheme** in **March 2026** to improve **participation and outcomes**.

Lok Sabha Passes Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026

The **Lok Sabha** passed the **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026**.

India's Sports Economy Crosses $2 Billion Mark in 2025: Reaches ₹18,864 Crore

India's **sports economy crossed the $2 billion mark** in **2025**, reaching **₹18,864 crore ($2.13 billion)**.

Supreme Court Rules SC Status Lost After Conversion to Christianity; Reaffirms Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950

The **Supreme Court of India** ruled in **March 2026** that **Scheduled Caste (SC) status is limited to persons professing Hinduism, Sikhism, or Buddhism**.

Gujarat Digitises 20 Citizen Services under Sugam Digital Gujarat Initiative (Faceless, Cashless, Paperless Governance)

The **Government of Gujarat** digitised **20 high-demand citizen services** under the **Sugam Digital Gujarat Initiative** to promote **faceless, cashless and paperless governance**.

Union Cabinet Approves India's Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) for 2031–2035

The **Union Cabinet**, under the leadership **of Shri Narendra Modi**, approved **India's updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) for 2031–2035**.

Prime Minister Modi to Inaugurate Noida International Airport Phase I, Boost NCR Connectivity

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will inaugurate **Phase I** of the **Noida International Airport** on **March 28**, marking a major milestone in India's **aviation** and **infrastructure development**.

Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026 introduced in Lok Sabha by Minister of State for Commerce and Industry

The Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, **Jitin Prasada,** introduced the **Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026** in the Lok Sabha after receiving approval from the Union

Cabinet.

Government Directs Over ₹1.77 Lakh Crore Toward Fertilizer Subsidies in 2024-25

The Department of Fertilizers highlighted the successful implementation of the **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system**, along with the Government's continued financial commitment to keeping agricultural inputs affordable for farmers.

Government Notifies TV Rating Policy (TRP) 2026 to Strengthen Transparency, Accountability and Credibility of Television Audience Measurement in India

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting released the **TV Ratings Policy 2026**, introducing comprehensive guidelines to regulate television audience measurement in India.

Adani Ports Operationalises India's First Port of Refuge to Strengthen Maritime Emergency Response Framework

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited operationalised **India's first Port of Refuge (PoR)**, marking a major step towards strengthening **India's maritime security and emergency response infrastructure**.

Government Extends PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement Scheme till 2028; Incentives for Electric Two-Wheelers Available Only till July 2026

The **Government of India** has extended the PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (**PM E-DRIVE Scheme)** till **31st March 2028**, with a **financial outlay of ₹10,900 crore**, to support the growth of **India's electric vehicle (EV) ecosystem**.

India Reported 24,700 Maternal Deaths in 2023; Lancet Study Estimates Maternal Mortality Ratio at 116 per 1 Lakh Live Births

India reported **24,700 maternal deaths in 2023**, placing it among the countries with the **highest maternal mortality burden globally**, according to a global analysis **published in The Lancet.**

Supreme Court Panel Urges Centre to Withdraw Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill 2026

A **panel appointed by the Supreme Court of India** has urged the **Union Government** to **withdraw the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026**, raising serious concerns over its **impact on transgender rights**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Attend G7 Summit 2026 in France from June 15–17

The **Prime Minister of India** Shri Narendra Modi, will attend the **G7 Summit 2026**, scheduled to be

held from **15th to 17th June 2026** in **France**.

Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad Launches Krishnamurthy Tandon School of Artificial Intelligence with ₹100 Crore Endowment

The **Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad** launched the **Krishnamurthy Tandon School of Artificial Intelligence** marking a major boost to **India's education and technology ecosystem**.

India's First Hydrogen-Powered Trainset Successfully Completes Oscillation Trials

India's first hydrogen-powered trainset successfully completed **oscillation trials**, marking a major milestone in **sustainable transportation** and **clean energy adoption by Indian Railways**.

Rajasthan Launches Industrial Park Promotion Policy 2026 to Boost Investment and Employment

The **Rajasthan Governmen**t has launched the **Industrial Park Promotion Policy 2026** under the leadership of Bhajanlal Sharma to **attract investments, generate employment and develop world-class industrial parks**.

Great Indian Bustard Chick Hatched in Wild in Gujarat After Nearly a Decade

A **Great Indian Bustard chick** was successfully hatched in the wild **in Gujarat** after nearly a **decade**, marking a major milestone in wildlife conservation.

Indian Railways Imposes ₹10 Lakh Fine on Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Over Food Quality Complaint on Patna–Tatanagar Vande Bharat Express

Indian Railways imposed a **₹10 lakh penalty** on Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation following a **food quality complaint** on the **Patna– Tatanagar Vande Bharat Express**.

Amrit Bharat Station Scheme to Redevelop 1,338 Railway Stations Across India

The **Amrit Bharat Station Scheme** has been launched by the **Government of India** to **modernise railway infrastructure** and improve **passenger amenities across railway stations**.

Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) Scheme Provides ₹3,000 Monthly Pension to Unorganised Workers

The **Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan** (PM-SYM) is a **voluntary pension scheme** launched in **2019** by the **Government of India** to provide **social security to unorganised sector**

workers.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi Visits Israel on Invitation of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to Strengthen Bilateral Ties

The **Prime Minister of India**, **Narendra Modi**, visited **Israel** at the invitation of **Benjamin Netanyahu**, accompanied by a **high-level ministerial and official delegation** (**26–27 February 2026**).

India and European Union to Exchange Most Favoured Nation Status for 5 Years

The **Government of India** and the **European Union** agreed to grant **Most Favoured Nation (MFN)** status to each other for a period of **five years** starting from the date the **India–EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** comes into force.

Iran–United States–Israel Conflict Disrupts Oil and Gas Flow Through Strait of Hormuz

The **Strait of Hormuz** is a **strategic maritime chokepoint** carrying about **one-fifth of global oil and LNG trade**, and is currently facing **disruption** due to **geopolitical tensions** involving **Iran**, the **United States**, and **Israel**.

Scotland Becomes First United Kingdom Nation to Legalise Water Cremation

Scotland has become the **first nation in the United Kingdom** to legalise **water cremation (Alkaline Hydrolysis)**, marking the **biggest funeral law reform since 1902** when traditional cremation was introduced.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney's India Visit Overview (Feb 27 – Mar 2, 2026)

Mark Carney, the **Prime Minister of Canada**, visited **India** from **27 February to 2 March 2026** at the invitation of **Narendra Modi**.

India–Finland Sign Mobility and Migration Pact During Finnish President's India Visit

India and Finland signed a **Mobility and Migration Partnership Agreement** during the visit of **Alexander Stubb**, President of Finland, to India.

United Nations Report Says Women Have Only 64% of Legal Rights Compared to Men Globally

The **United Nations (UN)** released a report titled **"Ensuring and Strengthening Access to Justice for All Women and Girls"**, highlighting global **gender inequality** in legal rights.

World Health Organization Confirms Chile as First Country in the Americas to Eliminate Leprosy

The **World Health Organization (WHO)**, in collaboration with the **Pan American Health**

Organization (PAHO), verified that **Chile** has **eliminated leprosy** as a public health problem.

Mobile World Congress 2026 Concludes in Barcelona, Showcasing Global Telecom and Tech Innovations

The **Mobile World Congress (MWC) 2026**, the world's largest **mobile and technology event**, was held from **March 2–5, 2026** at **Fira Barcelona Gran Via**, **Barcelona, Spain**.

World Health Organization Certifies Denmark as First European Union Country to Eliminate Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV and Syphilis

Denmark has been certified by the **World Health Organization (WHO)** as the **first country in the European Union** to achieve **elimination of mother-to-child transmission (EMTCT)** of **HIV and syphilis**.

Romania Confirms Ratification of the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement

Sena Latif, **Ambassador of Romania**, submitted the **Instrument of Ratification** to **P. S.Gangadhar**, **Joint Secretary and Head of Depository** at the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**, confirming **Romania's ratification** of the **Framework Agreement** of the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**.

Summary of Finland President Alexander Stubb's India Visit (4–7 March 2026)

Alexander Stubb, **President of Finland**, paid a **four-day State Visit** to India from **4–7 March 2026** at the invitation of **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, accompanied by a high-level delegation.

India, Uzbekistan Launch Pharma-Nutraceutical Corridor to Access USD 7–10 Billion CIS and Eurasian Healthcare Market

India and Uzbekistan jointly launched a **structured pharmaceutical and nutraceutical corridor** to expand access to the **CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States)** and the wider **Eurasian healthcare market**, valued at **USD 7–10 billion**.

India Retains Position as Second-Largest Global Arms Importer in Stockholm International Peace Research Institute 2025 Report

The **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)** released the report titled **'Trends in International Arms Transfers, 2025'**.

United States President Donald Trump Unveils $300 Billion Reliance Partnership to Construct First New U.S. Refinery in Nearly 50 Years

Donald Trump, **President of the United States**, announced the construction of the **first new major oil refinery** in nearly **50 years** with investment from **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)** led by **Mukesh Ambani**.

Brazil Implements Stricter Social Media Regulations for Users Under 16

Brazil has begun enforcing a **new law** regulating **minors' access** to **social media** and **online platforms**, marking a **significant step** in **global efforts** to safeguard children in the **digital space**.

Argentina Officially Withdraws from World Health Organization

Argentina has officially **withdrawn** from the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, effective **one year** after **formal notification**.

India and Italy Hold 9th Foreign Office Consultations in New Delhi to Boost Strategic Partnership

The **9th India–Italy Foreign Office Consultations (FOC)** were held in **New Delhi** on **20 March 2026** to review **bilateral relations** and discuss regional and global issues.

Asia Africa Agri Alliance Launched in New Delhi by Senior Diplomats and Agribusiness Leaders

Senior ambassadors, diplomats, policymakers, and agribusiness leaders from over ten nations formally launched the **Asia Africa Agri Alliance (AAAA)** in **New Delhi, Delhi**.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation Raises Concerns Over Aghanashini River-Linking Project

The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)** has raised concerns over the proposed **Aghanashini–Vedavathi river-linking project**, urging India to strictly follow **World Heritage conservation norms** under the **World Heritage Convention, 1972**.

United Nations Declares 2026 as International Year of the Woman Farmer to Recognise Their Role in Agriculture

Agriculture is central to **India's economy**, with **80% of rural women** engaged in agriculture and allied sectors (**33% as labourers**, **48% as self-employed farmers**).

India & European Union ink aviation manufacturing pact to enhance safety; Airbus helicopter unit planned in Karnataka

The **Government of India (GoI)** signed a **working arrangement** with the **European Union (EU)** in the field of **industrial aviation production** to strengthen **bilateral cooperation**.

BANKING AND BUSINESS

Securities and Exchange Board of India Introduces Age-Based Investment Framework Through Life Cycle Funds

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** introduced **Life Cycle Funds** with

regulated **equity and debt exposure limits** based on **investor age** and **time to maturity**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Introduces Major Reforms to Strengthen Transparency and Discipline in ₹81 Lakh Crore Mutual Fund Industry

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** introduced sweeping reforms in the **₹81 lakh crore Indian mutual fund industry** to improve **transparency, portfolio discipline, and investor protection**.

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation Introduces New National Accounts Series with 2022–23 Base Year to Improve GDP Accuracy and Economic Measurement

The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** introduced **India's New National Accounts Series (Base Year 2022–23)** to improve accuracy of **GDP and GVA estimation** and reflect structural economic changes.

Cyprus-Based Ellinas Finance to Become First Overseas Firm to List on NSE International Exchange at GIFT City

Ellinas Finance, a **Cyprus-based financial services firm**, will become the **first overseas company** to list equity shares on the **NSE International Exchange (NSE IX)** at **GIFT City, Gujarat**.

Sri Lanka's First Blue Bond Secures Dual Listing on NSE International Exchange at GIFT City

Sri Lanka's first-ever Blue Bond, an **LKR 3 billion issuance** by **DFCC Bank Plc**, has been **dually listed** on the **NSE International Exchange (NSE IX)** at **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City)**.

West Bengal Approves ₹4,648 Crore Asian Development Bank Funded Projects to Upgrade Education and ICDS Infrastructure

The **Mamata Banerjee-led West Bengal Government Cabinet** approved **two major development projects** worth **₹4,648 crore** in partnership with the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**.

Sarvam Ties Up with SBI Life to Roll Out AI Solutions Across Insurance Distribution Network

Indian AI startup Sarvam has entered into a **strategic partnership** with **SBI Life Insurance Company Limited**, a subsidiary of the **State Bank of India (SBI)**.

IIFL Home Finance Secures USD 300 Million Asian Development Bank Loan to Boost Affordable Housing Finance in India

IIFL Home Finance Limited secured a **USD 300 million loan agreement** from the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** to expand **affordable housing finance access** in India.

Gnani.ai Partners with Razorpay to Launch Agentic AI-Powered Payment Collections Platform

Indian AI firm Gnani.ai partnered with **fintech company Razorpay** to launch an **Agentic Artificial**

Intelligence (AI)-powered collections platform.

Central Bank of India Partners with Canara Robeco Asset Management Company to Distribute Mutual Fund Products

Central Bank of India (CBI) signed a **Distribution Agreement** with **Canara Robeco Asset Management Company Limited (CRAMC)** to offer a wide range of **Mutual Fund (MF) products** to its customers.

Jio Financial Services Subsidiary Launches 'Finsider' Financial App for Early Access Users

Jio Financial Services Limited (JFSL) subsidiary **Jio Finance Platform and Service Limited (JFPSL)** launched the **'Finsider' financial app** for **early access users**.

Reserve Bank of India Imposes Fine on Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services for Regulatory Violations

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a **monetary penalty of ₹11.50 lakh** on **Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited (MMFSL)** for **regulatory non-compliances** observed during its annual inspection with reference to the financial position as on **31 March 2025 (FY25)**.

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation Releases New GDP Series; FY26 Economic Growth Projected at 7.6%

The **National Statistics Office (NSO)** under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** released the new series of **Annual and Quarterly Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** with a new **base year 2022-23**, replacing the previous base year of **2011-12**.

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs Rolls Out SWIFT 2.0 and Traveller Facilitation Tools to Boost Customs Efficiency

The **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)** launched the upgraded **SWIFT 2.0 platform**, the revamped **Atithi 2.0 app**, and the **Digital Travellers Guide** during **International Customs Day 2026** celebrations in **New Delhi** under the theme **"Customs protecting society through vigilance and commitment"**.

Agriculture and Allied Gross Value Added Growth Forecast Falls to 2.4% in FY26

Agriculture and allied sector Gross Value Added (GVA) growth is projected at **2.4% in real terms** for **FY 2025–26**, lower than **4.9% in FY 2024–25**, indicating weak agricultural sector momentum.

India Records 16.6% Growth in Foreign Direct Investment Equity Inflows in October–December FY26

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) equity inflows into India increased by **16.6% year-on-year** to **$12.69 billion** in **October–December (Q3) FY 2025–26**, compared to **$10.88 billion** in the same quarter

last year.

Reserve Bank of India Allows NUCFDC to Function as Umbrella Organisation for Urban Co-operative Banks

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued the **NBFC–Miscellaneous Amendment Directions, 2026** to support the functioning of the **National Urban Co-operative Finance and Development Corporation Ltd. (NUCFDC)** as the **Umbrella Organisation (UO)** for **Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs)**.

India and Japan Renew USD 75 Billion Bilateral Swap Arrangement

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and **Bank of Japan (BoJ)**, acting as agents of the Ministry **of Finance, Japan**, signed the **Third Amendment and Restatement Agreement** of the **Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA)**.

Employees' Provident Fund Organisation Retains 8.25% Interest Rate on EPF Deposits for 2025–26

The **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** approved an **8.25% interest rate** on **EPF deposits** for **2025–26**, retaining the same interest rate for the **second consecutive year**, ensuring **stability of retirement savings returns**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Imposes ₹10 Lakh Penalty on Coffee Day Over Financial Misstatements

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** imposed a **₹10 lakh penalty** on **Coffee Day Enterprises** for **financial misstatements** in its financial reporting.

Current Account Deficit Rises to 1.3% of GDP in Q3 FY26

India's Current Account Deficit (CAD) widened to **$13.2 billion** (**1.3% of GDP**) in **Q3 FY2025–26**, compared to **$11.3 billion** (**1.1% of GDP**) in **Q3 FY25**, mainly due to a **widening merchandise trade deficit**.

Pine Labs to Launch Stablecoin-Backed Prepaid Card Across 9 Countries

Pine Labs will launch a **stablecoin-backed prepaid card** across **9 countries** in **Middle East, Africa, and Southeast Asia** by **April 2026**, marking the first such initiative by a **listed Indian fintech company**.

India INX Global Access Ties Up with HSBC IBU to Broaden Global Investment Access through GIFT City

India INX Global Access IFSC Limited (India INX GA), a subsidiary of **India International Exchange (India INX)**, entered into a **strategic partnership** with **HSBC International Financial Services Centre Banking Unit (HSBC IBU)** to expand **structured access** to **global**

investment products for Indian investors through **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City)**.

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs Introduces Eligible Manufacturer Importers Scheme Under Union Budget 2026–27

The **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)** has introduced the **Eligible Manufacturer Importers (EMI)** scheme as announced in the **Union Budget 2026–27**.

Asian Development Bank To Provide $1.2 Billion Loan to India for Climate and Infrastructure Projects

The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** plans to provide **$1.2 billion in loans** to India in **2026**, maintaining last year's funding level to support **climate resilience** and **sustainable infrastructure development**.

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India Proposes Ind AS Implementation for Insurers from April 1, 2026

The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** released an **exposure draft** of the **IRDAI (Actuarial, Finance and Investment Functions of Insurers) (Amendment) Regulations, 2026** to implement **Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS)** in the insurance sector.

Employees' Provident Fund Organisation To Invest in National Highways Authority of India's Infrastructure Investment Trust

The **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** will become a **strategic investor** in the **Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT)** promoted by the **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)**.

Controller General of Accounts Unveils Government Bank Dashboard and Manual for Better Transaction Monitoring

T. C.A. Kalyani, **Controller General of Accounts**, launched two major initiatives — the **Government Bank Dashboard** and the **Government Bank Manual** — in **New Delhi**, India, to improve **government banking governance** and efficiency.

Axis Bank Becomes Preferred electric vehicle Financing Partner for Tesla in India

Axis Bank has been named a **preferred financing partner** for **Tesla Inc.** in India, strengthening financing support for the **premium electric vehicle (EV)**

Bank of Baroda Launches ₹10,000 Crore Green Bond Issue for Sustainable Projects

Bank of Baroda (BoB) raised **₹10,000 crore** through **Series I Long-Term Green Infrastructure Bonds** to support **sustainable infrastructure financing** in India.

State Bank of India Ranked Strongest Indian Bank Globally in Brand Finance Banking 500 Report 2026

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** has been ranked the **strongest Indian bank globally**, securing **16th position worldwide** and **7th position in Asia Pacific** with an **AAA+ brand strength rating** in the **Brand Finance Banking 500 Report 2026**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Uses AI Tool 'Sudarshan' to Remove Over 1.2 Lakh Misleading Finfluencer Posts

- **The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has deployed an in-house **Artificial Intelligence (AI) system** named **'Sudarshan'** to strengthen **digital surveillance** of financial content across online platforms.

Shriram Finance Receives USD 76 Million Co-Financing from DEG and Citi

- **DEG (Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft mbH)** and **Citibank N.A.** jointly provided a **co-financing lending facility** of **USD 76 million (around Rs 630 crore)** to **Shriram Finance Limited (SFL)**, one of India's largest **Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)**, to promote **financial inclusion** and **sustainable mobility** in India.

Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited Secures USD 100 Million Funding from Asian Development Bank for Affordable Housing Finance

- **Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited (MOHFL)** signed a **USD 100 million debt financing agreement** with the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** to expand **affordable housing finance** in India.

Generali Central Insurance Launches 'Happy Women's Pay' Campaign for Gender Pay Equality

- **Generali Central Insurance Company Limited**, a **joint venture** between **Assicurazioni Generali (Generali Group)** and **Central Bank of India**, launched the **"Happy Women's Pay"** campaign to promote **gender pay equality**.

Reserve Bank of India Introduces New Rules to Strengthen Customer Protection in Digital Banking Transactions

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued the **RBI (Commercial Banks – Responsible Business Conduct) Third Amendment Directions, 2026** to strengthen **customer protection** in electronic banking transactions effective from **1 July 2026** under the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.

Yes Bank Introduces 'YES Essence' Salary Account for Women's Financial Empowerment

- **Yes Bank** launched a specialised salary account named **"YES Essence Women's Salary Account"** aimed at supporting the **financial and lifestyle needs** of working women ahead of **International Women's Day (March 8)**.

SBI General Insurance Launches "Chuniye Bharosa, Apno Sa" Campaign Emphasizing Health and Family Protection

SBI General Insurance Company Limited, a leading general insurance provider in India, launched an integrated brand campaign titled **"Chuniye Bharosa, Apno Sa"**, focusing on **health insurance** and **family financial protection**.

Federal Bank Launches 'Fed Wealth' Platform to Strengthen Presence in Wealth Management Segment

Federal Bank has launched a new **wealth management platform** named **'Fed Wealth'** to expand its presence in the wealth management segment.

AU Small Finance Bank Allowed to Transition into Universal Bank Without NOFHC Requirement by Reserve Bank of India

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has modified a **key condition** for **AU Small Finance Bank's transition** into a **universal bank**, relaxing the earlier requirement related to **Non-Operative Financial Holding Company (NOFHC)**.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Gates Foundation & Dalberg Advisors Initiate National Climate Stack Innovation Challenge for Rural Climate Resilience

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) launched the **"National Climate Stack Innovation Challenge"** in collaboration with **Gates Foundation** and **Dalberg Advisors** to strengthen **climate intelligence** and **resilience** in **rural India**.

State Bank of India Launches $500 Million Social Loan Facility to Boost Women's Economic Empowerment

State Bank of India (SBI), India's largest **Public Sector Bank (PSB)**, launched a **USD 500 million syndicated social term loan facility** with a **greenshoe option** to promote **women's economic empowerment**.

Financial Action Task Force Updates High-Risk and Monitored Jurisdictions List – February 9-13, 2026

The **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** issued updated public statements on **13 February 2026** identifying jurisdictions with **weaknesses** in **anti-money laundering (AML)** and **counter-terrorist financing (CFT)**

HDFC Bank and Swiggy Introduce Two New Co-Branded Credit Cards for Travel and Daily Expenses

HDFC Bank Limited and **Swiggy**, a food delivery and quick commerce platform, jointly launched **two new co-branded credit cards**: **Swiggy BLCK HDFC Bank Credit Card** and **Swiggy**

Ornge HDFC Bank Credit Card.

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Joins Hands with non-banking financial companies to Boost Home and Gold Loan Business

Jammu and Kashmir Bank (J&K Bank) has partnered with **two non-banking financial companies (NBFCs)** to expand its **retail lending business**, especially **outside Jammu and Kashmir**.

Government Enhances Agricultural Credit Flow with Focused Policy Initiatives

The **Government of India (GoI)** sets **Ground Level Credit (GLC) targets** annually for the **agriculture and allied sectors**, which banks must achieve during the financial year.

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India Approves Allianz Jio Reinsurance and Kiwi General Insurance to Begin Operations in India

The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** granted **Certificates of Registration (CoR)** to **Allianz Jio Reinsurance Limited (AJRL)** and **Kiwi General Insurance Limited** to commence insurance operations in India.

Nashik Municipal Corporation Lists State's First Urban Local Body Green Municipal Bond on National Stock Exchange of India

Nashik Municipal Corporation (NMC) achieved a **historic milestone** by listing **Maharashtra's first-ever Urban Local Body (ULB) Green Municipal Bonds** on the **National Stock Exchange of India (NSE)** in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.

PhonePe Introduces 'RuPay On-The-Go' National Common Mobility Card for Contactless Transit Payments

PhonePe Limited launched the **RuPay 'On-The-Go' Card**, a **National Common Mobility Card (NCMC)** designed for **contactless payments** across public transport systems in India.

Reserve Bank of India Issues 2026 Prudential Norms to Regulate Dividend Declaration by Commercial Banks

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued the **RBI (Commercial Banks – Prudential Norms on Declaration of Dividend and Remittance of Profits) Directions, 2026** to regulate how **commercial banks** declare dividends.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Forms High-Level Panel to Develop Technology Roadmap for Securities Market

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has set up a **high-level expert working group** to prepare **short-term and long-term technology roadmaps** for India's **securities market ecosystem**.

Axis Max Life Insurance Teams Up with Saarathi Finance to Provide Credit-Linked Insurance for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

Axis Max Life Insurance Limited has entered into a strategic **Corporate Agent partnership** with **Saarathi Finance and Credit Private Limited** to strengthen **financial protection** for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises **(MSMEs)** in India.

Bank of Baroda Introduces 'bob Women Sapphire Savings Account' Offering Banking, Health, and Lifestyle Benefits for Women

Bank of Baroda (BoB) launched a special savings account for women named **'bob Women Sapphire Savings Account'** to provide **banking**, **healthcare**, and **lifestyle benefits** for women customers in India.

South Indian Bank Launches Digital Loan Against Mutual Funds (LAMF) Facility for Secured Credit

South Indian Bank (SIB) has launched a **digitally integrated Loan Against Mutual Funds (LAMF)** facility to provide **secured credit** to investors using their **mutual fund holdings** as **collateral**.

PayU and GoKwik Collaborate to Introduce India's First Integrated Conversion-to-Completion Stack for Direct-to-Consumer Brands

PayU, a leading **digital payments** and **financial services provider** in India, partnered with **GoKwik**, a **checkout optimization platform** for **Direct-to-Consumer (D2C) brands**.

State Bank of India, MUFG Bank Forge Strategic Alliance to Boost India–Japan Economic Cooperation

The **State Bank of India (SBI)** signed a **strategic partnership** with **MUFG Bank, Ltd. (MUFG)**, a leading **Japanese global financial institution**, to strengthen **cross-border capital flows** and expand **financing opportunities**.

Nomura Cuts India's FY27 Gross Domestic Product Growth Forecast to 7% Due to West Asia Tensions

Nomura Holdings Inc., a **Japanese brokerage firm**, has revised **India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast** for **Financial Year 2026-27 (FY27)** to **7%**, down from the earlier estimate of **7.1%**.

Reserve Bank of India Cancels Registration of 36 Non-Banking Financial Companies, 9 Others Surrender Licences Voluntarily

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** cancelled the **Certificate of Registration (CoR)** of **36 Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)** between **16 and 24 February 2026**.

Reserve Bank of India Updates Counterparty Credit Risk Framework for Banks to Align with Basel Standards

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued the **RBI (Commercial Banks – Prudential Norms on Capital Adequacy) Third Amendment Directions, 2026**, revising the **capital adequacy framework** for **commercial banks**.

CRED Gets Reserve Bank of India Nod to Function as Payment Aggregator

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has granted authorisation to **CRED**, operated by **Dreamplug Technologies Private Limited**, to function as a **Payment Aggregator (PA)** under the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act (PSSA), 2007**.

EASE 8.0 Reforms Propel Modernisation and Efficiency in Public Sector Banks

The **EASE Reform Agenda** has significantly transformed India's **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)** by improving **customer service**, **asset quality**, **operational efficiency**, and **digital capabilities**.

CRISIL Intelligence Forecasts India's GDP Growth to Reach 7.1% in FY27

CRISIL Limited (formerly **Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited**) released a report titled **"India Outlook: Wading through Squally Waters"** through its **CRISIL Intelligence**

Reserve Bank of India Launches 'Awareness Program on Digital Payments' During Digital Payments Awareness Week 2026, Engages with Payment Systems Operators

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** is observing the **6th edition** of **Digital Payments Awareness Week (DPAW)** from **March 9–13, 2026** to promote **safe digital payment usage**.

Reserve Bank of India Imposes ₹2.70 Lakh Penalty on Manappuram Finance for Regulatory Non-Compliance

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a **monetary penalty of ₹2.70 lakh** on **Manappuram Finance Limited** for **non-compliance** with **RBI guidelines**.

Public Sector Banks Earn Over ₹28,000 Crore in Five Years via Third-Party Financial Product Sales

Public Sector Banks (PSBs) in India earned over **₹28,600 crore** in the last **five years** by selling **third-party financial products** such as **insurance (life and non-life)**, **mutual funds**, **credit cards**, and **demat accounts**.

Private Banks Earn Over ₹11,000 Crore in Three Years from Minimum Balance Penalties

Private sector banks in India collected about **₹11,000 crore** between **FY2022-23 and FY2024-25** as **penalties** for **non-maintenance of minimum balance** in savings accounts.

Razorpay Unveils World's First AI-Powered Agent Studio for Payment Management

Razorpay, India's **omnichannel payments and banking platform**, launched the world's first **Agent**

Studio for payments at **FTX 2026**, built using the **Claude Agent SDK from Anthropic**.

National Stock Exchange of India Selects 20 Merchant Bankers for Managing Its Upcoming Initial Public Offering

National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) has moved forward with its long-awaited **Initial Public Offering (IPO)** by completing the selection of **key intermediaries** for the proposed listing.

Bank of Baroda Secures $500 Million Five-Year Syndicated Term Loan

Bank of Baroda raised a **USD 500 million five-year syndicated term loan** through its **IFSC Banking Unit** in **GIFT City, Gujarat**.

South Indian Bank Launches EPF Payment Facility via SIBerNet Internet Banking

South Indian Bank (SIB) has launched **Employees' Provident Fund (EPF)** payment services through its **internet banking platform SIBerNet**.

India's Retail Inflation Jumps to 3.21% in February Driven by Food and Housing Prices

India's **retail inflation** rose to **3.21%** in **February 2026**, compared to **2.74%** in **January 2026**, according to provisional data released by the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**.

PayU Partners with CoRover.ai to Launch Multilingual Voice-Enabled Payments

PayU has entered into a **strategic partnership** with **ai**, the creator of **BharatGPT**, to enable **AI-driven agentic payments** in India.

Agriculture & Allied Sector Gross Value Added Surpasses ₹48.7 Lakh Crore in 2023–24 as India's Foodgrain Output Keeps Growing

According to the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**, the **Agriculture & Allied Sector** contributes about **18%** to India's **Gross Value Added (GVA)**.

National Stock Exchange of India Launches Gold 10 Grams Futures Contract in Commodity Derivatives Segment

The **National Stock Exchange of India (NSE)** has launched a **Gold 10 Grams Futures Contract** in its **Commodity Derivatives Segment**, effective **March 16, 2026**, after receiving **SEBI approval**.

Fitch Ratings Projects India's Gross Domestic Product Growth at 7.5% for FY26 in Global Economic Outlook – March 2026

Fitch Ratings released its **"Global Economic Outlook – March 2026"**, projecting **India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth** at **7.5%** for **FY 2025–26 (FY26)**.

Department of Economic Affairs Revises Minimum Public Shareholding Rules for Large

Companies Listing on Stock Exchanges

The Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) under the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)** has revised the **rules** related to **Minimum Public Shareholding (MPS)** for **large companies** planning to list on **stock exchanges**.

Government Boosts Financial Inclusion Through Key Flagship Schemes

The **Government of India** launched the **National Mission for Financial Inclusion (NMFI)** under **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)** in **August 2014** to provide **universal banking services** to every unbanked household, following the principles of **banking the unbanked**, **securing the unsecured**, and **funding the unfunded**.

DCM Shriram Secures USD 90 Million from IFC via Sustainability-Linked Non-Convertible Debentures

DCM Shriram Limited secured **USD 90 million funding** from the **International Finance Corporation (IFC)**, the private sector arm of the **World Bank Group (WBG)**, through **Sustainability-Linked Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs)**.

Government, Reserve Bank of India and National Payments Corporation of India Drive Rapid Growth in Digital Payments

Digital payment transactions in India have grown exponentially due to coordinated efforts of the **Government**, **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, and **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**.

World Bank Sanctions $300 Million Loan for Uttar Pradesh Clean Air Programme

The **World Bank** approved a **loan of USD 300 million** to support **Uttar Pradesh's** efforts to improve **air quality** through a **Clean Air Transition Programme**.

Shriram General Insurance Introduces New Indemnity-Based Health Insurance Plan

Shriram General Insurance Company (SGIC) launched **Shri Health Suraksha 2.0**, an **upgraded health insurance plan** designed to provide **flexible and comprehensive medical coverage** while reducing **out-of-pocket expenses**.

Reserve Bank of India Honoured with 'Initiative of the Year' Award for Launching '.bank.in' Domain

The **Reserve Bank of India** won the **'Initiative of the Year'** award from **Central Banking** at the **13th annual Central Banking Awards** for its innovative **'.bank.in' domain rollout initiative**.

Securities Board of India Suggests Streamlined Nomination Norms for Demat and Mutual Fund Accountsand Exchange

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed changes to **nomination rules** for

demat accounts and **mutual fund (MF) folios** to **simplify onboarding**, **reduce compliance burden**, and **align with banking norms**.

Reserve Bank of India Compounds FEMA Violations by Metrocorp Infrastructure, Ending Directorate of Enforcement Proceedings

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has **compounded FEMA violations** by **Metrocorp Infrastructure Limited**, resulting in the **termination of adjudication proceedings** initiated by the **Directorate of Enforcement (ED)**.

Scapia Introduces 'Scapia Pay' UPI Service for Rewards on RuPay Credit Cards

Scapia launched **'Scapia Pay'**, an **in-application UPI payment service** that allows users to earn **rewards** on transactions made using **RuPay credit cards**.

India's Cumulative Exports (Merchandise & Services) Rise 5.79% to US$ 790.86 Billion in April–February FY26

Total Exports (Merchandise + Services) for **April–February FY26** reached **US$ 790.86 Billion**, up **5.79%** from **US$ 747.58 Billion** in the previous year.

Health Insurance Is Government Priority, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Targets Universal Coverage by 2033

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman stated that **health insurance** is a **priority of the government**, aiming to provide **insurance coverage for all by 2033**.

NPCI International Payments Limited Extends India's UPI Payment Acceptance to Merchants in Sri Lanka

NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) expanded the **acceptance** of **India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** across **merchant establishments** in **Sri Lanka**.

SBI Securities Introduces 'Women's Mode' Feature to Boost Women-Centric Investing

SBI Securities launched **'Women's Mode'** on its **mobile app** to promote **women-centric investing**.

Reserve Bank of India Revises Capital Adequacy Framework for Banks to Strengthen CCR Risk Management

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** amended its **capital adequacy framework** for commercial banks, providing clearer guidelines on **calculating and maintaining capital** against **Counterparty Credit Risk (CCR) exposures**.

Reserve Bank of India Holds 622nd Central Board Meeting in Patna Under Governor Sanjay Malhotra

The **622nd meeting** of the **Central Board of Directors** of **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** was held in

Patna under the **Chairmanship** of **Governor Sanjay Malhotra**.

Reserve Bank of India Imposes ₹3.10 Lakh Penalty on Cashfree Payments for Violating PA & PG Guidelines

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a **monetary penalty of ₹3.10 lakh** on **Cashfree Payments India Private Limited** for **non-compliance** with **RBI guidelines** on **Payment Aggregators (PAs)** and **Payment Gateways (PGs)**.

Reserve Bank of India and Government Tighten Rules to Curb Illegal Digital Lending Apps

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** constituted a **Working Group on Digital Lending**, covering loans through **Online Platforms** and **Mobile Apps**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Permits Mutual Funds to Carry Out Intraday Borrowing Operations

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has **tightened rules** on **intraday borrowings** by **mutual funds** to manage **temporary cash mismatches** during **redemptions**.

State Bank of India Raises ₹6,051 Crore via Basel III-Compliant Tier-2 Bond Issue

The **State Bank of India (SBI)** raised **₹6,051 crore** through the **issuance** of **Basel III-compliant Tier-2 bonds**.

Edelweiss Asset Management Company Introduces India's First Hybrid Passive Index Fund

Edelweiss Asset Management Company (EAMC) launched **India's first hybrid passive index fund** named **'Edelweiss Nifty LargeMidcap250 Plus 8–13 yr G-sec 70:30 Index Fund'**.

Reserve Bank of India Revises Prudential Guidelines Linking Bank Dividend Payouts to CET1 Capital Ratios

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued **revised prudential directions** linking **dividend payouts** by **commercial banks** to their **CET1 (Common Equity Tier 1)** capital ratios, replacing guidelines issued in **November 2025**.

Jio Payments Bank Introduces Cardless UPI Cash Withdrawal at Business Correspondent Points

Jio Payments Bank (JPBL), a **subsidiary of Jio Financial Services**, has launched **UPI-based cash withdrawal** at **Business Correspondent (BC) points**.

Government Launches Credit Guarantee Scheme for Microfinance Institutions 2.0 (CGSMFI-2.0)

The **Government of India** has introduced **Credit Guarantee Scheme for Microfinance Institutions-2.0 (CGSMFI-2.0)** to support lending to **small borrowers**.

Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman Launches 'PRARAMBH 2026' — Nationwide Awareness Drive on Income Tax Act, 2025

Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman launched **PRARAMBH 2026**, the Income Tax

Department's nationwide awareness campaign on the **Income Tax Act, 2025**, in New Delhi.

Reserve Bank of India Imposes ₹31.80 Lakh Penalty on HSBC for Regulatory Non-Compliance

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a **monetary penalty of ₹31.80 lakh** on **The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (HSBC)** for **non-compliance** with its directions.

Agriculture Insurance Company of India Limited Introduces 'Krishi Sakhi' Initiative to Strengthen Women Farmers' Empowerment

Agriculture Insurance Company of India Limited, a **Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)** under the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**, launched the **'Krishi Sakhi Initiative'**.

World Trade Organization Trade Outlook 2026: Global Goods Trade Growth Expected to Ease to 1.9%

The **World Trade Organization (WTO)** released its **'Global Trade Outlook and Statistics – March 2026'** report.

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade Releases NIRYAT Trade Data for FY 2024–25 under Commerce Ministry

The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade**, under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I)**, released the **NIRYAT (National Import-Export Record for Yearly Analysis of Trade)** data for **FY 2024–25**.

Government Revises Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme to Boost MSME Manufacturing and Exports under Budget 2025-26

The Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs (MCGS-MSME) was launched in **January 2025** to improve **credit access for MSMEs** through **National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC)**.

Lloyd's of London to Launch Operations in GIFT City, Boosting India's Role as Regional Reinsurance Hub

Lloyd's of London is set to **establish operations in GIFT City**, marking a major step in developing **India as a regional reinsurance hub**.

Bank of Baroda Launches UPI-Based Overdraft Facility for Women SHG Members with PMJDY Accounts

Bank of Baroda (BoB) has launched an **Overdraft (OD) facility on Credit Line via UPI** for verified **women Self-Help Group (SHG) members** holding **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)** accounts.

RNFI Services Launches UPI QR-Based Cash Withdrawal Service Nationwide with Jio Payments Bank

RNFI Services, through its platform **Relipay**, has launched a nationwide **UPI QR-based cash withdrawal service** in partnership with **Jio Payments Bank**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Relaxes Rules for InvITs and REITs to Enhance Investment Efficiency

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has amended regulations for **Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs)** and **Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)** to improve **operational flexibility** and **investment efficiency**.

Reserve Bank of India, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India and Securities and Exchange Board of India Strengthen Frameworks to Facilitate Claiming of Unclaimed Financial Assets

As on **February, 2026**, the total **unclaimed amount** transferred by **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)** to the **Depositor Education and Awareness (DEA) Fund** of **RBI** is **₹60,518 crore**, while the **unclaimed insurance amount** with insurers is **₹8,973.89 crore**, and the value of **unclaimed amounts in mutual funds** under **SEBI regulations** is **₹3,749.34 crore**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Lowers Minimum Investment in Social Impact Funds to ₹1,000 and Relaxes Rules for NPOs on Social Stock Exchanges

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has reduced the **minimum investment threshold** in **Social Impact Funds (SIFs)** from **₹2 lakh to ₹1,000**, making them accessible to **retail investors**.

Reserve Bank of India and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Enhance Oversight and Governance Framework for Cooperative Banks

The **regulatory and supervisory framework** of **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** ensures that **cooperative banks** operate with **financial transparency**.

Reserve Bank of India Announces Schedule of Monetary Policy Committee Meetings for FY 2026-2027

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** announced the **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** meeting schedule for **FY 2026-2027**, with the **first meeting on April 6-8, 2026**, and the final meeting on **February 3-5, 2027**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Proposes Gift Cards and Prepaid Payment Instruments

for Mutual Fund Investments to Enhance Financial Inclusion

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has proposed allowing **gift cards / prepaid payment instruments (PPIs)** for investing in **mutual funds** to boost **financial inclusion**.

Karnataka Grameena Bank Honoured with National Award for Outstanding Self-Help Groups-Bank Linkage 2024-25

The **Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)** conferred the **National Award for Outstanding Performance in Self-Help Groups (SHG)-Bank Linkage 2024-25** to **Karnataka Grameena Bank (KGB)** for its significant contribution to **rural economic empowerment** and **financial inclusion**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Approves Key Regulatory Reforms at 213th Board Meeting in Mumbai

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** approved a wide-ranging set of **regulatory changes** covering **market intermediaries**, **foreign investors**, **alternative investment funds (AIF)**, and **governance norms** at its **213th board meeting** held in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.

Reserve Bank of India Revises Guidelines to Limit Liability in Unauthorised Electronic Banking Transactions

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued instructions in **2017** on **limiting customer liability** in **unauthorised electronic banking transactions**.

Razorpay Teams Up with Sarvam AI to Introduce Voice-First Multilingual Digital Commerce in India

Razorpay, an Indian fintech company, partnered with **Sarvam AI**, an Indian AI startup, to introduce **voice-led, multilingual digital commerce solutions** in India.

L&T Finance Joins United Nations Global Compact as Signatory

L&T Finance Limited. (LTF) has become a **signatory** to the **United Nations Global Compact (UNGC)**, strengthening its **sustainability** and **Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) framework**.

Goldman Sachs Cuts India's Gross Domestic Product Growth Projection for CY26 to 5.9%

Goldman Sachs has lowered **India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast** for **2026** to **5.9%**, down from **7%** before the **US-Iran conflict**.

Health Insurance Sector Shows Strong Growth Momentum; Premiums Cross ₹1.2 Lakh Crore in 2024–25

India's health insurance sector is witnessing robust growth of around **9%**, with **total premiums exceeding ₹1.2 lakh crore in 2024–25**, driven by rising awareness and increasing demand for

financial protection.

S&P Global Raises India's FY27 Gross Domestic Product Growth Forecast to 7.1% with Improved Outlook

S&P Global has raised **India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) forecast** by **40 basis points (bps) to 7.1% for FY27**, reflecting **strong economic momentum** despite global uncertainties.

HDFC Securities Introduces NxtOption Platform to Streamline Advanced Options Trading for Investors

HDFC Securities Limited launched a next-generation **trading platform "NxtOption"** for **retail investors** to **analyse, build, and execute Futures & Options (F&O) strategies**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India and Google Introduce 'Verified' Badge for Investment Apps to Curb Digital Fraud

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has **partnered with Google** to introduce a **'verified' badge** for **investment apps** on the **Play Store**, aimed at **combating rising digital financial frauds and scams**.

Japan International Cooperation Agency Inks Four ODA Loan Deals Worth ₹16,420 Crore to Support Major Development Projects in India

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed **Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan agreements** worth **₹16,420 crore** with the **Government of India (GoI)** for **4 major projects**.

National Highways Authority of India-Backed Raajmarg Infra Investment Trust Listed on BSE in Presence of Union Minister Nitin Gadkari

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari launched the **Raajmarg Infra Investment Trust (RIIT)**, sponsored by the **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)**, which was listed on the **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)**.

Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority and Digital India BHASHINI Division Ink Memorandum of Understanding to Enhance Multilingual Access in Pension Services

The **Digital India BHASHa Interface for India (BHASHINI) Division (DIBD)** under **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** and the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** under **Ministry of Finance (MoF)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** under the initiative **"BHASHINI for Seva–Sanchalan"**.

Department of Financial Services Reviews Unsatisfied CPGRAMS Complaints Against Banks and Insurers to Strengthen Ethical Governance

The **Department of Financial Services (DFS)**, under the chairmanship of the **Secretary (Financial**

Services), has been conducting **video conferences** since **2024** with Reserve Bank of India, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India, Public & Private Sector Banks, Insurance Companies, Financial Institutions, and **20 randomly selected CPGRAMS complainants**.

Nippon India ETF Gold BeES Secures 6th Position Globally in Gold ETF Fund Inflows

Nippon India ETF Gold BeES, the flagship fund of **Nippon India Mutual Fund**, ranked **6th globally** among the top 15 gold ETFs by fund flows, as per the **World Gold Council**.

Reserve Bank of India Issues Master Direction on Unique Identifiers in Financial Markets, 2026 to Streamline and Consolidate Regulatory Framework

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued the **Master Direction – Unique Identifiers in Financial Markets, 2026** to consolidate multiple circulars into a **single comprehensive framework** for improved clarity and compliance.

Reserve Bank of India Unveils Payments Vision 2028, Continuing Long-Standing Roadmap for Payment System Development

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** released **Payments Vision 2028**, continuing its practice of issuing **strategic payment system roadmaps** since 2001.

Oriental Insurance Company Limited Achieves ₹20,000 Crore Gross Premium Milestone in FY 2025–26

The Oriental Insurance Company Limited (OICL) crossed **₹20,000 crore** in **Gross Premium** for **FY 2025–26**, reflecting strong trust of policyholders, intermediaries, and stakeholders in **public sector insurance**.

Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs Conducts Outreach Programme in New Delhi on Duty Deferment Scheme for Eligible Manufacturer Importers

The **Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC)** organised a hybrid outreach programme in **New Delhi** on the **Duty Deferment Scheme for Eligible Manufacturer Importers (EMI)** under the **Union Budget 2026–27** trade facilitation initiative.

Government of India Retains 4% Inflation Target for 2026–31 Period

The **Government of India (GoI)** has retained the **inflation target at 4%** for the next **5 years** (April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2031).

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Lowers India's Financial Year 2026-27 Growth Forecast to 6.1%

The **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development** released its **OECD Economic Outlook, Interim Report – March 2026** titled **"Testing Resilience"**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Approves Lakshya Asset Management Company to Start Mutual Fund Business

Lakshya Asset Management Company (AMC) has received approval from the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** to commence its **Mutual Fund (MF)** business in India.

Government Finalises Borrowing Plan for first half of Financial Year 2026–27

The **Government of India (GoI)**, in consultation with the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, has finalised the **borrowing programme for the first half (H1) of Financial Year (FY) 2026–27**.

Reserve Bank of India imposes ₹3.10 lakh penalty on Pine Labs Limited for regulatory non-compliance

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a **monetary penalty of ₹3.10 lakh** on **Pine Labs Limited** for **non-compliance with regulatory guidelines**.

Reserve Bank of India sets ₹2.5 lakh crore Ways and Means Advances limit for H1 FY 2026–27 in consultation with Government of India

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, in consultation with the **Government of India**, has fixed the **Ways and Means Advances (WMA) limit** at **₹2,50,000 crore** for the **first half of FY 2026–27 (April–September 2026)**.

99.92% of India's villages have banking access within 5 km radius via branches,Business Correspondents, and India Post Payments Bank outlets

The **Government of India** aims to ensure the availability of a **banking outlet** (**Bank branch / Business Correspondent (BC) / India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)**) within **5 kilometres** of all **inhabited villages** in the country.

Reserve Bank of India imposes ₹58.50 lakh penalty on Bank of India for regulatory violations

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a **monetary penalty of ₹58.50 lakh** on **Bank of India** for **regulatory non-compliance**.

Reserve Bank of India issues directions on Net Open Position in INR (NOP-INR) for Authorised Dealers under Risk Management Master Direction

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued directions on **Net Open Position in INR (NOP-INR)** for **Authorised Dealers (ADs)** under the **Master Direction on Risk Management and Inter-Bank Dealings (July 05, 2016)**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India extends suspension of derivatives trading in seven agricultural commodities till March 31, 2027

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has extended the **suspension of trading in**

derivatives of **seven agricultural commodities** till **31 March 2027**.

Government and Reserve Bank of India initiatives ensure smooth and uninterrupted flow of rural credit access

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** aims to maintain **sufficient liquidity** in the banking system to ensure that the **productive requirements** of the economy, including the **rural sector**, are met and that **monetary policy transmission** to market rates remains effective.

AWARDS AND HONOUR

Name of the Person / Organisation	Name of the Award	Key Points
Mangaluru International Airport	Airport Service Quality Award 2025 – Best Airport at Arrivals (Globally)	Presented by Airports Council International World; won for second consecutive year (2024 & 2025); only six airports selected globally
India women's national cricket team	Laureus World Team of the Year Award 2026 (Nomination)	Nominated after winning ICC Women's World Cup 2025; first women's cricket team nominated in this category
Safeena Husain	TIME Women of the Year 2026	Recognised for contribution to girls' education and social equity
Mattel	Barbie Dream Team 2026 Initiative	Launched to celebrate International Women's Day; honoured influential women with customised Barbie dolls

Rashmika Mandanna	Best Actress – Telangana Gaddar Film Awards	Won for performance in The Girlfriend
Maharashtra Government / Dombivli Participants	Guinness World Record – Lezim Dance	Massive Lezim dance performance organised during International Women's Day 2026 celebrations
Amol Palekar	META Lifetime Achievement Award 2026	Honoured for contribution to Indian theatre and cinema at Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards
Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation	Governance Now 12th PSU National Award	Won in "Excellence in Innovation" category for Dhwani Spandana assistive navigation system
Vairamuthu	Jnanpith Award 2025	India's highest literary honour; recognised contribution to Tamil literature and film lyrics
98th Academy Awards	Academy Awards (Oscars) 2026	One Battle After Another won Best Picture & 6 Oscars; Michael B. Jordan won Best Actor
CHYIMI	Best Director – New York Short Animation Festival 2026	Directed by Partha Sarathi Mahanta; highlighted global recognition for Indian animation
Sahitya Akademi	Sahitya Akademi Award 2025	Awards announced for 24 Indian languages

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		across poetry, novels, essays, memoirs and criticism
William Dalrymple	Mark Lynton History Prize 2026	Won for The Golden Road; award recognises excellence in historical writing
Rituparna Sengupta	Women Empowerment Award	Honoured at House of Commons, UK, for contribution to art and culture
Kaveh Madani	Stockholm Water Prize 2026	Youngest recipient; recognised for contribution to global water governance
N. Chandrasekaran	Honorary Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire	Recognised for contribution to business and India–UK relations
Bhupathiraju Anmish Varma	Guinness World Record – Fastest Climb of Seven Volcanic Summits	Completed challenge in 92 days, 4 hours and 45 minutes
Kalpana Soren	Women Empowerment Trailblazer Award 2026	Recognised for women-led development and grassroots empowerment
Nandamuri Balakrishna	Lifetime Achievement Award – International Film Festival of Delhi 2026	Honoured for 50-year contribution to Indian cinema
Ramnath Goenka Foundation	Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards 2026	Honoured 24 journalists across 19 categories for outstanding journalism

Name of the Person / Organisation	Name of the Award	Key Points
Mangaluru International Airport	Airport Service Quality Award 2025 – Best Airport at Arrivals (Globally)	Presented by Airports Council International World; won for second consecutive year (2024 & 2025); only six airports selected globally
India women's national cricket team	Laureus World Team of the Year Award 2026 (Nomination)	Nominated after winning ICC Women's World Cup 2025; first women's cricket team nominated in this category
Safeena Husain	TIME Women of the Year 2026	Recognised for contribution to girls' education and social equity

PERSON IN NEWS

Indian Institute of Science Professor Arpita Patra Becomes Second Indian Woman to Climb Nevado Ojos del Salado, World's Tallest Volcano

Arpita Patra, **Professor** at the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru**, successfully summited **Nevado Ojos del Salado**, the world's **highest volcanic peak** and tallest mountain in **Chile**.

Stuti Pradhan from Sikkim Chosen to Represent India at World Youth Parliament

Stuti Pradhan, a young leader from **Sikkim**, has been selected to represent **India** at the **World Youth Parliament (WYP)**, highlighting India's growing youth role in **global policy, leadership, and diplomacy**.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Name of the Person	Appointed As	Succeeds

Alois Zwinggi	Interim President & CEO, World Economic Forum (WEF)	Børge Brende
Simone Biles	Laureus Ambassador	—
Ayatollah Alireza Arafi	Interim Supreme Leader of Iran	Ali Khamenei
B. P. Singh	Director General of Naval Armament (DGONA)	Divakar Jayant
Dan Bailey	President for International Business, Jio Platforms	—
R. N. Ravi	Governor of West Bengal	C. V. Ananda Bose
Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar	Additional Charge of Tamil Nadu Governor	—
Shiv Pratap Shukla	Governor of Telangana	—
Kavinder Gupta	Governor of Himachal Pradesh	—
Syed Ata Hasnain	Governor of Bihar	Arif Mohammed Khan
Jishnu Dev Varma	Governor of Maharashtra	—
Taranjit Singh Sandhu	Lieutenant Governor of Delhi	—
Nand Kishore Yadav	Governor of Nagaland	—
Vinai Kumar Saxena	Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh	Kavinder Gupta
Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi	Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI)	Reappointed
Ketan Merchant	Interim CEO, Fino Payments Bank	Rishi Gupta

Balendra Shah	Prime Minister of Nepal	Sushila Karki (Interim PM)
Justice Sushrut Arvind Dharmadhikari	Chief Justice of Madras High Court	Manindra Mohan Shrivastava
Lt. General Dhiraj Seth	Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS)	Lt. General P. P. Singh
Vinay Muralidhar Tonse	MD & CEO, YES Bank	Prashant Kumar
Mojtaba Khamenei	Supreme Leader of Iran	Ali Khamenei
Phanindranath Kakarla	CEO & MD, Arcil	Pallav Mohapatra
Rahul Bhatia	Interim CEO, IndiGo	Pieter Elbers
RM Nachammai	Chief Superintendent, Kaiga Generating Station Units 3 & 4	—
Parthanil Ghosh	MD & CEO, HDFC ERGO General Insurance	Anuj Tyagi
K. V. Ramana Murty	Whole-Time Member, SEBI	—
Dr. Partha Biswas	Member, National Commission for Scheduled Castes	—
Jose Antonio Kast	38th President of Chile	Gabriel Boric Font
Manjeet Singh	Special Observer for Assam Elections	—
Bhumika Shrestha	Nepal's First Transgender Woman MP	—
JP Nadda	Chairman, Hindi Advisory Committee (Chemicals & Fertilizers Ministry)	—

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MS Dhoni	Brand Ambassador, BHIM Payments App	—
Ravindra Jadeja	Primary Brand Ambassador, City Union Bank	—
T.N. Natarajan	Director (Commercial), SAIL	—
Krishna Kumar Thakur	Director (Personnel), NMDC	—
Jasprit Bumrah	Brand Ambassador, UNIQLO India	—
Jose Joseph Kattoor	Part-Time Chairman, South Indian Bank	V J Kurian
A. R. Rahman	Brand Ambassador, Yamaha Music India	—
CA P.V. Narayana Rao	Co-opted Member, ICAI Sustainability Reporting Standards Board	—
Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti	Chairperson, National Commission for Backward Classes	—
Kiran Umesh Mahalle	Member, National Commission for Backward Classes	—

RANKING AND INDEX

Index / Report Name	Published By	India's Rank / Performance	Top 3 Ranks / Performance
Global Mind Health in 2025 Report	Sapien Labs	India's youth (18–34 years) ranked 60th	Top 3 not mentioned

		out of 84 countries; older adults (55+) ranked 49th	
Forbes Real-Time Billionaires List (March 2026)	Forbes	No India rank mentioned	1. Elon Musk 2. Larry Page 3. Sergey Brin
Global Arms Importer Report (2021–2025)	Stockholm International Peace Research Institute	India ranked 2nd largest arms importer globally	1. Not mentioned 2. India 3. Not mentioned
Hurun Rich List 2026	Hurun Report	India ranked 3rd globally with 308 billionaires	1. United States 2. China 3. India
Brand Finance Banking 500 Report 2026	Brand Finance	No India rank specified	1. Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) 2. Not mentioned 3. Not mentioned
7th National Report to Convention on Biological Diversity	Convention on Biological Diversity	India reported only 2 of 23 biodiversity targets on track	No ranking
Hurun Global Rich List 2026	Hurun Report	Shah Rukh Khan debuted with net worth of USD 1.3 billion	1. Elon Musk 2. Not mentioned 3. Not mentioned
India Textile Export	—	Tamil Nadu	1. Tamil Nadu

Performance 2024–25		became India's top textile exporter	2. Gujarat 3. Maharashtra
Forbes Youngest Billionaires 2026	Forbes	Surya Midha ranked 6th globally	1. Amelie Voigt Trejes 2. Johannes von Baumbach 3. Lívia Voigt de Assis
World Happiness Report 2026	Wellbeing Research Centre	India rank not mentioned	1. Finland 2. Iceland 3. Denmark
Hurun Self-Made Women Billionaires Report 2026	Hurun Report	India rank not mentioned	1. China 2. United States 3. Not mentioned
India Export Destination Ranking (February 2026)	—	China became India's 3rd-largest export destination	1. Not mentioned 2. Not mentioned 3. China
Global Terrorism Index 2026	Institute for Economics and Peace	India ranked 13th (Score: 6.428)	1. Pakistan 2. Burkina Faso 3. Niger
Global Leader Approval Ratings 2026	Morning Consult	Narendra Modi ranked 1st with 68% approval	1. Narendra Modi 2. Guy Parmelin 3. Lee Jae-myung
World Air Quality Report 2025	IQAir	Loni became world's most polluted city	1. Loni 2. Not mentioned 3. Not mentioned

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Union Minister of State Dr. Jitendra Singh Launches India's First State Innovation Mission in Tripura

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Dr. Jitendra Singh of the **Ministry of Science and Technology** launched **India's 1st State Innovation Mission (SIM)** at the **Hapania International Exhibition Center, Agartala, Tripura**.

Dr Jitendra Singh Inaugurates Recombinant Cells and Sensors Facility at BRIC-RGCB, Kerala

Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Science and Technology (**MoS&T**) and Ministry of Earth Sciences (**MoES**), inaugurated the **Central Facility for Recombinant Cells and Sensors** at Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (**BRIC-RGCB**), Akkulam campus, **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**, during **National Science Day 2026** celebrations (**28 February 2026**).

Bharti Airtel and Google Collaborate to Introduce Secure RCS Messaging Services in India

Bharti Airtel,a leading Indian telecommunications service provider partnered with **Google** to deliver a **secure and interactive messaging** experience for users in **India**.

Scientists Find Evidence of Earth's Earliest Animals in 541-Million-Year-Old Rocks

Scientists discovered evidence of **Earth's earliest animals** in **Precambrian rocks** that are more than **541 million years old**, pushing back the timeline of **complex life evolution** on Earth.

Indian Institute of Science Bengaluru Unveils Brain–AI Co-Processor Moonshot Research Initiative

The **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru**, launched a **"moonshot" project** to develop **AI-enabled brain co-processors** aimed at enhancing or restoring **brain functions**.

Bharat Electronics Limited Partners with Bellatrix Aerospace to Build Very Low Earth Orbit Satellite Platforms

Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), a state-owned **defence electronics company**, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Bellatrix Aerospace**, a Bengaluru-based **space technology startup**, to develop **satellite systems and payloads**.

International Business Machines Corporation Opens Sangam Artificial Intelligence & Infrastructure Innovation Centre in Bengaluru

International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) launched its first **Sangam Infrastructure Innovation Center** at the **India Systems Development Lab (ISDL)** campus in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.

United States Successfully Tests Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missile from California

Base

The **United States Air Force Global Strike Command** conducted a successful test launch of the **LGM-30G Minuteman III** intercontinental ballistic missile (**ICBM**) from **Vandenberg Space Force Base**, **California**.

Defence Research and Development Organisation Sanctions Rs 99.15 Lakh Research Project at Bharathiar University to Develop Antidotes for Toxic Organophosphorus Compounds

The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** under the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** sanctioned a research project titled **'Development of Novel Antidote(s) for Highly Toxic Organophosphorous Compounds'** with a total funding of **Rs 99.15 lakh** to **Bharathiar University, Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu, TN)**.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh Inspects India's First Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion-Powered Desalination Plant in Lakshadweep

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Dr. Jitendra Singh, **Ministry of Science & Technology**, reviewed the progress of India's first **Integrated Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) plant** at **Kavaratti, Lakshadweep**.

Indian Institute of Science Partners with Pratiksha Trust to Launch Brain Co-Processor Moonshot Project

The **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)** launched a **Moonshot Project** on **Brain Co-Processors**, aimed at developing advanced technologies to **enhance or restore brain function**.

Indian Space Research Organisation and European Space Agency Ink Pact to Enhance Collaboration in Earth Observation Missions

The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** and the **European Space Agency (ESA)** virtually signed an agreement titled **"ESA–ISRO Arrangement concerning Joint Calibration and Validation Activities and Scientific Studies for Earth Observation Missions."**

Researchers Develop Sunlight-Driven Method to Turn Plastic Waste into Acetic Acid

Researchers at the **University of Waterloo, Canada**, have developed an innovative method to convert **plastic waste** into **acetic acid**, the main component of **vinegar**, using only **sunlight**.

AquaAirX Launches India's First Amphibious Surveillance Drone 'AVATAAR'

AquaAirX Autonomous Systems, a **Bengaluru-based deep-tech startup**, introduced **'AVATAAR (Amphibious Vehicle for Autonomous Tactical Aerial & Aquatic Reconnaissance)'**, India's **first amphibious drone** capable of operating in **both air and underwater**.

Forest Survey of India Halts Fortnightly Deforestation Alerts via AI-Based Anavaran Portal

The **Forest Survey of India (FSI)**, under the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate**

Change, has stopped issuing fortnightly **deforestation alerts** through its **AI-based Anavaran portal**.

Coursera Collaborates with Mission Karmayogi to Provide Skill Development for Civil Servants via iGOT Platform

Coursera, a global edtech platform, partnered with the **Government of India's Mission Karmayogi** to provide **advanced upskilling** for **civil servants** and government officials.

NITI Aayog Collaborates with Tata Electronics to Strengthen India's Electronics and Semiconductor Sector

Niti Aayog has strengthened its commitment to positioning India as a **global leader in electronics manufacturing** through **strategic industry partnerships**.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Double Asteroid Redirection Test Mission Alters Didymos Asteroid's Solar Orbit for First Time

In **2022**, The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) conducted the **Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART)** by intentionally crashing a spacecraft into the **asteroid moonlet Dimorphos** to test **asteroid deflection capabilities**.

India Secures Major Defence Export as Indonesia Greenlights BrahMos Missile Purchase for Maritime Security

Indonesia has agreed to procure **BrahMos missiles** from India, marking a **major defence export deal**.

WHO Foundation Joins Hands with Novo Nordisk to Fight Childhood Obesity in India

WHO Foundation, an **independent organisation** established in **2020** to support the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, has partnered with **Novo Nordisk**, a **Danish multinational pharmaceutical company**, to tackle **childhood obesity** in India.

Devon Island Serves as Earth's Mars-Like Testing Ground for Space Exploration

Devon Island, located in **Nunavut, Canada**, is the **world's largest uninhabited island** and is used as a **Mars analog site** for research.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Van Allen Probe A Completes Final Re-Entry After 14 Years in Orbit

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announced that **Van Allen Probe A** made its **final re-entry** into **Earth's atmosphere** after nearly **14 years** in orbit.

IRNSS-1F Satellite of India's NavIC Stops PNT Services After Atomic Clock Failure Completing 10-Year Mission

IRNSS-1F, a satellite of India's **NavIC navigation system**, stopped providing **Position, Navigation,**

and Timing (PNT) services after its last operational **atomic clock failed**, completing its **10-year design life**.

Indian Space Research Organisation Performs 22-Tonne Thrust Sea-Level Hot Test of CE20 Cryogenic Engine in Tamil Nadu

The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** successfully conducted a **sea-level hot test** of the **Cryogenic Engine (CE20)** at **22-tonne thrust** at the **ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC)**, **Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu**.

Technology Hub Partners with Japan External Trade Organisation to Strengthen India-Japan Deep-Tech Startup Collaboration

Technology Hub (T-Hub), India's largest startup incubator based in **Hyderabad, Telangana**, has entered into a **strategic partnership** with the **Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO)** to enhance collaboration between **Indian and Japanese deep-tech startups**.

National Council for Cement and Building Materials, TraceXero Join Hands to Develop Carbon Capture and Utilisation Technologies for Cement Industry

The **National Council for Cement and Building Materials (NCB)**, under the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, **Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I)**, partnered with **TraceXero Technologies Private Limited**, an Indian technology startup, to support **Carbon Capture and Utilisation (CCU)** technologies in the **cement sector**.

North East Region Institutions and Japan's Gifu University Sign LoI to Form International Academic & Research Consortium

22 institutions from **NorthEast (NE) India**, led by **IIT-Guwahati, Assam**, and Japan's **Gifu University** signed a **Letter of Intent (LoI)** to establish the **North East Region (NER)-Japan International Academic and Research Consortium**.

Netflix Launches Eyeline Studios in Hyderabad to Boost India's Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comics Ecosystem

Netflix has launched **Eyeline Studios**, its **global production and innovation studio**, in **Hyderabad**, strengthening India's **Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comics (AVGC) ecosystem**.

Indian Space Research Organisation Expands Student Involvement in Space Missions for Satellite and Payload Development

The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** is expanding **student participation** in space missions, allowing students to **design satellites** and develop **payloads** under mentorship programs.

India Approves Quantum Teaching Labs in 23 Institutions, 100 More Planned for Advanced Research and Training

The National Quantum Mission has approved the establishment of **quantum teaching laboratories** in **23 academic institutions** across India, with **100 more under consideration**, to support **advanced research and training** in emerging **quantum technologies**.

Gujarat Achieves Historic Space Milestone with Launch of First Sounding Rocket at Dholera

Gujarat achieved a major milestone in the **space sector** with the **successful launch** of its **first sounding rocket** at **Bavaliyari village** near **Dholera**, marking its entry into **India's private space technology ecosystem**.

Reliance Industries Limited Inks $3 Billion Green Ammonia Supply Agreement with South Korea's Samsung C&T

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) signed a **binding long-term Supply and Purchase Agreement (SPA)** with **Samsung C&T Corporation** for the supply of **green ammonia** over a **15-year period** starting from the **second half of FY2028-29**.

India Tests Indigenous Floating LiDAR Buoy System, Achieving Key Technological Milestone Off Tamil Nadu Coast

India achieved a **technological milestone** with the **successful testing** of an **indigenously developed Floating LiDAR Buoy System** by the **National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT)** off the coast of **Muttom, Tamil Nadu**.

Shipping Corporation of India Inks Deal with Mazagon Dock to Build Green Methanol-Powered Vessel

Shipping Corporation of India signed a **shipbuilding contract** with **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited** for a **3,000 Deadweight Tonnage (DWT) Platform Supply Vessel (PSV)**.

ICAR–Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute Initiates Deep-Sea Survey of Seamount Fisheries in the Arabian Sea

The **ICAR–Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)** has launched a **deep-sea expedition** in the **Arabian Sea** to study **seamount fisheries**.

India Sets Up Pilot Plant for Nd-Fe-B Rare Earth Permanent Magnets at ARCI, Hyderabad

The **Government of India (GoI)** established a **pilot plant** for manufacturing **Neodymium-Iron-Boron (Nd-Fe-B)** rare earth permanent magnets at the **International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI), Hyderabad**, under the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, Ministry of Science & Technology (MoS&T).

Elon Musk Unveils Terafab, Set to Become the Largest Semiconductor Factory Globally

Elon Musk has launched the **"Terafab"** project to manufacture **in-house AI chips** for **robotics, artificial intelligence, and space technologies**.

Bharat Electricity Summit 2026 Held in New Delhi, Indian Carbon Market Portal Launched

The **first edition** of **Bharat Electricity Summit (BES 2026)** was held from **March 19–22, 2026** at **Yashobhoomi, Dwarka, New Delhi**.

IIT-Kharagpur and PRL Scientists Study Formation of Titanium-Rich Lunar Basalts

Researchers from IIT-Kharagpur and **Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad**, conducted a study on the formation of **titanium-rich basalts** on the **Moon**, published in **Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta**.

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Launches National AI Skilling, MyWAVES, and Advanced EPG with In-Built TV Tuners for DD Free Dish

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (MIB)**, launched three major initiatives in **New Delhi, Delhi**: **National AI Skilling Initiative**, **MyWAVES**, and **Advanced Electronic Programme Guide (EPG)** with **in-built satellite tuners** in **TV sets** to enhance access to **Doordarshan (DD) Free Dish** services.

Agnikul Cosmos Successfully Conducts Test of Fully 3D-Printed 'Agnite' Booster Engine in Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Agnikul Cosmos successfully conducted a **critical booster engine test** of its rocket engine **Agnite** at the **Agnikul Launchpad (ALP-01)**, **Chennai, Tamil Nadu** in **March 2026**.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration Drops Lunar Gateway Plan, to Build $20 Billion Moon Surface Base Under Artemis Program

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has **scrapped** its **Lunar Gateway space station plan**, which was intended to orbit the **Moon**, and will instead construct a **$20 billion lunar surface base**, marking a **major strategic shift** in the **Artemis Program**.

National Commission for Women Partners with Truecaller to Strengthen Women's Digital Safety Awareness in India

The **National Commission for Women (NCW)** has collaborated with **Truecaller**, a global communications platform, to launch a nationwide **Women's Digital Safety Awareness Initiative** in India.

About National Commission for Women :

The **National Commission for Women (NCW)** is an **autonomous statutory body** established under the **NCW Act, 1990** (formed in 1992).

IIT Ropar's Annam.AI to Establish Weather Intelligence Network

ANNAM.AI, a **Government of India-supported Centre of Excellence** at **IIT Ropar**, has launched an initiative to deploy **100 AI-based weather stations** across **Punjab** by **30 March 2026**.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration releases detailed ocean floor map using Surface Water and Ocean Topography satellite data, filling long-standing seabed exploration gap

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has released a new and more detailed **map of the ocean floor** using data from the **SWOT satellite**, addressing a long-standing gap in **seabed exploration**.

DEFENCE NEWS

Indian Army Retains Khelo India Winter Games 2026 Team Championship Title with 23 Medals

The **Indian Army** successfully defended its **team championship title** at the **Khelo India Winter Games 2026**, winning a total of **23 medals**, including **9 gold medals** (with **8 golds** won in the **Gulmarg leg**).

Defence Research & Development Organisation Successfully Carries Out Flight Tests of Very Short-Range Air Defence System

The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** under the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** successfully conducted **three consecutive flight trials** of the indigenously developed **Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS)**.

Indian Air Force Conducts Exercise Vayushakti-26 at Pokhran Firing Range in Jaisalmer,Rajasthan

The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** successfully conducted **Exercise Vayushakti-26** at the **Pokhran Field Firing Range**, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, demonstrating **combat readiness**, joint operational capability, and **technological superiority**.

Indian Air Force Southern Air Command Conducts Joint Maritime Exercise 'Kalari Leap'

The **Southern Air Command (SAC)** of the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** successfully conducted **Exercise Kalari Leap** in the **Lakshadweep and Minicoy Archipelago** in the Arabian Sea.

Indian Navy's Indian Naval Sailing Vessel Kaundinya to Be Flagged Into Mumbai Harbour by Defence Minister of State Sanjay Seth

The **Indian Navy's Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV) Kaundinya** will be **flagged into Mumbai Harbour** on **02 March 2026** by **Sanjay Seth, Raksha Rajya Mantri**.

Ministry of Defence Signs ₹5,083 Crore Contracts for Advanced Light Helicopters Mk-II and Shtil

Missiles

On **March 03, 2026**, the **Ministry of Defence**, India signed contracts worth a total of **₹5,083 crore** for the acquisition of six **Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) Mk-III (Maritime Role)** for the **Indian Coast Guard** and **Surface-to-Air Vertical Launch - Shtil missiles** for the **Indian Navy**, in the presence of Defence Secretary **Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh** at South Block, **New Delhi**.

Indian Navy Signs Contract for 04 Self-Propelled Fuel Barges with Shoft Shipyard

A contract for construction of **04 × 500T Self Propelled Fuel Barges** was signed on **02 March 2026** with **Shoft Shipyard Private Limited**, a **MSME shipyard** located in **Thane, Maharashtra**.

INS Sudarshini Makes Historic Arrival in Alexandria After Suez Transit

INS Sudarshini arrived at the historic **Alexandria** as part of its transoceanic expedition **Lokayan-26**, marking an important milestone in **maritime training and diplomacy**.

Defence Research and Development Organisation Ghatak UCAV Programme Advances with Proposal for 60 Drones

India's indigenous stealth combat drone Ghatak UCAV is being developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** for the armed forces.

INS Tarangini Reaches Colombo After Conducting Sea Training for Sri Lanka Navy Seariders

The **Indian Navy's sail training ship INS Tarangini** arrived at **Colombo, Sri Lanka** after completing a **sail training deployment** for **Sri Lanka Navy trainees**.

Indian Army Central Command Hosts First Strategic Communication Conclave in Lucknow

The **Indian Army's Central Command** conducted its first-ever **Strategic Communication Conclave** in **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**.

Indian Armed Forces Contingent Leaves for Seychelles to Participate in Joint Military Exercise LAMITIYE-2026

An **Indian Armed Forces** contingent arrived in **Seychelles** to participate in the **11th edition** of the **Joint Military Exercise "LAMITIYE-2026"** with the **Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF)**.

IG Defence Unveils Indigenous Long-Range Strike Drone "Project KAL" for Deep-Strike Missions

IG Defence unveiled **Project KAL**, an **indigenous long-range strike drone** designed for **deep-strike missions**.

US Submarine Strikes Iranian Warship IRIS Dena Near Sri Lanka in International Waters

A **US submarine** torpedoed the **Iranian warship IRIS Dena** off the coast of **Sri Lanka**, outside its territorial waters.

United States and South Korea Begin Large-Scale Joint Military Drill 'Freedom Shield'

The **United States** and **South Korea** began a large **joint military exercise** named **Freedom Shield** on **9 March 2026**.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Unveils 'Defence Forces Vision 2047' Blueprint for Future-Ready Indian Military

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh released **'Defence Forces Vision 2047: A Roadmap for a Future-Ready Indian Military'** at **South Block, New Delhi** on **March 10, 2026**.

Defence Research & Development Organisation and Indian Navy Successfully Test Indigenous Air Droppable Container 'ADC-150' from P8I Aircraft

The **Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)** and **Indian Navy** conducted **four successful in-flight release trials** of the **indigenous Air Droppable Container (ADC-150)**.

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation Launches 'Cold Response' 2026 Arctic Exercise in Norway and Finland

The **North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)** commenced its **biennial Arctic military exercise** named **'Cold Response 2026'** across **Northern Norway and Finland**.

India–Japan Joint Military Exercise Dharma Guardian 2026 Concludes in Chaubattia After Two Weeks

The **7th edition** of the **India–Japan joint military exercise Dharma Guardian 2026** concluded at **Chaubattia** after a two-week training period from **24 February to 8 March 2026**.

INS Trikand to Participate in Mauritius' 58th National Day on March 12, 2026

INS Trikand, a **Talwar-class guided-missile frigate** of the **Indian Navy**, will participate in the **58th National Day celebrations** of **Mauritius**.

INS Sudarshini Reaches Valletta, Malta, Strengthening India–Malta Maritime Relations

The **Indian Naval Sail Training Ship INS Sudarshini** arrived at the port of **Valletta, Malta** as part of its **transoceanic expedition "Lokayan-26."**

INS Trikand Completes Port Visit to Port Louis, Mauritius

INS Trikand concluded her **port call** at **Port Louis, Mauritius**.

Indian Navy Joins United States-Led Multinational Exercise Sea Dragon 2026 in Guam

The **Indian Navy** is participating in **Exercise Sea Dragon 2026**, a **United States Navy-led** multinational **anti-submarine warfare (ASW)** exercise held in **Guam** throughout **March 2026**.

World's First Autonomous Maritime Shipbuilding Centre Laid by Sagar Defence in Andhra Pradesh

Sagar Defence Engineering Private Limited laid the **foundation stone** for the **world's first**

Autonomous Maritime Shipbuilding and Systems Centre at **Juvvaladinne Fishing Harbour**, **Nellore district**, **Andhra Pradesh (AP)**.

Keel Laid for Yard 16402 & 16403, Second and Third Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels at YMPL, Ratnagiri

The **keel laying ceremony** of **Yard 16402 & 16403**, the **second and third ships** of six **Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs)**, was held at **M/s YMPL, Ratnagiri**.

Indian Navy Advances IOS SAGAR Initiative to Enhance Maritime Cooperation with Indian Ocean Nations

India reaffirmed its commitment to **collaborative maritime security** in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)** with the commencement of the **second edition of Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) SAGAR**.

Indian Army Holds 'Amogh Jwala' Exercise at Babina Field Firing Ranges in Uttar Pradesh

The **Indian Army Southern Command** conducted **Exercise 'Amogh Jwala'** at the **Babina Field Firing Ranges**, Uttar Pradesh from **March 6 to 18, 2026**.

Indian Navy to Commission Advanced Stealth Frigate 'Taragiri' (F41)

The **Indian Navy** is set to commission its latest **stealth Frigate, Taragiri (F41)** on **03 April 2026** at **Visakhapatnam**, with the ceremony presided over by **Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh**.

INS Nilgiri of Indian Navy Takes Part in Exercise Kakadu 2026 in Australia

The **Indian Navy (IN)** frigate **INS Nilgiri** participated in the **sea phase** of **Exercise Kakadu 2026** in **Australia** as part of its deployment to the **Western Pacific**.

Raksha Mantri Chairs Ministry of Defence Parliamentary Consultative Committee Meeting on Border Roads Organisation

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh chaired a **Parliamentary Consultative Committee** meeting for the **Ministry of Defence** on the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** in **New Delhi**, discussing **defence**, **infrastructure development**, and **strategic initiatives** for **national security** and **operational preparedness**.

Ministry of Defence Signs ₹858 Crore Deals for Tunguska Air Defence Missile System and P-8I Aircraft Depot-Level Inspection

The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** signed **two contracts worth ₹858 crore** in **New Delhi**, aimed at strengthening India's **defence capabilities** and **maintenance infrastructure**.

Indian Air Force Introduces 'Vayu Baan', India's First Helicopter-Launched Drone System

The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has initiated **Project "Vayu Baan"**, India's first **helicopter-launched Unmanned Aerial System (UAS)**.

Indian Navy Launches 'Operation Urja Suraksha' to Protect India-Bound Energy Shipments in Strait of Hormuz

The **Indian Navy (IN)** launched **Operation "Urja Suraksha" (Energy Protection)** to **escort, guide, and safeguard** India-bound **energy shipments** through the strategically important **Strait of Hormuz**.

Indian Army and Indian Institute of Technology Madras Pravartak Join Hands to Boost Indigenous Defence Development

The **Indian Army's Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (EME)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with Indian Institute of Technology Madras **(IITM) Pravartak Technologies Foundation**, Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN) to boost **indigenous defence technology development**.

Personnel from 16 Friendly Nations Complete Harbour Training Under Indian Navy's 'IOS SAGAR' Initiative to Boost Regional Maritime Cooperation

The **Indian Navy (IN)** successfully completed the **harbour training phase** of the **IOS SAGAR initiative** at the **Southern Naval Command, Kochi**, marking a major step in **regional maritime cooperation**.

Adani Defence and Aerospace delivers first batch of 'Prahar' light machine guns to Indian Army

In a boost to India's **defence capability**, the **Indian Army** received the **first batch of 2,000 'Prahar' Light Machine Guns (LMGs)** under the **Make in India initiative**.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh leads inaugural Informal Group of Ministers meeting to assess West Asia developments and their impact on India

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh chaired the **first meeting** of the **Informal Group of Ministers (IGoM)** to monitor the evolving situation in **West Asia**.

Indian Navy sail training ship INS Sudarshini reaches Sète during Lokayan-26 transoceanic expedition

The Indian Navy's sail training ship **INS Sudarshini** arrived at the historic port city of **Sète** as part of the transoceanic expedition **Lokayan-26**.

ENVIRONMENT

Scientists Discover New Genus and Species of Blind Fish in Assam

An international research team from **Germany, India, and Switzerland** discovered a **new genus and species** of **blind aquifer-dwelling (phreatobitic) fish** named **"Gitchak nakan"** in a hand-dug well in **Assam, India**.

Two New Earthworm Species Found in Kerala's Silent Valley National Park

Researchers discovered **two new species** of **moniligastrid earthworms**, namely **"Moniligaster girishi"** and **"Drawida reynoldsi"**, in **Silent Valley National Park**, located in the **Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve** of the **Western Ghats, Kerala**.

2,600-Year-Old Sealed Etruscan Tomb Unearthed in Central Italy

Archaeologists in **central Italy** have uncovered a **sealed Etruscan tomb** dating back around **2,600 years**, providing rare insights into an ancient civilisation predating Rome.

Stenothoe lowryi, a Rare Marine Amphipod, Found for the First Time in Indian Waters

Marine science researchers from **Berhampur University** have recorded the presence of a **rare shrimp-like marine amphipod species** in **Indian waters** for the **first time**.

Roopkund Lake: The Enigma of India's Himalayan "Skeleton Lake"

Roopkund Lake is located in the **Himalayas of Uttarakhand** at an altitude of about **5,020 metres**, in the **Chamoli district**.

Newly Identified Plant Species *Osbeckia zubeengargiana* in Assam Named After Singer Zubeen Garg

Researchers from **Gauhati University** discovered a **new plant species**, **Osbeckia zubeengargiana**, in the **grassland ecosystems** of **Manas National Park**, a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (**UNESCO) World Heritage Site** in **Assam**.

New Estuarine Fish Species Butis bargabhimae Discovered in West Bengal

Scientists in West Bengal have discovered a **new estuarine fish species** named **"Butis bargabhimae"**, enhancing India's **aquatic biodiversity**.

Zoological Survey of India Discovers Two New Lichen Moth Species, Caulocerahalollowayi and Asura buxa, in the Eastern Himalayas

The **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** has announced the **discovery** of **two new species** of **lichen moths**, namely **"Caulocerahollowayi"** and **"Asura buxa"**, from the **Eastern Himalayas**.

Christ College & Mahatma Gandhi University Discover New Earthworm Species "Drawida vazhania" in Kerala

Researchers from Christ College and Mahatma Gandhi University discovered a **new earthworm species** named **"Drawida vazhania"** in the **Vazhani Dam area** of **Peechi-Vazhani Wildlife Sanctuary**, **Thrissur district, Kerala**.

New Wild Kiwi Species "Actinidia indica" Discovered in Arunachal Pradesh by Botanical Survey of India

Scientists from the **Botanical Survey of India (BSI)** have identified a **new species of wild kiwi**

named **"Actinidia indica"** in **Arunachal Pradesh**.

Desert Moss Syntrichia caninervis Identified as Key for Future Mars Ecosystems

Syntrichia caninervis is a resilient **desert moss** identified as a potential candidate for future **Mars colonisation**.

Zoological Survey of India Researchers Identify New Cockroach Species Neoloboptera peninsularis in Maharashtra

Scientists from the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** discovered a new **cockroach species** named **Neoloboptera peninsularis** in the **Deccan Peninsula**, specifically **Nathachiwadi, Pune, Maharashtra**.

BOOKS AND AUTHOR

Title	Author	Key Details	Event Highlights
Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan Releases 16 Books Published by Publications Division	S. K. Bose (Book on Bankim Chandra Chatterjee)	Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan released 16 books published by the Publications Division under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.	14 books were in Tamil, while 2 books were in Hindi and English. The event was held at Uparashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.
Mahatma: A Great Communicator	Dhiraj Kakadia	The book was released by Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya at Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat, New Delhi.	Dhiraj Kakadia serves as the Additional Director General of Akashvani.

Karuna: The Power of Compassion	Kailash Satyarthi	The book was launched in March 2026 by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Kailash Satyarthi.	The launch took place in association with HarperCollins India and the Satyarthi Movement for Global Compassion in the presence of Surya Kant and Kiran Bedi.

SUMMITS & CONFERENCE

Event	Location	Organiser (Full Form)	Key Points / Theme
WTO 14th Ministerial Conference (MC14)	Yaoundé, Cameroon	World Trade Organization (WTO)	India submitted proposals on food security and fishermen livelihoods.
United Nations High Seas Summit 2027	New York, USA	United Nations (UN)	Based on BBNJ High Seas Treaty; focuses on governance and protection of marine biodiversity.
6th BRICS CCI Women	New Delhi, India	BRICS Chamber of Commerce and	Theme: 'Women in Innovation, Science

Empowerment Summit 2026		Industry (BRICS CCI)	Leadership, Innovation & Entrepreneurship (WISE) – Inspiring Change, Shaping Tomorrow'.

ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

Reserve Bank of India Grants Approval to SBI Mutual Fund to Buy Up to 9.99% Stake in RBL Bank and Bandhan Bank

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** approved **SBI Mutual Fund**, a subsidiary of **State Bank of India**, to acquire up to **9.99%** of the **paid-up share capital** or **voting rights** in **RBL Bank**.

Facebook Overseas Acquires 30% Stake in Reliance Enterprise Intelligence Limited

Facebook Overseas, a wholly owned subsidiary of **Meta Platforms Inc.**, acquired a **30% equity stake** (**25.65 crore shares**) in **Reliance Enterprise Intelligence Limited (REIL)**.

Competition Commission of India Approves Central Bank of India's Additional Stake in Generali Central Insurance Companies

The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approved the **acquisition of additional shareholding** in **Generali Central Insurance Company Limited (GCICL)** and **Generali Central Life Insurance Company Limited (GCLICL)** by **Central Bank of India**.

Competition Commission of India Approves Shareholding Purchase in Balaji Wafers by General Atlantic Unit

The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approved the **acquisition of shareholding** in **Balaji Wafers Private Limited** by **General Atlantic Singapore BWP Pte. Ltd. (GASBWP)**.

Reserve Bank of India Clears Bain Capital to Acquire Up to 41.66% Stake in Manappuram Finance

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) granted **final approval** to **Bain Capital** to acquire **joint control** and up to **41.66% stake** in **Manappuram Finance Limited**, a **Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)**.

Meta Buys AI-Powered Social Platform Moltbook

Meta Platforms Inc., the parent company of **Facebook**, **Instagram**, and **WhatsApp**, has acquired

Moltbook, an **experimental social networking platform** for **AI agents**.

Lila Global Acquires 298,997 deadweight tonne Very Large Crude Carrier Lila Jamnagar, First Indian-Flagged VLCC Through GIFT City IFSC

Lila Global has acquired **Lila Jamnagar**, a **298,997 deadweight tonne (DWT) Very Large Crude Carrier (VLCC)**, marking the **first Indian-flagged VLCC** structured through **GIFT City International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)**.

Reserve Bank of India Clears Bain Capital's Investment in Manappuram Finance and Its Subsidiaries

The **Reserve Bank of India** approved an **investment** of around **₹4,385 crore** by **Bain Capital** in **Manappuram Finance Limited (MFL)** and its subsidiaries.

Kotak Mahindra Capital to Sell 30.99% Stake in Infina Finance for ₹1,293.91 Crore

Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited (KMCC), a wholly-owned subsidiary of **Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL)**, has entered into agreements to **divest 30.99% stake** in **Infina Finance Private Limited**.

Svatantra Microfin Merges with Chaitanya India Fin Credit Private Limited and Svatantra Holding to Form 2nd Largest NBFC-MFI

Svatantra Microfin Private Limited (SMPL) completed its **amalgamation** with **Chaitanya India Fin Credit Private Limited (CIFCPL)** and **Svatantra Holding Private Limited (SHPL)**, forming the **2nd largest Non-Banking Financial Company–Microfinance Institution (NBFC-MFI) in India.**

Competition Commission of India Approves MUFG's ₹39,618 Crore Investment in Shriram Finance, Marking Largest FDI in India's NBFC Sector

The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved **Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group (MUFG) Bank's ₹39,618 crore investment** in **Shriram Finance Ltd**, marking the **largest FDI** in **India's NBFC sector**.

Competition Commission of India Approves Acquisition of Equity Stake in Aditya Birla Renewables by GIP EM Star Limited.

The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approved the **subscription of equity share capital** of **Aditya Birla Renewables Limited** by **GIP EM Star Pte. Ltd. (Acquirer)**.

Reserve Bank of India Approves Avenir Investment's Acquisition of Controlling Stake in Sammaan Capital

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has approved **Avenir Investment RSC Limited's acquisition of a controlling stake in Sammaan Capital Limited** (formerly **Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited**).

Competition Commission of India Approves Acquisition of Stake in Groww Asset Management by State Street Global Advisors Inc.

The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approved the **acquisition of shareholding** in **Groww Asset Management Limited** by **State Street Global Advisors**.

MOUS AND AGREEMENT

India and Germany Launch EUR 20 Million Climate Resilience Initiative under International Climate Initiative

India and Germany announced a new **EUR 20 million climate resilience initiative** during a high-level Climate Talk in **New Delhi**, **strengthening bilateral cooperation on climate adaptation.**

West Bengal Signs Memorandum of Understanding with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit and State Mission for Clean Ganga for Basin-Based Masterplans of Ichhamati and Jalangi Rivers

The Government of West Bengal signed a **memorandum of understanding on** with **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit** and the **State Mission for Clean Ganga**, marking the State's **first structured basin- level river planning initiative**.

Ministry of Culture Signs MoU with FICCI to Develop National Strategy for Cultural and Creative Economy; UIDAI Partners with Google for Aadhaar Centre Visibility

The **Ministry of Culture** signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry** to formulate a comprehensive national strategy for India's **Cultural and Creative Economy**.

India Artificial Intelligence Mission Signs Statement of Intent with Business Sweden; DigiLocker Pilot Launched in Kenya

The **India Artificial Intelligence Mission**, under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**, signed a **Statement of Intent** with **Business Sweden** at the India Artificial Intelligence Impact Summit 2026 held in **New Delhi**, **Delhi**, to strengthen **India–Sweden cooperation in Artificial Intelligence and digital technologies**.

Gujarat Receives ₹1,600 Crore Investment Boost to Strengthen Semiconductor Ecosystem

Gujarat's semiconductor ecosystem received fresh investment proposals worth over **₹1,600 crore** from companies based in **Japan, South Korea and Malaysia**, announced during the **Gujarat Semiconnect Conference held in Gandhinagar.**

HCL Technologies and Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur Sign Memorandum of Understanding on Artificial Intelligence; Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur Partners with

Telecommunication Engineering Centre on Sixth Generation Technology

HCL Technologies signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** with **Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur**, **Uttar Pradesh**, to convert **Artificial Intelligence and intelligent systems research into enterprise-ready solutions** for Global Capability Centers.

Nagaland Higher Education Department Signs Memorandum of Understanding with the India Meteorological Department for Weather Research

The **Department of Higher Education, Nagaland** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** with the **India Meteorological Department** under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences** in **Kohima**, Nagaland.

International Solar Alliance and Indian Institute of Technology Delhi Sign Framework for Action to Boost Renewable Energy Cooperation

The **International Solar Alliance** and **Indian Institute of Technology Delhi** formalised a **Framework for Action** in **New Delhi to strengthen cooperation in renewable energy across International Solar Alliance Member Countries**.

India–Canada Joint Leaders Statement 2026 Resets Bilateral Ties

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and Prime Minister **Mark Carney** issued a **Joint Leaders Statement in March 2026** to reset bilateral relations, marking **79 years of diplomatic ties** and adopting **"Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam – One Earth, One Family, One Future"** as the guiding vision.

Indian Army and Ladakh Forest Department Sign MoU for Wildlife Conservation on World Wildlife Day 2026

The **Indian Army** and the **Ladakh Forest Department** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen wildlife conservation efforts in Ladakh's fragile high-altitude ecosystems.

Survey of India Signs Five-Year Memorandum of Understanding with Kerala Digital University for Geospatial Collaboration

The **Survey of India**, under the **Department of Science and Technology**, Ministry of Science and Technology, signed a **five-year Memorandum of Understanding** with **Kerala Digital University**, Kerala.

NITI Aayog and UNICEF India Sign Statement of Intent to Improve Nutrition and Health in Aspirational Districts

NITI Aayog and UNICEF India signed a **Statement of Intent (SOI)** to improve **nutrition and health outcomes in Aspirational Districts and Aspirational Blocks across India**.

Bharat Electronics Limited Signs Memorandum of Understanding with SASMOS HET

Technologies for Defence Electronics Manufacturing

Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **SASMOS HET Technologies Ltd** to strengthen **India's indigenous defence electronics manufacturing ecosystem**.

Indian Institute of Technology Bombay Partners with Honeywell to Establish Centre of Excellence for Sustainability Skills

Indian Institute of Technology Bombay partnered with **Honeywell** to establish a **Centre of Excellence (CoE)** for sustainability skills and innovation at its **Powai Campus** in **Mumbai**.

Bharat Electronics Limited Signs Memorandum of Understanding with Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India to Support Divyaangans

Bharat Electronics Limited – Chennai Unit (BEL-Chennai) signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO)** to provide assistive devices to **Persons with Disabilities (Divyaangans)** in **Ramanathapuram District** and **Sivagangai District** of **Tamil Nadu**.

Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati Signs Memorandum of Understanding with Coventry University Group for Artificial Intelligence and Healthcare Research

The **Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IIT-G)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Coventry University Group (CUG)**, **United Kingdom**, to strengthen **global research collaboration in artificial intelligence and healthcare**.

All India Institute of Medical Sciences and Indian Space Research Organisation Sign Memorandum of Understanding for Space Medicine Research

The **All India Institute of Medical Sciences** and the **Indian Space Research Organisation** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** to strengthen **medical research related to human spaceflight and develop healthcare solutions for astronauts involved in future Indian space missions**.

Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India and Indo Canada Chamber of Commerce Sign MoU to Strengthen India–Canada Business Cooperation

The **Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)** and the **Indo Canada Chamber of Commerce (ICCC)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** during the **India–Canada Business Roundtable held in New Delhi.**

India Initiates Trade Negotiations with Philippines and Maldives for New Trade Agreements

India has started the process of signing **Terms of Reference to begin trade negotiations with the Philippines and Maldives**, according to the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.

Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Signs Memorandum of Understanding with Coalition of the Willing to Empower Persons with Hearing Impairment

The **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities** under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the **Coalition of the Willing in New Delhi** to strengthen empowerment and opportunities for persons with hearing impairment.

Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) Partners with YouTube for FIFA World Cup 2026 Streaming

The **Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)** partnered with **YouTube** to introduce a new **digital streaming format** for the **FIFA World Cup 2026**.

India–Vietnam Strengthen Cooperation in Tribal and Ethnic Development

India and Vietnam enhanced cooperation in **tribal and ethnic development** following a **high-level ministerial meeting held in New Delhi**.

Himachal Pradesh Signs Memorandum of Understanding with National Dairy Development Board to Boost Dairy Sector

The **Himachal Pradesh Government** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)** to strengthen the **dairy sector**.

India–Indonesia Collaborate on Restoration of Prambanan Temple Complex in Indonesia

India and Indonesia strengthened **cultural cooperation** through collaboration on the restoration of the Prambanan Temple Compounds.

India and Bhutan Sign Memorandum of Understanding on Postal Cooperation

India and Bhutan signed a **Memorandum of Understanding on Postal Cooperation** to strengthen bilateral collaboration in the postal sector.

APPS & PORTALS

App / Portal Name	Released By	Purpose
Indian Culture Portal 2.0	Ministry of Culture	To provide digital access to India's cultural heritage and traditions.
Blue Voice App	Pondicherry University	To provide real-time weather updates and

		safety support for fishing communities.
Internal Audit Portal	Ministry of Rural Development	To digitize and centralize audit processes in real time.
PRISM-SG Portal	Ministry of Road Transport & Highways and Ministry of Railways	To digitize approval and inspection processes for Road Over Bridges.
Gruh Sugam Portal	National Housing Bank (NHB)	To simplify digital home loan access for defence and government personnel.

SPORTS NEWS

Mumbai Cricket Association to Name Wankhede Stadium Stand After Ravi Shastri; Gates to Honour Cricket Legends

The **Mumbai Cricket Association** (MCA) has approved naming a stand at the **Wankhede Stadium** after former India captain **Ravi Shastri**.

Jammu & Kashmir Win Ranji Trophy 2025–26 in Maiden Final Appearance

Jammu and Kashmir scripted history by winning the **Ranji Trophy** 2025–26 title in their first-ever final appearance.

Alyssa Healy Retires from All Forms of Cricket After Record-Breaking Final One Day International in Hobart

Former Australia Captain Alyssa Healy has retired from **all forms of international cricket** after a memorable final **One Day International** match in Hobart.

Special Edition of ASMITA Women's Sports League Announced in New Delhi

Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports **Raksha Nikhil Khadse** announced a special edition of the **ASMITA Women's Sports League** in **New Delhi** to mark **International Women's Day on 8 March 2026**.

Logo of Cycling League of India Unveiled; World's First Professional Franchise-Based Road Cycling League

Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports **Mansukh Mandaviya** unveiled the official logo of the

Cycling League of India.

Chhattisgarh to Host First Edition of Khelo India Tribal Games 2026

Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports **Mansukh Mandaviya** announced that the **Khelo India Tribal Games 2026** will be hosted by **Chhattisgarh**.

Jasprit Bumrah Completes 500 Wickets in International Cricket during ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026

Indian fast bowler **Jasprit Bumrah** completed **500 wickets in international cricket** during the **ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026** semifinal against **England national cricket team**.

George Russell Wins Formula One Australian Grand Prix 2026

George Russell of **Mercedes-AMG Petronas Formula One Team** won the **Formula One Australian Grand Prix** 2026, the opening race of the **Formula One** 2026 season held at the **Melbourne Grand Prix Circuit** in **Melbourne**, **Australia**.

India Wins ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026

The **ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026** ended with the **India national cricket team** defeating the **New Zealand national cricket team** by **96 runs** in the final held at **Narendra Modi Stadium**, **Ahmedabad**.

Lakshya Sen Finishes Runner-up at All England Open 2026

India's badminton star **Lakshya Sen** finished **runner-up in the men's singles** at the **All-England Open Badminton Championships** 2026 held in **Birmingham**, **United Kingdom**.

Second Edition of World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026 to be Held in New Delhi

The **second edition of the World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026 – New Delhi** will be held in **New Delhi** from **March 11 to March 13, 2026**.

BCCI Announces ₹131 Crore Cash Reward for Team India After ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 Victory

The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** announced a **₹131 crore cash reward for Team India** after winning the **ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026**.

India and New Zealand Launch Centenary Sports Cooperation Programme 2026 to Mark 100 Years of Sporting Relations

India and **New Zealand** have initiated discussions to expand **bilateral sports cooperation in 2026**, marking **100 years of sporting relations between the two countries**.

India Women's Hockey Team Qualifies for International Hockey Federation Hockey World Cup 2026

The **India women's national field hockey team** qualified for the **FIH Hockey Women's World Cup**

2026 even before the semifinals of the **Women's Hockey World Cup Qualifiers** held in **Hyderabad**.

Shailesh Kumar Wins Gold in Men's High Jump T63 at World Para Athletics Grand Prix

Indian para-athlete **Shailesh Kumar** won a **gold medal in the men's high jump T63 category** at the **World Para Athletics Grand Prix** held in **New Delhi**.

International Cricketers Suspended in Bim10 Corruption Case

International cricketers **Javon Searles, Trevon Griffith, and Chitranjan Rathod** have been **provisionally suspended** in connection with the **Bim10 corruption case**.

India Tops Medal Table at World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026 with 208 Medals

India delivered an outstanding performance at the **World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026** held at **Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi**.

India Wins Five Medals at World Boxing Futures Cup 2026

India finished with a total of five medals at the **World Boxing Futures Cup 2026**, securing **one gold, three silver and one bronze medal**.

BCCI Naman Awards 2026 Honours Top Performers in Indian Cricket

The **BCCI Naman Awards 2026 were held in New Delhi**, celebrating achievements and contributions to Indian cricket.

World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Defers Decision on Ban for Government Officials

The **World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)** postponed its decision on a proposed rule to **ban government officials from attending major sporting events**.

India to Host World Indoor Athletics Championships 2028 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha

India secured the **hosting rights for the World Indoor Athletics Championships 2028**, marking the **first time** the country will host this prestigious indoor athletics event.

Khelo India Tribal Games 2026 Begins in Chhattisgarh from 25 March 2026

The **Khelo India Tribal Games 2026** will be held from **25 March to 3 April 2026** in Chhattisgarh.

LeBron James Becomes National Basketball Association's All-Time Leader in Regular Season Games Played

LeBron James became the **all-time leader in National Basketball Association regular season games played**, appearing in his **1,612th game** for the Los Angeles Lakers against the Orlando Magic.

Arundhati Reddy Named International Cricket Council Women's Player of the Month for February 2026

Arundhati Reddy was named the **International Cricket Council Women's Player of the Month for February 2026** for her outstanding performance in the **Twenty20 International series against Australia**.

Sahibzada Farhan Named International Cricket Council Men's Player of the Month for February 2026

Sahibzada Farhan was named the **International Cricket Council Men's Player of the Month for February 2026** following his outstanding performance in the **International Cricket Council Men's Twenty20 World Cup 2026**.

Olympic women's sport limited to biological females

International Olympic Committee (IOC) to restrict **women's category to biological females** from **2028 Olympics (Los Angeles)**.

Gurjant Singh Announces Retirement from International Hockey at Hockey India Awards Ceremony

Gurjant Singh, forward of the **India men's national field hockey team**, announced his **retirement from international hockey** at the Hockey India Annual Awards ceremony held in **New Delhi**.

India Wins Two Bronze Medals at Asia Cup World Ranking Tournament Stage 1; Multiple Archers Enter Finals

India delivered a **strong performance** at the Asia Cup World Ranking Tournament Stage 1 by winning **two bronze medals** and securing **multiple entries into the finals** across categories.

Sheetal Devi Named 'Para Archer of the Year 2025' by World Archery

Sheetal Devi was honoured with the **'Para Archer of the Year 2025'** award by **World Archery**.

Sunil Narine Becomes Most Capped Overseas Player in Indian Premier League History

West Indies player Sunil Narine became the **most capped overseas player** in the history of the Indian Premier League (IPL) after surpassing **Kieron Pollard**, who had played **189 matches**.

OBITUARIES

Name	Profession / Role	Native / Nationality

R. Nallakannu	Veteran CPI Leader and Freedom Fighter	Tamil Nadu, India
T.K. Oommen	Sociologist and JNU Professor Emeritus	Kerala, India
Utsav Charan Das	Ghoda Nacha Folk Artist and Padma Shri Awardee	Odisha, India
K.P. Unnikrishnan	Veteran Congress Leader and Former Union Minister	Kerala, India
H.K. Dua	Senior Journalist, Diplomat and Parliamentarian	India
K.G. George	Vir Chakra Awardee and 1965 War Veteran	Kerala, India
Biren Singh Engti	Veteran Congress Leader and Former Union Minister of State	Assam, India
Kushal Das	Former AIFF General Secretary and Sports Administrator	India
Datta Meghe	Veteran BJP Leader and Former MP	Maharashtra, India
Lionel Jospin	Former Prime Minister of France	France

APRIL 2026

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day Observed As	Key Points / Theme

1 April	Utkal Diwas (Odisha Foundation Day)	Formation of Odisha as separate province in 1936
30 March	International Day of Zero Waste	Theme: Food Waste
2 April	World Autism Awareness Day	Theme: Autism and Humanity – Every Life Has Value
4 April	International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action	Theme: Invest in Peace; Invest in Mine Action
5 April	National Maritime Day	Commemorates voyage of SS Loyalty in 1919
6 April	International Day of Sport for Development and Peace	Theme: Sport: Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers
7 April	World Health Day	Theme: Together for Health. Stand with Science
8 April	International Romani Day	Promotes Romani culture and awareness
9 April	CRPF Valour Day	Honours bravery during Battle of Sardar Post
10 April	World Homeopathy Day	Theme: Homoeopathy for Sustainable Health
10 April	National Siblings Day	Celebrates sibling relationships
11 April	National Pet Day	Promotes pet welfare and adoption
11 April	National Safe Motherhood Day	Theme: Equity in Maternal Healthcare:

		Leaving No Mother Behind
13 April	Jallianwala Bagh Massacre Remembrance	Commemorates 1919 massacre in Amritsar
14 April	Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Jayanti	Birth anniversary of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar
14 April	Baisakhi	Harvest festival and Khalsa Panth formation
14 April	Puthandu	Tamil New Year celebration
14–20 April	Bohag Bihu	Assamese New Year and spring festival
15 April	Pohela Boishakh	Bengali New Year celebration
15 April	Himachal Day	Formation of Himachal Pradesh
16 April	World Voice Day	Theme: Caring for Our Voices
17 April	World Hemophilia Day	Theme: Equitable access for all: recognizing all bleeding disorders
18 April	World Heritage Day	Theme: Emergency Response for Living Heritage in Contexts of Conflicts and Disasters
19 April	World Liver Day	Theme: Solid Habits, Strong Liver
21 April	National Civil Services Day	Recognises contribution of civil servants
14 April	National Fire Service Day	Theme: Safe School, Safe Hospital and Fire

		Safety Aware Society – Together for Fire Prevention
22 April	World Earth Day	Theme: Our Power, Our Planet
23 April	English Language Day	Honours William Shakespeare
23 April	World Book and Copyright Day	Promotes reading and copyright protection
24 April	National Panchayati Raj Day	Marks implementation of 73rd Constitutional Amendment
25 April	World Malaria Day	Awareness about malaria prevention and elimination
26 April	World Intellectual Property Day	Theme: Intellectual Property and Sports: Ready, Set, Innovate
28 April	World Day for Safety and Health at Work	Promotes workplace safety
29 April	International Dance Day	Celebrates cultural significance of dance
30 April	Ayushman Bharat Diwas	Promotes affordable healthcare access

NATIONAL AND STATE NEWS

India Pharma 2026 to be Held in New Delhi on 13–14 April 2026 to Promote Pharmaceutical Innovation and Global Partnerships

The **Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers**, Government of India, in association with the **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)**

and the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA), is set to organize the 9th Edition of India Pharma 2026 on April 13-14, 2026 at Federation House, New Delhi.

Census 2027 Phase 1 to Begin from 1 April 2026 as India's First Fully Digital Census Exercise

India will begin **Phase 1 of Census 2027** from **1 April 2026**, marking the **first fully digital Census** in the country's history.

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code Amendment Bill 2026 Passed by Lok Sabha to Strengthen Insolvency Resolution Framework

The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code Amendment Bill 2026** was passed by the Lok Sabha to strengthen India's **financial system** by improving the **speed and efficiency of insolvency resolution processes** and enhancing **creditor confidence**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurated Samrat Samprati Museum in Gandhinagar on Mahavir Jayanti 2026

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Samrat Samprati Museum** at Shri Mahavir Jain Aradhana Kendra in Koba, Gandhinagar during his **visit to Gujarat**.

Solid Waste Management Rules 2026 Notified by Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change Effective from 1 April 2026

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change notified the **Solid Waste Management Rules 2026** on **27 January 2026**, which came into effect from **1 April 2026** across India.

World Buddhist Peace Conference 2026 Held in Hyderabad and Buddhavanam, Telangana from 27 to 29 March

The **inaugural edition of the World Buddhist Peace Conference 2026** was held from **27 to 29 March 2026** across Hyderabad and Buddhavanam at Nagarjunasagar in **Telangana.**

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Marked 20 Years of Earth Hour with Awareness Activities in Madhya Pradesh

The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** in collaboration with **World Wide Fund for Nature-India** organised **awareness and outreach activities** in Gwalior to mark **20 years of Earth Hour**.

Punjab Cabinet Approved Mukh Mantri Mawan Dheeyan Satkar Yojana to Provide Monthly Financial Assistance to Women through Direct Benefit Transfer Mechanism in Financial Year 2026 to 2027

The **Cabinet of Punjab** led by **Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann** approved a new women centric welfare scheme named **Mukh Mantri Mawan Dheeyan Satkar Yojana** to ensure **direct economic support to women across the state**.

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology Approved 29 Proposals under Fourth Tranche of Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme with Investment of Rupees 7,104 Crore to Boost Electronics Manufacturing and Employment

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology approved **29 proposals under the fourth tranche of the Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme**, with a **projected investment of Rupees 7,104 crore** and **projected production of Rupees 84,515 crore**, expected to generate **14,246 direct employment opportunities**.

Andhra Pradesh to Launch India's First Quantum Computer at Amaravati under National Quantum Mission through Amaravati Quantum Valley Project

The **Government of Andhra Pradesh** announced that **India's first quantum computer** will be launched at Amaravati on **14 April 2026** as part of the **Amaravati Quantum Valley Project**, marking a major step in **advanced computing and emerging technologies development in India**.

Bhavasagara Referral Centre at Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology Kochi Designated as National Repository for Deep Sea Fauna under Biological Diversity Act 2002

The **Bhavasagara Referral Centre** at Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology **located in Kochi** has been designated as the **National Repository for Deep Sea Fauna** under the Biological Diversity Act 2002 to strengthen **marine biodiversity conservation and deep sea research in India**.

Kaynes Technology India Limited Semiconductor Plant Inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in Sanand Gujarat to Strengthen India Semiconductor Manufacturing Ecosystem

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Kaynes Technology India Limited Semiconductor Plant** at Sanand, marking a major step in strengthening India's **semiconductor manufacturing capabilities** and advancing India's ambition to become a **global technology leader**.

Government of Andhra Pradesh Launched Free Electricity Scheme for Handloom and Powerloom Weavers from 1 April 2026

The **Government of Andhra Pradesh** led by Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu launched a **free electricity scheme for handloom and powerloom weavers** across the state from **1 April 2026** with an **annual outlay of Rs 150 crore** to reduce power costs, a major component in weaving operations.

Government of India Extended National Piped Natural Gas Drive 2.0 till 30 June 2026 to Expand Nationwide Connectivity and Increase Share of Natural Gas to 15 Percent in Energy Basket

The **Government of India** extended the **National Piped Natural Gas Drive 2.0** by **three months till 30 June 2026** to sustain momentum in **nationwide expansion of Piped Natural Gas connectivity** and increase the **share of natural gas to 15 percent in India's energy basket**.

Amaravati Declared Sole Capital of Andhra Pradesh through Amendment to Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act 2014 with Retrospective Effect from 2 June 2024

The **Lok Sabha passed an amendment to the Andhra Pradesh** Reorganisation Act 2014 declaring Amaravati as the **sole capital of Andhra Pradesh**, marking a major **administrative and political shift in the state capital structure**.

Delhi Government Introduced Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana to Support Girl Child Education and Financial Security Replacing Ladli Scheme through Gazette Notification Dated

The **Government of Delhi** introduced the **Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana** to support **girl child education and long term financial security from birth to higher education**, through a **gazette notification issued**.

Ministry of Education Granted Deemed to be University Status to National Council of Educational Research and Training

The **Ministry of Education (MoE)** granted **'Deemed to be University' status** to the **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)** based on the recommendation of the **University Grants Commission (UGC)**.

Department of Telecommunications Extended Deadline for Over-The-Top Platforms to Implement Subscriber Identity Module Binding till 31 December 2026

The **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** under the **Ministry of Communications** extended the deadline for **Over-The-Top (OTT) platforms** to implement **Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) binding** till **31st December 2026**.

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Launched Central Board of Secondary Education Curriculum on Computational Thinking and Artificial Intelligence for Classes III to VIII

Union Minister for Education **Dharmendra Pradhan** launched the **Curriculum on Computational Thinking (CT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI)** at Vigyan Bhawan.

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation Developed India Sustainable Development Goal Dashboard in Partnership with United Nations Resident Coordinator Office

The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**, in partnership with the **United Nations Resident Coordinator Office (UNRCO)**, developed the **India Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Dashboard**.

Election Commission of India Launched 'Know Your Candidates' Feature on ECINet Platform Ahead of 2026 Assembly Elections

The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** launched the **'Know Your Candidates (KYC)' feature** on the **ECINet platform** ahead of the **2026 Assembly elections**, aiming to **enhance transparency and enable voters to access verified candidate information**.

India Rolled Out 20% Ethanol-Blended Petrol (E20) Nationwide from 1 April 2026

From **1st April 2026**, fuel stations across India began supplying **20% ethanol-blended petrol (E20)** nationwide as per directives of the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**.

Ministry of Textiles Extended Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies Scheme till 30 September 2026

The **Ministry of Textiles** extended the **Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) Scheme** till **30th September 2026** to support the **export potential of India's textile sector**, particularly amid **global demand uncertainty**.

India's Fisheries Sector Strengthened Food Security, Employment and Exports with ₹39,272 Crore Investment Since 2015

India's fisheries sector has emerged as a **major contributor to food security, employment, export earnings and sustainable livelihoods**, supported by a **record investment of ₹39,272 crore by the Government of India since 2015**.

Ministry of Coal Achieved Record 200+ Million Tonnes Production and Dispatch from Captive and Commercial Coal Blocks in Financial Year 2025–26

The **Ministry of Coal** marked **Financial Year 2025–26** as a **watershed year for India's coal sector**, with **combined production and dispatch from captive and commercial coal blocks crossing the 200 Million Tonnes (MT) mark for the first time**.

Gujarat High Court Issued Policy Banning Use of Artificial Intelligence in Judicial Decision-Making and Judgment Drafting

The **Gujarat High Court** issued a policy **banning the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in judicial decision-making and drafting of judgments**, emphasizing that **human reasoning must remain central to the justice delivery system**.

Indian Railways Completed Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC) from Jawaharlal Nehru Port Terminal to Dadri

Indian Railways successfully completed the **Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC)**, marking a **major milestone in India's railway infrastructure development**.

India's Major Ports Handled Record 915.17 Million Tonnes Cargo in Financial Year 2025–26

India's maritime sector achieved a **record cargo handling of 915.17 million tonnes (MT) in Financial Year 2025–26**, surpassing the **annual target of 904 MT** and registering a **7.06% year-on-year growth**.

Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam Achieved Criticality, Marking Major Milestone in India's Nuclear Programme

India's **indigenously developed 500 Megawatt (MW) Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR)** at Kalpakkam **Tamilnadu**, achieved **criticality**, marking a **major milestone in India's nuclear energy programme**.

Parliament Rejected Impeachment Motion Against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar

The **impeachment motion against the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar** was **rejected by both Houses of Parliament of India**.

India Added Record 6.05 GW Wind Power Capacity in FY 2025–26; Total Capacity Crossed 56 GW

India added a record 6.05 Gigawatt (GW) of wind power capacity in **Financial Year 2025–26**, marking the **highest-ever annual wind capacity addition** in the country's history.

India Launched First-Ever Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) in April 2026

The **Government of India** launched the **first-ever Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE)** in **April 2026** to strengthen **India's economic data system** related to the **services sector**.

Unique Identification Authority of India Partnered with MapmyIndia to Enable Aadhaar Centre Location Services on Mappls App

The **Unique Identification Authority of India** signed an agreement with **MapmyIndia** to enable the display of **authorised Aadhaar centres** on the **Mappls App**.

India Post Aims to Become Global Logistics Powerhouse by 2030; Commemorative Stamp Released for 75 Years of PTC Saharanpur

Union Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia stated that **India Post** is rapidly transforming into a **major logistics powerhouse** and aims to become a **global player by 2030**.

India Became Global Leader in Issuing Internationally Recognized Certificates of Compliance under Nagoya Protocol

India emerged as the **global leader in issuing Internationally Recognized Certificates of Compliance (IRCCs)** under the **Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS)**.

Regional Passport Office Bhopal Becomes First in India to Introduce Braille Script and Sign Language Services for Differently-Abled Applicants

The **Regional Passport Office Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh** became the **first Regional Passport Office in India** to introduce **Braille script and Sign Language services** to improve accessibility for **differently-abled passport applicants**.

Telangana Declares Cancer as Notifiable Disease to Strengthen Monitoring of Non-Communicable Diseases

The **Government of Telangana** has declared **cancer** as a **notifiable disease** across the state to strengthen monitoring of the rising burden of **Non- Communicable Diseases (NCDs)**.

India Withdraws Bid to Host 33rd Conference of Parties Climate Summit in 2028

India has **withdrawn its bid** to host the **33rd Conference of Parties (COP33)** climate summit scheduled for **2028**, after reviewing its **future commitments and priorities**.

Indian Institute of Management Rohtak Wins Birla Institute of Management Technology's Hermes' Dialogue 6.0 National-Level Debate Competition

Birla Institute of Management Technology (BIMTECH), Greater Noida organized its flagship annual academic event **Hermes' Dialogue 6.0**, a **national-level debate competition** focusing on **global energy security and international policy discussions**.

Puducherry Deployed 'Nila' Humanoid Robot at Polling Booth During Assembly Elections

Election authorities in **Puducherry** deployed **'Nila' humanoid robot** for the **first time during Assembly elections** at the **VOC Government School polling booth** to enhance voter experience through technology-driven assistance.

NITI Aayog Released Report Titled "From Borrowers to Builders: Women and India's Evolving Credit Market"

Nidhi Chhibber, Chief Executive Officer of the **National Institution for Transforming India Aayog**, released the **second edition of the report titled "From Borrowers to Builders: Women and India's Evolving Credit Market"** in **New Delhi**.

Union Cabinet Approved Nutrient Based Subsidy Rates, Jaipur Metro Phase-2 and Revised Cost of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited Rajasthan Refinery Project

The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, approved multiple proposals to strengthen **agricultural support systems, urban transport infrastructure, and energy security**.

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs Approved Two Hydroelectric Projects in Arunachal Pradesh Worth ₹40,175 Crore

The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, approved **two hydroelectric projects in Arunachal Pradesh** with a **total investment of ₹40,175.33 crore** to strengthen renewable energy capacity, energy security, and infrastructure development in the North-Eastern region.

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs Approved Kalai-II Hydroelectric Project in Arunachal Pradesh

The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, approved **₹14,105.83 crore** for the **1,200-megawatt Kalai-II Hydroelectric Project** in **Arunachal Pradesh** to strengthen renewable energy capacity and infrastructure development in the North-Eastern region.

National Highways Authority of India Launched 'Arogya Van' Initiative to Plant Medicinal Trees Along Highways

The **National Highways Authority of India** launched the **'Arogya Van' initiative** to plant **medicinal trees along National Highways** to promote **biodiversity, ecological sustainability, and awareness of traditional medicinal systems such as Ayurveda**.

Vantara Announced Vantara University in Jamnagar, Gujarat for Wildlife Conservation and Veterinary Sciences

Vantara announced the establishment of **Vantara University** in **Jamnagar**, **Gujarat**, under the leadership of **Anant Ambani**.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association India Region Zone VII Conference Concluded in Goa

The **Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region Zone VII Conference** concluded in **Goa**, focusing on **strengthening democratic institutions, enhancing women's representation in policymaking, and increasing youth participation in governance**.

Gujarat Police Launched NARIT Artificial Intelligence System for Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Cases

Gujarat Police launched **NARIT Artificial Intelligence (Narcotics Analysis and Retrieval-Augmented Generation-based Investigation Tool)** becoming the **first law enforcement agency in India** to deploy an **Artificial Intelligence-based investigation system** for cases under the **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985**.

Mundra Port Emerged as India's Largest Automobile Export Hub

Mundra Port has emerged as **India's largest automobile export hub** after setting a **national record by exporting 6,008 cars in a single vessel**, highlighting the country's growing strength in automobile exports and logistics efficiency.

Patent Filings in India Increased by 30.2% to 1,43,729 in Financial Year 2025–26

Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, announced that **patent applications in India increased by 30.2% to 1,43,729 in Financial Year 2025–26**, marking a historic high and reflecting the country's growing focus on **research, innovation, and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)**.

Supreme Court Ruled Right to Vote and Contest Elections Are Statutory Rights

The **Supreme Court of India** clarified that the **right to vote** and the **right to contest elections** are **statutory rights and not Fundamental Rights** under **Part III of the Constitution of India**.

First Life-Size Statue of Swami Vivekananda Unveiled in Seattle, United States

In a significant cultural milestone, the **first life-size statue of Swami Vivekananda in the United States** was unveiled at **Westlake Square** in **Seattle**, honouring his legacy as a spiritual leader and philosopher and strengthening **India–United States cultural ties**.

India Moving Towards Fully Digital Toll Collection on National Highways

India has initiated the transition towards a **fully digital toll collection system** across **National Highways**, enabling payments through **FASTag (Electronic Toll Collection System using Radio Frequency Identification Technology)** and **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** from **11 April 2026**, aimed at improving transparency, reducing congestion, and enhancing commuter convenience.

Karnataka Postal Circle Released Commemorative Stamps Honouring Indian Space Research Organisation Achievements

The **Department of Posts**, **Karnataka Postal Circle**, released **commemorative postage stamps and souvenir sheets** in **Bengaluru** to honour the achievements of the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** and highlight India's progress from early satellite missions to advanced human spaceflight and space exploration initiatives.

Ministry of Civil Aviation Approves Warangal and Adilabad Airports in Telangana

The **Ministry of Civil Aviation** approved the development of two new airports at **Warangal** and **Adilabad** in **Telangana**.

The decision was announced during a special meeting chaired by **Rajnath Singh**, Union Minister of the **Ministry of Defence**, held in **New Delhi**.

SARAL AI Platform to Simplify Research Content into 18 Indian Languages

Minister of the Science & Technology Jitendra Singh announced that the **Anusandhan National Research Foundation** (ANRF) **is developing an AI**-powered platform **SARAL AI** to convert complex research papers and patents into simple, social media-friendly content in **18 Indian languages**, aiming to bridge the gap between scientific innovation and the general public.

Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 Launched with ₹10,000 Crore Corpus

The **Government of India** launched **Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 (FoF 2.0)** with a corpus of **₹10,000 crore** to strengthen India's startup ecosystem by supporting **deep-tech, innovative manufacturing, and early-stage startups**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurates Delhi–Dehradun Economic Corridor

Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi, inaugurated the **Delhi–Dehradun Economic Corridor**, a major infrastructure project aimed at improving connectivity between **Delhi** and **Dehradun**.

India's Unemployment Rate Rises to 5.1% in March 2026

India's **unemployment rate** rose to **5.1% in March 2026**, the highest level in the last **five months**, according to the **National Statistics Office** based on the **Periodic Labour Force Survey**

Karnataka High Court Directs Implementation of Menstrual Leave Policy Across All Sectors

The **Karnataka High Court** directed the **Karnataka** State Government to implement a **menstrual leave policy** across both **organised and unorganised sectors**

ITC Limited Becomes First Indian Company to Receive Farm Sustainability Assessment 3.0 Certification for Wheat and Paddy

ITC Limited became the first company in India to receive Farm Sustainability Assessment 3.0 certification for sustainable sourcing of **wheat and paddy.**

India Targets Cocoa Self-Sufficiency by 2040 to Reduce Import Dependence

India aims to achieve **self-sufficiency in cocoa production by 2040** to reduce import dependence worth **United States Dollar 866 million**

Government of India Approves Special Economic Zone for Tata Semiconductor Manufacturing Project in Dholera, Gujarat

The **Government of India approved a Special Economic Zone** for **Tata Semiconductor Manufacturing Private Limited** at **Dholera, Gujarat**.

Chhattisgarh Government Approves Committee to Draft Uniform Civil Code Framework

The **Government of Chhattisgarh**, led by **Vishnu Deo Sai**, approved the formation of a **high-level committee** to prepare a draft framework for implementation of the **Uniform Civil Code (UCC)** in the State.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Chair First High-Level Conference of Central Armed Police Forces

Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi, will chair the **first-ever high-level conference of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)** to strengthen coordination among security forces and enhance the country's internal security framework.

Special Session of Parliament: Bills Introduced for Lok Sabha Expansion and Delimitation Reform

The **Government of India** introduced key legislative proposals in a special session of the **Parliament of India** including the **Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill**, **Delimitation Bill, 2026**, and **Union Territory Laws (Amendment) Bill**.

Supreme Court Ruled Dowry Givers Who Are Victims Cannot Be Prosecuted Under Dowry Prohibition Act

The **Supreme Court of India** ruled that individuals who give dowry under social compulsion, particularly the bride and her family as aggrieved victims, **cannot be prosecuted under the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961**.

All India Council for Technical Education Launches VAANI 3.0 Scheme to Promote Indian Languages in Technical Education

The **All-India Council for Technical Education** has launched the **third edition of the AICTE-VAANI Scheme (Vibrant Advocacy for Advancement and Nurturing of Indian Languages)** to promote the use of **Indian languages in technical education and research** and improve accessibility for students from diverse linguistic backgrounds.

Women's Reservation Bill 2026 Defeated in Lok Sabha Despite Majority Support

The **Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026**, which proposed **33% reservation for women in the Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies**, was defeated in the **Lok Sabha** despite receiving more votes in favour than against, as it failed to secure the required **two-thirds special majority** needed for a Constitutional Amendment.

Over 55,200 Startups Recognised in Financial Year 2025–26 under Startup India Initiative

The **Government of India** recognised **over 55,200 startups** during **Financial Year 2025–26**, the **highest annual addition** since the launch of the **Startup India Initiative** on **16 January 2016**, reflecting strong growth in India's startup ecosystem.

Punjab Assembly Passes Anti-Sacrilege Bill 2026

The **Honourable Chief Minister of Punjab, Bhagwant Mann**, announced that the Punjab Legislative Assembly has **unanimously passed** the **Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar (Amendment) Bill, 2026**.

Bengaluru Water Board Becomes First in India to Receive ISO 50001 Certification

The **Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB)** has become the **first water utility in India** to receive the **ISO 50001:2018 certification** for energy management.

Meghalaya Grants Official Status to Khasi and Garo

The **Meghalaya** Government has approved the **Meghalaya Official Languages Ordinance, 2026**, granting **official language status** to **Khasi** and **Garo** along with **English**.

Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur Establishes Vikram Sodhi Centre for Artificial Intelligence-Driven Mining Systems

The **Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur**, West Bengal announced the establishment of the **Vikram Sodhi Centre of Excellence** for **Artificial Intelligence-enabled geological and mining systems**, with a **funding support of ₹15 crore over five years**.

Kankaria Coaching Depot in Ahmedabad Becomes Water-Neutral Railway Depot

The **Kankaria Coaching Depot**, located in **Ahmedabad**, achieved **water-neutral status**, demonstrating how **railway operations can align with environmental sustainability goals** through **efficient water management practices**.

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology Constitutes Artificial Intelligence Governance and Economic Group

The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** constituted the **Artificial Intelligence Governance and Economic Group (AIGEG)** as a **high-level inter-ministerial body** to serve as India's **central institutional mechanism** for Artificial Intelligence governance policy development and coordination.

Rajya Sabha Reconstitutes Panel of Vice-Chairpersons Effective April 15, 2026

Secretary General of the **Rajya Sabha P. C. Mody** announced the **reconstitution of the Panel of Vice-Chairpersons**, effective from **April 15, 2026**, to ensure the **smooth functioning of the House**.

India Hosts First BRICS Health Working Group Meeting 2026 in New Delhi

Punya Salila Srivastava, Secretary of the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)**, chaired the **first Health Working Group (HWG) Meeting** under the **BRICS framework** for **2026** in **New Delhi**.

Indian Institute of Technology Madras Introduces OmegaBall in India

The **Indian Institute of Technology Madras** (IIT Madras) introduced **OmegaBall**, a three-team football format, marking its **first-ever entry into India**.

India Identified as Origin and Early Diversification Centre of Jamun Genus:

A recent study by the **Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences**, under the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, identified **India** as the **origin and early diversification centre** of the **Jamun genus (Syzygium)**.

India's First Petroglyph Conservation Park to Be Developed at Sindhu Ghat in Ladakh

India's **first Petroglyph Conservation Park** will be developed at **Sindhu Ghat**, **Ladakh**, to protect **ancient rock carvings (petroglyphs)** of historical significance.

Ministry of Textiles Launches 'Vishwa Sutra – Weaves of India for the World' Initiative

The **Ministry of Textiles** launched the **'Vishwa Sutra – Weaves of India for the World' initiative** to promote **Indian handloom heritage at the global level** by integrating **traditional craftsmanship with contemporary fashion design**.

India's First 3D Semiconductor Packaging Unit to be Set Up in Odisha

The foundation stone for **India's first advanced 3D semiconductor packaging unit** was laid in Odisha at **Info Valley**, marking a major step towards **self-reliance in high-end electronics manufacturing**.

Union Cabinet Approves Extension of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana–III till March 2028

The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, approved the **extension of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana–III (PMGSY–III)** till **March 2028** to strengthen **rural connectivity by upgrading road infrastructure and linking villages to markets, schools, and healthcare facilities**.

The **total outlay** of the scheme has been **increased from ₹80,250 crore to ₹83,977 crore**.

Government Proposes 25 Kilometre Minimum Distance Between Sugar Mills under Draft Sugarcane Control Order 2026

The **Government of India** proposed increasing the **minimum distance between new sugar mills from 15 kilometres to 25 kilometres** under the **Draft Sugarcane Control Order 2026** to ensure balanced development in the sugar sector.

Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary Declared India's 99th Ramsar Site

Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change **Bhupender Yadav announced the inclusion of Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary** as India's **99th Ramsar Site**.

India's Seafood Exports Reach Record ₹72,325.82 Crore in Financial Year 2025–26

India's seafood exports reached an **all-time high of ₹72,325.82 crore** in the **Financial Year 2025–26**, according to the **Marine Products Export Development Authority.**

India Introduces New Rules to Regulate Online Gaming Sector

India will notify new rules on **1 May 2026** under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** to regulate the **rapidly growing online gaming sector**, focusing on **user safety and responsible gaming**.

Indian Institute of Technology Ropar Launches Artificial Intelligence-Based Agricultural Intelligence Ecosystem

Indian Institute of Technology Ropar, Punjab launched **India's first fully integrated Artificial Intelligence-based Agricultural Intelligence Ecosystem** to support smart farming and agricultural decision-making.

Eco-Sensitive Zone Declared Around Barasingha Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh

The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** notified an **Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ)** covering **408.7 square kilometres** around the Barasingha Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh to strengthen **biodiversity conservation and ecological protection**.

Atal Pension Yojana Crosses 9 Crore Enrolments Milestone

Atal Pension Yojana achieved a **historic milestone of 9 crore total gross enrolments**, reflecting its growing popularity, especially among workers in the **unorganised sector** in India.

Ministry of Culture Launches 'VM Frames' National Filmmaking Competition to Mark 150 Years of Vande Mataram

The **Ministry of Culture** launched the **'VM Frames' National Filmmaking Competition** to commemorate **150 years of Vande Mataram**, encouraging citizens, especially **young creators**, to express the spirit of the nation through **visual storytelling**.

Centre Approves ₹460 Crore Financial Support to Alliance Air to Revive Operations

The Government of India approved **over ₹460 crore financial assistance** to Alliance Air in the form of a **loan** to help restore grounded aircraft and revive operations.

Archaeological Survey of India Begins Major Conservation Work at Konark Sun Temple

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) began a **major conservation project** at the **Konark Sun Temple**, a UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) **World Heritage Site**, to restore the structure and ensure its long-term stability.

Dhar Selected Under Safe Cities Project 2026 to Enhance Women's Safety

Dhar, Madhya Pradesh has been selected under the **Safe Cities Project 2026**, a major initiative to improve **women's safety and urban infrastructure** in the city.

Revised Technology Development and Investment Promotion Scheme Guidelines Released to Boost Fifth Generation Advanced and Sixth Generation Telecom Innovation

Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao Scindia, Union Minister of Ministry of Communications and Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, released the **revised guidelines for the Technology Development and Investment Promotion Scheme** of the Department of Telecommunications in New Delhi.

Eveready Industries India Limited Inaugurates India's Only Operating Alkaline Battery Manufacturing Facility in Samba, Jammu and Kashmir

Eveready Industries India Limited inaugurated **India's only operating alkaline battery manufacturing facility** in **Samba district** of **Jammu and Kashmir.**

Ninth Edition of India International Water Week 2026 Launched by Union Minister C. R. Patil in New Delhi

C. R. Patil, Union Minister of Ministry of Jal Shakti, launched the **9th edition of India International Water Week 2026**, India's flagship global water event, at **Shram Shakti Bhavan** in New Delhi.

India Launches Toll-Free Helpline 1855 for Census 2027

India launched a **nationwide toll-free helpline (1855)** to simplify the Census 2027 process and enhance citizen participation.

Andhra Pradesh Launches ₹13,000 Crore Mushroom Mission

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has launched its **first Mushroom Mission** with an **investment of ₹13,000 crore**, announced by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu.

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and National Biodiversity Authority Launch Five-Year Biodiversity Project (2025–2030)

The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** and **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)** have launched a **five-year biodiversity project (2025–2030)**.

Government Expands Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan Procurement In Chhattisgarh, Launches Pulse Procurement In Bihar

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has expanded procurement under **Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan** in Chhattisgarh and launched the **first structured pulse procurement** under **Atmanirbhar Pulses Mission in Bihar.**

Himadri Speciality Chemical Limited Commissions India's First Anode Material Facility In West Bengal

Himadri Speciality Chemical Limited has commissioned **India's first anode material production facility** at **Mahistikry, Hooghly in West Bengal**.

NITI Aayog Launches 'Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) @2047' Roadmap to Achieve $30 Trillion Economy

NITI Aayog launched a **two-phase roadmap 'Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) @2047: The Roadmap to Prosperity'**.

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) President Annalena Baerbock Visits India

Annalena Baerbock, President of the United Nations General Assembly, is visiting India, marking her **first visit after assuming office**.

Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) Launches 14-Day Bharat–Bhutan Mystic Mountain Tour

Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation launched a **14-day 'Bharat–Bhutan Mystic Mountain Tour'** from **New Delhi.**

Supreme Court Declares Safe Highway Travel A Fundamental Right Under Article 21

The Supreme Court of India has ruled that **safe travel on National Highways is part of the Fundamental Right to Life under Article 21** of the Constitution.

Uttar Pradesh Introduces 10-Year Warranty Model for Rural Water Schemes under Jal Jeevan Mission

Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath announced a **10-year warranty model for rural water schemes** under the **Jal Jeevan Mission** to ensure **long-term sustainability and accountability**.

Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar Releases Report on Effective City Government by National Institution for Transforming India

Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar released the report titled **"Moving Towards Effective City Government – A Framework for Million-Plus Cities"**

prepared by the **National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog)** at the **India Habitat Centre, New Delhi** in **April 2026**.

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority to Set Up ₹15 Crore Basmati and Organic Training Centre in Pilibhit

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) will establish a **₹15 crore training centre** in **Pilibhit district, Uttar Pradesh** to promote **basmati cultivation, organic farming, and agricultural exports**.

India Announces Three-Year Waiver on Intellectual Property Registration Fees for Sports Sector

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal announced a **three-year waiver on intellectual property registration fees** for the **sports sector** during **World Intellectual Property Day celebrations in New Delhi**.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization releases Global Education Monitoring Report 2026 titled "Access and Equity: Countdown to 2030," highlighting key global challenges in education.

The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** released the **Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report 2026 – "Access and Equity: Countdown to 2030"**, highlighting **global education challenges**.

United Nations Establishes Task Force to Address Disruptions and Protect Trade in the Strait of Hormuz

Antonio Guterres, the **Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN)**, announced the formation of a **dedicated task force** to address challenges arising from disruptions in the **Strait of Hormuz** due to the **West Asia conflict**.

Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals Conference of the Parties15 concludes in Brazil with 40 new species granted protection

The **15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15)** to the **Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)** was held under the **Brazil Presidency** from **23 to 29 March 2026** in **Campo Grande, Brazil**.

Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov Visits India to Co-Chair India–Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation Meeting

First Deputy Prime Minister of Russia, **Denis Manturov**, undertook a **two-day official visit** to India, aimed at strengthening **India–Russia bilateral relations** across key sectors.

India Elected to United Nations Economic and Social Council Subsidiary Bodies; Preeti Saran Re-elected to Human Rights Committee

The **Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations** announced that India was elected by **acclamation** to key subsidiary bodies of the **United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**.

Russia designates Stanford University as 'undesirable', putting students at legal risk

Russia has officially designated **Stanford University** as an **"undesirable organisation"**, making any association **illegal** for Russian citizens.

India and Mauritius operationalise $680 million aid package projects to strengthen bilateral development cooperation

India and Mauritius operationalised projects under a **$680 million economic assistance package**, strengthening **bilateral cooperation** and **development partnership**.

India and Germany Unveil Commemorative Logo Celebrating 75 Years of Diplomatic Relations

India and Germany officially launched a **commemorative logo** to mark **75 years of diplomatic relations** between the two countries.

World Economic Forum April 2026 Report: Global Gross Domestic Product Projected to Rise by USD 56 Trillion Over Next 5 Years

The **World Economic Forum** released its **April 2026 report** titled **'Growth in the New Economy: Towards a Blueprint'** highlighting **global economic trends**.

Bannerghatta Biological Park Receives Four Cheetahs from South Africa Under Wildlife Exchange Programme

Bannerghatta Biological Park, located in **Bengaluru**, announced the successful arrival of **four cheetahs**, including **two females from South Africa**.

Austrian Chancellor Christian Stocker's Visit and Talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi Mark Milestone in India–Austria Relations

The visit of **Austrian Chancellor Christian Stocker** to **India** and his talks with **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** marked an important milestone in **India–Austria relations**.

Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan's Two-Day Official Visit to Sri Lanka (19–20 April 2026) – Key Highlights

Vice President of India C.P. Radhakrishnan undertook a **two-day official visit** to **Sri Lanka** from **19–20 April 2026**, marking the **first bilateral visit** by an **Indian Vice President** to **Sri Lanka**.

India Expands Overseas Citizen of India Card Eligibility in Sri Lanka Up to Sixth Generation

The **Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card scheme** has gained prominence in India's engagement with the **Indian-origin community** in **Sri Lanka**.

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung's State Visit to India (19–21 April 2026): Key Highlights and Outcomes

Lee Jae Myung, the **President** of the **Republic of Korea (ROK)**, paid a **State Visit to India** from **19–21 April 2026** at the invitation of **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, marking the first **South Korean Presidential visit** to India in **eight years**.

Union Minister of State Jitin Prasada Undertakes Official Visit to Czech Republic (April 22–23, 2026)

Jitin Prasada, **Union Minister of State (MoS)** in the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, undertook a **two-day official visit** to the **Czech Republic** from **April 22–23, 2026**.

UK Parliament Approves Tobacco and Vapes Bill Prohibiting Cigarette Sales to Those Aged 17 and Under

The **UK Parliament** passed the **Tobacco and Vapes Bill**, introducing one of the **strictest anti-smoking laws** globally.

External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar Unveils Logo, Theme and Website for 4th India-Africa Forum Summit

External Affairs Minister**, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar** officially launched the **logo, theme, and website** for the **4th India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-IV)** under the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**.

Nigeria Introduces Green Tax on High-Emission Vehicles to Promote Cleaner and Sustainable Mobility under 2026 Fiscal Reforms

Nigeria has introduced a **green tax surcharge** on **high-emission vehicles** as part of its **2026 fiscal policy reforms**, marking a shift towards **cleaner and sustainable mobility**.

BANKING AND BUSINESS

Reserve Bank of India imposes ₹95.4 lakh penalty on Union Bank of India for lapses in customer protection and Income Recognition, Asset Classification and Provisioning compliance

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a **monetary penalty of ₹95.40 lakh** on **Union Bank of India** for **regulatory non-compliance**.

Government initiatives boost Kisan Credit Card system to improve farmers' credit access and promote digital financial inclusion

The **Government of India** is actively promoting **financial inclusion** for farmers through expanded access to the **Kisan Credit Card (KCC)** scheme and its **digital issuance** across States and Union Territories.

JanSamarth portal processes 41 lakh+ applications worth ₹1.06 lakh crore; banks grant digital approvals to 35.07 lakh beneficiaries worth ₹84,365 crore

The **JanSamarth Portal** was launched by **Narendra Modi** on **6 June 2022** with the objective of expanding the reach of **Government-sponsored schemes** and streamlining **credit delivery processes**.

Reserve Bank of India Releases Payments Vision 2028 to Boost India's Digital Payment Ecosystem

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has unveiled its **'Payments Vision 2028'**, titled **'Shaping India's Payment Frontier'**, aimed at strengthening and expanding India's rapidly growing **digital payments ecosystem**.

Government Retains Unchanged Interest Rates on Small Savings Schemes for June Quarter

The **Government of India** has decided to keep **interest rates unchanged** for **small savings schemes** for the **June quarter**.

Reserve Bank of India Imposes ₹31.80 Lakh Penalty on Airtel Payments Bank for Non-Compliance with Disclosure Norms in Financial Statements

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a **monetary penalty of ₹31.80 lakh** on **Airtel Payments Bank Limited** for **non-compliance** with certain provisions of the directions issued by **RBI** on **'Disclosure in Financial Statements'**.

Reserve Bank of India imposes ₹63.60 lakh penalty on Central Bank of India for regulatory non-compliance

The **Central Bank of India** has imposed a **monetary penalty of ₹63.60 lakh** by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.

Moody's Seeks to Open Branch in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City IFSC, Enhancing Global Financial Hub Appeal

Moody's Investors Service has applied to set up a **branch in GIFT IFSC (Gujarat International Finance Tec-City)**, marking a **major step** in strengthening **India's offshore financial hub**.

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs Announces One-Time Relief for Special Economic Zones Units to Sell Goods in Domestic Tariff Area at Concessional Customs Duty Rates under Union Budget 2026–27

In line with the **Union Budget 2026–27**, the **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)** introduced a **one-time relief measure** for **Special Economic Zones (SEZs)** manufacturing units.

Reserve Bank of India Defers Implementation of Revised Capital Market Exposure Framework to July 01, 2026

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has **extended the implementation** of its revised **Capital Market Exposure (CME) framework** by **3 months**, now effective from **1 July 2026** instead of 1 April 2026.

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India Directs Insurers to Implement Ind Accounting Standards-Based Financial Reporting from April 1, 2026

The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has mandated **adoption of Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS)** for insurers from **1 April 2026**.

Government of India Floating Rate Bond 2028 interest rate fixed at 6.17% for next six months

The **Government of India Floating Rate Bond 2028 (FRB 2028)** interest rate for the period **April 4, 2026 to October 3, 2026** has been set at **6.17% per annum**.

Unified Payments Interface records 22.64 billion transactions in March 2026: Department of Financial Services

Unified Payments Interface (UPI) recorded **22.64 billion transactions** in **March 2026**, reflecting **strong growth** in **digital payments** in India.

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India designates Life Insurance Corporation of India, General Insurance Corporation of India Re and New India Assurance as Domestic Systemically Important Insurers for FY 2025–26

The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has designated **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)**, **The New India Assurance Company Limited**, and **General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC)** as **Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs)** for **FY 2025–26**.

Goods and Services Tax collections rise 8.8% to over ₹2 lakh crore in March 2026

India's Gross goods and Services Tax (GST) collection surged to **₹2.1 lakh crore** in **March 2026**, marking an **11-month high**, driven by **strong economic activity** and **higher imports**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India to launch 'SEBI SETU' digital platform to boost investment adviser base in India

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** is set to launch a **digital platform** called **SEBI SETU** to expand the base of **Investment Advisers (IAs)** in India.

Central Board of Direct Taxes launches new income tax portal and Artificial Intelligence-based 'Kar Saathi' to simplify tax filing

The **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** under the **Department of Revenue (DoR)**, **Ministry of Finance (MoF)** launched a **new income tax website** and an **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered assistant 'Kar Saathi'** to simplify **tax filing procedures**.

National Stock Exchange of India and Indian Gas Exchange Limited to introduce India's first domestic benchmark natural gas derivatives

India's leading stock exchange,the **National Stock Exchange of India (NSE)** has announced a **strategic collaboration** with **Indian Gas Exchange Limited (IGX)** to launch **India's first exchange-traded natural gas derivatives** based on a **domestic benchmark** with an aim to improve risk management in the gas market.

Reserve Bank of India launches pilot Benchmark Issuance Strategy for state borrowings across 9 states

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has introduced the **Benchmark Issuance Strategy (BIS)** for **state government market borrowings** on a **pilot basis** from **FY27**.

Reserve Bank of India data shows Current Account and Savings Account ratio declines to 37.9%, a two-year low in December 2025 quarter

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** reported that the **Current Account and Savings Account (CASA) ratio** declined to a **2-year low of 37.9%** in the **December 2025 quarter**, compared to **40.1% in December 2023**.

Amul Brand Achieves ₹1 Lakh Crore Turnover Milestone in Financial Year 2025–26: Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Limited

The **Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Limited (GCMMF)**, which markets the **Amul** brand, achieved a major milestone with its **brand turnover** crossing **₹1 lakh crore** in Financial Year (**FY) 2025–26**.

Bank of Baroda Achieves ₹30 Lakh Crore Global Business Milestone for First Time

Bank of Baroda (BoB) crossed the **₹30 lakh crore global business milestone** (deposits + advances) for the first time, reaching **₹30.78 lakh crore** in **March 2026**.

Reserve Bank of India Imposes ₹10.30 Lakh Penalty on Exclusive Capital Limited for Non-Compliance with Leverage Ratio and Reporting Norms

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a **monetary penalty of ₹10.30 lakh** on **Exclusive Capital Limited**.

Axis Bank Introduces Mobile Number Update Facility Using Aadhaar Face Authentication

Axis Bank has launched a **digital mobile number update facility** on its mobile banking app using **Aadhaar Face Authentication**.

Department of Financial Services Secretary Unveils Bank of Baroda's AI-Based Multilingual Platform 'bob SAMVAD' for Enhanced Branch Customer Interaction

Bank of Baroda (BoB) launched **bob SAMVAD**, an **AI-powered multilingual conversational platform**, in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.

Reserve Bank of India Keeps Foreign Portfolio Investor Investment Limits in Government Securities, State Government Securities and Corporate Bonds Unchanged for FY 2026–27

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has kept the **Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) investment limits** in **Government Securities (G-Secs)**, **State Government Securities (SGSs)**, and **Corporate Bonds** unchanged for **FY 2026–27**.

Reserve Bank of India Cancels Licence of The Shirpur Merchants' Co-operative Bank Limited. for Regulatory Non-Compliance

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** cancelled the licence of **The Shirpur Merchants' Co-operative Bank Ltd., Shirpur** and the bank **ceased operations** from **April 06, 2026**.

Moody's Cuts India's Financial Year 2026-27 Growth Outlook to 6% on West Asia Conflict Impact

The Moody's Ratings (**US-based credit rating agency**) released its **Credit Opinion Report on India**, revising India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) **growth forecast for FY2026–27 (FY27)** downward by **80 basis points to 6%**, from the earlier estimate of **6.8%**.

Reserve Bank of India Proposes Revamp of Business Correspondent Model to Strengthen Last-Mile Banking and Financial Inclusion

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has proposed a **revamp of the Business Correspondent (BC) model** to strengthen **last-mile banking delivery** and **financial inclusion**.

Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana Completes 11 Years of Empowering Small and Micro Entrepreneurs

The **Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY)** was launched by **Narendra Modi** on **April 8, 2015**, marking **11 years of success** in empowering India's grassroots entrepreneurs.

Morgan Stanley Cuts India's Financial Year 2026-27 Gross Domestic Product Growth Forecast to 6.2%

Morgan Stanley has cut India's **Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast to 6.2% for Financial Year 2026-27 (FY27)**, a reduction of **30 basis points (bps)** from the earlier **6.5% estimate**, due to the ongoing **conflict in West Asia**.

Bajaj Alternate Investment Management Limited Receives Securities and Exchange Board of India Nod to Start Portfolio Management Services

Bajaj Alternate Investment Management Limited (Bajaj Alts) has received **regulatory approval** from **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** to launch **Portfolio Management Services (PMS)**.

India's Coffee Exports Reach Record $2.13 Billion in 2025-26 fiscal

India's coffee exports recorded a strong growth of **17%** to reach a **historic high of $2.136 billion** in **FY26**, up from **$1.82 billion** in **FY25**, driven by **higher prices** and a **moderate rise in export volumes**.

Razorpay Partners with OpenAI to Enable Instant Payment Integration in AI-Built Apps

Razorpay has partnered with **OpenAI** to enable **seamless integration of payment systems** into **AI-built applications**, allowing developers to **embed payments directly** into apps within minutes and **simplify monetisation** of AI products.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Extends Initial Public Offering Approval Validity and Minimum Public Shareholding Compliance Deadline to September 30, 2026

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) announced a **two-pronged one-time relief measure** to ease **Initial Public Offering (IPO) timelines** and **Minimum Public Shareholding (MPS) compliance norms**.

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India Forms Sub-Panel of Insurance Advisory Committee to Review Private Health Insurance Sector

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has constituted a **sub-committee** under the **Insurance Advisory Committee (IAC)** to review the **current scenario of private health insurance** in India.

World Bank Raises India's Growth Forecast to 6.6% from 6.3% for Current Fiscal Year

The World Bank has revised India's **GDP growth forecast upward to 6.6% for FY27**, from the earlier **6.3%**, citing **strong domestic demand** and benefits from **free trade agreements (FTAs)**.

Punjab National Bank Signs Memorandum of Understanding with Government e-Marketplace to Strengthen Financial Access for Sellers

State-owned **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Government e Marketplace (GeM)** to strengthen **financial access** for sellers on the platform.

DBS Bank India Launches DBS Aspire Relationship-Led Banking for Emerging Affluent Segment

DBS Bank India launched its new **DBS Aspire Banking proposition** along with the **Aspire debit card**, targeting India's **emerging affluent segment**.

Saraswat Co-operative Bank Becomes India's Largest Urban Co-operative Bank After Crossing ₹1 Lakh Crore Total Business Mark

Saraswat Co-operative Bank Limited. has crossed the **₹1 lakh crore total business mark**, becoming **India's largest urban co-operative bank**.

KreditBee Enters Unicorn Club with USD 280 Million Pre-Initial Public Offering Funding Round

KreditBee has entered the **unicorn club** after raising **USD 280 million** in a **Series E funding round**, achieving a **post-money valuation of USD 1.5 billion** ahead of its planned **Initial Public Offering (IPO)**.

Canara HSBC Life Insurance Company Limited Launches Market-Linked Savings Plan 'Promise4Wealth'

Canara HSBC Life Insurance launched **Promise4Wealth**, a next-generation **Unit Linked Insurance Plan (ULIP)** offering **long-term wealth creation** and **life insurance protection**.

Financial Intelligence Unit-India and Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre Sign Landmark Memorandum of Understanding to Strengthen Fight Against Cyber Fraud and Financial Crimes

The **Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND)** and the **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)** have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to strengthen India's fight against **cyber frauds** and **financial crimes**.

Key Highlights of Reserve Bank of India's First Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy for Financial Year 2026-27

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** conducted the **60th and 1st Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** meeting for Financial Year 2026-27 (FY27) from **April 06 to April 08, 2026**.

National Stock Exchange of India Partners with S&P Global Energy to Launch Derivatives Based on Platts Benchmarks

The **National Stock Exchange of India (NSE)** has partnered with **S&P Global Energy** to launch **exchange-traded derivatives** based on **Platts benchmarks**.

Reserve Bank of India Issues New Guidelines to Accelerate Inward Cross-Border Remittances and Reduce Banking Delays

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has directed banks to **speed up cross-border inward payments** by **eliminating processing delays**.

PayU and 8B forge strategic alliance to boost India–Central Asia digital payment connectivity

PayU and **8B** signed a **strategic partnership** to expand **digital payment connectivity** between **India and Central Asia**.

State Bank of India Overtakes ICICI Bank in Market Capitalisation Ranking

The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has overtaken **ICICI Bank** to become the **2nd-largest bank** by **market capitalisation** in India.

Axis Bank Joins NPCI's Banking Connect Platform to Boost Interoperable Netbanking Services

NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited (NBBL) has onboarded **Axis Bank** onto its **Banking Connect** platform, joining major banks like **State Bank of India**, **ICICI Bank**, and **HDFC Bank**.

Reserve Bank of India Frequently Asked Questions on Digital Rupee (e₹)

Digital Rupee (e₹) is India's **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)** issued by the **Reserve Bank of India** and is the **digital form** of physical currency (₹) with **equal value (at par)** to cash.

Asian Development Bank approves $115.8 million loan to improve resilient urban services in Narayanganj, Bangladesh

The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved a **$115.8 million loan** for the **Narayanganj Green and Resilient Urban Development Project** in **Narayanganj City Corporation (NCC), Bangladesh**.

CSB Bank launches its first retail savings product 'SMART SAVE ACCOUNT', expanding its retail banking portfolio

CSB Bank Limited, one of India's oldest private sector banks, launched its **first dedicated retail savings product** called the **'SMART SAVE ACCOUNT'**, marking a major expansion in **retail banking portfolio**.

Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority approves PPFAS Asset Management Company to act as pension fund sponsor under National Pension System framework

The **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)**, under the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**, approved **PPFAS Asset Management Company (AMC)**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of **Parag Parikh Financial Advisory Services Limited (PPFAS)**, to act as a **sponsor** for a **pension fund** under the **National Pension System (NPS)**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India launches three Information Technology platforms to boost ease of doing business, transparency, and cybersecurity oversight

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** launched **three new Information Technology (IT) platforms** to enhance **ease of doing business**, **transparency**, and **cybersecurity oversight**.

India's Unified Payments Interface completes 10 years of transforming digital payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has completed **10 years of operations**, transforming India from a **cash-led economy** to a **real-time digital payment system**.

Reliance Jio and Bank of Baroda launch 'bob World Lite' for feature phones to enhance digital inclusion

Reliance Jio and **Bank of Baroda** have partnered to launch **'bob World Lite'**, a mobile banking app for **feature phone users** on **JioPhone Prima 4G**.

National Stock Exchange of India gets Ministry of Corporate Affairs approval to reserve 'National Coal Exchange of India Limited' name for proposed coal trading platform

The **National Stock Exchange of India (NSE)** has received approval from the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)** to reserve the name **"National Coal Exchange of India Limited"** for its proposed **coal trading platform**.

PhonePe and SBI Card launch co-branded credit card with zero joining fee offer

PhonePe, in partnership with **SBI Card**, has launched a **co-branded credit card** with a **limited-time first-year fee waiver** to improve **accessibility and adoption** of digital credit services.

Asian Development Bank revises India's FY27 Gross Domestic Product growth forecast upward to 6.9% from 6.5%

The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** released its latest **Asian Development Outlook (ADO) April 2026** report, titled **"The Middle East Conflict Challenges Resilience in Asia and the Pacific"**.

Reserve Bank of India launches 'Utkarsh 2029' as its Medium-Term Strategy Framework for 2026–29, replacing Utkarsh 2.0

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** launched **'Utkarsh 2029'**, its **Medium-Term Strategy Framework** for **April 2026–March 2029**, succeeding **Utkarsh 2.0 (2023–25)**.

Reserve Bank of India issues draft amendment directions to revise identification framework for Upper Layer Non-Banking Financial Companies under Scale-Based Regulation system

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued **draft amendment directions (2026)** to revise the framework for identifying **Upper Layer Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFC-UL)** under the **Scale-Based Regulation (SBR)** system.

Paytm introduces biometric Unified Payments Interface payments and cardless Automated Teller Machine withdrawals

Paytm (One 97 Communications Limited) introduced **biometric authentication** for Unified Payments Interface **(UPI) payments** and **cardless Automated Teller Machine (ATM) withdrawals**.

India's Non-Life Insurance Premiums Rise 9.2% in FY26, Led by Strong Growth in Health Insurance Segment

The **Gross Direct Premium (GDP)** underwritten by **non-life insurers** in India grew by **9.20% in FY26**, reaching **₹3.35 lakh crore**, compared to ₹3.07 lakh crore in the previous financial year.

India's Exports Rise 4% to $860 Billion in FY26, Trade Deficit Expands by $25 Billion

India's total exports increased by **4.22% to USD 860.09 billion in FY 2025–26**, while **imports grew faster by 6.47% to around USD 970 billion**, leading to a **widening of the trade gap**.

Life Insurance Corporation of India Launches MyLIC and Super Sales Saathi Apps to Strengthen Digital Insurance Services and Customer Experience

Shri M. Nagaraju, IAS, Secretary, **Department of Financial Services**, Ministry of Finance, launched **LIC's new mobile applications** — **MyLIC Customer App** and **Super Sales Saathi App** — in **Mumbai**, Maharashtrain the presence of senior LIC leadership.

Department of Telecommunications and Securities and Exchange Board of India Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Curb Telecom-Linked Financial Frauds and Strengthen Investor Protection

The **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** and the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to strengthen **India's financial ecosystem security** by addressing the **misuse of telecom resources** in **financial frauds** and **investment scams**.

International Monetary Fund Revises India's FY27 Gross Domestic Product Growth Estimate Upward to 6.5%

The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** released its **April 2026 World Economic Outlook (WEO)** titled **"Global Economy in the Shadow of War."**

Financial Intelligence Unit-India and Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Strengthen Fight Against Money Laundering and Financial Crimes

The **Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND)** and the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to strengthen cooperation against **money laundering** and **financial crimes**.

Financial Intelligence Unit-India and Securities and Exchange Board of India Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Strengthen Fight Against Money Laundering and Financial Crimes

The **Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND)** and the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to strengthen cooperation against **money laundering** and **financial crimes**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Extends Registration Validity for Not-for-Profit Organisations on Social Stock Exchange to Boost Fundraising

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has relaxed key norms for the **Social Stock Exchange (SSE)** to boost **fundraising** for **Not-for-Profit Organisations (NPOs)** and enhance participation.

Bajaj Allianz Life Launches Nifty 500 Low Volatility Index Fund Under ULIP Scheme

Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance has launched the **Nifty 500 Low Volatility 50 Index Fund** under its **ULIP (Unit Linked Insurance Plan)** offerings.

India's Wholesale Price Index inflation rises to 3.88% in March 2026, hitting a 38-month high from 2.1% in February 2026

India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation rose sharply to **3.88% (YoY)** in **March 2026**, marking a **38-month high**, compared to 2.1% in February 2026.

Shriram Finance Arm Receives Reserve Bank of India Approval to Launch Primary Dealer Business

Shriram Finance Limited announced that its wholly owned subsidiary **Shriram Overseas Investments Limited** has received **in-principle approval** from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to commence **Primary Dealer (PD) business**.

China Becomes India's Largest Trading Partner in FY26; Trade Deficit Widens to USD 112 Billion

China emerged as **India's largest trading partner** in **Financial Year 2025-26 (FY26)**, with total **bilateral trade** reaching **USD 151.1 billion**, according to **Government of India (GoI)** data.

Cabinet Approves Creation of 'Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMI Pool)' with ₹12,980 Crore Sovereign Guarantee for Continuous Maritime Insurance Coverage

The **Union Cabinet** chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** approved the creation of a **domestic insurance pool** named the **'Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMI Pool)'**.

Cabinet Approves Additional Instalment of Dearness Allowance for Central Government Employees and Dearness Relief for Pensioners Effective from 01 January 2026

The **Union Cabinet** chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** approved an **additional instalment** of **Dearness Allowance (DA)** for **Central Government employees** and **Dearness Relief (DR)** for **pensioners**.

Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority to Raise ₹15,000 Crore from World Bank and Asian Development Bank for Amaravati Development

The **Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA)** has secured **₹40,887 crore** so far for the development of **Amaravati**, the **greenfield capital city** of Andhra Pradesh.

World Bank Group Launches 'Water Forward' Initiative to Enhance Water Security for 1 Billion People

Ajay Banga, President of the **World Bank Group**, announced the launch of **'Water Forward'**, a global platform to improve **water security** for **1 billion people by 2030**.

National Stock Exchange of India Gets Securities and Exchange Board of India Approval to Invest in Proposed National Coal Exchange of India Limited

The **National Stock Exchange of India (NSE)** has received approval from the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** to invest in the proposed **National Coal Exchange of India Limited**.

Directorate General of Foreign Trade Permits 17 Banks to Import Gold and Silver Valid Till March 2029

The **Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)** under the **Department of Commerce (DoC)**, **Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MoC&I)**, updated the list of **authorised banks** for **gold and silver imports**.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Survey Shows 69.5% Rural Households Expect Income Growth in 2026–27

The **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** conducted a bi-monthly survey in **March 2026** titled **"Rural Economic Conditions and Sentiments"**.

World Bank Sanctions USD 225 Million Funding for Rajasthan Highway Modernisation Project

The **World Bank (WB)** Board of Executive Directors approved a **USD 225 million (approx. ₹2,080 crore) loan** for the **Rajasthan Highway Modernisation Project**.

Reserve Bank of India Releases Guidelines on Exchange Facility for Currency Notes and Coins

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued **Master Directions** on **Facility for Exchange of Notes and Coins** to ensure smooth **currency exchange services** across India.

Ministry of Commerce & Industry Data Shows Singapore as Top Foreign Direct Investment Source in Apr–Dec FY26 with Strong Inflows from Tax Haven Nations

The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** under the **Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MoCI)** released data on **FDI equity inflows** for **FY 2025–26 (April–December)**.

SBI Research Report Forecasts India's Gross Domestic Product Growth at 6.8% to 7.1% in FY27

State Bank of India (SBI), India's largest **Public Sector Bank (PSB)**, released its latest **SBI Research Report** on **India's economic outlook**.

National Stock Exchange Active Client Base Declines 7% to 4.57 Crore in FY26

The **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** witnessed a **7% decline** in **active client base** to **4.57 crore** in **FY26**, compared to **4.92 crore** in **FY25**.

CheQ and AU Small Finance Bank Introduce India's First Co-branded LED-Powered Credit Card

CheQ, a credit management platform, partnered with **AU Small Finance Bank** to launch the **'CheQ AU Credit Card'**.

Reserve Bank of India Issues Digital Payments E-Mandate Framework 2026, Consolidates Rules for Recurring Transactions

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued the **Digital Payments: E-mandate Framework, 2026**, consolidating all guidelines related to **recurring digital payments** into a single **master framework**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Amends Alternative Investment Fund Regulations to Boost Social Impact Investing in India

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has amended the **Alternative Investment Fund (AIF)** regulations to promote **social impact investing** in India.

Health Insurance Coverage in India Rises Over 8 Years, Rural Penetration Overtakes Urban Areas: Survey

According to the **National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)** (**April 2026** data), **health insurance coverage** in India has expanded significantly over the past **eight years**.

India and Bhutan Convene 7th Joint Group of Customs Meeting in Munnar, Keralam

The **7th Joint Group of Customs (JGC) Meeting** between **India and Bhutan** was held in **Munnar**, Kerala.

United Nations Report Projects India's Economy to Expand 6.4% in Calendar Year 2026 and 6.6% in CY27

The **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)** released its report titled **"Economic and Social Survey of Asia and Pacific 2026: Socioeconomic Prosperity Amid the Transition to an Environmentally Sustainable Economy."**

Income Tax Department Outreach Programme Highlights Key Provisions of the New Income Tax Act, 2025

The **Commissioner of Income Tax (Exemptions), Delhi** organised an outreach programme in **New Delhi** to promote **financial literacy** and awareness about the newly introduced **Income Tax Act, 2025**.

State Bank of India Aims to Expand Balance Sheet to 25% of India's Gross Domestic Product by 2030

State Bank of India (SBI), India's largest **Public Sector Bank (PSB)**, aims to expand its **balance sheet** to **25%** of **India's GDP by 2030**, up from the current **20%**.

Abu Dhabi National Insurance Company Gets Approval to Set Up Reinsurance Branch in GIFT City, Gujarat

Abu Dhabi National Insurance Company (ADNIC), a United Arab Emirates (UAE) **-based insurance and reinsurance provider**, received approval to set up a **reinsurance branch** in India at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City **(GIFT City)**, **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.

BSE Index Services Introduces Housing Finance Sectoral Benchmark to Track Performance of Housing Finance Companies

BSE Index Services announced the launch of the **BSE Housing Finance Index**, a new **sectoral benchmark** tracking the performance of companies in the **housing finance sector**.

NPCI Bharat Bill Pay Limited Adds Postal Life Insurance to Bharat Connect Insurance Biller Network

NPCI Bharat Bill Pay Limited (NBBL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, onboarded **Postal Life Insurance (PLI)** as a biller under the **insurance category** on the **Bharat Connect** platform.

International Financial Services Centres Authority Grants First Registration to Foreign Family Office Structured as Family Investment Fund under 2025 Fund Management Regulations

The **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** granted registration to the **first foreign Family Office** structured as a **Family Investment Fund (FIF)** under the **IFSCA (Fund Management) Regulations, 2025**.

Karnataka Bank Ties Up with Pine Labs to Strengthen Digital Payment Infrastructure

Karnataka Bank Limited, a **private sector bank** in India, entered into a partnership with **Pine Labs Limited**, a leading provider of **Point-of-Sale (PoS) solutions**, to strengthen its **digital payment ecosystem**.

Multi Commodity Exchange of India Limited Gets Securities and Exchange Board of India Nod to Set Up Coal Exchange Company

Multi Commodity Exchange of India Limited (MCX) received approval from the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** to invest in a proposed **Coal Exchange company**, marking its expansion into the **energy trading ecosystem**.

Pay Point India Becomes First Private Fintech to Get Reserve Bank of India Centralised Payment System Membership

Pay Point India Network, a leading fintech company, became the **first private-sector fintech firm** to secure membership in the **Centralised Payment System (CPS)** operated by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.

Punjab National Bank Joins Hands with Kiwi to Introduce RuPay Credit Card Integrated with UPI Platform

Punjab National Bank (PNB) entered into a strategic partnership with fintech firm **Kiwi** to launch a **co-branded RuPay credit card** named **"PNB Kiwi Credit Card"** integrated with **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**.

Reserve Bank of India Revokes Banking Licence of Paytm Payments Bank Limited for Regulatory Violations

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** cancelled the **banking licence** of **Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL)** with effect from **April 24, 2026**, citing **serious regulatory violations**.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Addresses 38th Foundation Day Celebrations of Securities and Exchange Board of India

Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, **Nirmala Sitharaman** delivered the keynote address at the **38th Foundation Day** of the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** in **Mumbai**.

Reserve Bank of India Imposes ₹80,000 Penalty on Ebix Payment Services for Non-Compliance in Customer Risk Categorisation

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a **₹80,000 penalty** on **Ebix Payment Services** for failing to ensure proper **risk categorisation** of customers, a key **compliance requirement**.

Jio Financial Services and Allianz Form 50:50 Joint Venture for Insurance Business in India

Jio Financial Services Limited (JFSL) signed a **binding agreement** to form a **50:50 Joint Venture (JV)** with **Allianz Europe B.V.**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of **Allianz**, for **general insurance** and **health insurance** business in India.

India Releases ₹30 Billion First Drawdown for Maldives Under South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Currency Swap Framework

The **Government of India** approved a **₹30 billion currency swap facility** for the **Maldives** under the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation **(SAARC) Currency Swap Framework**, reinforcing India's role as a key **financial partner**.

Reserve Bank of India Relaxes Forex Norms, Permits Related-Party Hedging Within USD 100 Million Exposure Cap

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** withdrew some restrictions on **forex dealers** in offshore **Non-Deliverable Forward (NDF)** markets to manage **rupee volatility**.

Reserve Bank of India Issues Master Direction on Prepaid Payment Instruments, 2026 Under Payment and Settlement Systems Act, Replaces 2021 Framework to Strengthen Digital Payments Security and Growth

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued the **Master Direction on Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs), 2026** under the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**, replacing the 2021 framework to strengthen **digital payment security** and ecosystem growth.

Universal Insurance Drive: Enhancing Coverage and Reinforcing Social Protection

Insurance acts as a critical pillar of **financial security** and **social protection**, enabling individuals and businesses to **transfer risks** and recover from uncertainties without depleting savings, thereby supporting **economic stability**.

India's Textile Exports Rise 2.1% to ₹3.16 Trillion in FY26 Despite US Tariff Pressures

India's Textile sector demonstrated resilience in **FY 2025–26**, with **total exports** (including handicrafts) rising **2.1%** to **₹3.16 lakh crore**, reflecting steady global demand and competitiveness.

United Nations Projects India's Economic Growth at 6.4% for the Current Year

The **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)** has revised **India's GDP growth forecast** for **2026** downward to **6.4%**, from the earlier estimate of 6.6%, citing **rising global uncertainties**.

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs Removes ₹10 Lakh Cap on Courier Exports to Boost E-Commerce Trade and Ease of Doing Business

The **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)** has **removed the ₹10 lakh value cap** on **courier export consignments**, effective from **April 1, 2026**, to boost **India's e-commerce exports** and **ease of doing business**.

PhonePe Becomes First Unified Payments Interface App to Cross 10 Billion Monthly Transactions in March 2026, Setting Milestone in India's Digital Payments Ecosystem

PhonePe became the first **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** app to cross **10 billion monthly transactions**, recording **10.50 billion transactions** in **March 2026**, marking a major milestone in India's **digital payments ecosystem**.

Government Sets Up Panel Led by State Bank of India Chairman to Evaluate Risks from AI Platform Mythos

The **Government of India (GoI)** has constituted a **high-level panel** under the chairmanship of **C. S. Setty**, to assess risks arising from advanced **AI platform "Anthropic's Mythos"** and recommend **cybersecurity mitigation measures**.

One MobiKwik Systems Limited Secures Non-Banking Financial Company Approval from Reserve Bank of India

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has approved the **Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)** application of **One MobiKwik Systems Limited**, enabling it to enter the **regulated lending business**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Proposes New Framework for Stockbrokers' Net Worth to Strengthen Capital Adequacy and Investor Protection

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has proposed a **new framework** for calculating **net worth requirements** of **stockbrokers**, aimed at strengthening **capital adequacy norms** and **investor protection**.

Reserve Bank of India Imposes ₹41.8 Lakh Penalty on Bandhan Bank for Know Your Customer and Regulatory Non-Compliance

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a penalty of **₹41.8 lakh** on **Bandhan Bank** for **regulatory violations** and **compliance deficiencies**.

HSBC Downgrades India Equity Outlook to "Underweight" Citing Inflation and Weak Domestic Demand Concerns

HSBC has **downgraded India's equity market rating** from **"neutral" to "underweight"**, citing concerns over **rising inflation**, **elevated energy prices**, and **weakening domestic demand**.

India's Agriculture Exports Rise 2.8% to $52.55 Billion in 2025–26 Amid Global Economic Uncertainties

India's agriculture exports recorded a **growth of 2.8%**, reaching **$52.55 billion in 2025–26**, up from **$51.12 billion in 2024–25**, despite global economic uncertainties.

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AWARDS AND HONOUR

Name of the Person / Organisation	Name of the Award	Key Points
International Booker Prize 2026 Shortlisted Authors	International Booker Prize 2026 (Shortlist)	Six translated novels shortlisted; themes include exile, identity, resilience, political unrest and human struggle
Tripura Panchayats	Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar 2025 / Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar 2025	Sepahijala District Panchayat secured 1st rank; Kanchanbari Gram Panchayat ranked 1st in Healthy Panchayat category
Raja Ravi Varma / Yashoda and Krishna	India's Most Expensive Artwork Record	Painting sold for ₹167.20 crore; purchased by Cyrus Poonawalla
Chetak Screen Awards 2026 Winners	Chetak Screen Awards 2026	Dhurandhar won 14 awards; Homebound won Best Film

Ranveer Singh	Best Actor (Male) – Chetak Screen Awards 2026	Won for Dhurandhar
Yami Gautam	Best Actor (Female) – Chetak Screen Awards 2026	Won for Haq
Aditya Dhar	Best Director – Chetak Screen Awards 2026	Won for Dhurandhar
Anita Chaudhary	WWF Machchli National Award	Recognised for rescuing nearly 500 wild animals and anti-poaching efforts
Banaras Hindu University	AIU National Moot Court Competition 2026	Won first position with ₹25,000 prize at Integral University
Sayani Gupta	Harvard South Asian "Person of the Year" Award 2026	Honoured for contribution to South Asian storytelling and representation
Nishita Yogesh Antarkar	Miss Sake India 2026	Crowned to promote Japanese sake culture and India–Japan cultural ties
N. Alim Yusuf	WWF National Award	Recognised for AI-based app "NeophyteID" to identify invasive plant species
Samriddh Gram Initiative	WSIS Prizes 2026 (Nomination)	Nominated under Enabling Environment category for rural digital infrastructure
Ch. Srinivasa Rao	9th Prof. M. S. Swaminathan Award 2026	Honoured for climate-resilient agriculture and

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		natural resource management
Sadhvi Satish Sail	Femina Miss India World 2026	Crowned in Bhubaneswar; will represent India at Miss World 2027
Goldman Environmental Prize 2026 Winners	Goldman Environmental Prize 2026	First all-women cohort in award history; honours grassroots environmental activists
Guntur Municipal Corporation	Gender Equality Mobilization Award 2026	Won in Vienna for women-led electric vehicle waste management initiative
Sumitra Guha	Sur Jyotsna National Music Award 2026	Honoured for contribution to Indian classical music
Laxman Krishnarao Pandit	Sur Jyotsna National Music Award 2026	Recognised for preserving and promoting Hindustani classical music
Name of the Person / Organisation	Name of the Award	Key Points
International Booker Prize 2026 Shortlisted Authors	International Booker Prize 2026 (Shortlist)	Six translated novels shortlisted; themes include exile, identity, resilience, political unrest and human struggle
Tripura Panchayats	Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar 2025 / Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam	Sepahijala District Panchayat secured 1st rank; Kanchanbari Gram Panchayat ranked 1st in

	Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar 2025	Healthy Panchayat category
Raja Ravi Varma / Yashoda and Krishna	India's Most Expensive Artwork Record	Painting sold for ₹167.20 crore; purchased by Cyrus Poonawalla
Chetak Screen Awards 2026 Winners	Chetak Screen Awards 2026	Dhurandhar won 14 awards; Homebound won Best Film
Ranveer Singh	Best Actor (Male) – Chetak Screen Awards 2026	Won for Dhurandhar

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Name of the Person	Appointed As	Succeeds
Puja Garg	43rd National President, FLO	Poonam Sharma
Willie Walsh	CEO, IndiGo	Pieter Elbers
Ashwini Bhide	Municipal Commissioner, Mumbai	Bhushan Gagrani
Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth	Vice Chief of Army Staff	-
Burra Vamsi Rama Mohan	CMD, POWERGRID	-
Vir Vikram Yadav	DG, DGCA	Faiz Ahmed Kidwai
Min Aung Hlaing	President of Myanmar	-
Krishna Kumar Singh	CMD (Additional Charge), SAIL	-
Anurag Kapil	Director (Finance), NMDC	-
Chanchal Kumar	Secretary, I&B Ministry	Sanjay Jaju
Uchral Nyam-Osor	Prime Minister of Mongolia	-

Narendra Bhooshan	Secretary, Dept. of Land Resources	-
Blanka Vlašić	Event Ambassador, TCS World 10K	-
Tejveer Singh	Secretary, DCPC	Nivedita Shukla Verma
Ranveer Singh	Brand Ambassador, Jindal Stainless	-
Sunil Fernandes	COO, Coforge	-
To Lam	President of Vietnam	-
Menaka Guruswamy	Rajya Sabha MP	-
B. Pravin Rao	Chairperson, Nasscom Foundation	Rostow Ravanan
Sanjay Khanna	CMD, BPCL	-
Ismaïl Omar Guelleh	President of Djibouti (Re-elected)	-
Susan Coyle	Chief of Army, Australia	Simon Stuart
Nizar Amedi	President of Iraq	Abdul Latif Rashid
Carlos Alcaraz	Brand Ambassador, Infosys	-
Samrat Choudhary	Chief Minister, Bihar	Nitish Kumar
Dr. K. S. Somashekhar	Secretary, Rajya Sabha Secretariat	-
Harivansh Narayan Singh	Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha	-
Dinesh Trivedi	High Commissioner to Bangladesh	Pranay Verma
Rakesh Bhanot	Acting DG, CCI	Ansuman Pattanaik
Asit Tripathy	President, OSPA	-

John Ternus	CEO, Apple	Tim Cook
Justice Lisa Gill	Chief Justice, AP High Court	-
Vibha Padalkar	MD & CEO, HDFC Life (Reappointed)	-
Srikanth Velamakanni	Chairman, NASSCOM	Sindhu Gangadharan
Vivek Tripathi	Executive Director, AU SFB	-
Sudarsan Pattnaik	Brand Ambassador, Census 2027	-
Abhishek Singh	DG, NTA	-
Dilip Kumar	CVO, SAIL	-
Ashok Lahiri	Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog	Suman K. Bery
Nitu Sarma	Interim CEO, Noida Intl Airport	-
B. Ramesh Babu	MD & CEO, Karur Vysya Bank (Reappointed)	-
Sanjay Jamuar	CEO, DMIL	-
Suresh Sethi	Group Country Manager, Visa	Sandeep Ghosh

MOUS AND AGREEMENT

Andhra Pradesh Science City Signed Memorandum of Understanding with Council of Scientific and Industrial Research National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research

Andhra Pradesh Science City signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research** to promote **science awareness, Science Technology Engineering Mathematics education, and policy research**

across India.

Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences Partnered with Anuvadini Artificial Intelligence to Translate Ayurveda Research into 13 Languages

The **Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences** (CCRAS) under Ayush Ministry signed a memorandum of understanding **with Anuvadini AI, a platform designed by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) under the Ministry of Education.**

Tech Mahindra Signed Memorandum of Understanding with Indian Institute of Technology Bombay to Develop Three Dimensional Digital Twin of Gymkhana Building

Tech Mahindra signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with Indian Institute of Technology Bombay to develop a **Three Dimensional Digital Twin** of the **Gymkhana building**.

Air India Signed Codeshare Agreement with Uzbekistan Airways to Expand Air Connectivity between India and Central Asia Region

Air India signed a **codeshare agreement with Uzbekistan Airways** to strengthen **air connectivity between India and the Central Asia region**.

Meghalaya Government Signed Memorandum of Understanding with Starlink India to Provide Satellite Based High Speed Internet Connectivity in Remote Areas of the State

The Government of **Meghalaya** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding with Starlink India** on **1 April 2026** to improve **high speed internet connectivity across remote and underserved regions of the state**.

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Signed Memorandum of Understanding with Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya to Enhance Skill Development in Aviation Sector

The **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)** under the **Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV)** under the **Ministry of Railways (MoR)** to enhance **skill development in the aviation sector**, including **Aviation Engineering and Aviation Management**.

Bharat Coal Gasification and Chemicals Limited and Mahanadi Coalfields Limited Signed Land Lease Agreement for India's First Indigenous Coal-to-Ammonium Nitrate Project in Odisha

Bharat Coal Gasification and Chemicals Limited (BCGCL) and **Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL)**, a subsidiary of **Coal India Limited (CIL)**, signed a **land lease agreement** for setting

up **India's first indigenous coal-to-ammonium nitrate project** at **Lakhanpur**, Odisha.

NewSpace India Limited Signed Memorandum of Understanding with Dhruva Space Private Limited for Satellite Solar Panel Collaboration

NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Dhruva Space Private Limited** to collaborate on the **design, manufacture, testing, and supply of space-grade solar panels** for **global satellite manufacturers**.

India and Russia Signed MoU to Establish UAV and Satellite Laboratory at CSJMU Kanpur

India and Russia signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to establish a **state-of-the-art Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) and Satellite Laboratory** at Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University (CSJMU), **Kanpur.**

Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Signed Plan of Implementation with Korea International Cooperation Agency for Skill Development in Shipbuilding Sector

The **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW)** signed a **Plan of Implementation** with the **Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)** to strengthen **skill development in India's shipbuilding and marine sector**.

Government of India Signed Agreement with Goa Government and Cochin Port Authority for Adoption of SAMPANN (System for Accounting and Management of Pension) Pension Management Platform

The **Government of India** signed an agreement with the **Government of Goa** and the **Cochin Port Authority (CPA)** for adoption of **SAMPANN (System for Accounting and Management of Pension)**, a flagship **digital pension and financial management platform** of the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)**.

Microsoft Partnered with Chandigarh University to Establish Artificial Intelligence Skill Centre at Mohali Campus

Microsoft signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Chandigarh University** to establish a **Microsoft Skill Centre in Artificial Intelligence (AI)** at its **Mohali** campus in **April 2026**.

India–Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement Completed Four Years Since

Signing on 2 April 2022

The **India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (Ind–Aus ECTA)** completed **four years since its signing** marking a major milestone in strengthening economic relations between **India** and **Australia**.

Dredging Corporation of India Limited Signs Memorandum of Understanding with Colombo Dockyard PLC for Maritime Cooperation

Dredging Corporation of India Limited signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Colombo Dockyard PLC** of Sri Lanka to establish a **strategic alliance** in **shipbuilding, ship repair, and maritime services**.

Gas Authority of India Limited Signed Long-Term Charter Agreement with Alpha Gas for Liquefied Natural Gas Carrier Energy Fidelity

GAIL (India) Limited (formerly **Gas Authority of India Limited**), a **Maharatna Public Sector Undertaking**, signed a **long-term charter party agreement** with **Alpha Gas**, a Greek shipping company, for the **Liquefied Natural Gas carrier 'Energy Fidelity'** to strengthen liquefied natural gas transportation capacity.

National Thermal Power Corporation Limited Signed Memorandum of Understanding with Électricité de France for Nuclear Power Collaboration

NTPC Limited (formerly **National Thermal Power Corporation Limited**), India's largest power utility, signed a **strategic non-binding Memorandum of Understanding** with **Électricité de France** to explore collaboration in the development of **nuclear power projects in India**.

Deakin University and Government of Telangana Signed Memorandum of Understanding to Advance Applied Artificial Intelligence Collaboration

Deakin University and the **Government of Telangana** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** in **Hyderabad** in **April 2026** to strengthen collaboration in **applied Artificial Intelligence through research, innovation, and skill development** under Telangana's Artificial Intelligence innovation ecosystem.

India and Myanmar Sign Memorandum of Understanding for School Construction in Nay Pyi Taw

The **India** and **Myanmar** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** for the construction of a school in **Nay Pyi Taw** during the visit of **Kirti Vardhan Singh**, Union Minister of State in the **Ministry of External Affairs**.

Doordarshan and Indian Council for Cultural Relations Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Promote Indian Culture Globally

Doordarshan, under the aegis of **Prasar Bharati**, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** with the **Indian Council for CulturalRelations** to promote Indian art, culture, and heritage globally through **enhanced collaboration in broadcasting and cultural exchange initiatives.**

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and GE Aerospace Sign Agreement for Co-production of F414 Jet Engines

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited signed a key technology agreement with **GE Aerospace** for the **co-production of F414 jet engines in India**.

India and New Zealand to Sign Free Trade Agreement on 27 April 2026

Odisha Signs MoU with National Centre for Coastal Research to Implement Marine Spatial Plan

The **Government of Odisha** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR)** under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)** to implement the **Marine Spatial Plan (MSP)** under the **Indo-Norway Integrated Ocean Management Initiative**.

India–Republic of Korea Elevate Ties to Futuristic Partnership during State Visit of Lee Jae-myung

During the State Visit of Lee Jae-myung to India, both countries elevated bilateral relations to a **Futuristic Partnership** and announced **25 key outcomes** after talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at **Hyderabad House.**

Federal Express Corporation and Indian Institute of Technology Madras Conduct India's First Intra-City Drone Delivery Trials in Bengaluru

Federal Express Corporation, in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, successfully completed **India's first intra-city drone delivery flight trials** in Bengaluru, **Karnataka** to develop **safe and scalable drone-based logistics systems**.

NAVER Corporation and Tata Consultancy Services Sign Memorandum of Understanding on Map Services Cooperation

NAVER Corporation, a leading Information and Communication Technology company **from South Korea**, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** with **Tata Consultancy Services** (TCS), India's largest Information Technology services company, for **mutual cooperation in mapping**

services.

DataKaveri Systems and ONESTRUCTION Inc. Sign Memorandum of Understanding for Artificial Intelligence-Based Urban Data Integration

DataKaveri Systems, the commercial arm of **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru**, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **ONESTRUCTION Inc.**.

BharatGen Technology Foundation Signs Memorandum of Understanding with Larsen and Toubro Entities to Develop Sovereign Artificial Intelligence Compute Platform

BharatGen Technology Foundation signed a **five-year Memorandum of Understanding** with **Larsen and Toubro group** entities:

Larsen and Toubro Semiconductor Technologies Limited

L&T-Vyoma

to develop an **end-to-end Sovereign Artificial Intelligence compute platform for India**.

India And New Zealand Sign Free Trade Agreement To Boost Trade And Investment

India and New Zealand signed a **Free Trade Agreement** at Bharat Mandapam, **led by Piyush Goyal and Todd McClay**.

India and Kenya Sign Customs Cooperation Memorandum of Understanding at 10th Joint Trade Committee Meeting

India and Kenya strengthened economic ties by signing a **Customs Cooperation Memorandum of Understanding** during the **10th India–Kenya Joint Trade Committee meeting held in Nairobi, Kenya**, after a **gap of seven years at the Commerce Secretary level**.

RANKING AND INDEX

Index / Report Name	Published By	India's Rank / Performance	Top 3 Ranks / Positions
Skytrax World Airport Awards 2026	Skytrax	Five Indian airports featured in Global Top 100 rankings	1. Singapore Changi Airport 2. Seoul Incheon International

			Airport 3. Tokyo Haneda Airport
Global Renewable Energy Market Report 2025	International Renewable Energy Agency	India became the 3rd-largest renewable energy market globally	1. China 2. United States 3. India
CREA Air Pollution Report 2026	Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air	Gurgaon became the most polluted city in India for March; Ghaziabad most polluted for FY 2025–26	1. Gurgaon 2. Bahadurgarh 3. Faridabad
Tracxn India Tech Annual Funding Report 2026	Tracxn	India ranked 4th globally in tech startup funding with USD 11.7 billion	1. United States 2. United Kingdom 3. China
TIME100 List 2026	Time	Indians featured: Sundar Pichai, Vikas Khanna, Ranbir Kapoor	1. — 2. — 3. —
IMF World Economic Outlook 2026	International Monetary Fund	India ranked 6th largest economy globally	1. United States 2. China 3. Germany
Bloomberg Billionaires Index 2026	Bloomberg	Gautam Adani ranked 19th globally and became Asia's richest person	1. Elon Musk 2. Jeff Bezos 3. Sergey Brin
Global Corn Exporters	Trade and	India lost position	1. Brazil 2.

Trend 2026	export data analysis	as top corn exporter to Bangladesh	United States 3. Argentina

ENVIRONMENT

Discovery of Two New Jumping Spider Species in India Highlights Rich and Underexplored Biodiversity

Researchers have discovered **two new species of jumping spiders** in India, highlighting the country's rich and still underexplored **biodiversity**.

New plant species Fimbristylis wayanadensis discovered in Western Ghats high-altitude region

Researchers have identified a **new plant species** named **Fimbristylis wayanadensis** in the **high-altitude regions** of the **Western Ghats**, highlighting the region's rich **biodiversity**.

New Bent-Toed Gecko Species *Cyrtodactylus raimonaensis* Found in Assam

A new species of **bent-toed gecko**, named ***Cyrtodactylus raimonaensis*** (**Raimona bent-toed gecko**), was discovered in the **Kachugaon region** of **Kokrajhar district** near **Raimona National Park (Assam)**.

New Burrowing Reed Snake Species 'Calamaria garoensis' Discovered in Meghalaya's Garo Hills

A team of scientists from **India and Indonesia** discovered a **new species** of **burrowing reed snake** named ***Calamaria garoensis***.

SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

Event	Location	Organiser (Full Form)	Key Points / Theme
9th Indian Ocean Conference (IOC 2026)	Port Louis, Mauritius	India Foundation (IF) in association with Government of Mauritius	Theme: 'Collective Stewardship for Indian Ocean Governance'; first IOC hosted in Africa.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Indigenous bio-bitumen technology converting crop residue can save ₹40,000 crore annual import bill: Dr. Jitendra Singh

The **Government of India** has highlighted that **crop waste** converted into **bio-bitumen** can save around **₹40,000 crore** in **annual import costs**, significantly reducing **bitumen import dependency**.

Artemis II to Launch First Crewed Lunar Mission Since Apollo, Set to Orbit Moon and Return Safely

Artemis II marks **humanity's first crewed Moon mission in over 50 years** since the **Apollo Program**, aiming to **orbit the Moon and return safely**.

European Space Agency Launches First Celeste Satellites to Test Low Earth Orbit Navigation Layer

The **European Space Agency (ESA)** successfully launched the first two **In-Orbit Demonstrators (IOD)-1 and IOD-2** under its **Celeste Mission** from the **Rocket Lab launch site, New Zealand**, to demonstrate a **Low Earth Orbit (LEO) navigation layer**.

Department of Science & Technology's Technology Development Board Backs Indigenous Firm to Commercialize Bio-Waste Based Hard Carbon for Sodium-Ion Batteries

Technology Development Board (TDB) under the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)**, Government of India, has extended **financial assistance** to **Indigenous Energy Storage Technologies Private Limited**, based in **Roorkee, Uttarakhand**.

Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurates BioNEST incubation centre at Central Food Technology & Research Institute, Mysuru to boost food startups

Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated the **BIRAC-BioNEST Incubation Centre** at the **Central Food Technology & Research Institute (CFTRI)**, promoting **lab-to-market innovation**.

PLR Systems of Israel supplies first batch of NEGEV Light Machine Guns to India

Israel Weapon Industries (IWI) has delivered the **first batch of 2,000 NEGEV 7.62×51 Light Machine Guns (LMGs)** to India through its joint venture **PLR Systems**.

Indian Space Research Organisation carries out Mission Mapping of Interoperable Traits and Response Assessment in Ladakh to study astronaut performance

The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** conducted **Mission MITRA** in **Leh, Ladakh** from **April 2–9, 2026** to enhance **human spaceflight preparedness**.

Technology Development Board-Department of Science & Technology backs Scharge Private Limited under India–United Kingdom R&D programme to advance EV charging infrastructure

The **Technology Development Board (TDB)** under the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)**, Government of India signed an agreement with **M/s Scharge Pvt Limited** for the project **"Powering EV Charging Innovation."**

Sādhana Saptah 2026 to Promote Citizen-Centric Governance and Civil Services Skill Development (April 2–8)

Strengthening Adaptive Development and Humane Aptitude for National Advancement (Sādhana) Saptah 2026 is being organised from **April 2–8, 2026** to promote **citizen-centric governance** and **skill development** across civil services.

Bharti Airtel Becomes World's Second-Largest Mobile Operator with 650 Million Subscribers: GSMA Data

Bharti Airtel has become the **world's second-largest mobile operator**, crossing **650 million global mobile subscribers** as per **GSMA data**.

EaseMyTrip Partners with National Skill Development Corporation and Sanatan AI to Develop Panchayat-Level Spiritual Economy Network

Easy Trip Planners Limited (EaseMyTrip) has entered into a **strategic collaboration** with the **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)**, **Sanatan AI**, and the **Bhagva platform** to launch an **entrepreneurship initiative** in India's **spiritual services sector**.

Japan Deploys First Long-Range Type-12 Land-to-Ship Missile System at Camp Kengun in Kumamoto

Japan has deployed its first **long-range missile system**, the upgraded **Type-12 land-to-ship missile**, at **Camp Kengun in Kumamoto**.

National Institution for Transforming India Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission Launches ATL Sarthi and Mentor India Academy in Telangana

The **National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog)** under its **Atal Innovation Mission**

(AIM) launched two new initiatives: **ATL Sarthi** and the **Mentor India Academy** at **Vardhaman College of Engineering, Hyderabad (Telangana)**.

Union Minister of State Dr. Jitendra Singh Launches First-Ever Administrative Capacity Building Programme for Scientists and Academicians

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh launched the **first-ever dedicated programme** on **'Administrative Capacity Building for Scientists and Academicians'** under **Mission Karmayogi**.

Union Minister Jayant Chaudhary Launches Campaign to Establish 'Skills Outcomes Fund' for Youth Employment Opportunities

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Jayant Chaudhary of the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** launched an initiative to establish the **Skills Outcomes Fund (SOF)** in **New Delhi**.

Union Minister of State Jitendra Singh Announces Seismological Observatory and Doppler Weather Radar Projects

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Jitendra Singh announced the establishment of a **Seismological Observatory in Kishtwar** and a **Doppler Weather Radar (DWR) in Doda**, Jammu & Kashmir.

Aluminium Extrusion Manufacturers Association of India Launches 'Aluminium Bharat' Initiative to Strengthen Domestic Manufacturing and Enhance Global Competitiveness

The **Aluminium Extrusion Manufacturers Association of India** (**ALEMAI**) has launched the **'Aluminium Bharat'** initiative to strengthen India's **domestic aluminium manufacturing** capabilities and promote **sustainable industrial growth**.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research Forms Special Task Force to Enhance Agricultural Resilience Amid Geopolitical Challenges

The **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** has constituted a **Special Task Force (STF)** on Agriculture to strengthen India's **agricultural resilience** amid global disruptions.

Central Ayurveda Research Institute Bengaluru Clinical Laboratory Gets ISO 15189:2022 Accreditation in Biochemistry and Haematology

The **Clinical Laboratory** at **Central Ayurveda Research Institute (CARI), Bengaluru**, has been

awarded **ISO 15189:2022 accreditation** for **Biochemistry and Haematology**.

Meta Launches Muse Spark AI Model from Superintelligence Team to Compete with Google, OpenAI and Anthropic

Meta Platforms has launched **Muse Spark**, its **first AI model** from a new **superintelligence team**, aimed at competing with **Google, OpenAI, and Anthropic**.

Indian Space Research Organisation successfully conducts Integrated Air Drop Test-02 at Sriharikota for Gaganyaan mission

The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** successfully conducted the **second Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-02)** at the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh**, marking a key milestone in the **Gaganyaan Mission**.

Technology Development Board signs agreement with Casey Aviation for Boost Electric Jump Take-Off project to develop hybrid propulsion aviation technology

The **Technology Development Board (TDB)**, **Department of Science & Technology (DST)**, Government of India, has signed an agreement with **Casey Aviation Private Limited**, Gurugram for the **"Boost Electric Jump Take-Off (BE-JTO)"** project, aimed at advancing **hybrid propulsion-based aviation technology**.

e-NAM launched in 2016 as a pan-India e-trading platform to integrate APMC mandis under 'One Nation, One Market'

The **National Agriculture Market (e-NAM)** was launched in **2016** as a **pan-India electronic trading platform** integrating **APMC mandis** to create a **"One Nation, One Market"** system for agricultural commodities.

Khanij Bidesh India Limited receives Argentina's environmental clearance to explore five lithium brine blocks

Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL), a state-owned company under the **Ministry of Mines**, has received **environmental clearance** from **Argentina** to explore **five lithium brine blocks**.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh proposes Artificial Intelligence -driven 'Smart Governance' curriculum and outlines vision for Indian Institute of Public Administration as national capacity-building hub

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh proposed positioning the **Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA)** as a **nodal institution** for building **Artificial Intelligence (AI) competencies** among public sector officials.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Artemis II lunar mission crew safely returns to Earth

All **four crew members** of **National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Artemis II** safely returned to Earth, **splashing down** in the **Pacific Ocean** off the coast of **California,United States of America (USA)**.

OpenAI launches GPT 5.4 Cyber, a specialised AI model to strengthen cybersecurity and digital defence systems

OpenAI has introduced **GPT 5.4 Cyber**, a **specialised AI model** for **cybersecurity applications** designed to strengthen **digital defence systems**.

North Korea conducts cruise and anti-ship missile tests from 5,000-ton destroyer

North Korea conducted a fresh round of **missile tests** involving **strategic cruise missiles** and **anti-ship missiles**, demonstrating enhanced **naval combat capability development**.

Anthropic Unveils Claude Mythos AI Model to Detect Hidden Bugs in Legacy Software

Anthropic has introduced **Claude Mythos**, its most **advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI) model** designed to **detect hidden bugs** in **legacy software** that human reviewers may have missed.

Indian Space Research Organisation's Space Applications Centre Signs Memorandum of Understanding with ATREE to Promote Sustainable Land Management in India

The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** through its **Space Applications Centre (SAC)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE)**.

Indian Space Research Organisation's G20 Satellite Mission for Studying Climate Change, Air Pollution and Weather Patterns Set for 2027 Launch

The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** is developing a **G20 satellite** to study **climate change**, **air pollution**, and **weather patterns**, with a planned launch in **2027**.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration Confirms SpaceX Launch of Rosalind Franklin Rover Mission to Mars in 2028

The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** announced that **SpaceX's Falcon Heavy rocket** will launch the **Rosalind Franklin rover** to **Mars** in **2028**.

JSW Steel Board Clears Joint Venture Agreement with POSCO Group for Steel Plant Project

JSW Steel Limited's Board approved the formation of a **Joint Venture (JV)** with **POSCO Group** to establish a **6 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA)** integrated **steel plant in Odisha**.

Ola's AI Assistant Kruti Goes Offline Across App Stores and Web Platforms

Ola has removed its **AI smart assistant "Kruti"** from the **Google Play Store**, **Apple App Store**, and **web platforms**, making it currently **inaccessible to users**.

United States of America Launches Space Nuclear Energy Initiative, Aims for Moon Reactor by 2030

The **United States of America (USA)'s Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP)** formally launched the **National Space Technology Memorandum-3 (NSTM-3)**.

Ministry of Home Affairs Receives Indigenous Satellite Imaging System 'Prajna' for Real-Time Security Assistance

The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** received the indigenously developed satellite imaging system **'Prajna'** to strengthen **real-time decision support** for security agencies.

Observer Research Foundation and Research and Information System Organise Inaugural BRICS Academic Forum in New Delhi

Observer Research Foundation in partnership with **Research and Information System for Developing Countries** hosted the inaugural **BRICS Academic Forum** in **New Delhi**.

Tata Steel Partners with SMS Group to Install World's First EASyMelt Technology

Tata Steel Limited signed a definitive agreement with **Paul Wurth S.A.** (part of **SMS Group, Germany**) to install the world's first large-scale **EASyMelt** (**Electrically Assisted Syngas Smelter**) technology.

Pakistan Conducts Successful Test of Homegrown Taimoor Anti-Ship Cruise Missile

The **Pakistan Navy** successfully conducted a **live test-firing** of the **indigenously developed "Taimoor" Air-Launched Anti-Ship Cruise Missile (ALCM)**.

China Completes 11.18 km Underwater High-Speed Rail Tunnel Under Yangtze River as Part of Chongming–Taicang Project

China has completed an **11.18 km underwater high-speed rail tunnel** beneath the **Yangtze River**, forming part of the **Chongming–Taicang tunnel project**.

China Picks Two Pakistani Astronauts for Training Ahead of Tiangong Space Station Mission

The **China Manned Space Agency (CMSA)** announced the selection of **two Pakistani astronauts**, marking a major step in **China–Pakistan space cooperation**.

GalaxEye to Deploy World's First OptoSAR Satellite in 3 Months for All-Weather Imaging

GalaxEye is set to launch its first satellite **Mission Drishti** within **three months**, marking a major milestone in India's **private space ecosystem**.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration Launches 'Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope' to Study Dark Matter and Universe Mysteries

The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** of the United States of America unveiled the **Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope**, a powerful **wide-field observatory** designed to study the universe and detect **exoplanets** (planets beyond the solar system).

SkyHop Aviation Nears Air Operator Permit to Become India's First Dedicated Seaplane Operator After Regulatory Clearance

SkyHop Aviation is set to receive its **Air Operator Permit (AoP)**, becoming India's **first dedicated seaplane operator** after clearing **regulatory trials**.

Melania Trump introduces humanoid robot at White House during historic global AI summit

Melania Trump unveiled an **AI-powered humanoid robot** at the **White House** during a global education and technology summit.

Rocklink India Private Limited Inaugurates India's First Lithium-Ion Battery and Rare Earth Recycling Facility in Uttar Pradesh

Rocklink India Private Limited inaugurated India's **first integrated lithium-ion battery and rare earth magnet recycling facility** at **Sikandrabad**, marking a major step in **critical mineral recovery** and **circular economy development**.

Akashvani and MyGov Launch Nationwide Signature Tune and Jingle-Making Contests

Akashvani (formerly **All India Radio – AIR**) under **Prasar Bharati**, in collaboration with **MyGov**, launched two nationwide contests – **'Signature Tune-Making Contest'** and **'Jingle-Making Contest'** to celebrate **90 years of Akashvani**.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh Lays Foundation Stone of ₹75 Crore State-of-the-Art Seven-Storey Building at Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru with 1 Lakh sq ft Built-Up Area

Union Minister Jitendra Singh (MoS Independent Charge) laid the **foundation stone** of a **₹75 crore** state-of-the-art **additional building** at the **Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru**, aimed at strengthening India's **advanced astronomy** and **space science capabilities**.

Jordan Becomes 63rd Signatory to Artemis Accords in April 2026, Joining Global Peaceful Space Exploration Initiative

Jordan became the **63rd signatory** to the **Artemis Accords** in **April 2026**, marking its entry into **global peaceful space exploration** initiatives.

Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, under Ministry of Earth Sciences, commissions Doppler Weather Radar under Mission Mausam to build a Weather-Ready India

The **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune,**Maharashtra under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**, commissioned an **X-Band Dual-Polarization Doppler Weather Radar (DWR)** at the **High Altitude Cloud Physics Laboratory (HACPL)** in **Mahabaleshwar** under **Mission**

Mausam, aimed at transforming India into a **Weather-Ready Nation**.

BOOKS AND AUTHOR

Title	Author	Key Details	Event Highlights
Tides of Time: Bharat's History through Murals in Parliament	Sudha Murty	Published by Lok Sabha Secretariat; covers 124 mural panels tracing India's history from Indus Valley Civilization to Independence.	Released by Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan at Samvidhan Sadan, New Delhi.
The Curious and the Classified: Unearthing Military Myths and Mysteries	General Manoj Mukund Naravane	Published by Rupa Publications; explores military myths and mysteries.	Launched by former Indian Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane, who served as 28th COAS from 2019 to 2022.

DEFENCE NEWS

Defence Acquisition Council approves ₹2.38 lakh crore proposals to boost military capabilities

The **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)** chaired by **Rajnath Singh** granted **Acceptance of Necessity (AoN)** for proposals worth **₹2.38 lakh crore**.

Indigenously built stealth frigate 'Dunagiri' handed over to Indian Navy, strengthening Aatmanirbhar warship construction

INS Dunagiri (Yard 3023), the **fifth ship of Nilgiri Class (Project 17A)**, was delivered to the **Indian Navy** at **GRSE, Kolkata**.

Fourth Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft 'Agray' built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Kolkata delivered to Indian Navy

INS Agray, the **fourth of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC)**, was delivered to the **Indian Navy** at **Kolkata**.

Fourth Survey Vessel (Large) 'Sanshodhak' handed over to Indian Navy at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited Kolkata

INS Sanshodhak (Yard 3028), the **last Survey Vessel (Large)** ship, was delivered to the **Indian Navy** at **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE), Kolkata**.

Indian Navy holds Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Maritime Exercise (IMEX) Tabletop Exercise 2026 maritime exercise in Kochi, Kerala

The **Indian Navy (IN)** conducted the **3rd edition** of the **Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Maritime Exercise (IMEX) Tabletop Exercise (TTX) 2026** at the **Maritime Warfare Centre, Southern Naval Command (SNC), Kochi, Kerala**.

Ministry of Defence Fully Utilises ₹1.86 Lakh Crore Capital Budget in FY 2025–26

The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** has achieved **100% utilisation** of its **capital outlay of ₹1.86 lakh crore** for **Defence Services** in **FY 2025–26** (at Revised Estimates stage).

Ministry of Defence Signs ₹1,950 Crore Deal with Bharat Electronics Limited for Procurement of Mountain Radars for Indian Air Force

The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** signed a **capital acquisition contract** worth **₹1,950 crore** with **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** for the procurement of two **Mountain Radar systems** for the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**.

Delivery of 'Malwan', Second Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft Built by Cochin Shipyard Limited

The **Indian Navy received** the **delivery of 'Malwan'**, the **second of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC)** from **Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)**, Kochi.

Goa Shipyard Limited Achieves Key Naval Milestones with INS Shachi Launch and ICGS Achal Delivery

Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) achieved a **major milestone** with the **ceremonial launch of INS Shachi (Yard 1280)** for the **Indian Navy** and the **delivery of ICGS Achal (Yard 1274)** to

the **Indian Coast Guard**.

Border Roads Organisation Project Chetak marks its 47th Raising Day

Project Chetak of the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** celebrated its **47th Raising Day** at **Bikaner, Rajasthan** on **April 4, 2026**.

India commissions third indigenous nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine INS Aridaman

India has commissioned its **third indigenously-built nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN)**, **INS Aridaman**, significantly strengthening the naval leg of its **nuclear triad**.

Raksha Mantri-led Informal Group of Ministers holds second meeting on West Asia situation in New Delhi

The **second meeting of the Informal Group of Ministers (IGoM)** was held under the chairmanship of **Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh** at **Kartavya Bhawan-2, New Delhi** on **April 2, 2026** to monitor the **evolving West Asia situation** and suggest measures to **minimise its impact on India**.

INS Sunayna Indian Ocean Ship SAGAR mission boosts maritime cooperation in Indian Ocean Region

Amid escalating tensions in **West Asia** and disruptions in the **Strait of Hormuz**, the **Indian Navy** launched a major maritime initiative to strengthen **regional security** and **maritime cooperation**.

INS Trikand reaches Dar-es-Salaam during deployment in South West Indian Ocean Region

INS Trikand, a frontline **guided missile frigate** of the **Indian Navy**, arrived at **Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania** as part of its deployment in the **South West Indian Ocean Region**.

India's Defence Exports Hit Record ₹38,424 Crore in FY26, Grow 63% Year on Year

India's defence exports reached an all-time high of **₹38,424 crore in Financial Year (FY) 26**, registering a **62.66% growth** over **₹23,622 crore in FY25**.

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan Launches 'Surya Devbhoomi Challenge 2.0' in Uttarakhand

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan formally flagged off the **2nd edition** of **Surya Devbhoomi Challenge 2.0** in **Badrinath, Uttarakhand**.

Ministry of Defence Signs ₹975 Crore Deal for TRAWL System to Boost Indian Army's Minefield Breaching Capability under Aatmanirbhar Bharat

The **Ministry of Defence** signed contracts with **Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML)** and **Electro Pneumatics and Hydraulics (India) Private Limited** for procurement of **TRAWL Assembly** for **T-72/T-90 Tanks** worth approximately **₹975 crore**.

INS Nireekshak Reaches Colombo, Sri Lanka for Participation in IN-SLN DIVEX 2026

INS Nireekshak, the Diving Support and Submarine Rescue Vessel of the **Indian Navy**, arrived at **Colombo**,Sri Lanka.

Indian Air Force Activates Emergency Landing Facility on Purvanchal Expressway in Sultanpur

The **Indian Air Force** (IAF) activated an **Emergency Landing Facility (ELF)** on the **Purvanchal Expressway** in **Sultanpur District**, demonstrating **day and night operational capability**.

India and Egypt Hold 11th Joint Defence Committee Meeting in Cairo

The **11th India–Egypt Joint Defence Committee (JDC) Meeting** was held in **Cairo** from **20–22 April 2026**, focusing on strengthening **bilateral defence cooperation**.

Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh Launches Robotic Orthopaedic System and Maternity Operation Theatre at Cantonment General Hospital, Delhi

Rajesh Kumar Singh (**Defence Secretary**) inaugurated the **Robotic Orthopaedic System** and **Maternity Operation Theatre** at the **Cantonment General Hospital** on **23 April 2026**.

Defence Research and Development Organisation Unveils Advanced Armoured Platforms (Tracked and Wheeled) Developed by Vehicles Research & Development Establishment in Ahilyanagar, Maharashtra

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) unveiled **Advanced Armoured Platforms (Tracked and Wheeled)** on **April 25, 2026**, at its laboratory in **Ahilyanagar,Maharashtra** .

Indian Coast Guard Director General Paramesh Sivamani Inaugurates OTM Administrative Complex at District Headquarters No. 13, Puducherry

Paramesh Sivamani, **Director General of the Indian Coast Guard**, inaugurated the state-of-the-art **OTM Administrative Complex** of **Coast Guard District Headquarters No. 13** at **Puducherry** on **25 April 2026**.

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh to Head Indian Delegation at Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Defence Ministers' Meet in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh will lead a high-level **Indian delegation** to the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' Meeting** scheduled on **April 28, 2026** in **Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**.

INS Sunayna (IOS SAGAR) Reaches Changi Naval Base in Singapore

INS Sunayna (**Indian Ocean Ship – IOS SAGAR**) arrived at **Changi Naval Base**, marking its **fourth port call** under the **MAHASAGAR** (**Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions**) vision.

Border Roads Organisation Project DANTAK Celebrates 66th Raising Day in Bhutan

Border Roads Organisation Project DANTAK celebrated its **66th Raising Day** on **24 April 2026** in **Thimphu**, marking **65 years of service** since its establishment in **1961**, highlighting strong **India–Bhutan infrastructure cooperation**.

LPG tanker Jag Vikram becomes first India-flagged vessel to cross Strait of Hormuz after Iran–United States ceasefire

The **India-flagged LPG tanker Jag Vikram** became the **first Indian vessel** to transit the **Strait of Hormuz** after the **Iran–Israel ceasefire**, marking a cautious resumption of maritime movement.

Indian Air Force and GE Aerospace Sign Deal to Establish F404 Engine Maintenance Depot Facility in India

The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** signed a **strategic agreement** with **GE Aerospace (USA)** to establish an **in-country depot facility** for **F404-IN20 aircraft engines** used in the **Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) programme**.

Indian Army Launches 'Radio Sikkim Sundari' 88.4 FM as First Border Village Community Radio Station in Sikkim

The **Indian Army (IA) Trishakti Corps** launched **'Radio Sikkim Sundari' (88.4 FM)** in **East Sikkim** near the **India–China border**, marking the **first border village community radio station** in **Sikkim**.

Indian Army Launches First Blue Water Sailing Expedition 'Samudra Sahas' from Mumbai,Maharashtra

The **Indian Army's Regiment of Artillery** flagged off its **first blue water sailing expedition**, named **Samudra Sahas**, from **Marve, Mumbai, Maharashtra**.

INS Sudarshini of the Indian Navy Arrived at Casablanca, Morocco During Its Ongoing Lokayan 26 Transoceanic Mission

The **Indian Navy's Sail Training Ship INS Sudarshini** made a port call at **Casablanca, Morocco**, as part of its ongoing **transoceanic deployment** under **Lokayan 26**.

Indian Ocean Ship SAGAR – INS Sunayna Departs Phuket After Completing Three-Day Operational Turnaround

The **Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) SAGAR – INS Sunayna** departed **Phuket, Thailand** after completing a three-day **Operational Turnaround (OTR)**.

Fourth Diving Support Craft Ship DSC A 23 (Yard 328) Launched Under DSC Project

DSC A 23, the **fourth ship** of the five **Diving Support Craft (DSC) Project**, was launched at **Titagarh, Kolkata, West Bengal**.

Australia and Japan Ink USD 7 Billion Deal for Advanced Stealth Warships for Royal Australian Navy

Australia and Japan signed a **USD 7 billion defence agreement** for the supply of **advanced stealth warships** to the **Royal Australian Navy (RAN)**.

India and China Hold Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Bilateral Talks in Delhi Amid Gradual Improvement in Relations

India and China held their first **bilateral consultations** under the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)**, marking a key step in the **gradual normalisation** of bilateral relations.

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh inaugurates new specialty centres at Army Hospital (R&R) and infrastructure at Base Hospital, Delhi Cantt

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh laid the **foundation stones** of **Ophthalmology, Oncology & Joint Replacement Centres** at **Army Hospital (Research & Referral)** during the **262nd Army Medical Corps Raising Day**.

Keel Laying of FPV-4 and Plate Cutting of FPV-7 Held for Indian Coast Guard Fast Patrol Vessel Project

The **Keel Laying Ceremony** of **Fast Patrol Vessel-4 (FPV-4) (Yard 16504)** and **Plate Cutting Ceremony** of **FPV-7 (Yard 16507)** under the **14 FPV Project (Yard 16501–14)** for the **Indian Coast Guard** was held on **April 06, 2026**.

Indian Army Releases Technology Roadmap for Unmanned Aerial Systems and Loitering Munitions in New Delhi

The **Indian Army (IA)** has unveiled the **'Technology Roadmap for Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) and Loitering Munitions'** to strengthen India's **self-reliant drone ecosystem** and enhance **modern warfare capabilities**.

Indian Army Team Leaves for India–Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise 'Cyclone'

The **Indian Army contingent** has departed for **Egypt** to participate in the **4th edition** of the **India–Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise 'Cyclone–IV'**.

Indian Ocean Ship SAGAR Departs Malé, Strengthening India–Maldives Maritime Ties

The **Indian Ocean Ship SAGAR (IOS SAGAR)**, deployed on **INS Sunayna**, departed from **Malé (Maldives)**, strengthening **India–Maldives maritime relations**.

Indian Navy to Hold Inaugural 2026 Commanders' Conference in New Delhi

The **first edition** of the **Indian Navy's biannual Commanders' Conference 2026** will be held from **14–16 April 2026** at **Nausena Bhawan, New Delhi**.

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh & Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurate advanced Laser, Light & Sound Show at Smritika War Memorial

Raksha Mantri **Shri Rajnath Singh** and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister **Shri Yogi Adityanath** jointly inaugurated a **Laser, Light and Sound Show** at **Smritika War Memorial**.

Indian Army Demonstrates Apache Strike Capabilities During Exercise Brahmastra

The **Indian Army** conducted **Exercise Brahmastra** at the **Pokhran Field Firing Range**, showcasing **advanced combat capabilities**.

National Cadet Corps launches nationwide Cyber Security Capacity Building Programme for cadets

The **National Cadet Corps (NCC)**, in collaboration with the **National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT)**, has launched a **Cyber Security Capacity Building Programme** aimed at strengthening **cyber awareness, digital hygiene, and cyber defence skills** among cadets.

Indian Army contingent leaves for India–Uzbekistan joint military exercise DUSTLIK

The **Indian Army contingent** has departed for the **7th edition** of the **India–Uzbekistan joint military exercise DUSTLIK**, aimed at strengthening **bilateral defence cooperation**.

Indian Army Launches Operation Him Setu to Rescue Tourists Stranded in North Sikkim After Landslide

The **Indian Army Trishakti Corps** launched **Operation Him Setu** to **rescue and evacuate** stranded tourists in **North Sikkim (Lachen region)**.

ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

Reserve Bank of India approves Emirates NBD to acquire up to 74% stake in RBL Bank

Emirates NBD (P.J.S.C) has received the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** approval to acquire an

aggregate of **up to 74%** of the **paid-up share capital** of **RBL Bank**.

Competition Commission of India Approves 14.286% Stake Acquisition in Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited by Indriya Limited

The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved the acquisition of a **14.286% equity stake** in **Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited (ABHFL)** by **Indriya Limited**, paving the way for a **₹2,750 crore capital infusion**.

Amazon to Acquire Globalstar in USD 11.57 Billion Deal to Expand Satellite Internet Plans

Amazon announced the acquisition of **Globalstar** in a deal worth **USD 11.57 billion**, boosting its **satellite internet ambitions**.

Blue Origin's New Glenn Mission Fails to Reach Orbit, Leading to Deorbit of AST SpaceMobile Satellite

Blue Origin, the space venture of **Jeff Bezos**, launched the **AST SpaceMobile BlueBird 7** communications satellite aboard its **New Glenn** rocket.

APPS & PORTALS

App / Portal Name	Released By	Purpose
ICP App	Clodomiro Picado Institute, Universidad de Costa Rica	To identify venomous snakes and improve public safety.
CCMS Portal	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs	To manage and monitor Consultative Committee meetings.
SHe-Box Portal	Ministry of Women and Child Development	To implement PoSH Act through digital complaint redressal.
Poshan Tracker App	Ministry of Women and Child Development	To monitor Anganwadi services and nutrition programmes in real time.
CHO Mobile App	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare / ICMR	To support Community Health Officers with digital healthcare tools.

EU Age Verification App	European Union (EU)	To verify users' age online and restrict harmful content access for minors.
Abhay AI Chatbot	Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)	To verify authenticity of CBI notices and combat digital frauds.
Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan App 2.0	Department of Social Justice & Empowerment	To improve monitoring and coordination of anti-drug initiatives.
SMILE–Beggary Survey App	Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment	To enable real-time data collection for rehabilitation of beggars.
Bharat Taxi App	Ministry of Commerce and Industry	To support drivers through a cooperative-based ride-hailing platform.

SPORTS NEWS

Formula One Japanese Grand Prix 2026 – Andrea Kimi Antonelli Became Youngest Driver to Lead Formula One World Championship

- **19-year-old Andrea Kimi Antonelli** of Mercedes-AMG Petronas Formula One Team won the **40th edition of the Japanese Grand Prix 2026** held at Suzuka Circuit in Japan.

Anahat Singh and Abhay Singh Named Asian Squash Federation Player of the Year 2025 in Junior and Men's Categories

- **Anahat Singh and Abhay Sing**h were named **Asian Squash Federation Player of the Year 2025** by the Asian Squash Federation in the **girls' Under 19 category** and **men's category Dato Alex Lee Award** respectively.

Karnataka Topped Medal Tally at Inaugural Khelo India Tribal Games 2026

- The **Khelo India Tribal Games concluded** in **Chhattisgarh**.

India Topped Global List of Suspended Athletes for Doping Violations: Athletics Integrity Unit

Report

According to the **Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU)**, **India ranked first globally in the number of track and field athletes suspended for doping violations**, raising concerns about the **integrity of athletics in India**.

Murali Sreeshankar Won Men's Long Jump Title at Indian Athletics Series 2026 with 8.15 Metres

Murali Sreeshankar won the **men's long jump event** at the **Indian Athletics Series 2026**, registering a jump of **8.15 metres**.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar Became First Fast Bowler to Take 200 Wickets in Indian Premier League History

Bhuvneshwar Kumar created history by becoming the **first fast bowler to take 200 wickets in the Indian Premier League (IPL)** during the match between **Royal Challengers Bengaluru** and **Chennai Super Kings** in the **IPL 2026 season**.

Odisha's Payal Nag Became First Quadruple Amputee to Win Gold at World Para Archery Series Final 2026

Payal Nag from Odisha created history by becoming the **first quadruple amputee in the world to win an international gold medal in para-archery**.

India Won Two Gold Medals at Asian Wrestling Championships 2026 in Bishkek

India delivered a strong performance at the **Asian Wrestling Championships 2026** held in **Bishkek**, where **Sujeet Kalkal** and **Abhimanyou Mandwal** won **gold medals in freestyle wrestling**, strengthening India's overall medal tally and demonstrating dominance at the continental level.

Jannik Sinner Won Monte Carlo Masters 2026 and Reclaimed World No. 1 Ranking

Jannik Sinner defeated **Carlos Alcaraz** in the final to win the **Monte-Carlo Masters 2026**, securing his **first title at the event** and reclaiming the **World No. 1 ranking**.

Sawan Barwal Breaks India's 48-Year-Old Marathon National Record

Himachal Pradesh long-distance runner Sawan Barwal broke India's longest-standing national marathon record at the **NN Marathon Rotterdam** held in **Rotterdam**, surpassing the previous record set by **Shivnath Singh** in **1978**.

Wisden Names Mitchell Starc and Deepti Sharma as Leading Cricketers in the World for 2025

Australian pacer Mitchell Starc and the Indian women's cricket team all-rounder Deepti Sharma

were named the **Leading Cricketers in the World for 2025** by the **Wisden Cricketers' Almanack** for their outstanding performances during the calendar year 2025.

Sanju Samson Named International Cricket Council Men's Player of the Month for March 2026

Sanju Samson was named the **International Cricket Council Men's Player of the Month for March 2026** for his outstanding match-winning performances in the **ICC Men's T20 World Cup** 2026.

Amelia Kerr Named International Cricket Council Women's Player of the Month for March 2026

Amelia Kerr, captain of the **New Zealand women's national cricket team**, was named the **International Cricket Council Women's Player of the Month for March 2026** for her outstanding all-round performances against **Zimbabwe** and **South Africa**.

R. Vaishali Wins Fédération Internationale des Échecs Women's Candidates Tournament 2026

R. Vaishali won the **FIDE Women's Candidates Tournament** 2026 organised by the **Fédération Internationale des Échecs** in **Cyprus**

Mumbai Cricket Association Introduces Player Contract System for Domestic Cricketers

The **Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA)** approved the introduction of a **structured player contract system** from the **2026–27 domestic season**, becoming the **first state cricket association in India** to implement a graded remuneration model for domestic players.

International Cricket Council Launches Inaugural Women's T20I Challenge Trophy 2026 in Rwanda

The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** launched the **inaugural Women's T20I Challenge Trophy 2026** in **Kigali**, **Rwanda**, starting to promote **women's cricket among emerging cricket nations**.

Laureus World Sports Awards 2026 Held in Madrid, Spain

The **Laureus World Sports Awards** 2026 were held in **Madrid, Spain**, recognising outstanding sporting performances for the year 2025.

International Shooting Sport Federation Junior World Cup 2026 Begins in Cairo, Egypt

The **ISSF Junior World Cup 2026 (International Shooting Sport Federation Junior World Cup 2026**) commenced **in Cairo, Egypt**, marking the start of the **international shooting season for junior athletes**.

Tashkent to Host World Para Athletics Championships 2027

World Para Athletics announced that **Tashkent, Uzbekistan** will **host the 13th edition of the World Para Athletics Championships** in **June 2027**.

Athletics Integrity Unit Places India in Category A Over Rising Doping Violations

The **Athletics Integrity Unit** (AIU) placed India in **Category A**, classifying it as a **high-risk nation for doping violations**, following consistently high **Anti-Doping Rule Violations (ADRVs)** between **2022 and 2025**.

Fédération Internationale de Football Association Selects India for Women's Development Programme 2026

Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) has selected **India** as one of **12 countries** for its **Women's Development Programme (Commercial Strategy 2026)**.

Virat Kohli Becomes First Player to Reach 800 Boundaries in Indian Premier League History

Virat Kohli became the **first batter in Indian Premier League history** to reach the milestone of **800 boundaries**.

Sebastian Sawe Breaks Two-Hour Marathon Barrier At London Marathon 2026

Kenyan athlete **Sebastian Sawe** created history by completing a marathon in **1 hour 59 minutes 30 seconds**, becoming the **first runner to officially break the two-hour barrier**.

India Tops Medal Tally at International Shooting Sport Federation Junior World Cup 2026 with 16 Medals in Cairo

India emerged as the top-performing nation at the **ISSF Junior World Cup 2026** held in **Cairo**.

Punjab Kings Register Highest Successful Run Chase in Indian Premier League History with 265 vs Delhi Capitals

Punjab Kings achieved the **highest successful run chase in Indian Premier League (IPL) history**, chasing **265 runs against Delhi Capitals** at **Arun Jaitley Stadium**.

Virat Kohli Becomes First Player to Reach 9000 Runs in Indian Premier League (IPL)

Virat Kohli became the **first cricketer to score 9000 runs in the Indian Premier League (IPL)**.

P. V. Sindhu Elected Chair of Athletes' Commission, Joins Badminton World Federation (BWF) Council with Voting Rights

P. V. Sindhu, Olympic medallist, has been elected **Chair of the Athletes' Commission** of the **Badminton World Federation** (BWF).

International Shooting Sport Federation to Take Over Shooting Para Sport Governance from International Paralympic Committee

The **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF)** and the **International Paralympic Committee**

(IPC) signed an agreement to transfer the **governance and operations of Shooting Para Sport** to the **International Shooting Sport Federation**.

Punjab Football Club Retains All India Football Federation Elite Youth League 2025–26 Title

Punjab Football Club Defeated **Zinc Football Academy** by **3–0** to retain the **All-India Football Federation (AIFF) Elite Youth League 2025–26 title**, highlighting **youth dominance**.

India Secures Four Gold Medals at Commonwealth Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships

Indian weightlifters delivered an **outstanding performance** at the **Commonwealth Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships in Apia, Samoa**, winning **four gold medals** across categories.

OBITUARIES

Name	Profession / Role	Native / Nationality
Dr. Vijaypat Singhania	Former Chairman of Raymond Limited, Industrialist & Aviator	Indian
Chandrikapersad Santokhi	Former President of Suriname	Surinamese
Mohsina Kidwai	Veteran INC Leader & Former Union Minister	Indian
Jim Whittaker	Mountaineer; First American to Climb Mount Everest	American
Abu Hasem Khan Chowdhury	Veteran Congress Leader & Former Union Minister	Indian
C.D. Gopinath	Former Test Cricketer	Indian
Asha Bhosle	Legendary Playback Singer	Indian
Col. Sonam Wangchuk	Mahavir Chakra Awardee & Kargil War Hero	Indian

N. Ramachandran	Former IOA & World Squash Federation President	Indian
Oscar Schmidt	Basketball Player	Brazilian
Balbir Punj	Veteran Journalist & Former Rajya Sabha MP	Indian
Bhagwandas Raikwar	Bundeli Martial Arts Pioneer	Indian
Dr. Gopalrao Patil	Paediatrician & Former Rajya Sabha MP	Indian
Nadendla Bhaskara Rao	Former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh	Indian
Dean Tavoularis	Oscar-Winning Production Designer	American
Raghu Rai	Legendary Photographer & Photojournalist	Indian
Muni Narayana Prasad	Spiritual Leader & Writer	Indian
Shiv Ratan Agarwal	Chairman of Bikaji Foods International	Indian

May 2026

CURRENT AFFAIRS: IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day Observed As	Key Points / Theme
May 1	International Labour Day	Commemorates workers' struggles and achievements; 2026 Theme: “Ensuring a Healthy Psychosocial Working Environment”; First observed in 1890; First in India: Chennai, 1923
May 1	Gujarat Foundation Day	Marks formation of Gujarat (1960);

		Separation from Bombay State; 2026 celebrations in Surat
May 2	World Tuna Day	Raises awareness on tuna conservation; Observed since 2017 by UN; Important for food security
May 3	World Laughter Day	First Sunday of May; Founded by Madan Kataria; 2026 Theme: "World Peace Through Laughter"
May 3	World Press Freedom Day	Promotes press freedom; Declared by UN in 1993; 2026 Theme: "Shaping a Future of Peace"
May 4	Coal Miners Day	Recognises contribution of coal miners; Importance of coal in energy and industry
May 5	World Asthma Day	First Tuesday of May; Organized by GINA; 2026 Theme: "Access to anti-inflammatory inhalers…"
May 7	World Athletics Day	Promotes sports participation; Initiated by Primo Nebiolo; Theme: "Athletics for a Better World"
May 8	World Thalassaemia Day	Awareness on genetic blood disorder; Established by TIF in 1994
May 8	World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day	Birth anniversary of Henry Dunant; Promotes humanitarian values
May 9	Victory Day (Russia)	Marks end of WWII in Europe (1945); Nazi Germany surrender
May 11	National Technology Day	Marks Pokhran nuclear tests (1998); Declared by Atal Bihari Vajpayee
May 12	International Nurses Day	Birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale; 2026 Theme: "Empowered Nurses Save Lives"
May 11–17	Mental Health Awareness Week	Theme 2026: "Action"; Promotes practical steps for mental wellbeing

CURRENT AFFAIRS: NATIONAL AND STATE NEWS

Employees Provident Fund Organisation to Launch E-PRAAPTI Digital Platform

- The **Employees Provident Fund Organisation** will launch a new digital platform **E-PRAAPTI**, announced by **Union Minister of Labour and Employment Mansukh Mandaviya**, to enhance **digital governance, transparency, and user empowerment**.
- **E-PRAAPTI (Employees Provident Fund Aadhaar-Based Access Portal for Tracking Inoperative Accounts)** is designed to help users **trace and reactivate dormant or unclaimed provident fund accounts**, even **without Universal Account Number**.
- The platform uses **Aadhaar-based authentication**, allowing users to **access**

Maharashtra Approves Artificial Intelligence Policy 2026 to Boost Investment and Employment

- The **Maharashtra Cabinet led by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis** approved the **Maharashtra Artificial Intelligence Policy 2026** to position the state as a **leading Artificial Intelligence hub in India**.
- Infrastructure development includes establishment of **5 Artificial Intelligence Innovation Cities**, creation of a **common computing backbone with 2,000 Graphics Processing Units**, and introduction of **Compute-as-a-Service for government departments**.

Bengaluru Police Launch Artificial Intelligence-Powered Multilingual Feature in Namma 112 Helpline

- **Bengaluru Police** introduced an **Artificial Intelligence-powered multilingual feature** in the **Namma 112 emergency helpline**, becoming the **first police unit in India** to implement such technology.
- The system enables communication in **more than 10 Indian and foreign languages**, improving **accessibility, emergency response, and public safety**.
- The feature is built on **Voice Artificial Intelligence for Nationwide Key Interventions** and developed in collaboration with **Monday Ventures and Aeos**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurates Ganga Expressway in Uttar Pradesh

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **Ganga Expressway** in **Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh**.
- The expressway is a **594 kilometre long six-lane greenfield corridor**, expandable to **eight**

lanes, built at a cost of **₹36,230 crore**.

- It connects **Meerut to Prayagraj**, passing through **12 districts** including **Meerut, Bulandshahr, Hapur, Amroha, Sambhal, Badaun, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Unnao, Raebareli, Pratapgarh, and Prayagraj**.

Panchayat Advancement Index 2.0 Report Released on National Panchayati Raj Day

- The **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** released the **Panchayat Advancement Index 2.0 Report** on **National Panchayati Raj Day (April 24)**, highlighting progress in **rural development and grassroots governance**.
- A total of **3,635 Gram Panchayats** were classified as **Front Runners (A Grade)**, reflecting strong performance.
- The report covers over **2.59 lakh Gram Panchayats across 33 States and Union Territories**, making it one of the **largest data-driven governance assessments in India**.
- Nearly **1,18,824 Panchayats (45.72 per cent)** fall under the **Performer (B Grade)** category, while others are classified as **Aspirant and Beginner**.

West Bengal Records Highest-Ever Voter Turnout in Assembly Elections

- **West Bengal** recorded its **highest-ever voter turnout after Independence** with an overall participation of **92.47 per cent** in the **Assembly Elections conducted in two phases**.
- **Phase One turnout** stood at **93.19 per cent**, while **Phase Two recorded 91.66 per cent**, surpassing the previous highest turnout of **84.72 per cent in 2011**.
- **Gender-wise participation** showed inclusivity, with **Male voters at 91.07 per cent, Female voters at 92.28 per cent, and Third gender at 91.28 per cent** in Phase Two.

Karnataka Launches India's First Digital Grievance Redressal System for Gig Workers

- **Karnataka** introduced **India's first digital grievance redressal system for gig workers**, aiming to enhance **transparency, accountability, and worker protection**.
- The system allows **platform-based workers** to register complaints related to **wages, incentives, working conditions, and disputes with digital platforms**.
- The initiative is developed by the **Karnataka Platform-based Gig Workers Board** in collaboration with the **Department of Electronic Governance Karnataka**.

India Deploys Aarogya Maitri Healthcare Infrastructure in Jamaica under Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Framework

- **India** deployed the **Aarogya Maitri portable healthcare infrastructure** in **Jamaica** under the **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief framework**, strengthening **India–Caribbean relations**.
- The initiative focuses on rapid medical response, humanitarian support, and technology-driven healthcare solutions.
- **Aarogya Maitri** is a **portable and modular healthcare system** designed for **quick deployment in disaster-affected areas**.

Kailash Mansarovar Yatra 2026 to be Held from June to August

- The **Government of India** announced that the **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra 2026** will be conducted from **June to August**, marking progress in **restoration of cross-border pilgrimage**.
- The yatra is organised by the **Ministry of External Affairs** in coordination with **China**.
- It will be conducted through two routes: **Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand** and **Nathu La Pass in Sikkim**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Visits Uttar Pradesh and Launches Development Projects Worth ₹6,350 Crore

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** visited **Uttar Pradesh** covering **Varanasi and Hardoi**, focusing on **women empowerment and infrastructure development**.
- He attended a **Mahila Sammelan in Varanasi** with large participation of women and offered prayers at the **Kashi Vishwanath Temple**.
- Development projects worth around **₹6,350 crore** were inaugurated and foundation stones laid during the visit.

National Rifle Association of India Marks 75th Anniversary with New Initiatives

- **Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Mansukh Mandaviya** attended the **75th anniversary celebrations of the National Rifle Association of India** (NRAI) held at **Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range Finals Hall, New Delhi**.
- A **commemorative logo** was unveiled to mark **75 years of Indian shooting**, symbolising **excellence, discipline, and achievements in the sport**.
- The **My National Rifle Association of India Athlete Application** was launched as a **digital platform**, making the federation **India's first fully digitised sports body**.

Government Notifies Citizenship Amendment Rules 2026 with Changes for Overseas Citizen of India Cardholders

- The **Government of India**, through the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, notified the **Citizenship**

Amendment Rules 2026, modifying the **Citizenship Rules 2009** to make processes **more streamlined, digital, and efficient**.

- A key clarification states that a minor child cannot hold both an Indian passport and a foreign passport simultaneously, reinforcing citizenship norms.
- All applications related to **Overseas Citizen of India registration and renunciation** will now be **submitted online**, eliminating **manual paperwork**.

India Chairs Brazil Russia India China South Africa Middle East and North Africa Meeting 2026 in New Delhi

- **Dr Neena Malhotra**, Secretary South, **Ministry of External Affairs**, chaired the **Brazil Russia India China South Africa (BRICS) Deputy Foreign Ministers and Special Envoys for the Middle East and North Africa meeting** in **New Delhi** under **India's chairship**.
- The meeting witnessed participation from **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**, focusing on **regional stability, humanitarian crises, and the West Asia conflict**.
- Members expressed concern over the **situation in Palestine and Gaza**, including **humanitarian assistance and the role of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East**.

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation Releases "Women and Men in India 2025" Report

- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** released the **27th edition** of its publication titled **"Women and Men in India 2025: Selected Indicators and Data"** at the **National Deliberative Summit on Data for Development** held in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.
- **Sex ratio at birth improved** from **904 (2017–19) to 917 (2021–23)**
- **Infant mortality rate** declined consistently for both **male and female infants (2008–2023)**
- **Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education** increased to **30.2 for females and 28.9 for males (2022–23)**
- **Labour Force Participation Rate** increased for both genders, with **rural females rising from 37.5 per cent to 45.9 per cent (2022–2025)**
- **Women in managerial positions increased by 102.54 per cent**, compared to **73.80 per cent increase for men (2017–2025)**

Tamil Nadu Becomes Top Marine Fish Producing State in 2025

- According to the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research–Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute**, **Tamil Nadu** has emerged as the **top marine fish producing state in India in 2025**,

overtaking **Gujarat**.

- The shift is attributed to a **significant decline in Gujarat's fish landings** due to adverse weather conditions, extended fishing bans, and cyclonic disturbances. Despite this, India's total **marine fish production increased by about 3 per cent year-on-year to 3.57 million tonnes in 2025**.
- **Gujarat recorded around 15 per cent decline** in marine fish landings, losing its top position
- **Tamil Nadu** emerged as the **leading marine fish producing state** in 2025
- **Kerala** retained **third position** with **0.62 million tonnes**, showing marginal growth

India Launches Multi-Lane Free Flow Barrier-less Tolling System on National Highway-48

- **Shri Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways**, announced the launch of India's first **Multi-Lane Free Flow barrier-less tolling system** at the **Chorayasi Toll Plaza** on the **Surat–Bharuch section of National Highway-48 in Gujarat**.
- The system enables **non-stop toll collection** through advanced digital technologies, marking a key advancement in smart highway infrastructure development.
- Introduced as a **state-of-the-art tolling mechanism** eliminating the need for physical toll booths

India Placed on United States Trade Representative Priority Watch List 2026

- India has been included in the **Priority Watch List** of the **United States Trade Representative Special 301 Report 2026**, indicating concerns over the country's **intellectual property rights framework**.
- Classification system includes **Priority Foreign Country, Priority Watch List, and Watch List**
- **India's placement** points to gaps in **legal enforcement and administrative efficiency**

Andaman and Nicobar Islands Sets Guinness World Record with Largest Underwater National Flag

- The **Andaman and Nicobar Islands** achieved a **Guinness World Record** by unfurling the **world's largest underwater national flag** at **Radhanagar Beach** on **Swaraj Dweep (Havelock Island)**.
- The **Indian National Flag**, measuring **60 × 40 metres**, was deployed underwater through a coordinated operation and received **official recognition from Guinness World Records**, marking a significant achievement for the country.
- Event conducted at **Radhanagar Beach, Swaraj Dweep (Havelock Island)**

Sikkim Becomes India's First Fully Paperless Judiciary

- **Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India**, announced that **Sikkim** has become the **first state in India to achieve a fully paperless judiciary**.

- The announcement was made at the **National Conclave on Technology and Judicial Education** in **Gangtok**.
- The development marks a significant step towards **digital justice delivery**, with court processes being carried out entirely through **electronic systems**, eliminating the need for physical paperwork and improving overall efficiency.
- **Sikkim** sets a national example by implementing a **fully digital judicial system**

Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Launches National Framework for Childhood Diabetes Management

- The **Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** has introduced a national framework for managing childhood diabetes for the **0–18 years** age group.
- The initiative emphasizes **early identification, standardized treatment, and long-term disease management** to reduce **complications and mortality**.
- It is supported by the release of the **Guidance Document on Diabetes Mellitus in Children**, establishing a **uniform national protocol**.

Karnataka Launches Centre of Excellence for Space Technology in Bengaluru

- The **Government of Karnataka** has launched India's first **state-led Centre of Excellence for Space Technology (CoE SpaceTech Foundation)** in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.
- The initiative aims to **bridge the gap between research and commercialisation** in the space sector and strengthen **innovation, startup ecosystem, and industry collaboration**.
- Established by **Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS)** in collaboration with **SatCom Industry Association of India (SIA-India)**

Cell Broadcast System Launched to Strengthen Emergency Communication in India

- **Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia, Minister of Communications**, launched the **Cell Broadcast System (CBS)** in **New Delhi** to enhance India's **emergency communication and disaster management framework**.
- The system is an **indigenous technology** developed by the **Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)** under the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)**, in collaboration with the **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** and the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**.
- **Cell Broadcast System (CBS)** enables **near real-time, geo-targeted emergency alerts** to mobile users

- Overcomes limitations of **Short Message Service (SMS)-based alert systems**

Padma Doree Initiative Launched to Promote Cross-Regional Textile Integration

- The **Northeastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation (NEHHDC)** under the **Ministry of Development of Northeastern Region (MDoNER)** launched **'Padma Doree'**, a cross-regional textile initiative combining **Eri (Ahimsa) silk of Northeast India** with **Chanderi weaving of Madhya Pradesh**.
- The initiative was unveiled by **Sanjay Jaju, Secretary, MDoNER**, in line with the vision of **Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India** under **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat**.
- **Padma Doree** integrates **Eri silk (Ahimsa silk)** with **Chanderi handloom craftsmanship**
- Led by **NEHHDC** with support from **MDoNER** to strengthen artisan collaboration

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Launches Fire Safety Week 2026

- The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)** launched **Fire Safety Week 2026** from **4–10 May 2026**, beginning with a nationwide pledge led by **Punya Salila Srivastava, Union Health Secretary**.
- The initiative aims to strengthen **fire safety standards in healthcare facilities** and introduces the **National Guidelines on Fire and Life Safety in Healthcare Facilities**.
- Theme: **"Safe Schools, Safe Hospitals, and a Fire-Safety Aware Society: Together for Fire Prevention"**

Hazaribag to Become India's First Pearl Farming Cluster

- **Hazaribag district in Jharkhand** is set to become **India's first pearl farming cluster**, led by the **Fisheries Department** with government support.
- The initiative focuses on promoting **scientific aquaculture, employment generation, and sustainable rural development**, with a special emphasis on **women participation**.
- **Hazaribag** identified as the **first dedicated pearl farming cluster** in India due to favourable water resources

Bureau of Indian Standards Issues Six New Standards for Assistive Technologies

- The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**, under the **Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA)**, **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (MoCAF&PD)**, has published **six new Indian Standards** for priority **medical assistive technologies** under the **National List of Essential Assistive Products (NLEAP)**
- **IS 18558 Part 1: 2025 (Elbow Crutches):** Specifies **safety, ergonomics, and testing methods**, aligned with **International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 11334-1**
- **IS 5145: 2026 (Walking Sticks):** Indigenous standard covering **materials, dimensions, and**

performance for single-point sticks

- **IS 18558 Part 4: 2025 (Multi-leg Walking Sticks):** Defines requirements for **enhanced stability using three or more legs**
- **IS 19631: 2026 (Portable Ramps):** Indigenous standard for **wheelchair access and mobility support in buildings and transport systems**
- **IS 19189: 2025 (Tactile Guide Maps):** Guidelines for **accessible navigation for visually impaired persons**
- **IS 19190: 2025 (Braille on Signage):** Establishes **uniform Braille standards** on equipment and public infrastructure

Union Government Notifies South Coast Railway Zone with Headquarters at Visakhapatnam

- The **Union Government** has notified the creation of the **South Coast Railway Zone (SCoR)** with headquarters at **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh** under the **Railways Act, 1989**.
- The new zone will become operational from **1 June 2026**, aiming to improve **railway administration, regional connectivity, and operational efficiency** through reorganisation of existing zones.
- **South Coast Railway Zone (SCoR)** created by reorganising **East Coast Railway (ECoR)** and **South-Central Railway (SCR)**
- Includes **Guntakal, Guntur, and Vijayawada divisions** (earlier under South Central Railway)
- **Waltair division** of East Coast Railway bifurcated:
    - Part becomes **Visakhapatnam division** under South Coast Railway
    - Remaining merged into **new Rayagada division** under East Coast Railway
- **East Coast Railway (Headquarters: Bhubaneswar)** to include **Sambalpur, Khurda Road, and Rayagada divisions**
- **South Central Railway (Headquarters: Secunderabad)** to retain **Hyderabad, Nanded, and reorganised Secunderabad divisions**

National Council of Educational Research and Training Launches PRASHAST 2.0 for Early Identification of Disabilities

- The **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)** has launched **PRASHAST 2.0 (Pre-Assessment Holistic Screening Tool)**, an upgraded digital platform for **early identification of disabilities in school children**.
- **PRASHAST 2.0 (Pre-Assessment Holistic Screening Tool)** is a **digital screening platform** available in **mobile and web formats**
- Integrated with national platforms such as **Unified District Information System for Education**

Plus, Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry Identification, and Swavlamban Card Portal

Union Cabinet Approves Increase in Supreme Court Judge Strength to 37

- The **Union Cabinet**, led by Shri **Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India**, has approved a proposal to increase the judge strength of the **Supreme Court of India** from **33 to 37 judges (excluding the Chief Justice of India)**.
- The proposal will be introduced through the **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026**, to amend the **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956**, with the aim of improving **judicial efficiency and speedy disposal of cases**.
- Total sanctioned strength to increase from **34 to 38 judges (including Chief Justice of India)**
- Based on **Article 124 of the Constitution of India**, which empowers Parliament to determine the number of judges

Union Cabinet Approves Ship Repair Facility at Vadinar, Gujarat

- The **Union Cabinet**, led by Shri **Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India**, has approved the establishment of a **state-of-the-art ship repair facility** at **Vadinar, Gujarat**, with an investment of around **₹1,570 crore**.
- The project was cleared by the **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** and will be implemented by **Deendayal Port Authority** in partnership with **Cochin Shipyard Limited**, aiming to strengthen India's **maritime infrastructure and ship repair capabilities**.
- Strategic location at **Vadinar** due to **deep draft availability and proximity to major ports like Mundra and Kandla**

Union Cabinet Approves Two Semiconductor Projects under India Semiconductor Mission

- The **Union Cabinet**, led by Shri **Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India**, has approved **two semiconductor projects** under the **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)** with a **combined investment of over ₹3,936 crore**.
- The projects will be set up in **Gujarat** and are expected to generate over **2,200 skilled jobs**, strengthening India's position in the **global semiconductor ecosystem**.
- Approval for **two semiconductor units**:
    - **Compound semiconductor fabrication facility with Mini/Micro Light Emitting Diode production**
    - **Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility**

India to Host First International Big Cat Alliance Summit in New Delhi

- **India will host** the **first International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Summit** on **1–2 June 2026** in **New Delhi**.
- The announcement was made by **Bhupender Yadav, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change**, who also launched the official logo and website of the summit.
- **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** is an intergovernmental initiative headquartered in India

Union Cabinet Proposes Legal Protection for Vande Mataram on 150th Anniversary

- The **Union Cabinet**, led by Shri **Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India**, has proposed granting **Vande Mataram** legal protection equivalent to the **National Anthem, Jana Gana Mana**, through amendments to the **Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act**.
- The proposal comes as **Vande Mataram completes 150 years** since it was written by **Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay in 1875**.
- **Vande Mataram** written by **Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay** in **1875**
- Originally composed in **Sanskritised Bengali** and published in the novel **Anandamath**

India and European Union Launch ₹169 Crore Initiative for Electric Vehicle Battery Recycling

- **India** and the **European Union (EU)** have launched a **₹169 crore joint initiative** to strengthen **Electric Vehicle (EV) battery recycling capacity**.
- The project aims to support the growing EV ecosystem by improving recovery of critical raw materials, reducing environmental risks, and promoting sustainable clean energy goals.
- Initiative launched under the **India-European Union Trade and Technology Council (TTC)** under **Working Group 2 on Green and Clean Technologies**
- Focus on strengthening **Electric Vehicle battery recycling infrastructure and technology**

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Launches JANANI Digital Platform

- The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)** has launched the **JANANI (Journey of Antenatal, Natal and Neonatal Integrated Care)** platform to strengthen **maternal and child healthcare services** in India.
- The platform aims to digitally monitor and manage healthcare services for women and children across different stages of reproductive and child healthcare.
- **JANANI** developed as an integrated **digital healthcare monitoring platform**

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Central Road Research Institute and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited Recognised for Plastic Waste-Based Road Technology

- The **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-**

CRRI) and **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)** have been recognised by the **India Book of Records** and **Asia Book of Records** for developing India's first road section using **technical textile geocells made from end-of-life plastic waste**.

- The recognition ceremony was held at **CSIR-CRRI, New Delhi** in the presence of scientists and industry experts.
- Developed India's first road section using **geocells manufactured from recycled end-of-life plastic waste**

Reliance Industries Limited to Build India's Largest Artificial Intelligence-Focused Data Centre Cluster in Andhra Pradesh

- **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)** is set to establish India's largest **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-focused data centre cluster** in **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**, with an investment of around **₹1.6 lakh crore (over USD 17 billion)**.
- **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)** to develop a **1.5 Gigawatt (GW) Artificial Intelligence-focused data centre cluster** in **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**.
- Total investment estimated at around **₹1.6 lakh crore**.
- Project will be developed across **935 acres** near **Bhogapuram**.

Bengaluru Records Highest Suicide Rate Among Major Indian Cities: National Crime Records Bureau Data

- According to data published by the **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)**, **Bengaluru** has recorded the highest suicide rate among major Indian cities in recent years.
- The suicide rate in Bengaluru remained close to **20 suicides per lakh population** during **2022, 2023, and 2024**, placing it at the top among mega cities.
- The NCRB report titled **Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India (ADSI)** provides annual data on **suicide cases, accidental deaths, causes of suicides, and demographic patterns** across States, Union Territories, and selected cities.

India Inaugurates Pavilion at 61st International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia 2026 in Venice, Italy

- **India officially opened its Pavilion** at the **61st International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia 2026** in **Venice, Italy**.
- The Pavilion was inaugurated in the presence of **Union Minister for Culture and Tourism Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** along with senior international cultural dignitaries.

- The India Pavilion presents the exhibition titled **"Geographies of Distance: remembering home"**, focusing on themes of **memory, migration, belonging, and cultural identity** through contemporary Indian art.
- The inauguration was attended by key dignitaries including **President of La Biennale di Venezia Mr Pietrangelo Buttafuoco**, **Secretary, Ministry of Culture Shri Vivek Aggarwal**, **Ambassador of India to Italy H.E. Vani Rao**, **Smt Nita M Ambani**, **Smt Isha Ambani**, and **Shri Sunil Kant Munjal**.

Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya Launches Nationwide Free Annual Health Check-Up Initiative for Workers Under New Labour Codes

- Union Minister for Labour and Employment **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya** launched a nationwide **free annual health check-up initiative** for workers aged **40 years and above** under the new Labour Codes.
- The initiative was launched at the **Employees' State Insurance Corporation Medical College and Hospital, Basaidarapur, New Delhi**.

India to Host BRICS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting 2026 in Indore Focused on Food Security and Smart Farming

- India will host the **BRICS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting 2026** in **Indore, Madhya Pradesh** under its **BRICS Presidency**.
- The two-day meeting is scheduled to be held in **June 2026** and will bring together agriculture ministers from **BRICS member countries**.
- The BRICS grouping includes **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**, which together represent a significant share of global population, agricultural output, and emerging economies.

All India Ophthalmological Society – Armed Forces Ophthalmic Update 2026 Conference to be Held at Manekshaw Centre, Delhi Cantonment

- The **All-India Ophthalmological Society – Armed Forces Ophthalmic Update 2026 Conference (AIOS–AFOU 2026)** will be held at the **Manekshaw Centre, Delhi Cantonment**.
- The event is jointly organised by the **Army Hospital (Research and Referral)** and the **All-India Ophthalmological Society**.
- The conference will witness participation of the **Chief of Defence Staff**, **three Service Chiefs**, **Defence Secretary**, and senior defence and medical officials, highlighting its **tri-service and national importance**.

Aizawl Hosts First Regional Cooperative Reform Conference Under "Sahkar se Samriddhi"

Vision

- **Aizawl, Mizoram** hosted its **first Regional Cooperative Reform Conference** under the vision of **"Sahkar se Samriddhi"** to strengthen cooperative institutions in **North-East India**.
- The conference was organised by the **Ministry of Cooperation** as part of nationwide cooperative reform initiatives.
- It marked the **first such conference in Mizoram**, highlighting focus on expanding **cooperative-led development in the North-East region**.
- Representatives from **all North-Eastern states**, cooperative institutions, financial organisations, and national agencies participated in the event.

India Advances BRICS Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Cooperation Under 2026 Chairship with Focus on Finance and Financial Technology

- **India** is advancing **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) cooperation** under its **Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa (BRICS) Chairship 2026** with focus on **financial inclusion, financial technology ecosystems, and inclusive growth**.
- The **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises** organised the **first Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group Meeting on April 24, 2026**, focusing on **access to finance for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises**.
- India will organise **three Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group Meetings** and host the **inaugural Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Forum** during its Chairship.

India Introduces QR-Code Verification for Census Enumerators for Census 2027

- India has introduced **QR-code-enabled identity cards** for Census enumerators for the upcoming **Census 2027** to improve **identity verification and data collection**.
- The initiative allows citizens to **verify enumerators by scanning QR codes using mobile devices**, enhancing transparency and security during field visits.
- The first phase of **Census 2027 began on April 1, 2026** and will continue till **September 30, 2026**.

Odisha Tops Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana–Urban 2.0 House Completions with Over 2,000 Houses Completed

- **Odisha** has emerged as the **top-performing state** in house completions under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana–Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0)**.
- The state maintained the **first position from March 2025 to March 2026** in terms of housing completion performance.

- **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana–Urban 2.0** was launched in **September 2024** to provide **affordable pucca houses** to **urban poor, economically weaker sections, and middle-income groups**.

Maharashtra Approves Compressed Biogas Policy 2026 with ₹500 Crore Support to Promote Waste-to-Energy Projects

- The **Government of Maharashtra** has approved the **Compressed Biogas Policy 2026** to promote **renewable energy generation through waste-to-energy projects**.
- The policy was approved by the **Maharashtra Cabinet** and officially released.
- The state has allocated **₹500 crore for implementation in the financial year 2026–27**.
- It supports India's **clean energy transition and Net-Zero emissions target by 2070**.

Supreme Court Proposes Permanent Women-Only Vice-President Post in Supreme Court Bar Association from 2027–28

- The **Supreme Court of India** has proposed the creation of a **permanent women-only Vice-President post** in the **Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA)** starting from the **2027–28 election cycle**.
- The proposal was made during hearings related to **reforms in Bar bodies and women's representation in the legal profession**.
- The move aims to **increase participation of women advocates in leadership roles** within the Supreme Court Bar Association.

Jharkhand Achieves Zero Primary Dropout Rate in 2024–25 as per Unified District Information System for Education Plus Data

- **Jharkhand** has achieved a **zero primary dropout rate (0%) in 2024–25**, marking a major milestone in school education.
- The primary dropout rate declined from **6.41 per cent in 2014–15 to 0 per cent in 2024–25**, as per data from the **Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+)** and a **NITI Aayog report** released on May 8, 2026.
- The state also recorded significant improvement in other levels:
  - **Upper primary dropout rate** reduced from **7.42 per cent to 1.7 per cent**
  - **Secondary dropout rate** declined from **23.2 per cent to 3.5 per cent**
- Jharkhand ranked **fourth in India** in terms of reduction in secondary dropout rates.

India's Steel Sector Emerges as Key Growth Driver with Focus on Self-Reliance and Green Transition

- India's steel sector is recognised as a **"sunrise sector"** and has been the **second-largest steel producer in the world since 2018**.
- India is also the **second-largest consumer of finished steel**, with consumption rising from **77 million tonnes in 2014–15 to 163.7 million tonnes in 2025–26**.
- India's share in global crude steel production increased from **5.2 percent in 2014 to 7.9 percent in 2024**.
- **Crude steel production increased to 168.4 million tonnes in 2025–26**, reflecting strong sectoral growth.

India Aircraft Leasing and Financing Summit 2.0 Held at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City to Boost Aviation Financing Ecosystem

- The **India Aircraft Leasing and Financing Summit 2.0** was organised at **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City, Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.
- The summit was jointly organised by the **Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India, International Financial Services Centres Authority, and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry**.
- The event was presided over by **Union Minister of Civil Aviation Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu**, with **Chief Minister of Gujarat Bhupendra Patel as Chief Guest**.

Supreme Court Ruling Highlights Misuse Concerns in Section 498A of Indian Penal Code

- A recent **Supreme Court of India** judgment in a **dowry harassment case** has brought renewed focus on **Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code**.
- **Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code was introduced in 1983** to protect **married women from cruelty, harassment, and dowry-related abuse**.
- Under this provision, **cruelty by husband or his relatives is a criminal offence**, enabling **registration of a First Information Report and initiation of legal proceedings**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Visits Karnataka and Telangana; Inaugurates Projects Worth ₹9,400 Crore

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** visited **Karnataka and Telangana** to participate in events and **inaugurate development projects worth** around **₹9,400 crore**
- The visit included the inauguration of **Pradhan Mantri Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel Park** in **Warangal, Telangana**
- In Bengaluru, the Prime Minister attended the **45th anniversary celebrations of The Art of Living Foundation** and the **70th birthday of Sri Sri Ravi Shankar**

India Launches 'Sehat Mission' to Integrate Agriculture, Nutrition and Healthcare

- The **Government of India** launched the **'Sehat Mission'** in the National Capital under the leadership of **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**
- **Sehat Mission (Science Excellence for Health through Agricultural Transformation)** aims to **integrate agriculture, nutrition, and healthcare** through a unified approach
- The mission is a joint initiative of:
    - Indian Council of Agricultural Research
    - Indian Council of Medical Research

Government to Launch 'Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025' from July 1, 2026

- The **Government of India** has announced the rollout of the **'Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025' (VB-G RAM G Act)**
- The Act will come into force from **July 1, 2026**
- The Ministry of Rural Development has notified that the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 will be **repealed from July 1, 2026**
- Under the new Act, every eligible rural household will get **125 days of guaranteed wage employment per financial year**

India Plans 'Made in India Brand Scheme' to Boost Domestic Manufacturing

- The **Government of India** is planning to launch the **'Made in India Brand Scheme'** to **strengthen domestic manufacturing** and **reduce import dependence**
- The government plans to identify nearly **100 products** that are **not produced in India or manufactured in limited quantities**
- The announcement was made by Amardeep Singh Bhatia, Secretary of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, at the CII Annual Business Summit 2026

Supreme Court Launches 'One Case One Data' Initiative and 'Su-Sahayak' AI Chatbot to Modernize Judicial System

- The **Supreme Court of India** has launched the **'One Case One Data' initiative** along with an **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered chatbot 'Su- Sahayak'**
- The initiative aims to **digitally integrate case data across all levels of the judiciary**
- **'One Case One Data'** is a **digital case management framework** designed to create a **unified judicial data system**
- It will connect courts across different levels, including:

- **Supreme Court**
- **High Courts**
- **District Courts**
- **Taluka Courts**
- **Government Departments**

West Bengal Announces Annapurna Bhandaar Scheme to Provide ₹3,000 Monthly Aid to Women

- The **Government of West Bengal, led by Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari,** has approved the launch of the **Annapurna Bhandaar Scheme** in its first Cabinet meeting
- The scheme provides **₹3,000 per month** financial assistance to **eligible women**
- It will be implemented from **June 1, 2026**
- Funds will be transferred through **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)**
- Focus on **financial empowerment of women**
- The scheme will replace the **Lakshmir Bhandar Scheme**
- Earlier benefits: **₹1,500 (General Category)** and **₹1,700 (Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes – SC/ST)**

Jute Crop Information System Strengthens India's Jute Sector with Satellite-Based Monitoring

- The **Jute Crop Information System (JCIS)** has been implemented to enable **technology-driven monitoring of jute cultivation** in India
- The initiative is led by the National Jute Board in **collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organisation and the Jute Corporation of India**
- Two key tools developed under the system are:
  - **BHUVAN JUMP** – a **mobile application for field-level data collection**
  - **PATSAN (Prospective Assessment of Jute Using Mobile App-Based Field Observations)** – a **web-based platform for real-time analytics**

Periodic Labour Force Survey Revised to Provide Monthly and Quarterly Labour Market Data

- The **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** conducted by the National Statistical Office under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** has been **revamped from January 2025**
- Key objectives of the revised PLFS include:
  - **Monthly estimates** of **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)**, **Worker Population Ratio (WPR)**, and **Unemployment Rate (UR)**
  - **Quarterly estimates** for both **rural and urban areas**
  - **Annual estimates** under **Usual Status (Principal Status + Subsidiary**

Status) and **Current Weekly Status (CWS)**

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant Announces Judicial Infrastructure Advisory Committee for Court Reforms

- The **Chief Justice of India Surya Kant** has announced the formation of a **Judicial Infrastructure Advisory Committee** to improve **court infrastructure across India**
- The committee aims to address issues such as **poor facilities**, **outdated buildings**, **digital gaps**, and **delays in case handling**
- The committee will be **headed by Justice Aravind Kumar**

India Raises Import Duty on Gold and Silver to 15% to Protect Rupee and Forex Reserves

- The **Government of India** has increased **import duty on gold and silver to 15%**
- The move aims to **protect foreign exchange reserves** and **support the Indian rupee** amid global uncertainties
- The customs duty on **gold and silver** has been increased from **6% to 15%**
- For **platinum**, the duty has been raised from **6.4% to 15.4%**
- The revised duty structure includes:
    - **10% Basic Customs Duty (BCD)**
    - **5% Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC)**

CURRENT AFFAIRS: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Expands Global Geopark Network with Addition of 12 New Sites, Raising Total to 241

- The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** has designated **12 new Global Geoparks**, increasing the total to **241 sites** across **51 countries**, covering more than **882,000 square kilometres (sq km)**.
- The **newly added UNESCO Global Geoparks** are located in **China, France, Greece, Ireland, Japan, Malaysia, Portugal, Russia, Tunisia (first-ever), and Uruguay**.
- The **UNESCO Global Geoparks Programme** was officially established in **2015** as a UNESCO label using a **"bottom-up approach"** involving local stakeholders.

United Arab Emirates Announces Exit from Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and OPEC+ Alliance Effective May 2026

- The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** has announced its decision to **exit** the **Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)** and the wider **OPEC+ alliance**, effective from **May 1,**

2026.

- The **UAE joined OPEC in 1967** and is currently the **third-largest oil producer** in the group after Saudi Arabia and Iraq, contributing around **12% of total output**.
- The UAE's state-owned oil company, **Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC)**, has increased **production capacity** to around **5 million barrels per day**, but **quota restrictions** have restricted output.

United States of America Launches 'Project Freedom' Naval Operation to Secure Shipping in Strait of Hormuz

- The **United States of America (USA)**, under **President Donald Trump**, launched **"Project Freedom"**, a **naval escort operation** to secure **commercial vessels** in the **Strait of Hormuz** amid rising **Iran–USA tensions**.
- **Project Freedom** involves deployment by the **United States Navy** under **S. Central Command (CENTCOM)** to **escort and secure** commercial vessels.
- The **Strait of Hormuz** is a **strategic maritime chokepoint** connecting the **Persian Gulf** with the **Gulf of Oman** and the **Arabian Sea**.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's First-Ever Bilateral Visit to Jamaica Strengthens India–Caribbean Relations

- Union Minister **S. Jaishankar,**Ministry of External Affairs (**MEA**) undertook a **2-day official visit** to **Jamaica** (**May 2–4, 2026**), marking the **first-ever bilateral visit** by an **Indian External Affairs Minister** to Jamaica.
- The visit aimed to strengthen **India–Jamaica relations**, expand **Caribbean cooperation**, and reinforce India's commitment to **South–South cooperation** and **diaspora engagement**.
- During the visit, **EAM Dr. Jaishankar** held **delegation-level talks** with **Andrew Holness** and **Kamina Johnson Smith**.

Bangladesh's Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant Begins Fuel Loading, Moves Closer to Power Generation

- **Bangladesh** has begun **uranium fuel loading** at **Unit-1** of the **Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant**, marking the final stage before **electricity generation**
- With this milestone, **Bangladesh** is set to become the **33rd country** in the world to generate **nuclear power**.
- The reactor will undergo **controlled nuclear fission** and **multiple safety tests**, ensuring **operational readiness** before power production.

India hands over Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics banner to South African Astronomical Observatory to boost astronomy and scientific collaboration

- India's High Commissioner to South Africa, **Prabhat Kumar**, formally handed over the banner of the **Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA)** to the **South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO)** during a ceremony at the **Royal Observatory, Cape Town**.
- The **IUCAA banner** will be displayed at the **Southern African Large Telescope (SALT)**, one of the largest **optical telescopes** in the Southern Hemisphere, symbolising **enhanced research collaboration** in **astronomy and astrophysics**.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: BANKING AND BUSINESS

Reserve Bank of India Introduces Mission SAKSHAM to Strengthen Capacity in Urban Co-operative Banking Sector

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has launched **Mission SAKSHAM** (**Sahkari Bank Kshamta Nirman**), a nationwide **capacity-building programme** for strengthening the **Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs)**
- **Mission SAKSHAM** seeks to create a **continuous learning ecosystem**, contributing to **systemic stability** and **sustainable growth** of the cooperative banking sector.

Government Enhances Public Sector Banks with Strategic Expansion of Workforce Capacity

- The **Department of Financial Services (DFS)** under the **Ministry of Finance**, Government of India is implementing sustained and targeted measures to strengthen **human resource capacity** in **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)** through calibrated **workforce expansion**, improved **operational efficiency**, and **governance-oriented reforms**.
- A **well-calibrated recruitment scale** is a key pillar of human resource management, ensuring **optimal staffing** and sustained **operational efficiency** in the banking sector.
- These initiatives are aligned with the Government's broader objective of building a **resilient, customer-centric, and future-ready banking system**.

Reserve Bank of India Announces Expected Credit Loss-Based Norms from April 2027 and Phased foreign exchange Derivatives Reporting from July 2027

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued a **Master Direction** on asset classification, income recognition, and provisioning, introducing a shift to the **Expected Credit Loss (ECL)** framework, effective from **April 1, 2027**.
- The new **ECL-based approach** will replace the existing norms based on the **incurred loss**

model, marking a major reform in **banking risk management** and **provisioning standards**.

- The **Expected Credit Loss (ECL)** framework requires banks to **estimate probable future losses** using **forward-looking risk parameters**, rather than waiting for actual defaults.

Flipkart Internet Private Limited, Axis Bank Limited and PayU Payments Private Limited Introduce OTP-Free Card Payments with Biometric Authentication

- **Flipkart Internet Private Limited**, in partnership with **Axis Bank Limited** and **PayU Payments Private Limited**, has launched **biometric authentication** for card payments, replacing traditional One-Time Passwords (OTPs)**-based verification**.
- The system enables users to approve transactions using **fingerprint or Face ID**, marking a major shift towards **faster, seamless, and secure** digital payment systems.
- The ecosystem involves **Flipkart** (checkout platform), **PayU** (merchant infrastructure), **Axis Bank** (card issuer), and **Wibmo** (issuer-side authentication) for **end-to-end biometric payment processing**.

Frequently Asked Questions on Cheque Clearing

- **Cheque Truncation System (CTS)** is a mechanism where the **physical cheque is stopped (truncated)** during clearing after its **electronic image** is captured and transmitted, eliminating the need for **physical movement** of cheques between banks.
- Under **CTS**, the **presenting bank** captures cheque data and images, which are sent electronically to the **clearing house** and **drawee (paying) bank**, enabling faster, **cost-effective** and **automated clearing**.
- **Continuous Clearing** is an advanced system where **presentation and return (confirmation) sessions** run simultaneously in a **continuous flow**, improving speed, efficiency, and **real-time processing** of cheques compared to traditional batch clearing.

India Post Payments Bank Introduces Self Help Group Savings Account to Boost Financial Inclusion

- **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)**, a **100% Government of India-owned** entity under the **Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications**, has launched the **Self Help Group (SHG) Savings Account** to promote **financial inclusion** and **women empowerment** in rural India.
- **Self Help Groups (SHGs)** play a crucial role in **rural economic transformation** and are linked with schemes like the **National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM)** under the **Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)** and initiatives supported by **NABARD** (**National Bank for Agriculture**

and Rural Development).

National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited Enhances Stressed Asset Resolution System and Boosts Recoveries in FY 2025–26

- The **National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL)** has emerged as a key institution in India's **stressed asset resolution framework**, supporting the banking **sector balance sheet strengthening**.
- **NARCL** plays a crucial role in **aggregating large stressed exposures** and enabling their resolution through **transparent and market-based mechanisms**.
- As of **March 2026**, **NARCL** has acquired **33 borrower entities** with an aggregate **debt exposure of ₹1,65,862 crore**.

JPMorgan Chase & Co. Downgrades Indian Equities from "Overweight" to "Neutral" on Elevated Valuations Versus Emerging Market Peers

- **JPMorgan Chase & Co.** has **downgraded Indian equities** from **"overweight" to "neutral"**, citing **elevated valuations** compared to **emerging market peers**.
- The **downgrade** reflects concerns over **stretched market valuations** in India, despite ongoing **structural growth trends** in the economy.
- **JPMorgan** noted that India is making progress in areas such as **AI startups**, large investments in **data centres**, and **chip design centres** for global firms, indicating **long-term technological development potential**.

Reserve Bank of India Releases 46th Half-Yearly Report on Management of Foreign Exchange Reserves (Oct 2025–Mar 2026)

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has released the **46th Half-Yearly Report on Management of Foreign Exchange Reserves** for the period **October 2025 to March 2026**.
- During this period, **India's foreign exchange reserves** declined from **USD 700.09 billion** to **USD 691.11 billion**.
- The **RBI** publishes these reports **twice a year**, based on positions as of **end-March and end-September**.
- India's **foreign exchange reserves** are held in **multiple currencies**, including the **US Dollar, Euro, Pound Sterling, and Japanese Yen**, but are reported in **US Dollar terms**.

Reserve Bank of India Issues Reporting Instructions for Authorised Dealer Category–I Banks to Enhance Forex Transparency

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has directed banks to report all **Over-the-Counter (OTC)**

foreign exchange derivative contracts involving the **Indian Rupee (INR)** to the **Clearing Corporation of India Limited (CCIL)**.

- It applies to **global transactions** undertaken by **related parties**, including **offshore entities** of **Authorised Dealer (AD) Category-I banks**.
- Both **deliverable and non-deliverable INR derivative contracts** must be reported.
- From **01 July 2027**, banks must report all **foreign exchange derivative contracts** involving **INR** undertaken by their **parent entities**, including **branches of the parent**.

Reserve Bank of India Exempts Small Non-Banking Financial Companies from Registration Norms Under New Framework Effective July 1, 2026

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued final guidelines titled **RBI (NBFC – Registration, Exemptions and Framework for Scale Based Regulation) Amendment Directions, 2026** for certain **Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)**.
- The new regulations will come into effect from **01 July 2026**.
- The framework applies to **NBFCs** not availing **public funds** and not having **customer interface**, with an **asset size below ₹1,000 crore**.
- Such entities will be classified as **'Unregistered Type I NBFCs'**, while all other NBFCs will be categorised as **'Type II NBFCs'**.

Reserve Bank of India Clarifies Credit Card Accounts to Be Reported as 'Past Due' Only After 3-Day Delay

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has introduced a **3-day grace period** for **credit card payments** under its updated regulatory framework.
- A **credit card account** will be marked as **"past due"** only after **3 days from the due date**, instead of being classified immediately.
- **Banks** can impose **late payment charges** and report to **credit bureaus** only after the **3-day grace period**.
- The **new rule** will come into effect from **01 April 2027**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Launches PaRRVA Framework to Enhance Transparency and Investor Protection

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has operationalised the **Past Risk and Return Verification Agency (PaRRVA)** framework to improve **transparency in performance claims** made by market intermediaries.
- The **PaRRVA framework** aims to strengthen **investor protection** and **market transparency** in

India's financial ecosystem.

- Under the framework, **CARE Ratings Limited** has been recognised as the **PaRRVA agency** responsible for **validation of performance data**.
- The **National Stock Exchange of India (NSE)** will function as the **PaRRVA Data Centre (PDC)** as per SEBI's regulatory framework issued on **04 April 2025**.

Finance Ministry Notifies 100% foreign direct investment in Insurance Sector and Amends Foreign Exchange Management Act Rules to Liberalise Investment Framework

- The **Central Government** has notified **100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** in the **insurance sector** under the **automatic route**.
- Key laws being amended include the **Insurance Act, 1938**, the **LIC Act, 1956**, and the **IRDAI Act, 1999**.
- The implementation of **100% FDI** will be subject to approval and regulation by the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)**.
- The **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** will remain under a separate framework with a **foreign investment cap of 20%** under the automatic route.

DFS Organises Colloquium of Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunals Chairpersons and Debts Recovery Tribunals Presiding Officers to Enhance Debt Recovery System Efficiency

- The **Department of Financial Services (DFS)** organised a colloquium of **Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs)** and **Debt Recovery Appellate Tribunals (DRATs)** at **Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi** to improve tribunal functioning.
- **Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs)** are **specialised judicial bodies** established under the **Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 (DRT Act)**.
- DRTs handle cases involving **disputed bank loans above ₹20 lakh**.
- The **SARFAESI Act, 2002** (**Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act**) enables banks and financial institutions to **recover secured debts** without court intervention at the first stage.

Bank Loans Against Jewellery Rise Nearly Fivefold to ₹4.6 Lakh Crore by March 2026-Reserve Bank of India Data

- According to **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** data, **bank loans against jewellery** surged nearly **5 times** to **₹4.6 lakh crore** in **March 2026**, up from ₹93,301 crore two years earlier.
- On a **year-on-year basis**, **gold/jewellery loans** grew **123%**, marking the **fastest growth** among all lending sectors.

- **Priority sector housing loans** rose sharply by **39.8%** to **₹10.44 lakh crore**, while **overall housing credit** increased by **11.5%** to **₹33.56 lakh crore**.
- **Personal loans** registered a growth of **16.2% year-on-year**, reflecting sustained **consumer demand**.

Finance Ministry Notifies Foreign Direct Investment Relaxation for Foreign Firms with Up to 10% Chinese Stake under FEMA Rules

- The **Government of India** has tweaked rules under the **Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA)** to allow certain **overseas investments** under the **automatic route**.
- The new provision permits **overseas entities** with up to **10% Chinese shareholding** to invest in India **without prior government approval**.
- The amendment is implemented through the **Foreign Exchange Management (Non-debt Instruments) (Amendment) Rules, 2026**, which have come into **immediate effect**.

NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited and Juspay Introduce Unified Switch and Software Development Kit to Enhance Banking Connect Net Banking Platform

- **NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited (NBBL)**, a subsidiary of the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, has partnered with **Juspay Technologies Private Limited** with an aim to launch a **unified switch** and **Software Development Kit (SDK)** for the **Banking Connect platform**.
- **Banking Connect** is an **interoperable platform** that **standardises net banking workflows** across banks and payment aggregators.

Tata AIA Life Insurance Introduces 'Shubh Health Criti' Unit-Linked Health Fund Plan

- **Tata AIA Life Insurance Company Limited** has launched a new **Unit Linked Insurance Plan (ULIP)** named **'Shubh Health Criti'** in India.
- The plan is designed to build a **market-linked health fund** to meet **long-term medical and critical illness expenses**.
- It provides coverage for **over 60 critical illnesses** and is available for individuals aged **18 to 65 years**.
- The product includes a **30-year premium guarantee**, integrating **investment growth** with **healthcare financial planning**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Proposes Amendments to Securitised Debt Instruments Regulations to Align with Reserve Bank of India Securitisation Framework

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has proposed amendments to the **Securitised Debt Instruments (SDI) Regulations** to align them with the **Reserve Bank of**

India (RBI) guidelines on **securitisation of standard assets (SSA)**.

- The move aims to remove **regulatory inconsistencies** between SEBI and RBI frameworks, especially for transactions originated by **RBI-regulated entities**.
- **SEBI** has proposed allowing **single-asset securitisation** for RBI-regulated entities by **exempting** them from the condition that no **single obligor** should account for more than **25% of the asset pool**.

Scheduled Commercial Banks Report Strong Credit Growth of 15.9% in FY 2025–26 Driven by Robust Economic Activity and Credit Demand

- The **Financial Year 2025–26** ended with strong **year-on-year (y-o-y) non-food credit growth of 15.9%**, an increase of **497 basis points (bps)** from 10.9% in FY 2024–25.
- The **aggregate credit outstanding** in **March 2026** reached **₹212.9 lakh crore**, which is **₹29.2 lakh crore higher** than the previous year.
- **Agriculture and Allied Activities**: Credit growth accelerated to **15.7%**, up by **528 bps** from 10.4% last year, driven by **strong rural demand** and **formalisation of rural credit**.
- **Industrial Sector**: Credit expanded at **15.0%**, nearly **double** the previous year's 8.2% growth.
- **Micro and Small industries** recorded a sharp **33.1% growth** (3.7 times higher).

Asian Development Bank Unveils $70 Billion Plan to Link Asia's Energy and Digital Infrastructure Networks

- The **Asian Development Bank** launched a **USD 70 billion initiative** to expand **energy and digital infrastructure** across **Asia-Pacific by 2035**.
- The initiative was announced during the **59th Annual Meeting** held in **Samarkand, Uzbekistan**.
- The initiative includes **two major components**:
  - **USD 50 billion Pan-Asia Power Grid Initiative**
  - **USD 20 billion Asia-Pacific Digital Highway**

Reserve Bank of India Increases Domestic Gold Holdings by 104.23 Metric Tonnes in Six Months

- The **Reserve Bank of India** moved **104.23 metric tonnes (MT)** of its **gold reserves domestically** in the six months ended **March 2026**, reflecting a continued shift toward **domestic gold custody**.
- The **RBI's total gold holdings** increased marginally to **880.52 MT** in March 2026, from 880.18 MT in September 2025, as per the **half-yearly foreign exchange reserves report**.
- In **FY 2025–26**, the RBI brought a total of **168.06 MT of gold to India**, compared to 107.21 MT in 2023–24 and 103.68 MT in 2024–25, showing a **rising trend** in **domestic gold storage**.

India's Goods and Services Tax Revenue Hits Record ₹2.43 Lakh Crore in April, Grows 8.7% year-on-year

- According to government data, India's **gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue** reached a record **₹2.43 lakh crore** in **April**, marking an **8.7% year-on-year growth** over ₹2.23 lakh crore collected in April last year.
- **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** was introduced in **2017** through the **101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016**, as a comprehensive **indirect tax** for the entire country.
- **GST** has **three components**:
  - **CGST (Central GST)** collected by the **Centre**
  - **SGST/UTGST** collected by **States/Union Territories**
  - **IGST (Integrated GST)** for **inter-state supplies**, with revenue settlement to the **destination state**

Cabinet Approves Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS 5.0) to Support MSMEs and Businesses

- The **Union Cabinet** chaired by **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** has approved the Emergency **Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS 5.0)** to address **short-term liquidity challenges** arising due to the **West Asia crisis**.
- It offers **100% guarantee coverage for MSMEs** and **90% coverage for non-MSMEs** and the **airline sector** on defaulted credit amounts.
- **Eligible borrowers** include **MSMEs, non-MSMEs, and scheduled passenger airlines** having **standard loan accounts** as of **March 31, 2026**.
- The scheme provides **additional credit** up to **20% of peak working capital** (Q4 FY26) for **MSMEs/non-MSMEs**, capped at **₹100 crore**, and up to **100% (₹1,500 crore cap)** for **airlines**.

Department of Financial Services Approves Viability Plan 2.0 to Strengthen Regional Rural Banks

- The **Department of Financial Services** has approved **Viability Plan 2.0** for **Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)** to strengthen **financial stability**, **governance reforms**, and **operational efficiency**.
- The revised **Viability Plan 2.0** will be implemented for **three years (FY 2025–26 to FY 2027–28)** to ensure **continued oversight** and **long-term competitiveness**.
- The framework includes **30 performance parameters** based on **four key pillars**: **operational excellence, asset quality, profitability, and growth**.

National Stock Exchange of India Introduces Electronic Gold Receipts to Boost Transparency in Gold Trading

- **National Stock Exchange of India (NSE)** has launched the **Electronic Gold Receipts (EGR)** segment with approval from **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** to create a **transparent and efficient gold trading ecosystem**.
- The initiative aims to enhance **price discovery**, broaden **market participation**, and strengthen **investor confidence** in gold trading.
- **Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs)** are **dematerialised securities** backed by **physical gold** stored in **SEBI-approved vaults**, and are **traded electronically** on stock exchanges.

Asian Development Bank Launches Financing Partnership Facility to Strengthen Critical Mineral Supply Chains in Asia-Pacific

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has launched a new financing facility titled **"Critical Minerals-to-Manufacturing Financing Partnership Facility"** to strengthen **critical minerals supply chains** across **Asia and the Pacific region**.
- The initiative was announced during the **ADB 59th Annual Meeting (AM)** of the Board of Governors held in **Samarkand, Uzbekistan**.
- The **financing structure** includes **two key windows**:
- **Grant Window**: Provides funding for **feasibility studies**, **environmental and social assessments**, **technical assistance**, and **knowledge-sharing activities**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Introduces Fast-Track Approval System for Private Placement Memoranda of Alternative Investment Funds

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has introduced a **fast-track mechanism** for processing **Private Placement Memoranda (PPM)** of **Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)**.
- The new system enables **faster launch** of **AIF schemes**, while placing **greater responsibility** on **merchant bankers** and **AIF managers**.
- Under the **revised framework**, AIFs (excluding **Large Value Funds for Accredited Investors**) can launch schemes and circulate **PPMs 30 days after filing documents** with SEBI.

Jio Payments Bank Partners with Ezeepay as Business Correspondent to Boost Last-Mile Digital Banking in Rural and Semi-Urban India

- **Jio Payments Bank Limited (JBPL)**, a subsidiary of **Jio Financial Services Limited (JSFL)**, has

partnered with fintech platform **Ezeepay** as a **Business Correspondent (BC)** to strengthen **last-mile digital banking services** in rural and semi-urban India.

- Under this collaboration, **Ezeepay BC merchants** will offer **cash withdrawal** and **cash deposit services** using the **Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AEPS)**.
- The partnership also enables **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)-based cash withdrawal services**, in compliance with **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines**.

SBI Cards Sells ₹1,800 Crore Stressed Credit Card Pool to Integro Finserv

- **SBI Cards and Payment Services**, a listed subsidiary of **State Bank of India**, has sold a **stressed credit card receivables pool** worth around **₹1,800 crore** to **Integro Finserv**, a Mumbai-based NBFC.
- The transaction is aimed at **reducing non-performing assets (NPAs)** and **improving asset quality** amid rising **credit card delinquencies**.
- The company earlier executed a similar sale of **₹200 crore in 2022**, indicating a growing trend of **portfolio clean-up measures**.

Reserve Bank of India Issues Final Revised Lending Norms for Urban Co-operative Banks to Simplify Credit Rules and Strengthen Risk Management

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued **final revised lending norms** for **Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs)** to simplify **credit regulations** and strengthen **risk management**.
- The directions titled **Urban Co-operative Banks (Concentration Risk Management) – Amendment Directions, 2026** were issued under the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.

National Stock Exchange of India Crosses 13 Crore Registered Investors, Marking Strong Growth in Retail Participation

- The **National Stock Exchange of India** has crossed **13 crore unique registered investors**, with the latest **1 crore investors** added in just **7 months** (since September 2025).
- The NSE took **14 years** to reach its **first 1 crore investors** after commencement of operations, and an additional **11 years** to add the next **3 crore investors**, showing **accelerated retail participation** in recent years.
- The **total number of client codes** reached **25.7 crore** as of April 25, 2026, reflecting **strong growth** in **retail investor participation** and **market penetration**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Proposes Major Regulatory Reforms for Online Bond Platform Providers to Strengthen Retail Bond Market Ecosystem

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has proposed **major regulatory**

reforms for **w (OBPPs)** to strengthen India's **retail bond market ecosystem**.

- SEBI aims to allow **OBPPs** to offer a **wider range of debt securities**, including **government securities** and **listed debt instruments**, beyond current permitted products.
- The regulator has proposed permitting **OBPPs** to distribute **tax-saving bonds** under **Section 54EC** of the Income Tax Act as well as similar provisions in the **new Income-tax Act**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Forms 'Cyber-suraksha.ai' Task Force to Address AI-Driven Cybersecurity Threats in Financial Markets

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has constituted a dedicated task force named **"Cyber-suraksha.ai"** to assess **cybersecurity risks** arising from advanced **Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools** and strengthen **cyber resilience** in financial markets.
- The task force aims to evaluate threats from **AI-driven vulnerability identification tools** such as **Claude Mythos** and develop strategies to enhance **financial cybersecurity frameworks**.
- The **Cyber Suraksha AI task force** will include representatives from **Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs)**, **Qualified Registrar and Transfer Agents (QRTAs)**, **Regulated Entities (REs)**, and other key stakeholders.

S&P Global Cuts India's FY27 Gross Domestic Product Growth Forecast to 6.6%

- **S&P Global Market Intelligence** and **CRISIL Ratings Limited** jointly released a report titled **"India Forward – Emerging Perspectives"**, revising India's Gross Domestic Product **(GDP) growth forecast** for **FY27 downward by 50 basis points** to **6.6%** from **7.1%**.
- The revision is attributed to **disruptions in trade and energy supply chains** and **rising inflation** due to the ongoing **West Asia conflict**.
- For **FY26**, India's **GDP growth** is estimated at **7.6%**, reflecting strong near-term economic performance.

Retail Investors Turn to Reserve Bank of India Retail Direct Platform for Safer Investment and Better Returns

- **Retail investors** are increasingly shifting towards the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Retail Direct platform** in search of **safer and better investment returns** in government securities.
- The number of **Retail Direct Gilt (RDG) accounts** rose by around **64% year-on-year** to approximately **3.61 lakh accounts** (as of April 27, 2026), compared to **2.20 lakh accounts** in the previous year.
- The **RBI Retail Direct Scheme**, launched in **November 2021** (originally announced in February 2021), aims to improve **accessibility of government securities** for retail investors.

Bihar Cabinet Clears World Bank Loan of USD 500 Million for Urban Transformation and Infrastructure Development

- The **Bihar State Cabinet**, chaired by **Samrat Choudhary**, approved a **USD 500 million (₹4,750 crore)** loan from the **World Bank** for the **Bihar Urban Transformation Programme**.
- The programme aims to **strengthen urban governance**, improve **civic infrastructure**, enhance **public services**, and promote **sustainable urban development** across major cities and municipalities in Bihar.
- The **World Bank funding** will support **urban infrastructure upgrades**, municipal **capacity building**, **water supply improvements**, **sanitation projects**, and **planned urban expansion**.

Three Jan Suraksha Schemes (Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Atal Pension Yojana) complete 11 years of delivering social security cover

- The three **Jan Suraksha Schemes — Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)**, **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)** and **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)** — have completed **11 years of implementation**.
- The **Jan Suraksha Schemes** were launched on **9 May 2015** by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** to provide **affordable insurance and pension security** to citizens, especially the underserved and vulnerable sections of society.
- The three flagship schemes are **PMJJBY (life insurance)**, **PMSBY (accident insurance)**, and **APY (pension scheme)**, aimed at strengthening **financial inclusion**, **social security**, and **long-term financial resilience**.
- **PMJJBY** provides **life insurance cover** for death due to **any cause** at a premium of **less than ₹2 per day**, ensuring affordable protection.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Withdraws Investor Risk Reduction Access Platform for Stock Brokers

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has discontinued the **Investor Risk Reduction Access (IRRA)** platform for stock brokers with **immediate effect**.
- The **IRRA platform** was launched on **01 October 2023** to provide brokers with an **alternative trading access point** during disruptions in trading services.

Department of Financial Services Insurance Division Secures First Position in Group A Category of Grievance Redressal Assessment and Index Rankings for March 2026

- The **Department of Financial Services (DFS)** receives more than **2.5 lakh grievances**

annually and has consistently ranked among the **top 10 ministries/departments** in the **Grievance Redressal Assessment and Index (GRAI)** since **November 2025**, reflecting strong **administrative responsiveness**.

- In **March 2026**, the **Insurance Division** secured the **top position** in **Group A category** of GRAI, while the **Banking Division** retained **5th position** for the second consecutive month, indicating **sustained performance**.
- The **GRAI framework**, developed by the **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)**, evaluates ministries on **effectiveness and timeliness** of grievance redressal through the **Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS)**.

Ministry of Finance launches performance-based framework under Special Assistance for State Capital Investment scheme to promote fiscal discipline among states

- The **Ministry of Finance** has introduced a **performance-based framework** under the **Special Assistance for State Capital Investment (SASCI)** Scheme to reward states showing stronger **fiscal discipline**.
- States demonstrating **prudent debt management**, adherence to **borrowing schedules**, and complete disclosure of **off-budget liabilities** will receive priority access to a **₹3,000 crore incentive pool**.
- The new assessment framework gives **50% weightage to debt management**, **30% weightage to borrowing discipline**, and **20% weightage to fiscal transparency**.
- States are required to prepare a **Medium-Term Debt Strategy (MTDS)** in consultation with the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.

Reserve Bank of India and European Central Bank Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Strengthen Mutual Cooperation in Central Banking

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** Governor **Shri Sanjay Malhotra** and **European Central Bank (ECB)** President **Christine Lagarde** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to strengthen cooperation in the field of **central banking**.
- The **MoU** was signed on the sidelines of the **Bank for International Settlements (BIS)** meetings held in **Basel, Switzerland**.
- The newly signed **MoU** updates and **replaces the earlier RBI-ECB agreement** signed in **2015**.

Reserve Bank of India Imposes ₹31.80 Lakh Penalty on Yes Bank for Know Your Customer Non-Compliance

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a **monetary penalty of ₹31.80 lakh** on **Yes Bank Limited** for non-compliance with **Know Your Customer (KYC)**
- The penalty was imposed under the provisions of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949** following a **Statutory Inspection for Supervisory Evaluation (ISE)** based on the bank's financial position as of **March 31, 2025**.

Reserve Bank of India Makes Reporting of Offshore Rupee-Linked Derivative Transactions Mandatory for Banks

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has introduced a **new reporting framework** to strengthen monitoring of **offshore rupee-linked foreign exchange (FX) derivative transactions**.
- Under the revised framework, all **banks operating in India** are required to report **offshore foreign exchange derivative contracts** involving the **Indian Rupee (INR)** to the RBI.

Reserve Bank of India Levies ₹5 Lakh Penalty on Himachal Pradesh Gramin Bank for Regulatory Non-Compliance

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a **monetary penalty of ₹5 lakh** on **Himachal Pradesh Gramin Bank, Mandi** for violations related to **deposit regulations** and **statutory compliance**.
- The action was taken under powers conferred by **Section 47A(1)(c)** read with **Sections 46(4)(i) and 51(1)** of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.
- The violations involved contravention of **Section 26A** read with **Section 51(1)** of the Banking Regulation Act and non-compliance with **RBI directions on 'Interest Rate on Deposits'**.

Reserve Bank of India Releases Final 2026 Directions on Capital Charge for Credit Risk under Standardised Approach, Effective from April 2027

- The **Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS)** issued the final **Basel III framework** titled **"Basel III: Finalising post-crisis reforms"** in **December 2017** to ensure prudent and credible calculation of **Risk-Weighted Assets (RWAs)** for banks.
- The framework permits two major approaches for calculating risk-based capital requirements for credit risk: the **Standardised Approach (SA)** and the **Internal Ratings Based (IRB) Approach**.
- The revised RBI directions titled **"Capital Charge for Credit Risk – Standardised Approach"** will come into effect from **April 1, 2027**.

Public Sector Banks post record net profit of ₹1.98 lakh crore in FY26, extending profitability streak to fourth consecutive year

- **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)** recorded **strong financial performance** during **FY 2025–26**,

reflecting sustained business growth, **improved asset quality**, **record profitability**, and **strong capital position**.

- The **Gross NPA (Non-Performing Assets) ratio** of PSBs declined to **1.93%** as on **31 March 2026**, indicating **historically low stressed assets**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Revises Norms, Permits Use of Market Data for Educational Purposes with 30-Day Delay

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** revised rules to allow a **uniform 30-day time lag** for sharing and using **stock price data** for **educational and investor awareness activities**.
- The revised framework aims to maintain a balance between **preventing misuse of market data** and ensuring that **educational content** remains relevant and updated.
- The new rules will come into effect from **July 1, 2026**.

State Bank of India Research estimates India's Q4 FY26 Gross Domestic Product growth at 7.2%

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** released its latest **Ecowrap Research Report**, providing key projections on **India's economic growth outlook**.
- The report projects India's **real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth at 7.2% in Q4 (Jan–Mar)** Financial Year 2025-26 (FY26), slightly lower than the earlier estimate of **7.3%** (Feb 2026 projection).
- For the **full FY26**, India's **GDP growth is projected at 7.5%**, supported by **rural demand, fiscal stimulus, and urban consumption** despite global headwinds.
- For **FY27**, India's **real GDP growth is estimated at 6.6%**, mainly due to **global geopolitical uncertainties**.

Reserve Bank of India issues Master Direction on exchange of notes and coins under Banking Regulation Act, 1949

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has mandated all **bank branches** to provide **universal cash services** without discrimination.
- Branches must ensure facilities for:
- **Issuing fresh currency notes and coins**
- **Exchanging soiled, mutilated, and imperfect notes**
- **Accepting coins and small denomination notes** from the public
- All **banks and White Label ATM Operators (WLAOs)** must ensure **timely ATM cash replenishment** to prevent cash shortages and customer inconvenience.

- All **coins of ₹1, ₹2, ₹5, ₹10, and ₹20** remain **legal tender**.

Reserve Bank of India issues Second Amendment Directions on Credit Risk Management for Commercial Banks, 2026

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued amendments to the **"Commercial Banks – Asset Classification, Provisioning and Income Recognition Directions, 2026"** under **Section 35A** of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**, in public interest.
- **RBI** clarified that until banks fully adopt **internal country rating systems**, they may continue using the **seven-category country classification framework** of **Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC)**.

Delhi Metro Rail Corporation ties up with Airtel Payments Bank to launch RuPay 'On-The-Go' mobility cards

- **Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC)** has partnered with **Airtel Payments Bank** to launch **co-branded RuPay 'On-The-Go' National Common Mobility Cards (NCMC)** for seamless **digital payments** and **metro travel** across India.
- The initiative supports the **Government of India's vision** of **"One Nation, One Card"**, aimed at promoting **interoperability**, **cashless transactions**, and **commuter convenience**.
- The **co-branded cards** are issued in **two variants**: **Debit Cards** and **PPI-MTS (Prepaid Payment Instrument for Mass Transit Systems)**

India Post records ₹15,296 crore revenue in FY26, says Union Minister Scindia

- **India Post** has added more than **11,000 post offices** in the last four years, expanding its reach to nearly **90% rural geography**, strengthening its role as a **last-mile logistics partner**.
- The **total network** has reached **1,64,999 post offices**, making it one of the **largest postal networks** in the world.
- The Department achieved a **record revenue of ₹15,296 crore in FY26**, registering a strong **16% year-on-year growth**, marking a significant performance milestone.

Reserve Bank of India issues Master Direction on currency distribution incentives and penalties for banks and currency chests

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued a **Master Direction** on **incentives** for **currency distribution and exchange**, along with **penalties** for **deficiencies in customer service** and reporting by bank branches and currency chests.
- A **Scheme of penal interest and penalties** has been introduced to ensure **accurate and timely reporting** of **Currency Chest (CC)** transactions and improve **customer service delivery** through

banks, branches, and ATMs.

Government of India and International Fund for Agricultural Development launch eight-year Country Strategic Opportunities Programme 2026–2033 strategy to boost rural livelihoods and resilience

- The **Government of India** in partnership with the **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)** launched a new **Country Strategic Opportunities Programme (COSOP) 2026–2033** to enhance **rural incomes, resilience**, and **sustainable livelihood opportunities** across India.
- The new **8-year COSOP strategy** places strong emphasis on strengthening **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)**, **Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs)**, and **cooperatives** as key **grassroots institutions**.

Department of Financial Services Launches USD 1.5 Billion Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool Backed by USD 1.4 Billion Sovereign Guarantee Amid Middle East Tensions

- The **Department of Financial Services (DFS)** under the **Ministry of Finance** launched the **Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMIP)** with a size of **USD 1.5 billion** and a **sovereign guarantee of USD 1.4 billion (₹12,980 crore)** to ensure uninterrupted **maritime insurance coverage** amid global geopolitical tensions.
- The **BMIP** covers major **maritime risks** including **Hull & Machinery, Cargo, Protection and Indemnity (P&I), and War Risk** for **Indian-flagged or controlled vessels** and ships operating to or from India.
- The first **Marine Hull & Machinery War Policy** under **BMIP** was issued by **New India Assurance Company Limited** to **Hoger Offshore and Marine Private Limited** for protection against **War Perils** in high-risk maritime zones.

Securities Exchange Board of India proposes GARUDA Green-Channel mechanism to fast-track launch and approval of Alternative Investment Funds schemes in India

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has proposed a new regulatory framework called the **"Green-Channel: AIF Rollout Upon Document Acknowledgement (GARUDA) mechanism"** to speed up the launch process of **Alternative Investment Fund (AIF)** schemes in India.
- Under the proposed system, **Non-Accredited Investor AIF schemes** will be allowed to launch within **10 working days** of filing documents, compared to the current **30-day waiting period**, significantly reducing **approval timelines**.

Finance Ministry Designates Principal Bench of Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal as National Appellate Authority for Advance Rulings

- The **Ministry of Finance (MoF)** empowered the **Principal Bench** of the **Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT)**, New Delhi to function as the **National Appellate Authority for Advance Rulings (NAAAR)**.
- The notification came into effect from **April 1, 2026**, following the recommendation of the **GST Council** under **Section 101A(1A)** of the **CGST Act, 2017**.
- The **President of GSTAT** will act as the **Presiding Officer of NAAAR**.

Moody's Cuts India's Calendar Year 2026 Gross Domestic Product Growth Forecast to 6% in Latest Global Macro Outlook Update

- Moody's **Ratings** released its **Global Macro Outlook – May 2026 Update**, revising **India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast** for Calendar Year 2026 (CY26) downward by **80 basis points to 6%**, reflecting a weaker global and domestic economic outlook.
- The **downgrade** is driven by **weak private consumption**, **slower capital formation**, and **subdued industrial activity**, along with **elevated energy costs** impacting overall economic momentum.
- For **CY2027**, **Moody's** further reduced **India's growth projection** by **50 basis points to 6%**, indicating continued **moderation** in **medium-term growth expectations**.

CMS Info Systems secures ₹400 crore, five-year ATM services contract from HDFC Bank

- **CMS Info Systems** has secured a **₹400 crore contract** from **HDFC Bank** for managing around **6,000 ATMs** for a period of **five years**.
- The agreement is an **integrated ATM managed services outsourcing contract**, covering **currency forecasting, cash logistics**, and **AI-based operational solutions**.
- The company will deploy its **Vision AI-based monitoring solution "HAWKAI"**, aimed at improving **ATM uptime, security**, and **regulatory compliance**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India proposes new rules on use of Investor Protection Fund income by depositories

- **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has proposed allowing **depositories** to use up to **5% of the interest or income** earned from **Investor Protection Fund (IPF)** investments for **administrative and statutory expenses**.
- The permitted **administrative expenses** may include **salaries of IPF Trust employees**, **taxes**, **audit fees**, **Charity Commissioner fees**, and other **IPF-related operational**

costs.

Reserve Bank of India overhauls authorisation and renewal framework for forex dealers under Foreign Exchange Management (Authorised Persons) Regulations, 2026

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** introduced the **Foreign Exchange Management (Authorised Persons) Regulations, 2026** to rationalise **authorisation and renewal framework** for foreign exchange dealers.
- The regulations permit **AD Category-I** and **AD Category-II** entities to appoint **Forex Correspondents (FxCs)** under a **principal–agent model** for conducting money-changing operations.
- **Forex Correspondents (FxCs)** are allowed to:
    - **Buy and sell foreign currency notes, coins, and travellers' cheques**
    - Operate for **travel-related foreign exchange requirements**

CURRENT AFFAIRS: AWARDS AND HONOUR

Name of the Person / Organization	Name of the Award	Key Points
Parveen Shaikh	Whitley Award 2026	Awarded by Whitley Fund for Nature for conservation of Indian Skimmer; Presented at Royal Geographical Society by Princess Anne; Focus on community-led conservation
Indian Skimmer	(Context – Conservation Recognition)	Rare river bird with orange bill and skimming feeding; India hosts ~90% population (~3000); Threats: habitat loss, pollution, human disturbance
R. K. Anand & Suparna Sharma (with Natalie	Pulitzer Prize 2026 (Illustrated Reporting &	Award for project "trAPPed" on cyber fraud & surveillance;

Obiko Pearson)	Commentary)	Published in Bloomberg; Administered by Columbia University
Soma Mandal	Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Awards 2026 (South Asia Regional Winner)	Awarded by Cambridge University Press & Assessment; Contribution to climate change & environmental education
Droupadi Murmu	National Florence Nightingale Awards 2026	Presented on International Nurses Day at Rashtrapati Bhavan; Recognises nursing excellence; Includes Certificate, ₹1 lakh, Medal; Instituted by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

CURRENT AFFAIRS: APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Name of the Person	Appointed As	Succeeds
Parminder Singh	CEO, Reliance Enterprise Intelligence Limited	—
Bharat Khera	Secretary, Ministry of MSME	—
Ashutosh Gowariker	Festival Director, 57th IFFI	—
Vishvajit Sahay	Secretary (Defence Finance)	—
Rohit Jain	Deputy Governor, RBI	—
Anugraha Narayana Das	CGDA	—
Anupinder Singh Grewal	President, NCLT	—
R. Balasubramaniam & Joram Aniya	Full-Time Members, NITI Aayog	—

Prasoon Joshi	Chairman, Prasar Bharati	—
Ravi K.	CMD, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited	D.K. Sunil
R. Vijay Anandh	MD & CEO, City Union Bank	N. Kamakodi
Shashi Shekhar Vempati	Chairperson, CBFC	Prasoon Joshi
Kumar Mangalam Birla	Non-Executive Chairman, Vodafone Idea	Ravinder Takkar
Priyanka Mittal	Co-Chair, Saudi-India Business Council	—
Krishna Swaminathan	Chief of Naval Staff	Dinesh Kumar Tripathi
Suvendu Adhikari	Chief Minister, West Bengal	—
NS Raja Subramani	Chief of Defence Staff	Anil Chauhan
Laura Virginia Fernández Delgado	President, Costa Rica	Rodrigo Chaves Robles
A.K. Panda	CMD, Steel Authority of India Limited	Krishna Kumar Singh
Joseph Vijay	Chief Minister, Tamil Nadu	M. K. Stalin
Harvansh Chawla	Chairman, BRISEC CCI	—
Rumen Radev	Prime Minister, Bulgaria	Rosen Zhelyazkov

CURRENT AFFAIRS: MOUS AND AGREEMENT

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Partners with Sikkim to Document Ru-Soam Indigenous Engineering

- The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** has partnered with the **Government of Sikkim** to document the indigenous engineering practice of **Ru-Soam cane bridges** developed by the **Lepcha community** in the **Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve**.

- **Ru-Soam** refers to traditional **cane bridges**, where 'Ru' means cane and 'Soam' means bridge

Reform-Linked Memoranda of Understanding Signed with Uttarakhand, Karnataka and Tripura under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0

- The **Ministry of Jal Shakti** signed **reform-linked Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)** with the states of **Uttarakhand, Karnataka, and Tripura** under **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0**, following approval by the **Union Cabinet**.
- MoUs signed in presence of **C. R. Patil, Union Minister of Jal Shakti** and **V. Somanna, Minister of State**
- **Uttarakhand** achieved around **98 per cent Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs)** coverage (14.20 lakh out of 14.48 lakh households)

Dhash Defense Systems and IIT Ropar Defence Research and Innovation Foundation Sign Memorandum of Understanding for Indigenous Defence Mobility

- **Dhash Defense Systems Private Limited** (DDS) and **IIT Ropar Defence Research and Innovation Foundation** have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to strengthen **indigenous defence mobility capabilities**
- The partnership focuses on **advanced ground mobility systems**, including:
  - **Unmanned Ground Vehicles (UGVs)**
  - **Robotic Combat Vehicles (RCVs)**
  - **All-terrain and specialised mobility platforms**

Confederation of Indian Industry and National University of Singapore Sign Memorandum of Understanding for Artificial Intelligence Leadership Programme

- **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and National University of Singapore – Institute of Systems Science** (NUS-ISS) have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to enhance **digital leadership and governance in Artificial Intelligence (AI)**
- The MoU was exchanged at the **CII Annual Business Summit** in the presence of N. Chandrababu Naidu and Simon Wong
- Under the collaboration, both organisations will jointly deliver the **'Leadership Programme on Artificial Intelligence and Governance'**

D Y Patil International University Signs Memorandum of Understanding with Dassault Systèmes to Establish Digital Engineering Centre

- **D Y Patil International University** (DYPIU) has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding**

(MoU) with **Dassault Systèmes**

- The partnership aims to establish an **Advanced Digital Engineering and Digital Manufacturing Experience Centre** on campus
- It is among the **first such initiatives in Maharashtra** to create **industry-ready talent**

India and Vietnam Elevate Ties to Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership

- **To Lam, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Viet Nam and President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam**, visited India on the invitation of **Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India**.
- During the visit, both countries upgraded bilateral relations to an **Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** and signed **13 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)** to strengthen cooperation across strategic, economic, technological, cultural, and maritime sectors.
- **Vietnam joined the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)** for cooperation in maritime security and regional stability
- Agreement between **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and **State Bank of Vietnam (SBV)** for collaboration in **financial innovation and digital payment systems**

IndiaAI and Indian Council of Medical Research Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Advance Artificial Intelligence-Based Healthcare Innovation

- **IndiaAI**, the Government of India's flagship Artificial Intelligence initiative under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**, has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** to strengthen Artificial Intelligence-based healthcare innovation in India.
- Under the agreement, **ICMR will provide anonymised and ethics-approved biomedical datasets, Artificial Intelligence models, and toolkits** developed under its **Medical Information Data for Artificial Intelligence Solutions framework** to the **AIKosh platform**.

All India Football Federation and Department of Sports and Youth Services Sign Five-Year Memorandum of Understanding to Boost Youth Football Development

- **All India Football Federation and the Department of Sports and Youth Services**, Government **of Odisha**, have signed a **five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to expand their **elite youth football development partnership**
- The MoU was signed by **Vijay Yeddula and M. Satyanarayan in the presence of Syed Sabir Pasha**
- The partnership originally began in **November 2023** under the **All India Football Federation –**

Fédération Internationale de Football Association Talent Academy initiative, supported by the **Fédération Internationale de Football Association Talent Development Scheme**

CURRENT AFFAIRS: RANKING AND INDEX

India Ranked 157th in World Press Freedom Index 2026

- **India has been** ranked **157th out of 180 countries** in the **World Press Freedom Index 2026** released by **Reporters Without Borders**.
- The report indicates that **global press freedom has reached its lowest level in 25 years**, with more than **50 per cent of countries falling under 'difficult' or 'very serious' categories**.
- **India's rank (157)** reflects **declining press freedom conditions** over the years

Rankings (World Press Freedom Index 2026):

Country	Rank
Norway	1
Netherlands	2
Estonia	3

Worst Performing Countries:

Country	Rank
Azerbaijan	171
Russia	172
Turkmenistan	173

India Remains World's Top Remittance Recipient in 2024: World Migration Report 2026

- According to the **World Migration Report 2026** released by the **International Organization for Migration (IOM)**, India remained the **largest remittance recipient country in the world in 2024**, receiving more than **137 billion United States Dollars (USD)**.
- India has remained the **top remittance recipient country globally since 2010**
- Remittance inflows to India increased from:
    - **USD 53.48 billion (2010)**
    - **USD 68.91 billion (2015)**

- Other top remittance recipient countries in 2024:
  - **Mexico**
  - **Philippines**
  - **France**

CURRENT AFFAIRS: SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu lay foundation stone for Google Cloud AI Hub in Visakhapatnam

- **Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw** (Ministry of Information & Broadcasting(MIB) and Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology(MeitY)) along with **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu** laid the **foundation stone** for the **Google Cloud India Artificial Intelligence (AI) Hub** in **Tarluvada, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**.
- The project is valued at **USD 15 billion (₹1.35 lakh crore)** and is recognised as the **largest single Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** project in India.
- The project is managed by **Google's subsidiary Raiden Infotech India Private Limited**, in strategic collaboration with **AdaniConneX** (a Joint Venture between **Adani Enterprises** and **EdgeConneX**) and **Nxtra by Airtel**.

China National Space Administration Launches Pakistan's PRSC-EO3 Satellite Using Long March-6

- The **China National Space Administration (CNSA)** successfully launched **Pakistan's PRSC-EO3 (**Pakistan Remote Sensing Satellite–Earth Observation-3) **satellite** aboard a **Long March-6 rocket** from the **Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center**, placing it into its designated orbit.
- The launch marks the **640th mission** of China's **Long March rocket series**, highlighting China's advancement in **space launch capabilities**.
- **PRSC-EO3** (**Pakistan Remote Sensing Satellite–Earth Observation-3**) is an **Electro-Optical (EO)** Earth Observation satellite developed **indigenously by SUPARCO** as part of Pakistan's **Earth Observation (EO) satellite constellation**.

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy Flags Off Vikram-1, India's First Privately Built Orbital Rocket Developed by Skyroot Aerospace

- **A. Revanth Reddy**, Chief Minister of Telangana, flagged off the **flight hardware** of **Vikram-1**, India's **first privately built orbital rocket**, developed by **Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited**.
- The hardware was flagged off from the **Max-Q campus** in **Hyderabad, Telangana** to the **Satish**

Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), **Sriharikota** (Andhra Pradesh) for integration.

- The rocket is a **multi-stage launch vehicle** designed to carry payloads of up to **350 kg** into **Low Earth Orbit (LEO)**, located between 160 km and 2,000 km above Earth.

Inauguration of Coastal Atmospheric Research Testbed (C-ART) Open-Field Observatory at Andhra University, Visakhapatnam

- The **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)**, an autonomous institute under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**, Government of India, has established a **Coastal Atmospheric Research Testbed (C-ART)** at **Andhra University (AU)**, **Visakhapatnam**.
- The **Open-Field Observatory of C-ART** was inaugurated on **1 May 2026** by **M. Ravichandran**, Secretary, MoES, in the presence of **Prof. G. P. Raja Sekhar** (Vice Chancellor, AU) and **Dr. Suryachandra Rao** (Director, IITM).

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology Launches Indigenous Silicon Photonics Solutions at CoE-CPPICS, IIT Madras, Chennai

- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** has launched two **indigenously developed Silicon Photonics technology solutions** at the **Centre of Excellence for Programmable Photonic Integrated Circuits and Systems (CoE-CPPICS)**, **IIT Madras**, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- The two solutions are the **Silicon Photonics Process Design Kit (PDK)** and the **Universal Programmable Photonic Integrated Circuit (PPIC) Test Engine**.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited Clears Joint Venture with Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited and ONGC Petro additions Limited to Streamline Petrochemical Marketing Operations

- **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC)**, under the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG)**, has approved the formation of a **Joint Venture (JV)** for **integrated petrochemicals marketing and trading**.
- The proposal is subject to approval from the **Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM)** under the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**.
- The **shareholding structure** of the JV includes **ONGC (50% – ₹25 crore)**, **MRPL (25% – ₹12.5 crore)**, and **OPaL (25% – to be confirmed)**.

India Successfully Conducts Second Test of Long-Range Hypersonic Anti-Ship Missile with 1,500 km Range and Mach 10 Speed

- **India** has successfully conducted the **second flight test** of a **Long-Range Hypersonic Anti-Ship**

Missile (LR-AShM) developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.

- The test was carried out off the **Odisha coast**, marking a major boost to **maritime defence capability**.
- The missile has a **strike range of over 1,500 km** and can achieve speeds of up to **Mach 10**, making it one of the **fastest weapons** in India's arsenal.

Sigma Advanced Systems Inks ₹3,800 Crore Agreement with Rolls-Royce to Supply Aerospace Components

- **Sigma Advanced Systems Limited (SIGD)**, an Indian aerospace and defence company, has signed a **7-year long-term agreement** worth **₹3,800 crore (~300 million pounds)** with **Rolls-Royce (UK)**.
- The agreement focuses on the **manufacturing and supply** of **high-precision, safety-critical aerospace components** for global aerospace programmes of Rolls-Royce.
- The scope includes **aerospace components, assemblies, engine parts, and aerostructure components**, ensuring high-quality and safety standards.

Indian Council of Medical Research Develops Priority Pathogen List for Syndromic Surveillance in India

- The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has developed a **Priority Pathogen List** for **Syndromic Surveillance** in India.
- The list was released by the **Division of Communicable Diseases** on **17 November 2025** for **infectious disease monitoring**, **diagnostic standardisation**, and **outbreak detection**.

India's Defence Production Hits ₹1.54 Lakh Crore with 174% Growth, Defence Exports Rise to ₹23,622 Crore with 34-Fold Increase in a Decade: Dr. Jitendra Singh

- **Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh** stated that India has entered a **decisive phase** in its **defence transformation**, driven by **technology**, **indigenous innovation**, and **private sector participation**.
- **Defence production** has reached **₹1.54 lakh crore**, registering a **174% increase** over the last decade.
- **Defence exports** have risen to **₹23,622 crore**, showing a **34-fold increase** in ten years.
- The **North Tech Symposium 2026** is themed **"Raksha Triveni Sangam – Where Technology, Industry and Soldiering Converge"**.

SpaceX Launches Falcon 9 Carrying South Korea's CAS500-2 Satellite and 45 Rideshare

Payloads from California

- **SpaceX** successfully launched a **Falcon 9 rocket** from Space Launch Complex 4 East (SLC-4E) at Vandenberg Space Force Base in **California**, United States of America (**USA**).
- The mission deployed **Republic of Korea's CAS500-2 Earth observation satellite** into a **Sun-synchronous orbit (SSO)**.
- **CAS500-2** is a **534 kg high-resolution Earth observation satellite**, developed by **Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI)** and **Korea Aerospace Industries (KAI)**.

Technology Development Board-Department of Science & Technology Backs NTF Energy Solutions for Commercial Production of Indigenous Type-IV CNG Cylinders to Promote Clean Mobility

- The **Technology Development Board** under the **Department of Science and Technology** signed an agreement with **NTF Energy Solutions Private Limited** for establishing a manufacturing facility for **Type-IV Composite CNG Cylinders**.
- The project focuses on the **commercialization** of indigenously developed **Type-IV CNG cylinders** using advanced technologies such as **filament winding, blow moulding, and high-pressure testing**.
- **Type-IV composite cylinders** are next-generation alternatives to traditional steel cylinders and provide up to **75% weight reduction**, improving **vehicle efficiency and fuel economy**.

Indian Startups Pixxel and Sarvam AI Partner to Launch Space-Based AI Data Centre Satellite

- **Spacetech startup Pixxel** partnered with **Sarvam AI** to develop India's first **orbital data centre satellite**, named **Pathfinder**.
- Under the partnership, **Pixxel** will design, build, launch, and operate the satellite, while **Sarvam AI** will provide the **AI backbone** and **full-stack language models** for **in-orbit AI processing**.
- The **200 kg-class Pathfinder satellite** is scheduled for launch in the **fourth quarter of 2026**.

Unique Identification Authority of India and National Forensic Sciences University Sign 5-Year Memorandum of Understanding to Strengthen Cybersecurity and Digital Forensics Ecosystem

- The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** signed a **5-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU)** to strengthen India's **cybersecurity** and **digital forensic ecosystem** for **Aadhaar infrastructure**.
- The MoU was signed between **Vivek Chandra Verma,** Chief Executive Officer(CEO) of UIDAI and Dr. S.O. Junare, Director of NFSU, Gujarat Campus, in New Delhi, Delhi.

O.P. Jindal Global University becomes the first Indian Institute of Eminence to secure Data Science Council of America accreditation

- **P. Jindal Global University (JGU)**, Sonipat, Haryana, has become India's first **Institute of Eminence (IoE)** to receive accreditation from the **Data Science Council of America (DASCA)**.
- The accreditation was awarded under the **World Data Sciences & AI Initiative (WDSAI)**, a global initiative led by DASCA to help universities adopt **internationally benchmarked** AI and data science standards.

CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum Observes Rashtriya Boudhik Sampada Mahotsav 2026 to Enhance IP Awareness in India

- **CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum** celebrated **Rashtriya Boudhik Sampada Mahotsav (RBSM) 2026** on **8 May 2026** to promote **Intellectual Property (IP) awareness** in India.
- **RBSM** is part of the **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav** initiative and was first launched in **July 2023**.
- The programme began with **lamp lighting** and **Saraswati Vandana**, followed by opening remarks from **Dr. D V Naik**, In-charge of **IPMG, CSIR-IIP**.

Pixxel wins United States National Reconnaissance Office contract for hyperspectral remote sensing development

- Indian space technology company **Pixxel** has secured a major contract from the **National Reconnaissance Office (NRO)**, United States under the **Commercial Systems Program Office (CSPO)** to develop advanced **hyperspectral remote sensing**
- The contract is part of the **Strategic Commercial Enhancements Commercial Solutions Opening (CSO)** programme, aimed at integrating commercial hyperspectral data into **US national intelligence** and **Earth observation systems** for defence and security applications.
- The project will utilise Pixxel's **Firefly satellite constellation**, which consists of **six hyperspectral satellites** launched in **2025**, to demonstrate **high-resolution global imaging**

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh Says India Advancing Rapidly in Quantum, AI and Emerging Technologies with Youth Key to Viksit Bharat 2047

- **Jitendra Singh**, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for **Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, PMO, Atomic Energy and Space**, inaugurated the **"Lakshya 2047" Centre for Future Skills**, **Cadaveric Centre**, and **Advanced Medical Simulation** facilities at **Parul University**.
- **Dr.Jitendra Singh** stated that India is progressing rapidly in **Quantum Technology**, **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**, **Semiconductors**, **Cybersecurity**, and **Deep-Tech** sectors.
- The **Lakshya 2047 Centre** has been developed in collaboration with **National Skill Development**

Corporation (NSDC), **Ethnotech**, and **Cambridge University Press & Assessment**.

Dr Jitendra Singh Reviews Department of Science & Technology-Supported Interdisciplinary Facility "SATHI" at BHU, Varanasi

- **Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh** visited **Banaras Hindu University (BHU)** and reviewed the **Sophisticated Analytical & Technical Help Institute (SATHI)** established with support from the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)**, Government of India.
- **DST** is expanding **scientific infrastructure** and research support systems across universities and higher educational institutions to **democratise access** to advanced technology, innovation, and research facilities in India.

CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine Jammu and Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Strengthen Startup Ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir

- The **CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM)**, Jammu, through its **Technology Business Incubator (IIIM-TBI)**, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI)** to strengthen the **startup ecosystem** in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The MoU aims to promote **entrepreneurship**, **innovation**, **skill development**, and **startup incubation** by leveraging the strengths of both institutions.

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh Inaugurates Buyer–Seller Meet at CSIR Innovation Complex, Mumbai

- **Jitendra Singh**, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for **Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space**, inaugurated a **Buyer–Seller Meet** organized by **CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM)** at CSIR Innovation Complex, Mumbai as a prelude to **Lavender Festival 2026**.
- The **Aroma Industry–Farmer Meet** brought together aroma and perfumery industries, scientists, startups, entrepreneurs, and **lavender farmers**, especially from the **Bhaderwah region** of Jammu & Kashmir.

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh reviews preparations for Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar campaign and India International Science Festival, stresses coordination and public participation

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for **Science & Technology and Earth Sciences Jitendra Singh** chaired a high-level review meeting on preparations for the **"Swachh Sagar,**

Surakshit Sagar (SSSS)" campaign and the upcoming **India International Science Festival**, emphasizing **coordination and public participation**.

- The **Swachh Sagar Surakshit Sagar 2026** edition will be conducted from **12–19 September 2026**, culminating on **International Coastal Cleanup Day**, as a **nationwide coastal cleanliness movement**.

Bureau of Indian Standards hosts international meeting on space systems standards in New Delhi for ISO/TC 20/SC 14 for the first time in India

- The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** under the **Department of Consumer Affairs**, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution organised the **35th Plenary and Working Group meetings** of **ISO/TC 20/SC 14 (Space Systems and Operations)** for the **first time in India**.
- The event was held at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi (Delhi)** from **May 4–8, 2026**.
- Around **131 international delegates** from **13 countries** participated, including representatives from **National Standards Bodies, ISRO, space agencies, industry, and academia**.

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research marks National Technology Day with transfer of 13 indigenous CSIR-Central Building Research Institute technologies to industries

- **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** organised its monthly **Technology Transfer Event** at **CSIR Headquarters, New Delhi** on the occasion of **National Technology Day**.
- The programme focused on **Technology Transfers** by **CSIR-Central Building Research Institute (CSIR-CBRI), Roorkee**.
- During the event, **13 indigenous technologies** developed by **CSIR-CBRI** were formally transferred to **industries and start-ups**.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh announces India Meteorological Department AI-enabled systems for hyper-local weather forecasting

- **Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh** launched two advanced **AI-driven weather forecast products** under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)** to provide **hyper-local, impact-based and decision-support** weather services.
- The products were developed jointly by the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**, **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune**, and **National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF)**.
- The first product is an **AI-enabled "Forecast of Monsoon Advance over Different Parts of the Country"**, which provides **probabilistic monsoon forecasts** up to **4 weeks in advance**.

Indian Army inducts indigenous ULPGM and AGNIKAA VTOL-1 kamikaze drone systems developed by Adani Defence

- The **Indian Army (IA)** inducted two **indigenous combat systems** under the **Emergency Procurement-6 (EP-6)** programme — the **UAV-Launched Precision Guided Munition (ULPGM)** and **AGNIKAA VTOL-1 First-Person View (FPV) Kamikaze Drone** — from **Adani Defence & Aerospace Limited** in **Hyderabad, Telangana**.
- The induction took place after successful **high-altitude**, **Electronic Warfare (EW)**, and **precision-strike trials** conducted in the presence of officials from the **Western Command** of the Indian Army.
- The **ULPGM** was jointly developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** under the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** and **Adani Defence & Aerospace Limited**.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Psyche spacecraft captures rare crescent view of Mars during flyby

- **The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Psyche Mission** captured a rare image of **Mars** appearing as a **thin glowing crescent** during its deep-space journey.
- The spacecraft is not travelling to Mars but is using the planet's gravity for a **"gravity assist" manoeuvre** to **increase speed** and **save fuel** on its journey toward the **metal-rich asteroid Psyche**.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: DEFENCE NEWS

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited Enters Technology Transfer Pact with Defence Research and Development Organisation's Naval Science and Technological Laboratory for Gas Turbine Infrared Suppression System for Naval Vessels

- **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)** has signed a **Licensing Agreement for Transfer of Technology (LAToT)** with **Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO) Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL)**, marking a **key step** in **indigenous defence technology development**.
- The agreement relates to the **Gas Turbine–Infrared Suppression System (GT-IRSS)** used in **naval vessels**, aimed at enhancing **stealth and survivability** of warships.
- The **GT-IRSS technology**, developed by **NSTL** for **LM2500 gas turbines**, reduces the **infrared signature** of ships by **cooling exhaust gases** and **shielding heat emissions**, improving **naval stealth capability**.

Indian Navy Receives Indigenous Project 17A Advanced Stealth Frigate 'Mahendragiri'

- **Mahendragiri (Yard 12654)**, the **sixth ship** of **Nilgiri-class (Project 17A)** and the **fourth ship** built at **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDSL)**, was delivered to the **Indian Navy** in **Mumbai**.
- The delivery marks a **major milestone** in achieving **self-reliance (Aatmanirbharta)** in **warship design and construction**.
- **Project 17A frigates** are **multi-mission stealth warships** designed to address current and emerging **maritime challenges**.

Indian Army Contingent Leaves for India–Cambodia Bilateral Military Exercise CINBAX-II 2026

- The **Indian Army contingent** has departed for the **2nd edition** of **India–Cambodia Bilateral Military Exercise CINBAX-II 2026**, a joint **India–Cambodia Army Exercise**.
- The exercise will be conducted from **04 to 17 May 2026** at the **Techo Sen Phnom Thom Mreas Prov Royal Cambodian Air Force Training Centre (Camp Basil)**, **Kampong Speu Province, Cambodia**.
- **CINBAX-II 2026** is conducted under the framework of **Chapter VII of the United Nations (UN) Mandate**, focusing on **company-level joint training** in a **sub-conventional operational environment**.

Defence Research and Development Organisation and Indian Navy Achieve First-Ever Salvo Launch of Naval Anti-Ship Missile–Short Range

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** in collaboration with the **Indian Navy (IN)** successfully conducted the **maiden salvo launch** of the **Naval Anti-Ship Missile–Short Range (NASM-SR)**.
- The test was carried out from a **naval helicopter platform** off the coast of the **Bay of Bengal** in **Odisha**.
- During the trial, **two missiles** were launched in **quick succession** from the same helicopter, marking the **first-ever salvo launch** of an advanced **air-launched anti-ship missile system**.

Hon'ble President of India,Smt. Droupadi Murmu Visits Army Training Command (ARTRAC) Headquarters in Shimla

- The Hon'ble **President of India** and **Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces**, **Droupadi Murmu**, visited the **Headquarters of Army Training Command (ARTRAC)**, **Shimla**.
- She was received by the Hon'ble **Governor of Himachal Pradesh Shri Kavinder Gupta** and **Lieutenant General Devendra Sharma**, **GOC-in-C, ARTRAC**.

- The President was briefed on the **evolution of ARTRAC** and its key role in providing **quality training** to **Indian Army personnel** to enhance **operational efficiency**.

IG Defence Unveils Indigenous Weapon Systems KAL and JWALA at North Tech Symposium 2026 in Prayagraj

- **IG Defence** unveiled two **indigenous defence systems—KAL** and **JWALA**—at the **North Tech Symposium 2026** held in **Prayagraj**.
- The **KAL drone** is India's first **long-range one-way attack drone**, designed for **deep-penetration missions** with a strike range of up to **1,000 km**.
- The **JWALA missile system** is a **short-range, rapid-response weapon platform** with **surface-to-air** and **surface-to-surface capability**.

Visit of Royal Netherlands Navy Deputy Commander and HNLMS De Ruyter to Kochi Strengthens Maritime Cooperation

- The **Royal Netherlands Navy** ship **HNLMS De Ruyter (F804)**, a **De Zeven Provinciën-class frigate**, arrived at **Kochi**, marking an important step in **India–Netherlands maritime cooperation**.
- The visit is part of a **five-month Indo-Pacific deployment**, during which the ship will participate in **maritime exercises** with partner nations to enhance **regional naval cooperation** and **interoperability**.
- The ship was escorted by **Indian Navy Fast Interceptor Craft** and received a **ceremonial welcome**, reflecting strong **naval diplomacy** and goodwill.

Indian Ocean Ship Sagar Arrives at Yangon Harbour in Myanmar to Strengthen Maritime Cooperation

- The **Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) Sagar – INS Sunayna** entered **Yangon Harbour** as part of India's **maritime outreach** and **regional engagement**.
- The visit coincided with the presence of **Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) Adm Dinesh K. Tripathi**, highlighting strengthened **India–Myanmar naval cooperation**.
- The deployment aligns with India's **MAHASAGAR vision** (**Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security Across Regions**), focusing on **maritime security** and **regional cooperation** in the Indian Ocean Region.

Ministry of Defence Signs ₹1,476 Crore Contract with Bharat Electronics Limited for Ground-Based Mobile Electronic Systems for Indian Army

- The **Ministry of Defence** signed a contract worth **₹1,476 crore** with **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Hyderabad** for procurement of five **Ground-Based Mobile Electronic Systems** for

the **Indian Army**.

- The agreement includes a minimum of **72% indigenous content**, strengthening the **Atmanirbhar Bharat** initiative in the defence sector.
- The contract was signed in the presence of **Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh** at **Kartavya Bhawan-2, New Delhi**.

Defence Research and Development Organisation Launches Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Field Training and Demonstration Centre at Burari Plains, Delhi

- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** inaugurated the **Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Field Training and Demonstration Centre** at **Burari Plains, Delhi**.
- The facility is part of the upcoming **CBRN Centre of Excellence** under the **Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS)**.

Second Edition of Joint Commanders' Conference on "Military Capability in New Domains" to be held in Jaipur, Rajasthan

- The **Second Edition** of the **Joint Commanders' Conference** will be held in **Jaipur, Rajasthan** on **May 07–08, 2026**, focusing on the theme **"Military Capability in New Domains"**.
- The conference will be attended by **Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh** and **Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan**, marking a key **strategic defence engagement**.
- The event coincides with the **first anniversary** of **Operation Sindoor**, a **Tri-Services operation** symbolising India's political resolve and **precision-based military capability**.

India–Algeria Joint Commission Holds First Meeting in New Delhi, Agrees to Expand Defence Cooperation

- The **inaugural Joint Commission meeting** between **India and Algeria** was held in **New Delhi**, marking a significant step in strengthening **bilateral defence cooperation**.
- The meeting focused on **key areas of collaboration** such as **training, military exercises, medical cooperation, and defence industries**.
- The two countries signed the **Rules of Procedure**, which will act as a **guiding framework** for implementing **India–Algeria defence cooperation** through Joint Commission meetings.

Indian Navy Sail Training Ship INS Sudarshini Arrives at Mindelo Port in Cape Verde

- The **Indian Navy Sail Training Ship INS Sudarshini** entered the **Port of Mindelo**, marking its **eighth port call** during the ongoing voyage.

- The visit is part of the **Lokayan-26 transoceanic training voyage**, flagged off on **20 January 2026**, and represents the **final African stopover** before the ship's **trans-Atlantic journey** to the **Caribbean**.
- During the port call, the **Commanding Officer** of **INS Sudarshini** will engage with **maritime authorities of Cape Verde** to strengthen **naval cooperation** and **bilateral relations**.

Defence Research and Development Organisation and Indian Air Force Successfully Carry Out Maiden Flight Trial of Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation Weapon System

- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** successfully conducted the **maiden flight-trial** of the **Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation (TARA)** weapon on **07 May 2026** off the coast of **Odisha**.
- **TARA** is India's **first indigenous glide weapon system** designed to convert **unguided warheads** into **precision-guided weapons**.
- The system has been **designed and developed** by **Research Centre Imarat (RCI Hyderabad)** along with other **DRDO laboratories**.

India's First International Ophthalmology Research Conference to be Inaugurated by Raksha Rajya Mantri in New Delhi

- The **Department of Ophthalmology, Army Hospital (Research & Referral), New Delhi**, in collaboration with the **All India Ophthalmological Society**, will host **India's first International Ophthalmology Research Conference** on **09–10 May 2026** at the **Manekshaw Centre**.
- The two-day conference is titled **AIOS-AFOU 2026** (**All-India Ophthalmological Society – Armed Forces Ophthalmology Update 2026**).
- The event will be inaugurated by **Sanjay Seth** (**Raksha Rajya Mantri**).

Indian Institute of Technology Madras Establishes First International Centre in USA to Strengthen Deep-Tech Innovation and Startups

- The **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) Global Research Foundation** has announced its **first international centre** in **Menlo Park**, expanding India's **deep-tech innovation** presence into global ecosystems.
- The announcement was made during the **SelectUSA Investment Summit** held at National Harbor, United States.
- The **IITM Centre** is designed to act as a **launchpad for Indian deep-tech startups**, enabling access to **global capital, markets, mentorship,** and **strategic partnerships**.

Skyroot Aerospace Becomes India's First Space-Tech Unicorn After Raising USD 60 Million

- **Skyroot Aerospace**, a private Indian space launch startup, has become **India's first space-tech unicorn** after raising **USD 60 million (₹570 crore)**.
- With this funding, the company's **valuation** has reached **USD 1.1 billion**, nearly double its 2023 valuation of USD 550 million.
- The startup's **total funding** has now crossed **USD 160 million (₹1,500 crore)**, marking a major milestone in **India's private space sector growth**.

ICGS Achal, Adamya-class Fast Patrol Vessel, commissioned into Indian Coast Guard at Goa Shipyard Limited

- The **ICGS Achal**, the latest **Adamya-class Fast Patrol Vessel**, was commissioned into the **Indian Coast Guard** at **Goa Shipyard Limited**, marking a major boost to India's **maritime operational capability**.
- The ship is named **"Achal" (meaning "firm")**, symbolizing the Indian Coast Guard's **steadfast commitment** to maritime security, coastal protection, and safeguarding national interests.

Defence Research and Development Organisation successfully conducts long-duration test of Actively Cooled Full Scale Scramjet Combustor for Hypersonic Missile technology

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** achieved a major breakthrough in **Hypersonic Missile technology** through a successful long-duration test of the **Actively Cooled Full Scale Scramjet Combustor**.
- The test was conducted by the **Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL)** at the **Scramjet Connect Pipe Test (SCPT) Facility**, Hyderabad, on **09 May 2026**.
- During the test, the **Scramjet Combustor** achieved a run-time of **over 1,200 seconds**, surpassing the earlier successful test of 700 seconds conducted in January 2026.

Steel Cutting Ceremony Held for Indian Navy's Fifth Fleet Support Ship at Hindustan Shipyard Limited Visakhapatnam

- The **'Steel Cutting' Ceremony** of the **5th and final Fleet Support Ship (FSS)** was held at **Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL),Visakhapatnam**.
- The **Indian Navy** had signed a contract with **HSL** in **August 2023** for the acquisition of **five Fleet Support Ships (FSS)**.
- **Delivery** of the Fleet Support Ships is scheduled to commence from **mid-2027**.
- The **Fleet Support Ships** will strengthen the **Blue Water capabilities** of the Indian Navy by enabling **replenishment of fleet ships at sea**.

India and Australia Hold 10th Defence Policy Talks in New Delhi

- The **10th edition** of **Defence Policy Talks** between **India and Australia** was held in **New Delhi**.
- The **Indian delegation** was led by **Amitabh Prasad**, while the **Australian delegation** was headed by **Bernard Philip**.
- The establishment of the annual **India-Australia Defence Ministers' Dialogue in 2025** was highlighted as a major step in strengthening **defence consultations** and **mutual trust**.

Indian Air Force Conducts 88-Hour "Operation Sindoor" Commemorative Run from May 7 to 10, 2026

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** conducted the **"Op Sindoor Commemorative Run"** for **88 hours** from **07 May to 10 May 2026** in **New Delhi**.
- The event commemorated the **first anniversary** of the **88-hour successful air operations** carried out by the **IAF**, showcasing its capability to deliver **decisive and precise strikes**.

India successfully tests advanced Agni missile with Multiple Independently Targeted Re-Entry Vehicle system

- India successfully conducted the **flight-trial** of an advanced **Agni missile** equipped with **Multiple Independently Targeted Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology** from **Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha**.
- The missile was tested with **multiple payloads**, each capable of **striking different targets** spread across a large geographical area in the **Indian Ocean Region**.

Indian Air Force Maintenance Command and Centre for Airpower and Strategic Studies Organise Joint Aerospace Power Seminar in Nagpur

- **Headquarters Maintenance Command** of the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**, in collaboration with the **Centre for Airpower and Strategic Studies (CAPSS)**, organised a one-day **Joint Aerospace Power Seminar** at **Nagpur**.
- The seminar was conducted on the theme **"Efficient Maintenance and Atmanirbharta Enablers of Airpower"**, focusing on **maintenance efficiency** and **self-reliance** in strengthening India's **aerospace capability**.
- The event brought together **senior military leaders, domain experts, strategic thinkers**, and **operational stakeholders** to discuss the role of **maintenance systems** in enhancing **operational readiness** and **national security**.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited Acquires 51% Controlling Stake in Colombo Dockyard PLC in First Overseas Expansion

- **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)** has acquired a **controlling 51% stake** in **Colombo Dockyard PLC (CDPLC)**, marking its **first international acquisition**.
- The deal, valued at **₹249.5 crore**, makes **Sri Lanka's largest shipyard** a subsidiary of MDL.

Federal Bank to Acquire 4.5 Lakh Credit Card Portfolio from Standard Chartered Bank India

- **Federal Bank** is set to acquire a select **credit card portfolio** from **Standard Chartered Bank India** comprising around **4.5 lakh credit cards**.
- The portfolio has an estimated **outstanding value of ₹1,500 crore** and is valued at **1.5–1.6 times implied equity**.
- The acquisition will increase **Federal Bank's non-co-branded credit card receivables** by nearly **90%**, strengthening its existing base of **8 lakh non-co-branded cards** and **13 lakh co-branded cards**.

Lakshmi N Mittal Family, Aditya Mittal and Adar Poonawalla to Acquire Stake in Rajasthan Royals

- A consortium led by steel magnate **Lakshmi N. Mittal's family**, along with **Serum Institute of India CEO Adar Poonawalla**, has signed a definitive agreement to acquire the **IPL franchise Rajasthan Royals** at a valuation of about **$1.65 billion**.
- After completion, the **Mittal family** will hold around **75% stake**, while **Adar Poonawalla** will hold about **18%** in the franchise.
- The remaining **7% stake** will remain with existing investors, including **Manoj Badale**, who will continue his association with the team.

Kotak Mahindra Bank gets Reserve Bank of India approval to acquire up to 9.99% stake each in AU Small Finance Bank and Federal Bank

- **Kotak Mahindra Bank** has received approval from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to acquire up to **99% stake (each)** in **AU Small Finance Bank** and **Federal Bank**, marking a key development in India's **banking sector consolidation**.
- The approval allows **Kotak Mahindra Bank**, along with its subsidiaries and managed funds (**Kotak Mahindra Group**), to collectively hold up to **99% shareholding/voting rights** in both banks.
- The permission is subject to compliance with the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**, **RBI Commercial Banks (Acquisition and Holding of Shares or Voting Rights Directions, 2025)**,

and **FEMA, 1999** regulations, along with other applicable rules.

Fairfax India to Invest ₹2,000 Crore in IIFL Capital Services

- **Fairfax India Holdings Corporation**, led by billionaire investor **Prem Watsa**, plans to increase its stake in **IIFL Capital Services** to **at least 51%** through a **₹2,000 crore capital infusion**.
- Currently, the Canada-headquartered **Fairfax Group** is the **second-largest shareholder** in IIFL Capital Services, holding around **27.18% stake** through FIH Mauritius Investments.
- Including its affiliate holdings, **Fairfax India**, through FIH Mauritius and **HWIC Asia Fund Class A**, presently holds nearly **30.5% stake** in the company.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: APPS & PORTALS

Mizoram Unveils 'Khuarel' App for Enhanced Real-Time Disaster Response

- The **Mizoram Government** has launched the **'Khuarel' mobile application**, a **real-time disaster incident reporting** and management system.
- The app was unveiled in **Aizawl, Mizoram** by **Lalnilawma**, Minister of **Disaster Management & Rehabilitation (DM&R)**.
- **Mizoram** has become one of the **first Northeastern states** to adopt a **digital disaster management solution**.

Swasth Bharat Portal Launched to Integrate Fragmented Health Systems and Strengthen India's Digital Health Ecosystem

- The **Swasth Bharat Portal** was launched during the **10th National Summit on Innovation and Inclusivity** by the **Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda**, marking a major step in India's **digital healthcare transformation**.
- The portal aims to create a **unified, integrated, and scalable** digital public health ecosystem by addressing the issue of **fragmented and siloed health data systems**.
- It supports **frontline health workers** (ASHAs, ANMs, CHOs, and Medical Officers) by providing a **single access platform** with **data visualisation tools** for monitoring and evidence-based planning.

National Institution for Transforming India Aayog Introduces Central Prabhari Officer Portal to Enhance Real-Time Governance and Last-Mile Service Delivery

- **Nidhi Chhibber**, interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO), National Institution for Transforming India **(NITI) Aayog** launched the **Central Prabhari Officer (CPO) Portal** in **New Delhi** to strengthen **real-time governance** and improve **last-mile service delivery** under

the **Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP)** and **Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP)**.

- The portal was launched by **Nidhi Chhibber** to enhance **field-level monitoring** and **administrative responsiveness**.
- **Central Prabhari Officers (CPOs)** are senior **Central Government officials** responsible for **ground-level monitoring**, **programme implementation review**, and **Centre–State–District coordination**.

Central Government plans "One Nation, One App" system for electric vehicle charging nationwide

- The **Central Government** has approved proposals worth **₹503.86 crore** for installing **4,874 electric vehicle (EV) chargers** across various States and **Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)**.
- The implementation involves major **CPSEs** such as **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited. (HPCL), Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL)**, and **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL)**, along with states including **Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Telangana, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu**.
- The platform aims to provide a **"One Nation, One App"** system, enabling **EV users** to **locate, book, access, and pay** for charging stations across **multiple networks** through a **single unified interface**.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: SPORTS NEWS

India Settles for Bronze After Semifinal Exit in Thomas Cup 2026

- India's campaign in the **Thomas Cup 2026** ended with a **0–3 defeat against France in the semifinals**, resulting in a **bronze medal finish** in Horsens Denmark.
- The loss highlighted a challenging outing for India, as they failed to secure a single match in the semifinal tie.
- The absence of **Lakshya Sen** due to injury further weakened the team, while **France** created history by reaching their **first-ever final** in the tournament.
- India lost **0–3 to France** in the semifinal, ending their campaign with a **bronze medal**

Badminton World Federation Thomas and Uber Cup Finals 2026 Concluded in Denmark

- The **Badminton World Federation (BWF) Thomas and Uber Cup Finals 2026** were held at **Horsens, Denmark**.
- This marked the **34th edition of the Thomas Cup (men's team championship)** and the **31st**

edition of the Uber Cup (women's team championship).

- **People's Republic of China** won the **Thomas Cup 2026**, defeating **France (3–1)**, securing its **13th title**
- **Republic of Korea** won the **Uber Cup 2026**, defeating **People's Republic of China (3–1)**, securing its **third title**

Rahul Dravid Becomes Owner of Dublin Franchise in European T20 Premier League

- **Rahul Dravid**, former Indian cricketer, has become the **owner of the Dublin franchise** in the **European T20 Premier League (ETPL)**
- The **European T20 Premier League (ETPL)** is **Europe's first International Cricket Council (ICC)-sanctioned multi-country franchise T20 league**
- The league aims to **promote and accelerate the growth of cricket in Europe**

Apaar Saxena Earns International Master Title in Chess After Strong European Performances

- Indian chess player **Apaar Saxena** has been awarded the prestigious **International Master (IM) title** by the **Fédération Internationale des Échecs (FIDE)**.
- Apaar Saxena is from **Karnataka** and reached the milestone by performing strongly against high-rated international opponents.
- The **International Master title** is awarded by the **Fédération Internationale des Échecs (FIDE)** and is considered one of the highest chess titles after the **Grandmaster title**.

International Olympic Committee Lifts Restrictions on Belarusian Athletes Ahead of Los Angeles 2028 Summer Olympics

- The **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** has lifted restrictions on Belarusian athletes ahead of the **Los Angeles 2028 Summer Olympics**, while **Russia continues to remain under suspension**.
- The IOC announced that it will no longer recommend restrictions on Belarusian athletes and teams in international competitions.
- Belarusian athletes will be allowed to participate in the **Los Angeles 2028 Summer Olympics**, including **opening ceremonies and medal events**.

Faustino Oro Becomes Second Youngest Grandmaster in Chess History

- **Faustino Oro**, an Argentine chess prodigy, became the **second youngest Grandmaster in chess history** at the age of **12 years, 6 months, and 26 days**.
- He achieved this milestone by securing his **final Grandmaster norm at the Sardinia World**

Chess Festival 2026 in Italy.

- The **Grandmaster title is the highest title awarded by the International Chess Federation**, the global governing body of chess.

India's Women's Recurve Archery Team Wins Gold at Archery World Cup Stage 2 in Shanghai

- India's women's recurve archery team won a **historic gold medal at the Archery World Cup Stage 2** held in **Shanghai, People's Republic of China**.
- The Indian team comprising **Deepika Kumari, Ankita Bhakat, and Kumkum Mohod** defeated the host nation **People's Republic of China** in a **tense shoot-off final**.
- The victory marks **India's first gold medal at the Archery World Cup since 2021**.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: BOOKS AND AUTHOR

Union Home Minister Amit Shah Releases Books by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta at Bharat Mandapam

- **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** of the Ministry of Home Affairs **released two books authored by Tushar Mehta**
- The books titled **"The Bench, the Bar, and the Bizarre"** and **"The Lawful and the Awful"** were released at Bharat Mandapam
- The books are published by **Rupa Publications India**
- The publications aim to provide insights into legal practice, advocacy, and judicial proceedings through real-life experiences and anecdotes

CURRENT AFFAIRS: OBITUARIES

Name	Profession / Role	Native / Nationality
Gurbax Singh Grewal	Olympic Bronze Medal-winning Hockey Player	Indian
Vijay Kumar	Professional Golfer	Indian
Alex Zanardi	Formula 1 Driver & Paralympic Champion	Italian
Ted Turner	Founder of CNN, Media Entrepreneur	American
Mohan Singh	Football Midfielder	Indian
Mal Anderson	Tennis Player (World No. 2)	Australian