



Daily Current Affairs

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BANKING, FINANCE & BUSINESS

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**.
- The scheme provides a **once-in-a-lifetime benefit** for bank customers who lose money in small-value fraudulent transactions, including cases involving **shared OTPs**.

Key Highlights :

- Under the framework, **RBI will bear 70%** of the loss (up to ₹25,000), while the remaining **30% will be shared equally** by the **customer (15%)** and the **bank (15%)**.
- The compensation will be paid from the **Depositor Education and Awareness Fund (DEAF)**, which has a current corpus of around **₹85,000 crore**.
- The announcement was made by **RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra** after the **59th Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** meeting.
- The framework aims at enhancing **customer protection** and addressing the surge in digital frauds, particularly those **below ₹50,000**, which form a large share of fraud cases.
- RBI plans to issue **three draft guidelines** for customer protection: **mis-selling** of financial products, **recovery of loans** and engagement of recovery agents, and **limiting liability of customers** in unauthorised electronic banking transactions.
- The extant instructions on limiting liability of customers in unauthorised transactions were issued in **2017** and have now been reviewed in view of rapid adoption of technology.
- RBI also plans to publish a **discussion paper** on measures to enhance the **safety of digital payments**, including **lagged credits** and **additional authentication** for specific users such as **senior citizens**.
- For **mis-selling prevention**, RBI will issue comprehensive instructions to **regulated entities (REs)** on advertising, marketing, and sales of financial products and services.
- RBI announced **Mission SAKSHAM (Sahakari Bank Kshamta Nirman)** for capacity building of **Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs)** to strengthen skills, competencies, technical capabilities, and operational resilience.
- **Mission SAKSHAM** will cover about **1.40 lakh participants** across functions through physical training programmes and a scalable learning platform, with content delivery in **regional languages** wherever feasible.
- The mission will be implemented in partnership with **umbrella organisations of UCBs** and national/state federations, aiming to secure the next phase of growth for the cooperative banking sector.

Central bank will share 70% of compensation
Bank customer will each bear 15% of loss amount
Central bank will use Rs 85,000 crore Depositor Education and Awareness Fund
2/3 of digital frauds under Rs 50,000 in amount
RBI plans lagged credits to beneficiary accounts

RBI to pay fraud victims up to Rs 25k

Once-in-lifetime benefit for people who lose money in small-value transactions



CYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra, REUTERS

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will provide up to Rs 25,000 as compensation to bank customers who become victims of small-value financial frauds, Governor Sanjay Malhotra said on Friday.

In his statement after the 59th meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee, Malhotra said the central bank will come out with a framework for compensation in case of small-value fraudulent transactions.

He said the RBI would pay 70% or up to Rs 25,000 lost in fraudulent transactions without any questions being asked to the customer for the first time instances. The rest of the 30% of the loss will be equally shared by the customer (15%) and the concerned bank.

This will be a once-in-lifetime benefit for the victims of fraud, including those who shared OTPs. The money will be paid from the Rs 85,000 crore Depositor Education and Awareness Fund.

Alongside curbing digital frauds, Malhotra also announced tightening of norms to curb mis-selling of financial products by

RBI keeps policy rates unchanged

Interest rates on home, auto and other loans are unlikely to change in the near future as the RBI has decided to maintain status quo on policy rates and indicated a longer pause, saying trade deals with the US and the EU would support growth even as inflation is likely to stay low. Details on Page 12

regulated entities. "For customer protection, we will issue three draft guidelines: one, relating to mis-selling; two, regarding recovery of loans and engagement of recovery agents; and three, on limiting liability of customers in unauthorised electronic banking transactions." RBI, Page 4

More reports, Page 12

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.

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- MSME collateral-free loans are provided under the **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)** with a current limit of up to **₹10 lakh**, covering manufacturing, services, and related sectors.
- The loans under PMMY are divided into **four categories** (including the new addition):
- **Shishu:** up to **₹50,000**
- **Kishore:** **₹50,001–₹5 lakh**
- **Tarun:** **₹5 lakh–₹10 lakh**
- **Tarun Plus:** **₹10 lakh–₹20 lakh** (for those who have successfully repaid previous Tarun loans).
- An enterprise is classified as **micro, small, or medium** based on **investment** in plant and machinery or equipment and **turnover**:
- **Micro enterprise:** Investment ≤ ₹2.5 crore, Turnover ≤ ₹10 crore
- **Small enterprise:** Investment ≤ ₹25 crore, Turnover ≤ ₹100 crore
- **Medium enterprise:** Investment ≤ ₹125 crore, Turnover ≤ ₹500 crore
- **Collateral-free loans** provide instant funds for businesses **without risking assets** with the financial institution.

Collateral-free loan limit for micro, small units gets doubled to ₹20 lakh

Our Bureau
Mumbai

In a big boost to micro and small enterprises (MSEs), the RBI has doubled the limit of collateral-free loans from ₹10 lakh to ₹20 lakh. The RBI said the enhanced limits will be applicable to all loans to MSE borrowers, sanctioned or renewed on or after April 1. The RBI noted that the doubling of collateral-free

loan limit is to facilitate improved access to formal credit, support entrepreneurial activity and strengthen last-mile credit delivery for MSEs with limited collateral. The industry segment comprising MSEs, medium enterprises and large enterprises saw a y-o-y growth of 13.3 per cent as on December 31, 2025, against 7.5 per cent as on December 27, 2024.



BIG SUPPORT. The move aims to improve access to formal credit, support entrepreneurship and strengthen last-mile credit delivery for businesses with limited collateral.

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)**.
- The move aims to improve **operational flexibility** and ease of doing business for foreign investors in India's **debt market**, effective from **April 2026**.
- Under the revised framework, investments via VRR will now count under the **overall FPI debt investment limits**, instead of a separate sub-limit.
- FPIs must still comply with a **minimum retention period of three years** under the VRR.
- **Existing overall caps** remain unchanged: **Government bonds – 6%, Corporate bonds – 15%, State Development Loans (SDLs) – 2%** of outstanding stock.
- The **VRR** was introduced in **March 2019** to encourage **stable, long-term** foreign investment; over **80%** of the earlier limit had already been utilized.
- The changes amend the **Foreign Exchange Management (Debt Instruments) Regulations, 2019** and the Master Direction – RBI (Non-resident Investment in Debt Instruments) Directions, 2025.
- **RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra** stated that VRR investments in each category will be subject to the investment ceiling under the **General Route**.
- The VRR route was designed to attract **long-term, stable foreign debt flows** by offering exemptions in return for a **lock-in commitment**.
- Foreign investors have been **net sellers of ₹900 crore** in the current fiscal year, compared to **net purchases of ₹6,700 crore** in the previous fiscal year.

DEBT MKT BOOST Move to include voluntary retention route in overall limit for foreign investors aimed at improving operational flexibility & ease of doing biz; update to take effect from April

RBI Removes ₹2.5L-cr Investment Limit for FPIs Under VRR Route

Our Bureau

Kolkata | Mumbai: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has removed the ₹2.5 lakh crore long-term investment limit under the voluntary retention route (VRR) to deepen the debt market by providing more flexibility to foreign portfolio investors (FPIs). Still, overall investment limits remain in place, ensuring sufficient regulatory controls over overseas investors. The central bank said that investments under VRR will now be reckoned under the overall limit for FPI investments. The move, which will come into effect from April, is aimed at providing operational flexibility for FPIs and enhancing the ease of doing business. All existing investments under VRR on April 1 shall be transferred to the respective in-

Flow of Funds

WHAT THE MOVE MEANS
• FPIs will no longer have to worry about quantum of investment
• However, a minimum of 3-year retention period is required
• This is done to encourage steady, long-term FPI funds in debt without compromising basic regulatory controls

Experts expect an increase in flow of investment, albeit slowly

LIMITS
• FPIs in government bonds capped at 6% of the outstanding stock
• Cap for investment in corporate bonds pegged at 15%
• Limit on FPI investments in state development loans fixed at 2%
• Experts expect an increase in flows immediately. There is no limit on quantum now, but there is limit on the retention period. Key risk: VRR's track record of recovery VRR's track record.
Overall, FPI investment in government bonds is capped at 6% of the outstanding stock, while the cap for investment in corporate bonds is pegged at 15%. The cap on

FPI investment in state development loans (SDL) is fixed at 2%. The FPI had introduced VRR in March 2019 to provide an additional channel for investments by FPIs with long-term investment interest in the Indian debt markets. FPI investment via VRR came for a maintenance three years, while the RBI said that more than 80% of the limit has already been utilised. Foreign investors who are ready to keep their money invested in India for a longer period will no longer be blocked just because the VRR limit is full. "said Venkateshwar Reddy, managing partner, Rockfort Finance, a debt advisory firm. "At the same time, such investments will still have to stay within the overall limits already fixed for government bonds, state government bonds and corporate bonds. Simply put, the RBI wants to encourage steady, long-term foreign money without compromising on basic regulatory controls," he said.



RBI Monetary Policy

- After government bonds were included in **three global indexes**, the preference for using the VRR window has reduced, and removing the limit is not expected to trigger a major surge in inflows.

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.
- Following this payment, India joined the UN's **'honour roll'** alongside **51 member states** who paid their regular budget dues in full and on time.
- India's **total assessed contribution** to the UN budget stands at **USD 38.223 million**, with **USD 3.091 million** offset against staff income taxes.
- India contributed **1.016%** to the UN's regular budget of **USD 3.45 billion**.
- This contribution supports **core UN operational expenses**, excluding peacekeeping activities.
- The **193-member UN General Assembly (UNGA)** approved the **USD 3.45 billion** regular budget for 2026 in **December 2025**.
- The UN budget covers the organisation's **three main pillars: peace and security, sustainable development, and human rights**.
- As of **February 4, 2026**, **51 member states** have paid their regular budget assessments in full, within the **30-day due period** specified in the UN financial regulations.



NATIONAL AND STATE NEWS

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)**.
- The approval was granted in the **first meeting of the Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee (CSMC)**.
- The meeting was **chaired by MoHUA Secretary Srinivas Katikithala**.
- A total of **3,52,915 houses** were sanctioned under:
 - **Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC)**
 - **Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP)**
- The sanctioned houses will be constructed across **10 States and Union Territories**:
 - **Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Odisha, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh**
- **Women empowerment focus**:
 - Over **2.67 lakh houses** approved for **women beneficiaries**, including **single women and widows**.
 - **90 houses** allocated to **transgender beneficiaries**.
- **Social category-wise allocation**:
 - **Scheduled Castes (SC): 80,850 houses**
 - **Scheduled Tribes (ST): 15,928 houses**

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has approved the construction of over 3.53 lakh houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0). The decision was taken during the first meeting of the Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee (CSMC) chaired by MoHUA Secretary Srinivas Katikithala on Thursday.

According to the ministry, a total of 3,52,915 houses have been sanctioned under the Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC) and Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP) components. These houses will be built across ten states and union territories – Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Odisha, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh.

The scheme emphasizes women's empowerment, with over 2.67 lakh houses approved specifically for women beneficiaries, including single women and widows. Additionally, 90 houses have been allocated to transgender individuals. The approved list also includes 80,850 houses for Scheduled Caste beneficiaries, 15,928 for Scheduled Tribes, and 2,12,603 for Other Backward Classes, aiming to promote inclusivity across underprivileged groups.

In a special initiative, the Uttar Pradesh government has committed additional financial assistance under the scheme, offering ₹30,000 to senior citizen beneficiaries aged over 70, and ₹20,000 each to unmarried women above 40 years of age, widows, and separated women.

PMAY-U 2.0, launched in September 2024, is currently under implementation, with Memorandums of Agreement signed between the Ministry and 31 states and union territories. The scheme is set to benefit one crore urban poor and middle-class families over five years. Implementation is being carried out through four verticals – Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC), Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP), Affordable Rental Housing (ARH), and Interest Subsidy Scheme (IS).

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- Other Backward Classes (OBC): 2,12,603 houses
- **Special initiative by Uttar Pradesh:**
 - Additional ₹30,000 for senior citizens above 70 years.
 - Additional ₹20,000 each for:
 - Unmarried women above 40 years
 - Widows
 - Separated women
- **PMAY-U 2.0 was launched in September 2024.**
- The scheme is under implementation with **Memorandums of Agreement signed with 31 States and Union Territories.**
- It aims to benefit **one crore urban poor and middle-class families over five years.**
- **Four verticals of PMAY-U 2.0:**
 - Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC)
 - Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP)
 - Affordable Rental Housing (ARH)
 - Interest Subsidy Scheme (ISS)
- **Eligibility and financial assistance:**
 - Beneficiaries from **EWS, LIG, and MIG categories** without a **pucca house** are eligible.
 - **Central assistance of ₹2.50 lakh per housing unit.**
 - **Total government assistance: ₹2.30 lakh crore.**
 - **Estimated total investment: ₹10 lakh crore.**
- **Progress under PMAY-U (since June 2015):**
 - **118.64 lakh houses sanctioned**
 - **Around 92 lakh houses constructed and delivered**

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.**
- **GSV is India's industry-driven Central University** dedicated to the **transportation and logistics sector.**
- The CoE marks a **major milestone in the long-term collaboration between Airbus and GSV** to strengthen **India's aerospace ecosystem.**
- The Centre will focus on **research, innovation, and talent development** in the aerospace sector.
- A **key focus area** of the CoE is **Research and Development on Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF).**
- The Centre will also **support student-led innovations** in **future aerospace technologies.**
- The CoE was **announced in 2024** and inaugurated by **Jürgen Westermeier, President and Managing Director, Airbus India and South Asia.**
- Airbus highlighted its commitment to **cutting-edge technologies**, including converting **Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) into Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF).**
- The initiative aligns with the **Government of India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat vision.**
- Airbus–GSV collaboration aims to **empower students with industry-relevant skills** and support **India's future aviation ecosystem.**
- Under the partnership, **45 meritorious and underprivileged students** are supported through a **full scholarship programme.**

Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, in Partnership with Airbus, Inaugurates a Centre of Excellence to Drive Sustainable Aerospace Research, Innovation and Skill Development

Posted On: 04 FEB 2025 7:17PM by PIB Delhi

Airbus today inaugurated a Centre of Excellence (CoE) for aerospace studies at the Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV), India's major industry-driven central university for the transportation and logistics sector, based in Vadodra, Gujarat.

The Centre marks a significant milestone in the long-term collaboration between Airbus and GSV to strengthen India's aerospace ecosystem through organic research, innovation and talent development. A key focus area of the CoE would be R&D into Sustainable Aviation Fuel and supporting student-led innovations in future aerospace technologies.

Announced in 2024, the CoE was inaugurated by Jürgen Westermeier, President and Managing Director of Airbus India and South Asia, in the presence of Her Highness Rajmata Shikha Pratiksha Gokhwal, Member of the Council of GSV and Prof. Dr. J. Manoj Choudhary, Vice Chancellor, Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya.

"The inauguration of this Centre of Excellence at Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya marks a milestone in our mission to co-create a robust aerospace ecosystem in India. This Centre is a clear demonstration of Airbus' commitment to R&D and innovation, focusing on green technology technologies such as transforming Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) into Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF). We are pleased that this collaboration between Airbus and GSV will empower students with the skills to lead overall ecosystem development, shaping India's future aviation landscape and supporting the Government of India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat vision," said Jürgen Westermeier, President and Managing Director, Airbus India and South Asia.

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- **One-third of the scholarships are reserved for women.**
- Airbus has also established an **Airbus Chair Professorship for Aerospace Studies** at GSV.
- The Chair supports **undergraduate, postgraduate, and short-term executive programmes.**
- A **Joint Study Agreement (JSA)** has been signed to promote **high-impact research.**
- The JSA provides **grants for R&D** focused on converting **MSW into SAF**, promoting a **locally sourced circular economy for aviation fuel.**
- **Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya** was established as a **Central University in 2022** through an **Act of Parliament.**
- GSV is India's **only university dedicated to the transportation and logistics sector.**
- The university covers **Railways, Aviation, Highways, Ports, Maritime, Shipping, Inland Waterways, Urban Transport, Logistics, and Supply Chains.**
- **Shri Ashwini Vaishnav**, Union Minister for **Railways, Information and Broadcasting, and Electronics and Information Technology**, serves as the **Chancellor of GSV.**
- The initiative supports the broader national vision of **Viksit Bharat by 2047.**

RECENT NEWS

- The Tata Group, in partnership with Airbus, is launching India's first private-sector helicopter Final Assembly Line (FAL) at Vemagal in Karnataka to produce the Airbus H125 helicopter. This initiative marks a significant milestone for India's aerospace industry, as the facility will assemble, test, and deliver both civil and military versions of the H125.

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.**
- The **six-day global exhibition** will bring together **industry leaders, policymakers, innovators, start-ups, and international exhibitors** on a single platform.³
- PLASTINDIA 2026 highlights **India's growing role in global manufacturing, sustainability, and innovation**, especially in the **plastics sector**, a key contributor to the national economy.
- **PLASTINDIA** is a globally recognised exhibition showcasing advancements in **plastics processing, machinery, raw materials, and sustainable solutions.**
- The 2026 edition is organised with support from the **Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, and **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.**
- Over the years, PLASTINDIA has served as a **major global meeting point** for manufacturers, suppliers, and buyers, helping Indian industries connect with **international markets and advanced technologies.**
- The theme of **PLASTINDIA 2026** is **"Bharat Next"**.
- The theme aligns with the national vision of **Atmanirbhar Bharat** and **Viksit Bharat**, as envisaged by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi.**

PLASTINDIA 2026 Commences at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

"Bharat Next" is the theme of the 12th edition of the mega event of plastic industries

Posted On: 05 FEB 2026 7:33PM by PIB Delhi

PLASTINDIA 2026, one of the world's largest plastics exhibitions, commenced today at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. The 12th edition of the triennial event is being held from 5 to 10 February 2026 with the support of the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals (DCPC), Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

Organised under the theme "Bharat Next", PLASTINDIA 2026 aligns with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat, providing a global platform to showcase India's growing capabilities in the plastics sector, manufacturing excellence, and circular economy initiatives.

The exhibition features over 2,000 international exhibitors presenting advanced technologies, machinery, raw materials, and sustainable solutions across the plastics value chain. Notably, PLASTINDIA 2026 is being organised as a Zero Waste Exhibition, ensuring segregation, recycling, and reuse of all solid waste generated during the event.



- The exhibition focuses on **manufacturing-led growth, export promotion, and employment generation**, built around the four pillars of **Men, Material, Machine, and Markets**.
- The vision of PLASTINDIA 2026 also revolves around **five strategic elements: Trade, Technology, Talent, Tradition, and Tourism**.
- The **Indian plastics industry** is currently valued at around **₹3–3.5 lakh crore** and is on a strong growth trajectory.
- As India moves towards becoming a **USD 10 trillion economy**, the plastics sector is expected to play a crucial role in **infrastructure development, consumer goods manufacturing, and global supply chain integration**.
- Events like **PLASTINDIA 2026** strengthen India's position as a **global manufacturing and innovation hub**.

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**.
- The draft plan was presented by **BVR Subrahmanyam, Chief Executive Officer, NITI Aayog**, to the **Andhra Pradesh Government in Vijayawada**.
- The blueprint focuses on **clean power generation, energy storage, grid modernisation, and affordable electricity**, under the **ASSET (Accelerating Sustainable State Energy Transition) platform**.
- The plan proposes **massive investments of around ₹7.5 lakh crore** to support Andhra Pradesh's clean energy transition.
- Of this, **₹3.3–₹3.4 lakh crore** is earmarked for **domestic energy transition**, while **₹4–₹4.2 lakh crore** is planned to develop Andhra Pradesh as a **renewable energy export hub**.
- Nearly **90% of the total investment is expected from private sector players**, highlighting strong private participation.
- The investment push is expected to generate **5–6 lakh new jobs**, significantly boosting the State's economy.
- Currently, about **47% of Andhra Pradesh's power generation comes from renewable sources**.
- By **2035**, the State aims to add **35 gigawatt solar power, 12 gigawatt wind power, and 55–60 gigawatt hour energy storage** for domestic consumption.
- For national-level renewable energy exports, targets include **30 gigawatt solar, 25–30 gigawatt wind, and 10–12 gigawatt pumped storage capacity**.
- A major highlight of the blueprint is the promise of **low-cost electricity**.
- **Power purchase costs are estimated at ₹3.90–₹4 per unit**, while **overall supply costs are expected to remain below ₹6 per unit**.
- Lower power costs are expected to benefit **households, farmers, and industries**, improve **farm incomes**, enhance **industrial competitiveness**, and reduce **subsidy burdens on the State government**.
- To support renewable expansion, the plan proposes **₹65,000–₹70,000 crore investment in transmission infrastructure**, including **green energy corridors, Gas Insulated Substations, and High Voltage Direct Current lines**.



Representational Image

NITI Aayog has rolled out a draft blueprint to transform Andhra Pradesh into one of India's top three renewable energy hubs by 2035. Developed under its Accelerating Sustainable State Energy Transition (ASSET) platform, the plan lays out a structured pathway to scale clean energy capacity, strengthen grid infrastructure, and ensure reliable and affordable electricity across the state. NITI Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam presented the strategy to Chief Secretary K Vijayanand at the State Secretariat, signalling close coordination between the Centre and the state to fast-track the transition.

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- An additional **₹40,000 crore** will be invested in **strengthening power distribution networks**.
- The blueprint also includes **distributed solar projects for agriculture** to ensure **daytime power supply** and reduce subsidy pressure.
- The draft plan will be **finalised by March 2026** and submitted to the **Central Steering Committee**.
- **Implementation is expected to begin by mid-March 2026**, with a dedicated **Energy War Room** to monitor execution and resolve bottlenecks.
- Officials stated that the blueprint aligns with **Swarna Andhra Vision** and the State's **long-term industrial growth strategy**.
- **ASSET (Accelerating Sustainable State Energy Transition)** is a **NITI Aayog initiative** that helps states plan **long-term clean energy transitions**, focusing on **affordability, reliability, private investment, and climate goals**.
- **Andhra Pradesh is among the first states** to receive a **detailed clean energy roadmap** under the ASSET platform.

RECENT NEWS

- India's ambition to become a global education hub has received strong validation. A recent NITI Aayog report on the globalization of higher education has lauded Gujarat's early initiative of establishing the Gujarat Biotechnology University (GBU) at GIFT City, calling it a benchmark model aligned with national education reforms.

About Andhra Pradesh:

- Chief Minister: N. Chandrababu Naidu
- Governor: S. Abdul Nazeer
- Capital: Amaravati
- National Parks: Sri Venkateswara National Park, Papikonda National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary, Pulicat Lake Bird Sanctuary, Kambalakonda Wildlife Sanctuary, Rollapadu Wildlife Sanctuary, Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary

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)**.
- The agreement was signed in **New Delhi** in the presence of **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** and **Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio**.
- The pact aims to address the **long-standing demand of eastern Nagaland** by providing **greater autonomy and development**, without creating a **separate state**.
- **Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority (FNTA)** is a **proposed autonomous administrative body within Nagaland**, described as a **unique governance model**.
- FNTA will cover **six eastern districts of Nagaland: Tuensang, Mon, Kiphire, Longleng, Noklak, and Shamator**.
- Under the agreement, **46 subjects will be devolved to FNTA**, enabling **greater local decision-making and administrative autonomy**.
- A **mini-secretariat** headed by an **Additional Chief Secretary or Principal Secretary** will be established for FNTA.



agreement for creation of Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority among Eastern Nagaland People's Organisation and MHA on Thursday (February 5, 2026). | Photo Credit: ANI

A tripartite agreement for the creation of **Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority (FNTA)** was signed between Eastern Nagaland People's Organisation (ENPO), Nagaland government and the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Thursday.

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- The demand for autonomy originated from **long-standing grievances of eastern Nagaland**, including **underdevelopment, neglect, and lack of political representation**.
- **ENPO**, representing **eight tribes across the six districts**, had been demanding a **separate state since 2010**.
- Over time, ENPO agreed to the Centre's proposal of **enhanced autonomy instead of full statehood**, making FNTA a **middle path** between unity and regional aspirations.
- The FNTA agreement provides for **shared development funding**, with **budgetary allocation proportional to population and area**.
- The **Ministry of Home Affairs** will support the **initial establishment costs** of the FNTA.
- FNTA will have **enhanced financial powers, faster administrative approvals, and focused infrastructure planning**.
- The Centre stated that the arrangement will ensure **economic empowerment, optimal resource utilisation, and accelerated development** of eastern Nagaland.
- A key assurance of the agreement is that **Article 371(A) of the Constitution remains unaffected**.
- **Article 371(A)** provides **special constitutional protections to Nagaland** related to **customary laws, land ownership, and social practices**.
- The government clarified that **FNTA is purely an administrative arrangement** and does not dilute Nagaland's constitutional safeguards.
- **Eastern Nagaland shares a border with Myanmar**, giving it **strategic importance for internal security and regional connectivity**.
- The region has historically lagged behind in **infrastructure and economic development**, necessitating special administrative measures.
- The creation of FNTA is seen as a **significant step towards peace, inclusion, and balanced regional development** in the **Northeast**, while maintaining the **existing state structure**.

RECENT NEWS

- The Government has launched the State-Level Watershed Mahotsav 2025 along with Mission Watershed Punarutthan at Naga Solidarity Park in Kohima. The programme focuses on protecting natural water sources, improving soil health and helping rural communities manage water better.

About Nagaland:

- Chief Minister: Neiphiu Rio
- Governor: Ajay Kumar Bhalla
- Capital: Kohima
- National Parks: Intanki National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Fakim Wildlife Sanctuary, Puliebadze Wildlife Sanctuary, Rangapahar Wildlife Sanctuary

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**.
- The operation targets individuals who **post photos with weapons, use abusive language, or project criminal dominance online**.
- According to the Delhi Police, such online behaviour often **creates psychological fear** and can **escalate into real-world law and order problems**.

- **S K Jain, Joint Commissioner of Police (Southern Range)**, stated that social media is increasingly being used to **signal criminal power and intimidate rivals**, necessitating preventive action.
- **Operation Shastra is designed as a preventive policing measure** to stop crimes **before they occur**, rather than reacting after incidents take place.
- A key focus of the operation is to **curb fear-mongering through images of firearms, sharp weapons, and threatening captions** on digital platforms.
- Police officials noted that such content can **fuel gang rivalries and influence vulnerable youth**, increasing the risk of violence.
- The operation involved **large-scale mobilisation of police resources** across Delhi.
- During the operation, **over 6,000 social media profiles were scrutinised** by the police.
- Based on verified evidence, **61 FIRs were registered** under relevant provisions of the **Indian Penal Code and Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita**.
- Following the registration of FIRs, **83 accused persons were apprehended**.
- Delhi Police clarified that **action was taken only after due verification**, to avoid harassment of innocent social media users.
- Senior officers described Operation Shastra as part of a **broader strategy of preventive policing**.
- The operation reflects the **integration of cyber surveillance with conventional policing**, treating digital behaviour as an **early warning signal for potential criminal activity**.
- Preventive operations like Operation Shastra aim to **reduce crime proactively and restore public confidence in law enforcement**.



Government Expands Startup India Framework to Include Deep Tech Startups

- **Government of India expanded the Startup India framework** to formally include **deep technology startups**, recognising their **long research cycles and high capital requirements**.
- Under the revised framework, **deep tech startups will be recognised for 20 years**, compared to **10 years for regular startups**.
- The **turnover cap for deep tech startups has been increased to ₹300 crore**, while the limit for regular startups remains **₹200 crore**.
- For the first time, the government has created a **separate regulatory category for deep tech startups**, marking a shift from short-term scalability to **long-term innovation**.
- The new definition acknowledges that **deep tech companies require longer gestation periods, sustained research and development, and continuous innovation** before achieving commercial success.
- As per the new rules, a **deep tech startup must be based on new scientific or engineering knowledge**.



- Such startups must demonstrate a **high proportion of expenditure on research and development** and should **own or be developing novel intellectual property**, with clear plans for **commercialisation**.
- The clarified definition provides **regulatory certainty** to sectors such as **artificial intelligence, robotics, clean technology, advanced materials, biotechnology, and space technology**.
- **Startup recognition will continue through the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) portal**.
- Applicants must submit **incorporation documents and a write-up explaining innovation or scalability**, while deep tech startups must additionally provide **evidence of R&D intensity and intellectual property creation**.
- **Regular startups exit the framework after 10 years or upon crossing ₹200 crore turnover**, whichever is earlier.
- **Deep tech startups lose recognition after 20 years or when turnover exceeds ₹300 crore**, whichever comes earlier.
- Recognised startups, including deep tech firms, are eligible to apply for **income tax exemption under Section 80-IAC of the Income Tax Act**, subject to approval by the **Inter-Ministerial Board**.
- The move aligns with national objectives such as **Atmanirbhar Bharat, advanced manufacturing, and transforming India into a technology-driven economy by 2047**.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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.
- Earlier, **Illinois (USA)** became part of GOARN on **3 February 2026**.
- **GOARN is a WHO-coordinated global network**, established in **2000**, comprising **360+ institutions** worldwide.
- It functions under the **United Nations (UN) Health Network** framework, coordinated by WHO.
- The **primary objective** of GOARN is **early detection, monitoring, and rapid response** to disease outbreaks and public health emergencies.
- **GOARN surveillance mechanisms** aggregate global disease reports, signals, and alerts from **WHO Member States**, hospitals, laboratories, and partner institutions.
- The network supports **capacity building** by providing training, technical guidance, and expert support to strengthen national and local public health systems.
- GOARN promotes **best practices** in outbreak preparedness and response across regions.
- **Indian partner institutions** under GOARN include **Empower School of Health, ICMR–National Institute of Epidemiology (NIE), Manipal Institute of Virology, National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (NIHSAD), National Institute of Virology (NIV), Population Council Institute, and The INCLIN Trust International**.



THE CITY • HEALTHBEAT • NEW YORK

New York City Joins WHO Network
After U.S. Withdrawal

The city is the first municipality to link with a network that aims to rapidly detect and respond to public health threats and emergencies.

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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.
- On **February 3, 2026**, he held bilateral meetings with **Marco Rubio** (US Secretary of State) and **Scott Bessent** (US Treasury Secretary) to discuss strengthening **economic partnership** and **strategic cooperation**.
- On **February 4, 2026**, he attended the **inaugural Critical Minerals Ministerial**, a multilateral forum convened by Marco Rubio, highlighting risks of **excessive concentration** in critical mineral production and processing.
- **Dr. S. Jaishankar** announced India's support for the **FORGE Initiative (Forum on Resource Geostrategic Engagement)**, a global initiative to strengthen cooperation in **critical minerals supply chains**.
- The **FORGE Initiative** will be chaired by the **Republic of Korea** until **June 2026**.
- The USA President **Donald J. Trump** launched **Project Vault**, a **strategic minerals reserve** initiative, aimed at reducing USA's reliance on foreign countries for critical minerals.
- **Project Vault Funding**: Total funding is about **USD 12 billion**, including **USD 10 billion** from **US Export-Import Bank** and around **USD 2 billion** from **private sector investments**.



About USA :

- President : Donald J. Trump
- Headquarters : Washington D.C
- Currency : United States Dollar (USD).

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Indian Educator Rouble Nagi Wins Global Teacher Prize 2026

- **Indian educator and social activist Rouble Nagi** won the **Global Teacher Prize 2026** at the **World Government Summit** held in **Dubai**.
- She received a **cash award of USD 1 million**, making it one of the **highest-value awards in the education sector globally**.
- The award is presented by **GEMS Education** and was handed over by **Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum**.
- Rouble Nagi was honoured for her **grassroots education work** through the **Rouble Nagi Art Foundation**, focusing on children from **slum and marginalised communities**.
- She has established **more than 800 learning centres across India**, supporting children who are **out of school as well as school-going children**.
- Her unique **“Living Walls” learning model** uses **educational murals painted on walls** to teach **literacy, mathematics, science, and history**.
- These murals convert **public spaces and slum walls into open classrooms**, making education **accessible, visual, and inclusive**.



Indian teacher Rouble Nagi has won the Global Teacher Prize 2026, receiving the one million dollar award at the World Government Summit in Dubai.

- Rouble Nagi began her journey **24 years ago with just 30 children** in a small workshop.
- Over the years, her initiative has expanded to reach **over one million children** across various regions.
- The **Global Teacher Prize** was launched in **2015** and is often referred to as the **“Nobel Prize for Teaching”**.
- **Rouble Nagi is the 10th recipient** of the Global Teacher Prize.
- Previous winners include teachers from **Kenya, Palestine, Canada, and Saudi Arabia**, known for impactful education work in challenging environments.

RANKING AND REPORTS

Delhi Tops World’s Most Affordable Student Cities Ranking: QS Best Student Cities 2026

- **Delhi** has been ranked **1st globally as the world’s most affordable city for international students**.
- The ranking is based on a joint report by **Knight Frank, Deloitte India, and QS**.
- The report is titled **“India’s 155 Million Student Mandate”** and was released on **Wednesday**.
- **Mumbai** secured the **11th position**, while **Bengaluru** ranked **15th** globally.
- The ranking forms part of the **QS Best Student Cities 2026** assessment.
- A total of **150 cities worldwide** were evaluated in the ranking.
- Cities were assessed across **six equally weighted categories**:
 - **Affordability**
 - **Employer activity**
 - **University rankings**
 - **City desirability**
 - **Student voice**
 - **Student mix**
- India holds a **strong competitive advantage in the affordability parameter**.
- The report stated that **affordability is a decisive factor** for international students and parents.
- **Tuition fees, living costs, and purchasing power in Indian cities** compare very favourably with major education hubs in the **United Kingdom, United States, Europe, and Australia**.
- Lower costs result in **reduced student debt** and a **better return on investment** due to strong employability outcomes.
- Global universities are increasingly viewing **India both as a source of students and as a destination for academic expansion**.
- India has the **world’s largest 18–23 age population**, with nearly **155 million young adults**.
- The country is shifting from being a **traditional outbound student market** to a **core destination for offshore university campuses**.
- According to **Knight Frank India**, India is poised to become a **strategically critical global destination for higher education expansion**.
- This growth is driven by **policy reforms, demographic scale, and urban readiness**.



Delhi has been ranked the world’s most affordable city for international students, according to a joint report by Knight Frank, Deloitte India and QS.

The report, titled ‘India’s 155 Million Student Mandate’, released on Wednesday, said Delhi ranked first globally on affordability among student cities, emerging as the most cost-effective destination for overseas students. Mumbai ranked 11th, while Bengaluru placed 15th on the list.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Toyota Motor Corporation Names CFO Kenta Kon as President & CEO from April 1,

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2026

- **Toyota Motor Corporation (TMC)** appointed **Kenta Kon**, its Chief Financial Officer (CFO), as the new **President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** effective from **1st April 2026**.
- Kenta Kon will replace **Koji Sato**, who will take up new roles as **Vice Chairman and Chief Industry Officer (CIO)** at TMC.
- **Kenta Kon** joined Toyota Motor Corporation in **1991**, building a long career within the company.
- He is recognised for his expertise in **financial discipline, cost control**, and close strategic collaboration with **Chairman Akio Toyoda**.
- Prior to this elevation, he served as a **Director** at **Woven by Toyota** (technology unit) and **Toyota Fudosan** (real estate unit).
- Following his promotion, **Yoichi Miyazaki**, Executive Vice President, has been appointed as the new **Chief Financial Officer (CFO)** of Toyota Motor Corporation.



About Toyota Motor Corporation :

- Founded : August 28, 1937
- Headquarters : Toyota City, Aichi, Japan
- Chairman : Akio Toyoda

ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

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 **9.99% stake** in **Federal Bank Limited**, a private sector bank in India.
- This investment is set to become one of the **largest private equity investments** in India's private banking sector.
- In **December 2025**, the **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** had already approved Blackstone's proposal to acquire the stake through **convertible warrants**.
- Under the proposed deal, Blackstone will invest **₹6,196.51 crore** (around USD 700 million) in Federal Bank.
- The investment will be made via Blackstone's subsidiary **Asia II Topco XIII Pte Ltd** through a **preferential issue** on a private placement basis.
- After completion of the transaction, Blackstone will have the right to **nominate one director** to the Federal Bank Board, provided its shareholding remains at or **above 5%**.
- The deal highlights growing **foreign private equity interest** in India's banking and financial services sector.



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).
- The mergers are part of a major corporate restructuring initiative aimed at streamlining POWERGRID's subsidiary structure.
- The effective date of amalgamation for both schemes is 1 April 2024.
- The objective of restructuring includes simplification of corporate structure, cost reduction, improved operational and financial efficiency, and stronger execution of large transmission projects.
- Under the merger framework, all assets, liabilities, and operations of the transferor companies will be vested in the transferee companies.
- The MCA orders are binding on the shareholders and creditors of both transferor and transferee entities.
- The restructuring consolidates project-specific Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) into larger functional entities.
- The merger is carried out through two distinct schemes: Scheme Group-A and Scheme Group-B.
- Under Scheme Group-A, 12 wholly-owned subsidiaries will be merged into POWERGRID Khavda II-C Transmission Limited.
- Under Scheme Group-B, 5 wholly-owned subsidiaries will be merged into POWERGRID Vataman Transmission Limited.

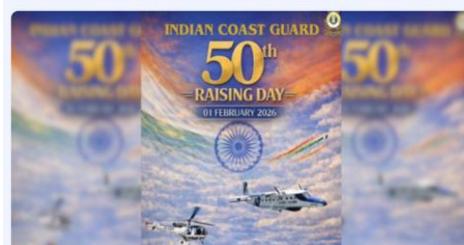


DEFENCE NEWS

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.
- The ICG was raised on 1 February 1977 with just seven surface platforms and has grown into a formidable maritime force.
- Currently, the ICG operates 155 ships and 80 aircraft, with a target to reach 200 surface platforms and 100 aircraft by 2030.
- The force is popularly known as Bharatiya Tatrakshak and safeguards India's maritime interests.
- The ICG is responsible for maritime law enforcement, coastal security, search and rescue, marine environmental protection, and humanitarian assistance.
- It maintains surveillance over two million square kilometres of Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and more than 11,000 kilometres of coastline.
- The ICG aligns with Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India initiatives by inducting indigenously built ships, aircraft, helicopters, and advanced surveillance systems.
- Over five decades, the ICG has evolved into a versatile and highly respected maritime organisation.

Indian Coast Guard Marks 50th Raising Day, Celebrates Five Decades Of Service



About Indian Coast Guard :

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- Formed : 18 August 1978
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- Director General : Paramesh Sivamani (26th DG of the force)

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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**.
- The order is part of the **AAI–Apogee Aerospace partnership** to develop an **amphibian aviation ecosystem** in India, anchored on AAI's **Albatross 2.0 platform**.
- Apogee Aerospace will invest an additional **₹500 crore** to establish **tail-section manufacturing, Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO)** facilities, training & simulation infrastructure, and advanced integration capabilities in India.
- Under the collaboration, Apogee Aerospace has been designated as AAI's **exclusive authorised representative** for the Indian subcontinent (restricted category) covering **defence and government requirements**.
- The **Albatross 2.0** is the world's first transport-category amphibious aircraft in the **Registered Passenger Transport (RPT)** segment.
- It is certified by both the **Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)** and the **European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA)**.
- The aircraft has a maximum seating capacity of **28 passengers** and is capable of operating on **both water and land**.



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**.
- The launch was conducted under the supervision of the **Strategic Forces Command (SFC)** as part of a routine training exercise to validate **operational and technical preparedness**.
- **Agni-III** has been developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
- It is a **two-stage, solid-fuelled** ballistic missile with a strike range exceeding **3,000 km** (typically **3,000–3,500 km**).
- The missile can carry a **payload of 1.5 tonnes** with an estimated yield of **200–300 kilotons**.
- **Agni-III** is capable of carrying both **conventional and nuclear warheads**, forming a key component of India's **credible minimum deterrence** strategy.
- The missile is **surface-to-surface** and can be deployed from **rail and road mobile launchers**, enhancing **survivability** and operational flexibility.

India Successfully Test-Fires Agni-III Intermediate-Range Ballistic Missile From Integrated Test Range In Odisha



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- The **Agni missile series** was conceptualised in the 1980s under the **Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP)**.

Evolution of the Agni series:

- **Agni-I:** Range **700–1,250 km**.
- **Agni-II:** Range **2,000–2,500 km**.
- **Agni-III:** Range **3,000–3,500 km**, solid-fuel, mobile, inducted into the **Indian Army**.
- **Agni-IV:** Range **3,000–4,000 km**, features **5th-generation avionics** and high accuracy.
- **Agni-V:** **Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM)** class, range **5,000+ km**, canisterised, road-mobile.
- **Agni-VI:** Under development, range **8,000–10,000 km**, capable of **MIRV** (Multiple Independently targetable Re-entry Vehicles).
- **Agni Prime:** New-generation variant, **canisterised**, range **1,000–2,000 km**, significantly **lighter** than earlier versions.
- **Agni-III** has been inducted into the **Strategic Forces Command** since **2011**.
- The successful test underscores India's focus on strengthening **strategic deterrence** and maintaining **high operational readiness**.

SPORTS NEWS

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.
- **World champion Samrat Rana** and **World Cup finalist Suruchi Singh** won the **silver medal** in the **10m air pistol mixed team** event.
- The silver medal performance helped **India take its gold tally to 10 medals** after **two days of competition**.
- **Olympian Elavenil Valarivan** won **gold** in the **10m Air Rifle women's event**, defeating **Japan's Misaki Nobata**, at the **Asian Rifle/Pistol Championship** held at the **Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range, New Delhi**.
- **Meghana Sajjanar** secured **bronze**, joining Elavenil on the podium, while **Misaki Nobata** won **silver**.
- Elavenil was placed **fifth after two series**, but staged a strong comeback to take the lead by the **18th shot** and maintained consistency till the end, including a crucial **10.9**, to seal the victory.
- **Arya Borse**, who was in medal contention till the 18th shot, missed out after a **9.8**.
- The **Indian women's team** of **Elavenil Valarivan, Meghana Sajjanar and Arya Borse** also won **team gold** with a combined score of **1892.6**.
- In the **10m Air Rifle junior women's final**, **Shambhavi Kshirsagar** won **gold** after breaking the **Asian Junior Finals record** with a score of **253.7**.
- Shambhavi surpassed the previous record of **253.1**, set by **Isha Anil Taksale** in **Jakarta (2024)**.
- **Manyata Singh** won **silver** with **249.7**, while **Aneesha Sharma** claimed **bronze** with **227.5**, ensuring **India swept the junior women's podium**.
- **Shambhavi Kshirsagar, Aneesha Sharma and Sandrata Roy** combined to win **team gold** with a score of **1884.2**.
- **Ojasvi Thakur** won **gold** in the **women's youth category** with a score of **250.4**.



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- Sri Lanka's Umayya Ovitigala Withanage secured silver, while Yasmin Figila Achadiat won bronze.
- The Indian youth women's team of Ojasvi Thakur, Anvii Vikram Rathod and Hrudya Shri Kondur won team gold with 1890.6.
- In the 50m Men's Pistol event, India swept the podium:
 - Saurabh Chaudhary won gold
 - Kamaljeet Chaudhary won silver
 - Ravinder Singh, the current World Champion, won bronze
- Yogesh Kumar won gold in the junior category of the 50m Men's Pistol event.
- On Day 4 of the championship, India won 10 gold medals, taking the overall medal tally to 43 medals:
 - 27 gold
 - 10 silver
 - 8 bronze
- India's performance reaffirmed its dominance in Asian shooting, with clean sweeps in senior, junior and youth categories, underlining strong depth and consistency across all levels.

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.
- The women's final of the Para Throwball National Federation Cup 2026 was a closely contested match between Jharkhand and Rajasthan.
- Playing against the host team Rajasthan, Jharkhand displayed composure and tactical discipline under pressure.
- Jharkhand defeated Rajasthan by a 21–17 scoreline, reflecting consistent attack and strong defensive play.
- Structured gameplay throughout the tournament helped Jharkhand overcome crowd pressure and strong opposition to emerge as champions.
- Jharkhand's women's team followed a well-planned and composed campaign in the tournament.
- The players demonstrated teamwork, discipline, adaptability, and match awareness in every round.
- Their ability to adapt to different opponents and remain focused in crucial moments proved decisive in winning the gold medal.
- The victory highlights Jharkhand's growing strength in para sports and reflects effective preparation at both grassroots and competitive levels.
- In the men's category of the Para Throwball National Federation Cup 2026, Andhra Pradesh emerged as champions.
- Telangana finished as runners-up, while Haryana secured the bronze medal in the men's event.
- The Jharkhand men's team finished fourth, narrowly missing the podium after losing a closely contested semifinal, indicating a high level of competition.
- The Para Throwball National Federation Cup plays a crucial role in promoting inclusive sports in India.



Jharkhand's women's team clinched the gold medal in Women's Category at the Para Throwball National Federation Cup 2026 with a hard-fought 21-17 victory over hosts Rajasthan in the final at Jhunjhunu. The tournament, held from February 3 to 5, showcased high-quality competition and tactical discipline, with Jharkhand's women emerging as champions after a composed and well-structured campaign. In the men's Category, Andhra Pradesh lifted the title, Telangana finishing runners-up, while Haryana claimed the bronze medal. Jharkhand placed fourth after bowing out in a closely contested semifinal.

- It provides a **national competitive platform for para-athletes** to showcase **skills, discipline, and resilience**.
- The tournament helps improve **visibility of para sports, encourages wider participation, and supports talent identification** at the national level.

Daily CA One- Liner: February 8 & 9

- 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** inaugurated a **Centre of Excellence (CoE)** for aerospace studies at **Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV)**, Vadodara, Gujarat
- **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** released a **draft clean energy blueprint** to transform **Andhra Pradesh into a major renewable energy hub by 2035**
- **Central Government, Nagaland Government, and Eastern Nagaland Peoples Organization (ENPO)** signed a **tripartite agreement** to create the **Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority**
- **Delhi Police** launched a **city-wide crackdown** named **‘Operation Shastra’** to curb the misuse of **social media platforms for intimidation and fear-mongering**
- **Government of India** expanded the **Startup India framework** to formally include **deep technology startups**, recognising their **long research cycles and high capital requirements**
- **Indian educator and social activist Rouble Nagi** won the **Global Teacher Prize 2026** at the **World Government Summit** held in **Dubai**.
- **Delhi** has been ranked **1st globally as the world’s most affordable city for international students**
- **Asian Rifle/Pistol Championship 2026** is being held in **New Delhi**, where **India continued its dominance** in shooting events
- **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.
- 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**.
- 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.
- 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)**.
- The **Government of India (GoI)** paid **USD 35.18 million** to the **United Nations (UN) Regular Budget** for **2026**.
- **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**, 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.
- **Toyota Motor Corporation (TMC)** appointed **Kenta Kon**, its Chief Financial Officer (CFO), as the new **President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** effective from **1st April 2026**.

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- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** approved American private equity firm **Blackstone** to acquire up to **9.99% stake** in **Federal Bank Limited**, a private sector bank in India.
- 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)**.
- The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** is commemorating its **50th Raising Day** on **1 February 2026**, marking five decades of dedicated service to the nation.
- **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**.
- **India** successfully test-fired the **Agni-III intermediate-range ballistic missile (IRBM)** from the **Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha**, on **6 February 2026**.

