



Daily Current Affairs

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BANKING, FINANCE & BUSINESS

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).
- The new entity will be named IIFL Capital Services (IFSC) Ltd and operate as a separate legal entity.
- It will undertake permitted financial services and capital market activities within GIFT IFSC, subject to approvals from the RBI and other regulators.
- The initiative aims to strengthen IIFL’s global financial services platform and expand its international market presence through India’s premier offshore financial hub.
- IIFL Capital is one of India’s leading wealth management, broking, and investment banking firms, managing approximately \$28 billion of assets under management and custody.
- The firm is a leader in investment banking and institutional equities in India, with offices and sales teams in Mumbai, Singapore, London, and New York.
- Its institutional customer base includes sovereign wealth funds, pension funds, private equity funds, mutual funds, insurance companies, hedge funds, and alternative investment funds.
- Managing Director, IIFL Capital Services Limited : Mr. R. Venkataraman

IIFL gets Sebi nod for GIFT IFSC subsidiary

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NEW DELHI

IIFL Capital Services Ltd, a wealth management, broking and investment banking firm, on Monday said it has received approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) to establish a Wholly Owned Subsidiary (WOS) at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City International Financial Services Centre (GIFT IFSC).

The proposed entity—IIFL Capital Services (IFSC) Ltd or IIFL Capital (IFSC) Limited—will operate as a separate legal entity and undertake permitted financial services and capital market activities in GIFT IFSC, subject to approvals from relevant regulators, including the RBI and other authorities.

This approval marks an important step in expanding IIFL’s global financial services platform and strengthening its presence in international markets through India’s premier offshore financial hub, IIFL said in a statement.

IIFL MD R Venkataraman said, “This approval enables us to build a dedicated international platform through which global investors can efficiently access Indian opportunities and Indian issuers can engage international pools of capital within a robust and transparent regulatory framework.”

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.

Key Highlights :

- This additional funding supplements the ongoing USD 200 million Climate Resilient Brahmaputra Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Project in Assam, approved in October 2023.
- The expanded funding will extend integrated flood and riverbank erosion risk management measures into four additional high-priority reaches of the Brahmaputra River.
- Under the expanded scope, the project will construct 63.5 kilometers of riverbank protection, undertake adaptive and emergency works to strengthen existing structures, and implement pro-siltation measures to promote sediment deposition and reclaim eroded land.



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- The project will upgrade and widen **disaster-resilient flood embankments** and implement **nature-based solutions**, such as **reed propagation** and **wetland restoration**, to reduce erosion, flooding, and improve **ecological resilience**.
- The financing will enhance **knowledge-based river management** through **flood risk maps**, **asset condition surveys**, **erosion prediction models**, **flood forecasting**, **early warning systems**, and **community disaster preparedness programs**.
- The project aims to directly benefit about **600,000 rural residents**, particularly **poor households**, **women**, and **disadvantaged groups** along the Brahmaputra River.
- The initiative will strengthen the livelihoods and **resilience** of vulnerable riverine communities through **women-focused livelihood support**, **disaster-resilient agriculture**, **vocational training**, and **upgraded rural markets**.
- **Women's economic empowerment** is a central feature, providing support to **self-help groups**, **youth skills development**, and **market-driven business planning**.

Recent News :

- In Jan 2026, **Piramal Finance Raises USD 350 Million in Multilateral Funding from International Finance Corporation and Asian Development Bank**

About Asian Development Bank (ADB):

- Headquarters: Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines
- Founded: 1966
- President: Masato Kandaassa
- Members: 69

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**'.
- The report projected **India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth at 6.4% in FY2026-27 (FY27)**.
- **India** is expected to remain the **fastest-growing economy among G20 nations**, driven by robust **domestic consumption**, policy measures, and a stable banking system.
- **System-wide bank loan growth** is projected to increase marginally to **11–13% in FY27**, compared to **10.6% in FY26** year-to-date.
- The overall **system-wide loan-to-deposit ratio** is expected to remain around **80%**.
- **Net Interest Margins (NIMs)** are expected to **improve gradually** as deposit costs decline, supporting banking sector profitability.
- **Loans** are projected to **grow in tandem with deposits**, keeping the **loan-to-deposit ratio around 80%** through FY27.
- **Non-Performing Loan (NPL) ratio** is expected to remain low at **2–2.5%**, with a slight rise in **slippages** as loans mature.
- **Retail asset quality** is expected to stay **stable**, particularly among prime borrowers.
- **Banking sector profitability** will remain stable, with system-wide **Return on Assets (ROA)** projected to increase to **1.2–1.3% in FY27**, compared to 1.2% in H1 FY26.



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- In Jan 2026, **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**.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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**.
- The **SESEL Vision** was adopted during **President Herminie's State Visit to India (5–10 February 2026)**, coinciding with **50 years of Seychelles' independence** and **50 years of India–Seychelles diplomatic relations**.
- India announced a **Special Economic Package of USD 175 million (USD 125 million Line of Credit + USD 50 million Grant)** to support development projects, **capacity building, defence cooperation, maritime security**, employment, and skill development.
- Both leaders agreed to deepen cooperation in **digital transformation**, with India supporting **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)**, including **digital payments and governance systems** in Seychelles.
- In **health and food security**, India pledged **10 ambulances**, cooperation in **affordable medicines and hospital infrastructure**, and donated **1,000 metric tonnes of food grains** to help reduce the cost of living.
- Both sides enhanced cooperation in **renewable energy, climate resilience**, and **disaster preparedness**, with Seychelles agreeing to join the **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)** and implement **multi-hazard early warning systems**.

About Seychelles :

- **Capital** : Victoria
- **Currency**: Seychellois Rupee (SCR).

PM Modi unveils USD 175 million economic package for Seychelles

NEW DELHI: India on Monday announced USD 175 million as development assistance to Seychelles after Prime Minister Narendra Modi held wide-ranging talks with island nation's President Patrick Herminie that produced a joint vision for deeper two-way engagement.

Following the Modi-Herminie meeting, the two sides inked seven agreements to boost ties in a range of areas including digital solutions, exports and data sharing, and conduct of maritime scientific research.

India and Seychelles also agreed on a broad vision to expand cooperation in areas of sustainability, trade and economy, and security.

"Today's meeting makes it clear that the India-Seychelles partnership is entering a new phase," PM Modi said.



Herminie is on a six-day visit to India. Seychelles is a key maritime neighbour for India in the Indian Ocean region.

"India and Seychelles share a relationship that extends far beyond diplomatic engagement. The waves of the Indian Ocean have connected our peoples for centuries," the prime minister said in his media statement. "Along its shores, trade between our nations has grown, cultures have converged, and traditions of trust have continued to strengthen," he said.

In the talks, both leaders agreed to step up bilateral cooperation in the field of hydrography to support Seychelles' efforts in accelerating its blue economy growth.

In this regard, Seychelles will establish a Seychelles Hydrographic Unit (SHU) with Indian assistance.

Elaborating on the deep-rooted bilateral ties, Modi said India and Seychelles are connected not "just by geography, but by history, trust and a shared vision for the future." "Our bond spans the past, the present, and the future. As a maritime neighbour and a trusted partner, Seychelles is an integral part of India's MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions) Vision. Our cooperation encompasses the maritime, land, and air domains," he said.

NATIONAL AND STATE NEWS

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**.
- As **Startup India** enters its **second decade**, the revised framework aims to create a **more predictable, inclusive and future-ready policy environment** for founders.



- The changes are also intended to facilitate the flow of long-term patient capital into high-technology and research-intensive sectors.
- The **turnover threshold for startup recognition** has been enhanced from **₹100 crore to ₹200 crore**, keeping in view the **evolving startup ecosystem** and the need to support enterprises at **different stages of their business lifecycle**.
- A **new dedicated sub-category of “Deep Tech Startup”** has been introduced for entities working on **cutting-edge and breakthrough technologies**.
- The **core attributes of Deep Tech Startups** have been finalised through consultations with **line Ministries, Departments and ecosystem stakeholders** to ensure **clarity, consistency and objective identification**.
- Recognising the **long gestation periods, high research and development intensity, and capital-intensive nature** of deep tech enterprises, the **age limit** for this category has been **extended from 10 years to 20 years** from the date of incorporation or registration.
- The **turnover limit for Deep Tech Startups** has been increased to **₹300 crore**.
- **Startup recognition eligibility has been extended to cooperative societies** to promote **innovation-driven growth at the grassroots level**, particularly in **agriculture, allied sectors, rural industries and community-based enterprises**.
- **Multi-State Cooperative Societies** registered under the **Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002**, as well as **Cooperative Societies** registered under **State and Union Territory Cooperative Acts**, are now eligible for startup recognition, subject to fulfilment of other applicable criteria.
- The revised framework follows **extensive consultations with stakeholders across the startup ecosystem** and with **various Ministries and Departments**.
- The updated criteria are expected to expand access to startup benefits for research- and innovation-driven enterprises, provide targeted support to deep tech ventures requiring extended development timelines, enable cooperatives to drive innovation in agriculture and rural development, and further strengthen India’s position as a global hub for high-technology and knowledge-intensive entrepreneurship.

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**.
- The initiative is aimed at providing **round-the-clock medical monitoring from patients’ homes**, with a special focus on **senior citizens and high-risk patients**.
- **iLive Connect** has been developed by **cardiothoracic surgeon Dr Rahul Chandola** and **interventional cardiologist Dr Viveka Kumar**.
- The system is designed to function as a **personalised Intensive Care Unit-like care system at home**.
- It uses **Food and Drug Administration-certified and European Conformity-certified wearable medical devices**.
- The wearable devices include a **chest-mounted biosensor patch** and a **wristband** for continuous real-time monitoring.
- The ecosystem tracks multiple vital health parameters such as **two-lead Electrocardiogram, heart rate, respiratory rate, oxygen saturation, body temperature, blood pressure trends, physical activity, and heart rate variability**.



India launches world's first Doctor-Led AI healthcare ecosystem iLive Connect
Photograph: (ANI)

India has launched iLive Connect, the world's first doctor-led, AI-powered healthcare ecosystem designed to provide round-the-

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- All collected health data is **securely transmitted to a cloud-based platform**.
- The data is monitored **round the clock by specialist doctors** operating from a **central medical command centre**.
- The launch of iLive Connect marks a major step in **technology-driven healthcare delivery**, strengthening **home-based medical care** and reducing dependence on hospital-based monitoring.

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**.
- The ceremony was attended by **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu, State Minister Shri Nara Lokesh, Principal Scientific Adviser Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood, Secretary, Department of Science & Technology Prof. Abhay Karandikar, Director IIT Madras Prof. V. Kamakoti**, senior industry leaders from **IBM, Tata Consultancy Services, Larsen & Toubro**, senior officials, faculty members, and students.
- Key announcements included the **unveiling of the foundation plaque, launch of Amaravati Quantum Valley logo, launch of IBM and Tata Consultancy Services Quantum Cloud Services**, establishment of **IBM–Tata Consultancy Services Quantum Innovation Centre**, announcement of a **Quantum Talent Hub, Quantum Reference Facility by SRM University, Quantum-Safe Applications initiative**, and signing of **MoUs with nine industry partners**, reflecting **industry–academia–government collaboration**.
- Dr Jitendra Singh praised the leadership of **Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu** and highlighted the **Centre–State alignment** under the “**double-engine**” approach, terming it a model of **cooperative federalism**.
- He cited the completion of the **National Centre for Ocean Sciences at Visakhapatnam**, a long-pending project since 2006, now operational and linked to India's **Deep Ocean Mission** and **Blue Economy vision**.
- India is among a select group of nations with a **National Quantum Mission**, with an allocation of about **₹6,000 crore**, covering **43 institutions across 17 States and 2 Union Territories**.
- The Mission operates through **four thematic hubs: Quantum Computing, Quantum Communication, Quantum Sensing and Metrology, and Quantum Materials and Devices**.
- National targets include developing **quantum computers with up to 1,000 physical qubits within eight years**, establishing **secure quantum communication networks**, enabling **long-distance quantum communication**, and achieving **inter-city Quantum Key Distribution over 2,000 kilometres**.
- Reference was made to the **BioPharma Shakti initiative**, reflecting the shift of the global economy towards **biotechnology, genetic sciences, software-driven systems, and quantum computing**.
- India has introduced **Bachelor of Technology minors in Quantum Technology** and is preparing to expand into **Master of Technology programmes**, with plans to develop structured quantum education in **Andhra Pradesh**.



Amaravati will soon emerge as India's first Quantum Valley, said Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences Dr. Jitendra Singh. The Union Minister along with Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu today laid foundation stone for Amaravati Quantum Valley project in state's capital Amaravati.

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- **Advanced fabrication facilities** and **central research infrastructure** are being created and will be accessible to **startups, researchers, and academic institutions**, building on models such as the **IIT Madras Research Park**.

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**.
- The recognition highlights **India's leadership in global organic agriculture** and its growing role as a reliable supplier of certified organic products.
- **BIOFACH Germany** is a premier global platform exclusively focused on **organic food and agriculture**, bringing together **buyers, policymakers, certification agencies, and producers** from across the world.
- Being named Country of the Year provides India **global visibility, strategic market access, and influence in sustainability and traceability discussions**.
- **India's participation is led by APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority)** under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.
- APEDA has participated in BIOFACH for over a decade, but **BIOFACH 2026 marks India's largest-ever presence**, reflecting rapid growth in organic exports.
- The **India Country Pavilion spans 1,074 square metres**, making it **one of the largest national pavilions** at BIOFACH 2026.
- It will host **67 co-exhibitors**, including **organic exporters, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), cooperatives, organic laboratories, state government bodies, and commodity boards**.
- India will showcase a wide range of **organic agricultural and value-added products**, including **organic rice, oilseeds, pulses, herbs, spices, cashew, ginger, turmeric, large cardamom, cinnamon, mango pulp, and essential oils**.
- The display reflects India's strength across the **entire organic value chain**, from farm produce to processed foods.
- **More than 20 States and Union Territories** are participating, highlighting India's **geographical and crop diversity** in organic farming.
- Participating regions include **Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, and West Bengal**, among others.
- A major attraction will be **live food sampling**, including **organic basmati rice biryani prepared with Indian organic spices**.
- India will showcase **five GI-tagged rice varieties: Indrayani rice, Navara rice, Gobindbhog rice, Red rice, and Chak Hao (Black rice)**.
- These GI products highlight **India's agricultural heritage, biodiversity, and region-specific organic specialities**.



RECENT NEWS

- India and Germany have taken a significant step to deepen their strategic partnership in the digital domain. During high-level engagements in January 2026, both countries signed a Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) on Telecommunications Cooperation, signalling their shared commitment to innovation, digital governance, and sustainable technology-led growth.

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.

The economy of **Uttar Pradesh** has **doubled** in the last eight years, growing from Rs 13.30 lakh crore in 2016-17 to Rs 30.25 lakh crore in 2024-25. This revelation was made by Uttar Pradesh's Finance Minister Suresh Khanna on 9th February 2026, as he presented the Economic Survey 2025-26 in the state assembly. The state government also presented its investment plan to posit Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state, as a \$1 trillion economy over the medium term.
- The survey was presented by **Finance Minister Suresh Khanna** and provides a comprehensive assessment of the **state's economy, finances, and development sectors**.

Uttar Pradesh's economy more than doubled in eight years, set to expand to Rs 36 lakh crore in 2025-26
- It highlights **consistent economic growth**, improved fiscal discipline, rising investor confidence, and reforms in **governance, digital systems, and law and order**.
- The survey aligns with the long-term vision of **Developed Uttar Pradesh 2047**, focusing on sustainability, employment generation, and inclusive growth.
- A key objective outlined is achieving a **\$1 trillion economy through an investment-led growth model**.
- Gross State Domestic Product** increased from **₹13.30 lakh crore in 2016–17 to ₹30.25 lakh crore in 2024–25**, with a projection of **₹36 lakh crore in 2025–26**.
- The state recorded an **average annual growth rate of 10.8%**, among the highest in the country.
- Investment proposals exceeding ₹50 lakh crore** indicate strong domestic and global investor confidence.
- The survey highlights the **“Triple S” investment model – Safety, Stability, and Speed** as the foundation of economic growth.
- Improved law and order, predictable policies, and faster project approvals have strengthened the business environment.
- Digital platforms such as **Nivesh Mitra** ensure time-bound clearances and transparency.
- Memorandums of Understanding worth ₹2.94 lakh crore** were signed at the **World Economic Forum 2026**, reflecting the state's growing global investment presence.
- Infrastructure development** is a major growth driver, with Uttar Pradesh emerging as **India's expressway hub**.
- A total of **22 expressways** are planned or operational across the state.
- The state has **India's largest rail network** and plans to develop **24 airports**, including **five international airports**.
- The **Jewar International Greenfield Airport** is expected to become a major **cargo and logistics hub** for North India.
- Industrial and manufacturing growth** has accelerated significantly, with **registered factories crossing 30,000**.
- Industrial Gross Value Added** recorded **25% growth**, the highest among major states.
- Under the **cluster-based development strategy**, **Lucknow** is being developed as an **artificial intelligence hub**, **Kanpur** as a **drone manufacturing and testing centre**, and **Noida** as an **information technology and electronics hub**.
- Agriculture remains a backbone of the state economy**, with its share rising to **24.9% in 2024–25**.
- Uttar Pradesh continues as **India's largest foodgrain producer**, with an output of **737.4 lakh metric tonnes**.
- Increased **Minimum Support Price procurement**, micro-irrigation expansion, and improved irrigation coverage have boosted farm incomes.

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- **Crop income per hectare increased**, and acreage under **pulses and oilseeds** expanded due to targeted government schemes.
- The **health budget increased to ₹46,728.48 crore in 2025–26**, improving access to healthcare and reducing out-of-pocket expenditure.
- **Institutional deliveries reached 96.12%**, and **full immunisation coverage** was achieved for children under five years.
- Governance reforms include **technology-driven policing**, women safety initiatives, and **fast-track courts**.
- The **state budget size reached ₹8.33 lakh crore**, while the **debt-to-GSDP ratio stood at 28%**, lower than the national average.

RECENT NEWS

- India's artificial intelligence (AI) ecosystem, IndiaAI, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), and the Government of Uttar Pradesh are set to host the Uttar Pradesh Regional AI Impact Conference 2026 in Lucknow

About Uttar Pradesh:

- **Chief Minister:** Yogi Adityanath
- **Governor:** Anandiben Patel
- **Capital:** Lucknow
- **National Parks:** Dudhwa National Park
- **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary, Kaimoor Wildlife Sanctuary, Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary (Shahid Chandra Shekhar Azad Bird Sanctuary), Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary, Sur Sarovar Bird Sanctuary, Chandraprabha Wildlife Sanctuary, Mahavir Swami Wildlife Sanctuary, Ranipur Wildlife

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**.
- The programme was launched by **Abhay Karandikar**, Secretary, **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**.
- The fellowship aims to train **Indian researchers** in the **advanced hydrogen ecosystem of the Netherlands**, reflecting growing **Indo-Dutch collaboration in clean energy and climate research**.
- It is open to **Indian doctoral scholars, postdoctoral researchers, and faculty members** from recognised institutions.
- Selected fellows will receive structured exposure to **large-scale hydrogen systems, hydrogen safety standards, port-based energy models, and European best practices**.
- Key focus areas include **system integration, techno-economic analysis, life-cycle assessment, hydrogen safety, and indigenisation pathways**.
- The programme is designed to ensure that research outcomes directly support India's clean energy needs, particularly in **hard-to-abate sectors such as steel, cement, and heavy transport**.
- Alongside the fellowship, DST facilitated the signing of an **academic Memorandum of Understanding** between the **University of Groningen** and **19 Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs)**.

DST Strengthens India–Netherlands Cooperation in Green Hydrogen Research and Capacity Building

Press Information Bureau | February 9, 2026

The Department of Science and Technology (DST), as part of a strengthened partnership between two nations on clean energy, has launched new initiatives between India and Netherlands, including the unveiling of the India–Netherlands Hydrogen Fellowship Programme and a notable new academic alliance between top-rate institutions. The Fellowship, which includes a Scheme Guidelines and Call for Proposals unveiled on February 6, 2026, is intended for capacity-building for eligible Indian doctoral candidates, postdoctoral researchers, and faculty. The plan is to take Indian research forward on its journey using hydrogen technology, including system integration, safety, techno-economic analysis, and life cycle assessment, as part of a new clean energy plan, as provided for through initiatives including the 'National Green Hydrogen Mission', 'Energy Independence 2047', and 'Net-Zero 2070'. The fellows and dignitaries who led this effort include Secretary Department of Science and Technology, Prof. Abhay Karandikar, and Deputy Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to India, Mr. Huib Mijnen. Mr. Mijnen highlights nations' commitments to clean, forward-thinking research on energy frontlines. In addition to this fellowship program, a signing event was held for a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the University of Groningen in the Netherlands and 19 different Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT). This agreement sets the stage for cooperation between entities in the field of green energy and hydrogen technology, allowing for greater opportunities for both student and faculty exchanges and knowledge-sharing activities. This agreement sets the stage for a level of academic cooperation without the stipulation of any financial arrangements. Enhancing this partnership would increase the overall level of research capability and human resources available to the changing international market for hydrogen while also meeting the requirements of both nations' clean energy objectives.

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- The MoU establishes a long-term framework for **joint research, faculty and student exchanges, and structured knowledge sharing** in hydrogen and green energy research, without automatic financial commitments.
- The Netherlands is a key partner due to its leadership in **hydrogen infrastructure, industrial clusters, and clean energy logistics**, especially **port-based hydrogen deployment models**.
- The collaboration supports India's ambition to become a **global hub for hydrogen production and exports**.
- The initiatives align with India's **National Green Hydrogen Mission, Energy Independence by 2047**, and **Net-Zero Emissions by 2070** targets.
- Dutch Deputy Ambassador **Huib Mijnaerends** highlighted shared priorities in energy transition, while **Jouke de Vries**, President of the University of Groningen, emphasised the role of sustained academic partnerships in building a **global hydrogen economy**.

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'**.
- The portal has been launched under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**.
- **SATYA** stands for a **Lab Automation Portal** developed for the **Standardization Testing and Quality Certification (STQC) Directorate**.
- It integrates **testing, certification, and quality assurance services** of STQC into a **single end-to-end digital platform**.
- The portal digitises application submission, workflow processing, and tracking, thereby **reducing manual intervention**.
- It aims to enhance **transparency, accountability, and faster service delivery**.
- The initiative supports **citizens, startups, MSMEs, industry, and government departments** by providing predictable and time-bound certification services.
- STQC plays a critical role in ensuring the **quality, security, and reliability of electronic and IT products** in India.
- Certifications issued by STQC are essential for **trusted digital services, secure devices, and regulatory compliance**.
- SATYA reduces procedural burden and compliance delays, helping **startups and MSMEs** bring products to market faster.
- The portal strengthens **Ease of Doing Business** by lowering certification-related friction.
- SATYA aligns with national initiatives such as **Digital India, Minimum Government Maximum Governance, and Ease of Doing Business**.
- It contributes to building a **trusted digital ecosystem**, supporting **cybersecurity, data protection, and product quality**.
- The portal has been developed with **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)** as the technical partner.
- The government has encouraged stakeholders to actively use the portal and provide feedback for **continuous improvement**.

Shri Jitin Prasada Inaugurates STQC Lab Automation Portal 'SATYA'

Posted On: 09 FEB 2026 2:15PM by PIB Delhi

Shri Jitin Prasada, Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Electronics and Information Technology, today inaugurated the STQC Lab Automation Portal – SATYA, a major digital initiative under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, in the presence of Shri S. Krishna, Secretary, MeitY, senior officials of the Ministry, STQC, and C-DAC.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Jitin Prasada emphasized that in today's digital era, governance is not merely about policies, but about ease, transparency, accountability, and trust. The launch of the SATYA Portal marks a significant step towards citizen-centric digital governance and improved public service delivery.

The Standardization Testing and Quality Certification (STQC) Directorate plays a vital role in ensuring the quality, security, and reliability of electronic and IT products and services in the country. With the introduction of this Lab Automation Portal, STQC has brought its services onto a single, integrated, and user-friendly digital platform, benefiting citizens, industry, startups, MSMEs, and government departments.

For industry and citizens, the portal ensures faster service delivery, greater predictability, and enhanced confidence in the certification process. For startups and MSMEs, it significantly reduces procedural burden and helps them bring compliant and secure products to market more efficiently.

This initiative aligns with the national vision of Digital India, Minimum Government – Maximum Governance, and Ease of Doing Business. By digitizing certification processes, the SATYA Portal ensures that quality assurance remains robust while becoming more accessible and citizen-friendly.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

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Kerala to Appoint Thanya Nathan C. as State's First Visually Challenged Woman Judge

- **Thanya Nathan C.** is set to become **Kerala's first visually challenged woman judge**, marking a historic milestone in the State's judicial history.
- She secured **first rank among persons with benchmark disabilities** in the **Civil Judge (Junior Division)** examination of the **Kerala Judicial Service**.
- The **Kerala High Court** has completed the selection process, and the **appointment letter** will be issued by the government.
- **Ms. Nathan**, a **first-rank holder in LLB from Kannur University**, practised law using **Braille** and **screen-reading software** to overcome challenges of visual impairment.
- A **24-year-old woman from Kannur, Kerala**, cleared the **Kerala Judicial Services examination** for the post of **Civil Judge (Junior Division)**.
- She secured **first rank in the maiden selection** for differently-abled persons, following a **Supreme Court order** that differently-abled persons should **not be barred** from becoming judicial officers.



Reserve Bank of India Approves R. Vijay Anandh as New Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer of City Union Bank

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** approved the appointment of **R. Vijay Anandh** as the new **Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of **City Union Bank (CUB)**.
- **R. Vijay Anandh** will serve a **three-year term** starting from **May 1, 2026**, subject to final ratification by the bank's shareholders.
- His **annual remuneration** as MD & CEO will be **Rs 2.50 crore** per annum.
- **R. Vijay Anandh** currently holds the position of **Executive Director (ED)** at CUB and was previously Executive President in 2023, before being designated ED in 2024.
- He will succeed **Dr. N. Kamakodi**, who has been serving as **MD & CEO of CUB** since **May 2011**, with his term ending on **April 30, 2026**.



About City Union Bank (CUB):

- Founded Year: 1904
- Headquarters: Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu, India
- Slogan: "Trust and Excellence Since 1904"

Shikhar Dhawan Named Brand Ambassador for First Delhi Khel Mahakumbh

- Former Indian cricketer and Arjuna Awardee **Shikhar Dhawan** was appointed as the **Brand Ambassador** of the inaugural **Delhi Khel Mahakumbh** by the **Government of Delhi**.
- The **Delhi Khel Mahakumbh** will be held on **February 13, 2026**, across **16 locations** covering all **12 districts of Delhi**.
- It is a **large-scale grassroots sports festival** launched by the **Directorate of Education and Sports**, Government of Delhi.

- The event aims to **strengthen sports participation** at the grassroots level and promote a **sports culture** among youth.
- **Sports disciplines** included in the event are **Basketball, Football, Athletics, Kabaddi, Wrestling, Squash, and Volleyball**.
- **Shikhar Dhawan** represented India in all **three formats** of international cricket — **Tests, ODIs, and T20Is**.
- He scored over **6,700 runs** in One Day Internationals (ODIs), including **17 centuries** and **39 fifties**.
- In **Test cricket**, he amassed more than **2,300 runs**, with a highest score of **190**.
- In **T20 Internationals (T20Is)**, he scored **1,759 runs** in 68 matches.
- Dhawan was the **top scorer** in the **2013 ICC Champions Trophy**, playing a key role in India's title victory.
- He was honoured with the prestigious **Arjuna Award** in **2018** for his outstanding achievements in cricket.



DEFENCE NEWS

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.
- The agreement was signed after bilateral talks between Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** and Greek Defence Minister **Nikolaos-Georgios Dendias** at the **Manekshaw Centre**.
- The declaration will serve as the foundation for developing a **five-year roadmap** for defence partnership between the two countries.
- Both countries exchanged the **Bilateral Military Cooperation Plan for 2026**, outlining future **military engagements** between their armed forces.
- The initiative aims to expand collaboration between India's **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** (Self-Reliance) initiative and Greece's **Hellenic defence reforms** under **Agenda 2030**.
- The signatories of the declaration were Union Minister **Rajnath Singh** on behalf of India and **Nikolaos-Georgios Dendias** on behalf of Greece.
- Greece announced the deployment of a **Greek International Liaison Officer at the Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR)** in **Gurugram, Haryana**, to enhance **maritime cooperation**.

India, Greece sign Joint Declaration of Intent to strengthen defence industrial cooperation



About Greece :

- **Capital : Athens**
- **Currency : Euro.**

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**.
- On **May 27, 2025**, **49 climbers**, including **Army mountaineers** and **Sherpa guides**, successfully summited **Mount Everest (8,848 metres)** in a **single day** — a first-of-its-kind achievement.

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- The expedition was led by **Lieutenant Colonel Manoj Joshi**, with months of rigorous **high-altitude training**, physical conditioning, and **technical preparation**.
- The climbers faced **extreme challenges** such as **low oxygen levels**, freezing temperatures, **unpredictable weather**, and the hazardous “**death zone**”.
- The **Indian Army Adventure Wing** became the **first organization** to climb Mount Everest in **large numbers in one day**, highlighting **coordination**, **operational excellence**, and **endurance**.
- The expedition showcased **India’s strength** in **adventure sports** and **high-altitude skills**, reinforcing the Indian Army’s **history of mountaineering successes** since the **1960s**.
- The mission required **intense preparation**, including **technical mountaineering exercises**, to safely navigate the mountain’s **dangerous terrain**.



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.
- Under the MoU, **Personal Accidental Insurance (PAI)** cover of **₹60 lakh** will be available **without mandatory salary or pension credit**, instead linked to **minimum monthly account credits**.
- Additional insurance benefits include **₹35 lakh nominee cover** and **₹1 crore Air Accident Insurance**, enhancing financial security for Army families.
- The MoU also provides **₹4 lakh Higher Education Cover** and up to **₹2 lakh Girl Child Marriage Cover**, supporting education and social welfare needs.
- The agreement ensures **financial protection**, **social welfare support**, and **inclusive benefits** for the Army community under a **structured banking and insurance framework**.

Indian Army And IDFC FIRST Bank Sign MoU To Provide Specialised Banking Services, Enhanced Insurance Benefits To Army Personnel



About IDFC First Bank:

- **Founded:** 2015
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- **Managing Director & CEO:** V. Vaidyanathan
- **Tagline :** Always You First
- **Merger:** IDFC Bank merged with **Capital First** in 2018

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**.

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- The meeting reviewed ongoing **defence cooperation** and discussed expanding collaboration in **military training, service-to-service cooperation, maritime security, and defence industry cooperation**.
- Both sides explored new areas such as **counter-terrorism, peacekeeping training, and capacity building** in niche domains like **Electronic Warfare (EW), Cyber Security, and Artificial Intelligence (AI)**.
- **Military medicine** was identified as a **new potential area** of cooperation between the two countries.
- India and Tanzania agreed to initiate **Air Force-to-Air Force cooperation**, complementing existing cooperation between their **Navies and Armies**.
- The **Indian delegation** was led by **Shri Amitabh Prasad**, Joint Secretary (Defence Cooperation), along with senior officials from the **Department of Defence** and the **Indian Defence Forces**.
- The **Tanzanian delegation** was led by **Mr. Ibrahim Mhona**, Chief of Operations and Training, **TPDF** (Tanzania People's Defence Force).
- **Shri Bishwadip Dey**, High Commissioner of India to Tanzania, attended the **JDCC meeting**.

India and Tanzania Hold 4th Joint Defence Cooperation Committee Meeting in Zanzibar

Posted On: 03 FEB 2026 6:19PM by PIB Delhi

The fourth edition of the Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) meeting between India and Tanzania was held in Zanzibar from 02-03 February 2026. Both countries reviewed ongoing defence cooperation and discussed a broad range of areas for further collaboration, including military training, service-to-service cooperation, maritime security and defence industry collaboration.

The two sides also explored new avenues such as counter-terrorism, peacekeeping training, and capacity building in niche areas including Electronic Warfare (EW), Cyber, and Artificial Intelligence (AI), with a view to further strengthening bilateral defence ties. Cooperation in military medicine was identified as a potential new area of cooperation. In addition, both sides agreed to initiate cooperation between their Air Forces, complementing the existing cooperation between the two Navies and Armies.

The Indian delegation was led by Joint Secretary (Defence Cooperation) Shri Amitabh Prasad and comprised senior officials from the Department of Defence and the Indian Defence Forces. The Tanzanian delegation was led by Mr. Ibrahim Mhona, Chief of Operations and Training, TPDF. The High Commissioner of India to Tanzania, Shri Bishwadip Dey, also attended the meeting.

India and Tanzania share a close, warm, and strategic partnership. Defence cooperation between the two countries is guided by a five-year roadmap.

About Tanzania :

- **President : Samia Suluhu Hassan**
- **Prime Minister : Mwigulu Nchemba**
- **Capital : Dodoma**
- **Currency : Tanzanian shilling**

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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**.

Key Highlights :

- **Mons Mouton** is a mountainous region located in the **south polar region** of the Moon, known for its **rugged terrain** and scientific importance.
- The **MM-4 landing site coordinates** are approximately **84.289° South latitude** and **32.808° East longitude**.
- The landing site selection was carried out by **ISRO's Space Applications Centre (SAC)** using data from the **Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter**.
- **Orbiter High Resolution Camera (OHRC)** images with **32-cm resolution** were used to generate **digital elevation models** (0.32 m grid scale) for terrain analysis.
- Scientists evaluated **surface slopes, crater density, boulder distribution, elevation variation, illumination conditions, and communication visibility**.

ISRO identifies site for Chandrayaan-4 lander

Sites identified are MM-1, MM-3, MM-4, and MM-5

MPOST BUREAU

BENGALURU: India's next major lunar expedition, Chandrayaan-4, is still at least two years away, but the Indian Space Research Organisation has already locked in a prospective landing zone in the Moon's South Polar region after an extensive technical evaluation.

The Union government has cleared Chandrayaan-4 as a lunar sample-return mission, a design that ISRO officials



describe as India's most complex lunar undertaking to date. ISRO chairman V Narayan

TAKEAWAYS

- Mission designed as a lunar sample-return endeavour
- ISRO targets 2028 launch timeline, says chairman V Narayanan
- Landing planned in Moon's South Polar region
- ISRO studied four sites in Mons Mouton area

an has indicated a tentative timeline for the mission, saying earlier. **Continued on P4**

- Earlier, candidate zones between **84° and 90° south latitude** were identified; later narrowed down to **five regions** near Mons Mouton.
- One region was rejected due to **permanent shadow**, which affects **solar power generation** and **Earth communication**.
- Four shortlisted sites were finally assessed: **MM-1, MM-3, MM-4 and MM-5**.
- **MM-4** emerged as the **safest site** with the **lowest hazard level (9.89%)** and an **average slope of 5°**.
- The **engineering requirement** for landing includes **slopes below 10°** and **boulders smaller than 0.32 metres**.
- **MM-4** provides **568 hazard-free landing grids** (24 m × 24 m) — the **highest** among all candidate sites.
- The **one km × one km area** around MM-4 has a **mean elevation of ~5,334 metres** and the **least hazardous terrain**.
- **Adequate sunlight for 11–12 days** and **uninterrupted radio visibility** to Earth are key mission constraints satisfied by MM-4.
- **Chandrayaan-4 spacecraft modules** include **Propulsion Module (PM), Descender Module (DM), Ascender Module (AM), Transfer Module (TM), and Re-entry Module (RM)**.
- The **DM + AM combined stack** will **soft-land** on the lunar surface, **collect samples**, and **launch** them back to lunar orbit.
- The **sample return capsule (RM)** will bring lunar material **back to Earth**.
- The **Union Government** has approved **Chandrayaan-4**, making it **ISRO's most complex** lunar mission to date.
- The mission is at least **two years away** (targeted for **2027-2028**), but landing site identification marks a **critical preparatory milestone**.
- Success of **Chandrayaan-4** will place India among a **select group of space agencies** (USA, Russia, China) capable of **lunar sample return**.

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**.
- The mission was organized by **AAKA Space Studio**, a space research and simulation organization working on **planetary analog environments**.
- The **lunar habitat analogue mission** was conducted from **1–8 February 2026** on the **white plains of Dholavira, Kutch, Gujarat**.
- **Analogue missions** are designed to replicate **Moon-like conditions**, including **isolation, confinement, and operational autonomy**, to prepare astronauts for real space missions.
- The mission used a **container-based lunar habitat**, engineered to simulate **physical and operational conditions** of the Moon.
- The **crew consisted of four analog astronauts**, who lived and worked inside the **container-based lunar analog habitat** throughout the mission duration.
- **AAKA Space Studio** is registered as a **Space Tutor** of the **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** and focuses on **planetary analogue environments**.



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MOUS AND AGREEMENT

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**.
- The agreement aims to provide **high-speed satellite-based internet to remote, tribal, border, and underserved regions** where conventional telecom networks are weak or unavailable.
- The initiative is aligned with **Digital India, Viksit Bharat 2047**, and Gujarat's vision of technology-driven inclusive development.
- The cooperation framework focuses on deploying **satellite broadband connectivity** to strengthen **e-governance, healthcare, education, and disaster management**.
- The Lol follows **preliminary discussions held in December 2025** between Gujarat state leadership and Starlink's global management.
- The initiative is being implemented under the leadership of **Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel**.
- As part of the **pilot phase**, Starlink services will be extended to **tribal and Aspirational Districts**, including **Narmada and Dahod**.
- Improved connectivity will enable efficient functioning of **Common Service Centres (CSCs)** and digital governance platforms.
- Citizens will gain faster access to **government schemes, certificates, and welfare services** in connectivity-challenged regions.
- The project will enhance digital infrastructure for **Primary Health Centres, government schools, and tele-medicine centres**.
- High-speed internet will support **remote medical consultations, digital classrooms, real-time data sharing, and emergency healthcare services**, especially in rural and tribal areas.
- Satellite connectivity will strengthen **district disaster management control rooms, police outposts, ports, and wildlife sanctuaries**.
- The initiative will improve **early warning systems, emergency coordination, coastal security, wildlife monitoring, and highway safety mechanisms**.



ge used for representational purposes. File | Photo Credit: Reuters

The Gujarat government on Monday (February 9, 2026) exchanged a Letter of Intent (LoI) with Starlink for mutual cooperation in high-speed satellite-based internet connectivity in remote, border and underserved areas of the State.

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.
- The MoU was exchanged by **AAI Chairman Vipin Kumar**.
- The agreement aims to introduce **regulated, transparent, and passenger-friendly taxi services** at **AAI-managed airports**.
- **Bharat Taxi** is **India's first driver-owned cooperative taxi service**, operated by **Sahakar Taxi Cooperative Ltd**.
- Unlike app-based aggregators, Bharat Taxi follows a **no-surge pricing model**, ensuring **fair and predictable fares** for passengers.
- The platform is promoted by the **National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)** and supported by leading cooperative institutions.
- Under the collaboration, Bharat Taxi services will start at airports in **Rajkot, Vadodara,**



The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bharat Taxi, India's first cooperative ride-hailing platform, to introduce regulated and passenger-friendly cab services at several of its airports. This MoU forms part of Bharat Taxi's broader expansion strategy following its formal launch earlier this month by Union Home Minister Amit Shah as India's first cooperative-based taxi service.

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Surat, Bhuj, Pune, Aurangabad, Varanasi, Kanpur, Prayagraj, and Agra.

- These airports mainly serve **regional and tier-2 cities**, where transport options are often limited.
- The initiative will enhance **last-mile airport connectivity**, improve **urban mobility**, and reduce passenger inconvenience.
- Passengers will benefit from **transparent pricing, regulated operations, and improved safety** within airport premises.
- The structured taxi system will reduce disputes, confusion, and sudden fare hikes, improving overall **passenger experience**.
- The initiative strengthens the **cooperative economy**, making drivers **direct stakeholders instead of commission-based workers**.
- Drivers will gain **income stability, ownership, and social security**, enhancing dignity of labour.
- The move aligns with national initiatives such as **Atmanirbhar Bharat, Sahakar se Samridhhi**, and the vision of **Viksit Bharat 2047**.

RANKING AND REPORTS

India Ranks Second Globally in LEED-Certified Green Building Space 2025

- The **U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)** released its **annual Top 10 Countries and Regions for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Certification for 2025**, covering **countries outside the United States**.
- The rankings highlight a **global shift toward decarbonisation, Environmental Social Governance-aligned asset management, and improved operational efficiency** in green buildings.
- **Top 3 Countries (Outside the United States) based on Gross Square Meters of LEED-certified space:**
 - **Mainland China** ranked 1st with **26.6 million Gross Square Meters**.
 - **India** ranked 2nd with **16.1 million Gross Square Meters**.
 - **Canada** ranked 3rd with **8.4 million Gross Square Meters**.
- **India's performance in 2025:**
 - India **moved up from 3rd position in 2024 to 2nd position in 2025**.
 - **611 projects in India** achieved LEED certification during 2025.
 - Growth was mainly driven by **LEED Operations and Maintenance certification**, indicating a strong push for **sustainable performance in existing buildings**, including **manufacturing facilities and warehouses**.
- **China's continued leadership:**
 - Mainland China has remained in the **Top 10 LEED rankings continuously since 2016**.
 - In 2025, China recorded **over 1,939 LEED-certified projects**.
 - A major focus area was **LEED Operations and Maintenance certification** in the **warehouse and distribution sector**.
- **New entrant in the rankings:**
 - **Vietnam entered the Top 10 for the first time, securing 8th position**.
 - This reflects **rapid growth in green industrial and manufacturing projects**.
- **Global trends observed in 2025 LEED rankings:**
 - **Warehouse and distribution facilities** emerged as a key driver of LEED certification growth.
 - There was a significant increase in **LEED Operations and Maintenance certifications**, highlighting emphasis on **operational savings, energy efficiency, and long-term sustainability**.



India ranked second globally, outside the United States, in LEED-certified building space in 2025, according to a statement released by the US Green Building Council (USGBC) recently.

The United States continues to lead worldwide in LEED adoption with over 50 million gross square meters of certified space. China topped the list outside the US with 26 million GSM, while India follows with 16 million GSM of certified space, as reported by PTL citing USGBC. Vietnam made its debut in the top 10 rankings for the first time.

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- **Top 10 Countries for LEED Certification 2025 (Outside the United States) based on Gross Square Meters:**
 - **1st – Mainland China:** 26,645,737
 - **2nd – India:** 16,111,512
 - **3rd – Canada:** 8,450,146
 - **4th – Republic of Korea:** 3,879,192
 - **5th – Mexico:** 3,294,953
 - **6th – Hong Kong Special Administrative Region:** 3,158,950
 - **7th – Brazil:** 2,933,631
 - **8th – Vietnam:** 2,602,797
 - **9th – Sweden:** 2,564,921
 - **10th – United Arab Emirates:** 2,251,714
- **Additional important points:**
 - The **United States remains the world's largest LEED market with over 50 million Gross Square Meters of certified space**, but it is **not included in the international ranking**.
 - The 2025 rankings show that while **China and India dominate in scale**, regions such as **North Asia and Latin America** are steadily maturing in the adoption of **sustainable building practices**.
 - **India ranks second globally in LEED-certified green building space in 2025**, with **over 7,500 projects certified worldwide**, reflecting **rapid growth in sustainable real estate development** and strong alignment with **climate and sustainability goals**.

India Improves Rank in Network Readiness Index 2025

- **India improved its global rank by four positions, securing 45th place in the Network Readiness Index (NRI) 2025 among 127 economies.**
- The **Network Readiness Index 2025** was released.
- India's overall **score increased from 53.63 (2024) to 54.43 (2025)**, reflecting stronger digital performance.
- The index is prepared by the **Portulans Institute**, an independent non-profit research organisation.
- NRI evaluates countries based on **four pillars – Technology, People, Governance, and Impact**, using **53 indicators**.
- The report highlights India's progress in **digital infrastructure, technology adoption, and innovation-led growth**.
- India's network readiness level is **higher than expected for its income category**, indicating digital advancement beyond economic constraints.
- India ranked **1st globally in annual investment in telecommunication services, artificial intelligence scientific publications, information and communication technology services exports, and e-commerce legislation**.
- India ranked **2nd globally in fibre-to-the-home/building internet subscriptions, mobile broadband internet traffic, and international internet bandwidth**, showing rapid expansion of digital connectivity.
- The country ranked **3rd globally in domestic market scale and income inequality indicator**, reflecting a large digital user base and improving digital inclusion.
- India secured **2nd position among lower-middle-income economies**, after Viet Nam, highlighting strong digital readiness within its income group.

Ministry of Communications has stated that India has improved its position by four slots and is now placed at 45th rank as per the Network Readiness Index 2025 (NRI 2025) report released on 4.2.2026. The report maps the network-based readiness landscape of 127 economies based on their performance in four pillars: Technology, People, Governance and Impact, covering a total of 53 indicators. The report has been prepared by the Portulans Institute, an independent, non-profit research and educational institute based in Washington DC. India has not only improved its ranking but has also improved its score from 53.63 out of 100 in 2024, to 54.43 out of 100 in 2025. It is noteworthy that India leads in several indicators. The report states that India secured 1st rank in Annual investment in telecommunication services, AI scientific publications, ICT services exports and E-commerce legislation, 2nd rank in FTTH/Building Internet subscriptions, Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country and International Internet bandwidth, and 3rd rank in Domestic market scale and income inequality.

- Among income groups, **USA, Finland, and Singapore** topped the **high-income category**, while **Viet Nam, India, and Philippines** led the **lower-middle-income category**.
- In overall global rankings, the **top five countries** were
- **USA,**
- **Finland,**
- **Singapore,**
- **Denmark, and**
- **Sweden.**

SPORTS NEWS

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**.
- This silver came **five days after** she finished **7th in the 10m air pistol final**, marking a **strong comeback** at the continental level.
- Manu Bhaker **qualified with a score of 584**, indicating solid form during the qualification round.
- In the final, she scored **35 points**, tying with **Vietnam's Thuy Trang Nguyen**, which led to a **double shoot-off**.
- Manu narrowly missed gold after **dropping three targets in the second shoot-off**, settling for **silver**.
- The final saw an early lead by **Esha Singh and Nguyen**, but Manu moved into medal contention after **Esha missed five shots in the ninth elimination series**.
- The performance highlighted Manu Bhaker's **improved finals temperament and mental strength**, areas she has been focusing on in recent years.
- The silver medal is **Manu Bhaker's first-ever individual silver in the 25m pistol event** at the Asian level.
- Earlier, she had won **bronze medals in the 25m pistol** at the **ISSF World Cups in 2021 and 2023**.
- The year **2026 is crucial** for Indian shooters, with the **Asian Games** ahead and **qualification for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics** beginning from **July 31, 2026**.

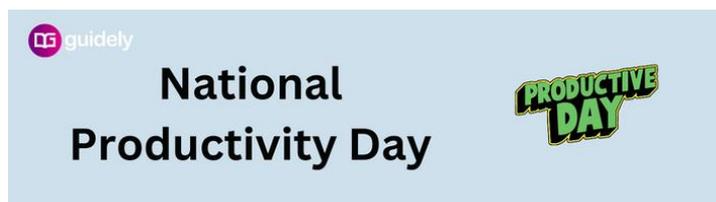
India's **Manu Bhaker** had to settle for a silver medal in the women's 25m pistol event at the ongoing **Asian Shooting Championships 2026** in New Delhi on Monday after losing in a shootoff.

In the eight-woman shootout, Manu Bhaker, who won two medals at the **Paris 2024** Olympics, began slowly but mounted a late surge to draw level with Vietnam's Nguyen Thuy Trang at 35-35 after the regulation 50 shots, fired in 10 series of five.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Productivity Day 2026 is observed on the 12th of February

- **National Productivity Day** 2026 is observed on **12th February**.
- National Productivity Day is commemorated to promote India's productivity culture.
- National Productivity Day aims to increase awareness about the importance of productivity, innovation, and efficiency.



History

- **On February 12, 1958**, the **National Productivity Council of India** was Registered under Societies Registration Act XXI, **1860**.

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- To mark the council's establishment, its members decided to observe National Productivity Day every year on the same day.
- So, apart from encouraging people to be more productive in their work, National Productivity Day also celebrates the anniversary of the establishment of the National Productivity Council.

Daily CA One- Liner: February 12

- 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**
- **India** launched 'iLive Connect', the **world's first doctor-led, Artificial Intelligence-powered home healthcare ecosystem**
- 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**.
- **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)**.
- 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 Ratings**, an American rating agency, released the report titled '**Banking System Outlook – India: Outlook stable, backed by strong economic growth and robust bank fundamentals**'.
- **Thanya Nathan C.** is set to become **Kerala's first visually challenged woman judge**, marking a historic milestone in the State's judicial history.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** approved the appointment of **R. Vijay Anandh** as the new **Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of **City Union Bank (CUB)**.
- Former Indian cricketer and Arjuna Awardee **Shikhar Dhawan** was appointed as the **Brand Ambassador** of the inaugural **Delhi Khel Mahakumbh** by the **Government of Delhi**.
- **India and Greece** signed a **Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI)** in **New Delhi** to strengthen bilateral **defence industrial cooperation**.
- The **Indian Army** created a new **world record** during its **Silver Jubilee Everest Expedition 2025**, recognized by **Guinness World Records**.
- 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.
- The **4th Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC)** meeting between **India and Tanzania** was held in **Zanzibar** from **02–03 February 2026**.
- 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**.
- **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**.

- **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
- **India and Seychelles announced the Joint Vision for Sustainability, Economic Growth and Security through Enhanced Linkages (SESEL)** on during the **State Visit of Seychelles President Patrick Herminie to India**
- **Uttar Pradesh presented its first-ever Economic Survey 2025–26** in the State Assembly, similar to the Union Government's Economic Survey
- **India and the Netherlands launched the India–Netherlands Hydrogen Fellowship Programme**, to enhance cooperation in **green hydrogen research and capacity building**
- 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'**
- **Government of Gujarat signed a Letter of Intent with Starlink Satellite Communications**, a subsidiary of **SpaceX**, in **Gandhinagar**
- **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Bharat Taxi** to improve **last-mile connectivity** at select airports.
- The **U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)** released its **annual Top 10 Countries and Regions for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Certification for 2025**, covering **countries outside the United States**.
- **India improved its global rank by four positions**, securing **45th place** in the **Network Readiness Index (NRI) 2025** among **127 economies**
- **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**
- **National Productivity Day 2026** is observed on **12th February**.