



Daily Current Affairs

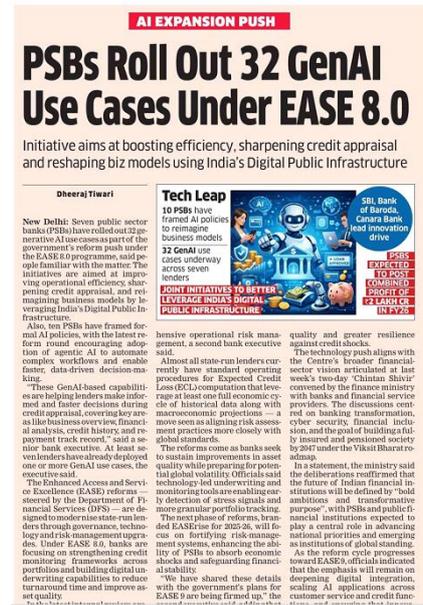
21st Feb 2026



BANKING, FINANCE & BUSINESS

Seven public sector banks Implement 32 Generative AI Applications under EASE 8.0 Banking Reforms

- **Seven public sector banks (PSBs)** have deployed **32 generative AI use cases** under the **EASE 8.0 programme** as part of the government's banking reform push.
- These initiatives aim to **improve operational efficiency, enhance credit appraisal, and reimagine business models** by leveraging **India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)**.
- **Ten PSBs** have formulated **formal AI policies**, with the current reform round promoting **agentic AI** to automate complex workflows and enable **faster, data-driven decision-making**.
- The **Enhanced Access and Service Excellence (EASE)** reforms, led by the **Department of Financial Services (DFS)**, are designed to modernise state-run banks through upgrades in **governance, technology, and risk management**.
- The next phase of reforms, branded **EASERise (2025-26)**, will focus on **fortifying risk-management systems, enhancing PSBs' resilience to economic shocks, and safeguarding financial stability**.
- Under **EASE 8.0, generative AI applications** are being applied across bank operations and credit processes, including **credit appraisal** by analyzing business details, financial statements, credit history, and repayment records to **reduce manual effort** and ensure **consistent assessments**.
- Around **nine PSBs** have introduced **digital systems for operational risk management**, and most PSBs now follow standard procedures for **Expected Credit Loss (ECL)** calculations using data from **full economic cycles** and **macroeconomic projections**.
- Focus areas under **EASE 8.0** include **digital underwriting tools, closer credit monitoring, shorter processing times, and technology-led monitoring** to identify **early signs of stress** in loan portfolios.
- The **EASERise (2025-26)** programme will continue to emphasize **digital adoption, tighter risk frameworks, and faster credit processes**, building on previous technology, governance, and risk control improvements.



Axis Bank Partners with IndiGo to Launch Co-branded Travel and Lifestyle Credit Cards

- **Axis Bank Limited**, India's 3rd largest private sector bank, partnered with **IndiGo (InterGlobe Aviation Limited)** to launch two co-branded travel and lifestyle credit cards — **IndiGo Axis Bank Credit Card** and **IndiGo Axis Bank Premium Credit Card**.
- The credit cards provide rewards through **IndiGo's loyalty programme – IndiGo BluChip**.
- The **IndiGo Axis Bank Credit Card** is priced at **₹799 (including GST)** and is targeted at **retail customers**, offering a balanced mix of travel and lifestyle benefits across major spending categories.

Axis Bank and IndiGo launch co-branded travel credit cards

By Vriti Gothi

February 19, 2026

Share [in](#) [f](#) [t](#) [w](#) [s](#)

Axis Bank has partnered with IndiGo to introduce a new range of co-branded credit cards aimed at expanding travel-linked rewards and strengthening customer engagement through loyalty-led spending.

The launch includes two variants, the IndiGo Axis Bank Credit Card and the IndiGo Axis Bank Premium Credit Card, designed to cater to different customer segments. The cards are integrated with IndiGo's BluChip loyalty program, enabling users to earn rewards on everyday transactions, with accelerated accrual on bookings made



Follow us: [Telegram](#) , [Instagram](#) , [Download Our Mobile App For CA Shorts \(Swipe-up News\)](#)

visit: [Guidely Optimum CA](#) , [Smart Quiz GA](#) , [Daily CA & CA Quiz](#) , [e-Magazine](#)

- The **IndiGo Axis Bank Premium Credit Card** is priced at **₹5,000 (including GST)** and is designed for **affluent customers** seeking **enhanced travel privileges** and **premium lifestyle benefits**.
- Both credit cards are available on the **RuPay network** and **Visa network**.
- **IndiGo Axis Bank Credit Cardholders** will receive a **1,200 BluChips voucher** on joining and renewal, along with benefits such as **complimentary domestic airport lounge access** and **accelerated rewards on UPI (Unified Payments Interface) transactions**.
- **IndiGo Axis Bank Premium Credit Cardholders** will receive vouchers worth **5,000 BluChips** on joining and renewal, along with **complimentary domestic and international airport lounge access**.
- The **Premium Credit Card** also offers a **reduced forex markup of 2.5%** on international transactions, making it suitable for frequent international travellers.

About Axis Bank:

- Founded Year: 1993
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry
- Slogan: "Badhti Ka Naam Zindagi" (A Life of Progress)

ASK Asset & Wealth Management Gets SEBI Nod to Enter Mutual Fund Business

- **ASK Asset & Wealth Management Group**, a leading financial services company, received **regulatory approval from Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** to operate as an **investment manager** for the **Mutual Fund (MF) business** in India.
- This makes **ASK Asset & Wealth Management** the **52nd fund house** to join India's Mutual Fund sector, which has registered **Assets Under Management (AUM) of ₹81 lakh crore** as of **January 31, 2026**.
- In **March 2025**, ASK Asset & Wealth Management had received **in-principle approval** from SEBI to launch its Mutual Fund business.
- The approval allows the company to **design, launch, and manage MF schemes** across a wide spectrum of investment products.
- With the **MF license**, **ASK** can expand its offerings beyond **Portfolio Management Services (PMS), Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)**, and private wealth, to include **active equity, passive strategies, hybrid, and fixed income products**.
- The new **MF platform** will enable the company to cater to **all investor categories**, including **first-time retail investors, long-term savers, High Net Worth Individuals (HNIs)**, and institutional participants.

Reserve Bank of India to Make Unique Transaction Identifier Mandatory for Over-the-Counter Derivatives from January 1, 2027

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has mandated the use of **Unique Transaction Identifier (UTI)** for all **Over-the-Counter (OTC) derivative transactions** from **January 01, 2027**, deferring from the earlier proposed date of **April 01, 2026**.
- The **RBI** issued these directions under **Section 45W and Section 45U of the RBI Act, 1934**, exercising all powers enabling it in this regard.

- As per RBI, the **UTI** must be generated in line with **global guidance** issued by the **Committee on Payments and Market Infrastructures (CPMI)** and the **International Organisation of Securities Commissions (IOSCO)**.
- The **UTI structure** can have a maximum of **52 characters**, which must include the **Legal Entity Identifier (LEI)** (a 20-character code) of the entity generating it.
- **RBI clarified that modifications to contract details will be treated as updates and do not require generation of a new UTI.**
- Currently, all **OTC market transactions for Rupee interest rate derivatives, forward contracts in Government securities, foreign currency derivatives, foreign currency interest rate derivatives, and credit derivatives** are reported to the **Trade Repository** managed by **Clearing Corporation of India Limited (CCIL-TR)**.
- From **January 01, 2027**, the **UTI will be mandatory** for all **OTC derivative transactions** entered into on or after the effective date.
- The **RBI deferred implementation** to obtain a **comprehensive view** of the **OTC derivatives market** before full rollout and to allow market participants time to build technical capabilities.

EFFECTIVE FROM JANUARY 1, 2027

Unique Transaction ID to be Must for OTC Derivatives Deals: RBI

Our Bureau

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank of India has mandated the use of a unique transaction identifier (UTI) for all over-the-counter (OTC) derivative transactions. Under the new framework, announced by the RBI on Wednesday, every eligible OTC derivative trade will be required to carry a UTI that remains constant throughout the lifecycle of a contract. The framework will be applicable from January 1, 2027. This is expected to improve traceability, aggregation and systemic risk monitoring of OTC derivatives. CCIL is expected to issue detailed operational guidelines in due course, the RBI said, while market participants have been asked to upgrade systems to ensure compliance. OTC transactions include FX derivatives, rupee interest rate derivatives, forward contracts in government securities, credit derivatives or any other OTC derivatives specified by RBI in future. The most common derivative transactions include FX derivatives and Rupee interest rate derivatives. FX derivatives include FX forwards, FX swaps - are used for hedging currency exchange rates. Rupee interest rate derivatives include overnight index swaps, MIBOR linked swaps used for managing duration and repricing risks in bonds.



The RBI had issued a draft on UTI in October 2025. Until now, while OTC derivative transactions were mandatorily reported to the trade repository operated by the Clearing Corporation of India, there was no requirement for a common transaction identifier. Market participants relied on internal deal numbers or repository generated references, which were often inconsistent across counterparties and jurisdictions, complicating aggregation and cross-border supervision. Responsibility for generating the UTI will follow a waterfall mechanism, starting with central counterparties or electronic trading platforms where applicable, and falling back on CCIL's trade repository if no other entity generates it. The central bank clarified that routine amendments to derivative contracts will not require a new UTI, though lifecycle events such as novations that create a new reportable trade will trigger fresh identifiers.

Recent News :

- In Feb 2026, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) proposed **mandatory reporting of Over-the-Counter (OTC)** foreign exchange and interest rate derivative contracts by **Authorised Dealer Category-I (AD Cat-I) banks**.

Union Budget 2026-27 Allocates ₹5.01 Lakh Crore to Gender Budget, Up 11.55% from Previous Year

- **Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** presented the **Union Budget 2026-27**, highlighting a significant rise in **gender-focused allocations**.
- The **Gender Budget allocation** increased to **9.37%** of the total Union Budget in **FY 2026-27**, up from **8.86%** in **FY 2025-26**, indicating a stronger policy focus on **women's welfare**.
- The **Gender Budget Statement (GBS)** earmarked **₹5.01 lakh crore** for women and girls, marking an **11.55% increase** over **₹4.49 lakh crore** in **FY 2025-26**.
- **Top Ministries/Departments** with more than **30%** of their allocations in the **Gender Budget** include:
 - **Ministry of Women & Child Development (81.73%)**
 - **Department of Rural Development (69.92%)**
 - **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (48.60%)**
- A total of **53 Ministries and Departments** and **five Union Territories (UTs)** reported allocations in **FY 2026-27**, compared to **49 Ministries/Departments** and **five UTs** in the previous year, marking the **highest reporting since inception**.
- **Four new Ministries and Departments** reported **Gender Budget allocations** in the current fiscal, reflecting increased **coverage and focus** on women's welfare.

Gender Budget Allocation Rises To Rs 5.01 Lakh Crore In Union Budget 2026-27, Registers 11.55% Increase



India Raises Climate Action Spending to 5.6% of Gross Domestic Product, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Confirms

- **Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** stated that **India** has increased its **climate action spending** to nearly **5.6% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**, up from **3.7 per cent** six years ago.
- India emphasised the **principle of climate equity**, stating that nations with **historically lower emissions** should not bear an **equal financial burden** in addressing climate change.
- India has achieved **two-thirds of its renewable energy commitments** under its **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**, showing strong progress toward climate goals.
- **Sitharaman** highlighted that **India** is using its **own resources** while also seeking **global technology and funds** to meet its climate targets.
- The **Finance Minister** called for a **balanced approach** focusing equally on **resilience and adaptation** alongside **emission control** to safeguard **human lives and livestock**.
- **Union Budget 2026-27** includes **funding and incentives for carbon capture strategies** (including a **₹20,000-crore outlay**) to help businesses reduce **carbon footprint** and support India's transition to a **greener economy**.
- **Renewable energy efforts** are being promoted across the **mainland and remote areas** to accelerate **sustainable development and carbon reduction**.



NATIONAL AND STATE NEWS

India France National Centre of Excellence in Aeronautics and Defence to be Set Up in Kanpur

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** announced the establishment of a **National Centre of Excellence for Skilling in Aeronautics and Defence at Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh** during a joint press statement with the President of France while inaugurating the **India France Year of Innovation**.
- The initiative strengthens **India France strategic partnership** in advanced technology, defence manufacturing and skill development.

Prime Minister Announces India–France National Centre of Excellence in Aeronautics at Kanpur under PM-SETU

Posted On: 19 FEB 2025 5:11PM by PIB Delhi

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, announced the establishment of a National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) for Skilling in Aeronautics and Defence at National Skill Training Institute (NSTI), Kanpur, in collaboration with the Government of the French Republic under the Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employment Transformation through Upgraded ITI (PM-SETU) scheme of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).

The Prime Minister announced this statement was made during a joint press statement with the President of France while inaugurating the India-France Year of Innovation and related cooperation initiatives, including the National Centre of Excellence for Skilling in Aeronautics.

The proposed NCoE at Kanpur will focus on advanced skill training in aeronautics, Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO), airport operations, defence manufacturing and allied domains. It is envisaged as a world-class institution that will strengthen India's capacity in aviation skilling while supporting the country's growing aerospace and defence ecosystem.

Minister of State (Independent Charge), for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Minister of State for Education, Government of India, Shri Jayant Chaudhary said, "Under the visionary leadership of the Prime Minister, PM-SETU is redefining the future of India's ITI ecosystem. The National Centre of Excellence in Aviation at Kanpur will not only create a pipeline of globally competent aviation professionals but also deepen India's strategic partnership with France in emerging and advanced technology sectors. This initiative reflects our commitment to aligning skills with global standards, enabling mobility, and preparing our youth for emerging opportunities in aeronautics, defence and advanced manufacturing."

Key Highlights

- The **National Centre of Excellence in Aeronautics and Defence** will be set up at **National Skill Training Institute Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh**.
- The Centre will provide industry aligned training in **aeronautics, maintenance repair and overhaul, airport operations, defence manufacturing, space and allied sectors**.
- It aims to create a pipeline of **globally competent aviation and defence professionals** aligned with international standards.
- The Centre will be established under the **Prime Minister Skill Development and Employment Transformation Scheme**, with a total outlay of **₹60,000 crore**.

Follow us: [Telegram](#) , [Instagram](#) , [Download Our Mobile App For CA Shorts \(Swipe-up News\)](#)

visit: [Guidely Optimum CA](#) , [Smart Quiz GA](#) , [Daily CA & CA Quiz](#) , [e-Magazine](#)

- The scheme aims to **upgrade 1,000 Industrial Training Institutes across India**, modernise infrastructure and align curriculum with industry needs.
- Additional **National Centres of Excellence** are proposed at **Ludhiana, Hyderabad, Chennai and Bhubaneswar** based on regional industrial strengths.
- A **Letter of Intent** was exchanged between the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship** and the **Government of the French Republic** to strengthen cooperation.
- The initiative builds upon the **Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2025** in the field of skill development and vocational education and training.
- Areas of collaboration include **co designed curriculum, training of trainers, joint programme reviews, student and faculty exchange, language training and structured mobility pathways**.
- The initiative supports the vision of **Viksit Bharat 2047** by building a skilled workforce for high precision sectors such as aeronautics and defence manufacturing.

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

RECENT NEWS

- The Uttar Pradesh government has presented its first-ever Economic Survey 2025-26 in the state legislature, outlining a comprehensive roadmap to transform the state into a \$1 trillion economy over the medium term.

India Joins United States Led Pax Silica Coalition for Artificial Intelligence and Semiconductor Supply Chains

- **India has officially joined Pax Silica**, a **United States** led strategic coalition aimed at building **secure and resilient supply chains for Artificial Intelligence, semiconductors and critical minerals**.
- The declaration was signed in the presence of **Ashwini Vaishnaw**, Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology, and **Sergio Gor**, United States Ambassador.
- The move marks a major milestone in **India United States strategic cooperation in advanced technology and semiconductor manufacturing**.



Key Highlights

- **Pax Silica** is a United States led coalition launched in **December 2025** to strengthen global supply chains for **Artificial Intelligence infrastructure, semiconductors and critical minerals**.
- The initiative focuses on developing a secure **full silicon stack ecosystem** and reducing dependence on unreliable sources.
- India's participation strengthens its role in the global semiconductor and Artificial Intelligence value chain.

Follow us: [Telegram](#) , [Instagram](#) , [Download Our Mobile App For CA Shorts \(Swipe-up News\)](#)

visit: [Guidely Optimum CA](#) , [Smart Quiz GA](#) , [Daily CA & CA Quiz](#) , [e-Magazine](#)

- **Ashwini Vaishnaw** stated that India is designing **two nanometer semiconductor chips domestically**, reflecting advanced technological capability.
- Around **ten semiconductor plants are operational or under development in India**, enhancing manufacturing capacity.
- The coalition aims to ensure **economic security, innovation driven growth and trusted industrial partnerships** among member nations.
- Artificial Intelligence is recognised as a transformative force driving **new markets, infrastructure expansion and energy demand**.
- The founding summit of **Pax Silica** was held in **Washington** and outlined cooperation in manufacturing and next generation technologies.
- Member nations include **Australia, Japan, Israel, Singapore, United Arab Emirates and United Kingdom**.
- India's membership is expected to boost **electronics manufacturing, semiconductor fabrication, research opportunities and employment for engineers and youth**.

New Delhi Frontier AI Impact Commitments Launched at India AI Impact Summit 2026

- At the **India AI Impact Summit 2026**, Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology **Ashwini Vaishnaw** announced the **New Delhi Frontier AI Impact Commitments**.
- The initiative aims to promote **inclusive, multilingual and responsible Artificial Intelligence development**, with a special focus on the **Global South**.
- The commitments bring together leading frontier AI companies and Indian innovators to ensure AI systems are developed with **human safety, equity and national priorities** at the core.

Championing Inclusive and Multilingual AI for the Global South, India Unveils New Delhi Frontier AI Commitments

New Delhi Frontier AI Commitments Aim to Democratize AI Access and Innovation

'Shaping an AI Future 'of the Humans, by the Humans, and for the Humans': Union Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw

Posted On: 19 FEB 2026 3:00PM by PIB Delhi

At the opening ceremony of the India AI Impact Summit 2026, Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw announced the New Delhi Frontier AI Impact Commitments, a landmark outcome of the summit that brings together leading frontier AI companies and India's domestic innovators to advance inclusive and responsible artificial intelligence.



Key Highlights

- The initiative was announced at the **India AI Impact Summit 2026** by **Ashwini Vaishnaw**, Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology.
- India's AI strategy is based on three pillars: **Democratisation of technology, deployment at population scale and national sovereignty in AI systems**.
- India is building capabilities across **five layers of the AI stack: Applications, Models, Compute infrastructure, Talent development and Energy support**.
- The commitments are voluntary collaborative pledges by global and Indian AI companies to promote **responsible and culturally inclusive AI systems**.
- Participating Indian organisations include **Sarvam AI, BharatGen, Gnani.ai and Soket AI**.
- The first commitment focuses on generating **anonymised and aggregated insights on real world AI usage**, including its impact on **jobs, skills, productivity and economic transformation**.
- The second commitment emphasises **multilingual and culturally sensitive AI systems**, including development of datasets in **under represented languages** and cross cultural evaluation benchmarks.
- The initiative seeks to ensure **ethical AI development, reduction of bias and equitable access to AI technologies worldwide**.
- India aims to position itself as a leader advocating **AI that is inclusive, safe and aligned with Global South priorities**.

Follow us: [Telegram](#) , [Instagram](#) , [Download Our Mobile App For CA Shorts \(Swipe-up News\)](#)

visit: [Guidely Optimum CA](#) , [Smart Quiz GA](#) , [Daily CA & CA Quiz](#) , [e-Magazine](#)

Assam Cabinet Approves 3 Percent Reservation for Tea Tribes and Expands Mukhyamantri Mahila Udyamita Abhiyaan Scheme

- The **Assam Cabinet** has approved **3 percent reservation** for **Tea Tribes and Adivasi communities** in **Class One and Class Two state government jobs** within the **Other Backward Classes quota**.
- The Cabinet also expanded the **Mukhyamantri Mahila Udyamita Abhiyaan scheme** by adding **1,07,532 additional women beneficiaries**.
- The decisions were announced by **Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma** ahead of the **2026 Assam Legislative Assembly elections**.



A total of 32 lakh women have already received 20k each under MMUA scheme for self-help group members

Guwahati: In a major pre-poll push, the Assam cabinet on Tuesday approved 3% reservation in Class I and Class II state govt jobs for tea tribes and Adivasi communities within the OBC quota, alongside expanding the Mission for Minority and Underprivileged Areas (MMUA) to cover over 1 lakh more women beneficiaries.

A total of 32 lakh women have already received ₹10,000 each under MMUA scheme for self-help group members aimed at promoting women's entrepreneurship.

Key Highlights

- **3 percent reservation** granted to **Tea Tribes and Adivasi communities** in **Class One and Class Two government posts** under the **Other Backward Classes quota**.
- Earlier, reservation benefits for these communities were limited to **Grade Three and Grade Four posts**.
- The new provision will apply immediately to upcoming recruitment advertisements.
- The decision aims to improve representation in **state civil services and higher academic positions**.
- The **Mukhyamantri Mahila Udyamita Abhiyaan scheme** has been expanded to include **1,07,532 additional Self Help Group members**.
- So far, **32 lakh women** have received **10,000 rupees each** under the scheme to promote entrepreneurship and financial independence.
- The scheme focuses on strengthening **Self Help Groups**, encouraging small business activities and enhancing rural income generation.
- Tea Tribes and Adivasi communities in Assam trace their origins to tribal groups brought during the colonial period to work in tea plantations.
- The policy aims to improve **social mobility, employment access and administrative representation** of these communities.

About Assam:

- Chief Minister: Himanta Biswa Sarma
- Governor: Lakshman Prasad Acharya
- Capital: Dispur
- National Parks: Kaziranga National Park, Manas National Park, Dibru-Saikhowa National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, Orang National Park, Bura-Chapori Wildlife Sanctuary, Nameri Wildlife Sanctuary

RECENT NEWS

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated major infrastructure projects in Assam, including the Kumar Bhaskar Varma Setu over the Brahmaputra River in Guwahati and the Northeast's first Emergency Landing Facility (ELF) on a national highway in Dibrugarh district.

India Attends United States Gaza Board of Peace Meeting as Observer

- **India participated** as an observer in the inaugural **Gaza Board of Peace meeting** convened by **United States President Donald Trump**.



Follow us: [Telegram](#) , [Instagram](#) , [Download Our Mobile App](#)
 visit: [Guidely Optimum CA](#) , [Smart Quiz GA](#) , [Daily](#)

- The meeting focused on Gaza reconstruction and regional stabilisation. India was represented by **Namgya C Khampa, Deputy Chief of Mission in Washington District of Columbia**. More than **40 countries and the European Union** attended the meeting.

Key Highlights

- The Gaza Board of Peace was convened to focus on **Gaza reconstruction, mobilisation of an international stabilisation force and development of a structured peace framework**.
- The meeting was hosted at the **Donald J. Trump Institute of Peace in Washington District of Columbia**.
- India attended as an **observer and not as a formal board member**, reflecting its balanced diplomatic approach.
- Other observer countries included **Germany, Italy, Norway, Switzerland and United Kingdom**.
- Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif participated as a board member.
- During the meeting, President Donald Trump reiterated his claim of intervening in a previous India Pakistan conflict by threatening **200 percent trade tariffs**.
- India officially denied any external mediation and maintained that de-escalation occurred after **direct talks between the Directors General of Military Operations of both countries**.
- The core agenda included **post conflict reconstruction in Gaza, peacekeeping mechanisms and international funding mobilisation**.
- India continues to support a **two state solution, peaceful dialogue and humanitarian assistance** in the Israel Palestine issue while maintaining strategic autonomy.

Andhra Pradesh Secures India's Largest Lithium-Ion Battery Gigafactory

- In a major clean energy development, **Andhra Pradesh has secured India's largest integrated lithium-ion battery Gigafactory by Waaree Energies with an investment of Rupees 8,175 crore**.
- The project will be established at Rambilli in Anakapalli district with a planned production capacity of **16 Gigawatt hours**, and is expected to generate around **3,000 direct jobs**.

In a major boost to India's clean-energy manufacturing and self-reliance, Waaree Energies will establish India's largest integrated lithium-ion battery Gigafactory in Andhra Pradesh with an investment of ₹8,175 crore.

The project will come up at Rambilli in Anakapalli district and is expected to generate around 3,000 direct jobs.

The greenfield facility will have a capacity of 16 GWh and will cover the complete battery value chain, including cell manufacturing, battery packs and large-scale Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS).

The project has received in-principle approval from the Andhra Pradesh State Investment Promotion Board, chaired by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu.

Welcoming the investment, Nara Lokesh said this project marks a significant milestone in Andhra Pradesh's clean-energy journey.

Key Highlights

- Waaree Energies will set up a **greenfield Lithium-Ion Battery Gigafactory with 16 Gigawatt hour production capacity**.
- The facility will cover the **entire battery value chain including cell manufacturing, battery pack assembly and large-scale Battery Energy Storage Systems production**.
- The project received in-principle approval from the **Andhra Pradesh State Investment Promotion Board**.
- The investment board meeting was chaired by N. Chandrababu Naidu.
- The Gigafactory will be located at **Rambilli in Anakapalli district**, providing strategic coastal and industrial advantages.
- The project aligns with the **Integrated Clean Energy Policy of Andhra Pradesh** to promote advanced energy manufacturing.
- Large-scale lithium-ion battery production is crucial for **renewable energy storage, electric vehicle expansion, grid stability and national energy security**.

Follow us: [Telegram](#) , [Instagram](#) , [Download Our Mobile App For CA Shorts \(Swipe-up News\)](#)

visit: [Guidely Optimum CA](#) , [Smart Quiz GA](#) , [Daily CA & CA Quiz](#) , [e-Magazine](#)

- The facility will help **reduce dependence on imported battery cells and strengthen domestic manufacturing capacity.**
- The project is expected to create **approximately 3,000 direct employment opportunities**, along with indirect jobs in logistics, engineering and supply chain sectors.
- A Gigafactory is a **large-scale battery manufacturing facility measured in Gigawatt hours, designed to support electric vehicles and grid-scale energy storage systems.**

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

RECENT NEWS

- The Andhra Pradesh government is set to launch the ambitious Amaravati Quantum Valley (AQV) project on February 7, 2026, marking a major step in India's quantum technology journey. The project aims to position Andhra Pradesh as a global hub for quantum research, innovation, talent development, and industry collaboration.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India and Nepal Sign Agreement for Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters

- The **Government of India (GoI)** signed a **Mutual Legal Assistance Agreement on Criminal Matters** with Nepal in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- The agreement was signed by **Binod Kumar Bhattarai**, Joint Secretary of Nepal, and **Naveen Srivastava**, Indian Ambassador to Nepal.
- The agreement aims to **strengthen cross-border law enforcement, combat transnational crimes**, and facilitate **smooth judicial cooperation** between India and Nepal.
- It provides a **legal framework** for the two countries to **share information and evidence** relevant to criminal cases, and coordinate **investigations, prosecutions, and judicial proceedings** in criminal matters across borders.
- The agreement addresses various **transnational crimes** such as **financial fraud, money laundering, terrorism-related offences, trafficking, and cybercrime.**
- Each country will designate a **Central Authority** (in India, typically the **Ministry of Home Affairs**) to send and receive legal assistance requests, which will be processed through **official legal and diplomatic channels.**



Nepal and India Sign Agreement for Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Cases

Nepal and India have formalized an agreement on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, aimed at strengthening cooperation in law enforcement and judicial processes between the two countries.

IN-DEPTH STORY

About Nepal:

- Capital: Kathmandu
- Currency: Nepalese rupee (NPR)
- President: Ram Chandra Poudel
- Prime Minister: Sushila Karki

DEFENCE NEWS

Follow us: [Telegram](#) , [Instagram](#) , [Download Our Mobile App For CA Shorts \(Swipe-up News\)](#)

visit: [Guidely Optimum CA](#) , [Smart Quiz GA](#) , [Daily CA & CA Quiz](#) , [e-Magazine](#)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron virtually launch H-125 Light Utility Helicopter Final Assembly Line at Vemagal, Karnataka

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and French President **Emmanuel Macron** virtually inaugurated the **Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) Final Assembly Line (FAL)** of the **Airbus H-125 Light Utility Helicopter** at **Vemagal, Karnataka**, from **Mumbai**.
- The inauguration ceremony was attended by **Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh**, French Minister **Catherine Vautrin**, Union Civil Aviation Minister **K. R. Naidu**, and Karnataka Minister **Dr M. B. Patil**.

Key Highlights :

- The **H-125 Final Assembly Line** was described as a **milestone** in the **India–France strategic partnership**, strengthening **defence and aerospace cooperation**.
- The project marks a **major collaboration** between **TASL** and **Airbus Helicopters**, following their earlier partnership for manufacturing the **C-295 transport aircraft** in India.
- The initiative significantly supports the Government's flagship programmes **Make in India** and **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**, aimed at achieving **self-reliance** in critical technologies.
- The **H-125 programme investment** is expected to exceed **₹1,000 crore**, creating substantial **direct and indirect employment** opportunities for skilled youth.
- The **Airbus H-125** is a **single-engine Light Utility Helicopter** known for its exceptional **reliability, versatility**, and outstanding performance in diverse operating conditions.
- The **H125M variant** is optimized for **high-altitude operations, tactical reconnaissance and surveillance**, low acoustic and thermal signature missions, **high-altitude logistics support, search and rescue (SAR)**, and **medical evacuation (MEDEVAC)**.
- The **H-125** is the **only helicopter in history to land on the summit of Mount Everest**, highlighting its superior **high-altitude capability**.
- The Government has undertaken **major defence sector reforms**, including the **corporatisation of Ordnance Factories, liberalised investment policies**, and the establishment of **Defence Industrial Corridors**.
- The **private sector's share** in India's total defence production has increased to nearly **25%**, while **defence exports** have grown manifold, placing India among the **top defence exporters** globally.
- The **defence ecosystem** has expanded to over **16,000 MSMEs**, with several foreign companies sourcing components from **Indian MSMEs**, boosting domestic manufacturing capacity.
- The initiative reflects India's broader push for **rapid industrial development**, supported by schemes like the **Production Linked Incentive (PLI)** and a **liberalised investment regime**.
- This project represents the **second major TASL–Airbus industrial collaboration**, after the **C-295 military transport aircraft** Final Assembly Line, contributing to the development of a comprehensive **military aerospace ecosystem** in India.

Prime Minister & French President virtually inaugurate Final Assembly Line of H-125 Light Utility Helicopter at Vemagal, Karnataka

H-125 final assembly line is a milestone in India-France strategic partnership: Raksha Mantri

"Govt is committed to achieving self-reliance in critical tech & manufacturing high-end products through mutually beneficial partnerships"

Posted On: 17 FEB 2025 10:59PM by PIB Delhi

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and French President Mr Emmanuel Macron, on February 17, 2025, virtually inaugurated, from Mumbai, Tata Advanced Systems Final Assembly Line of the Airbus H-125 Light Utility Helicopter, located at Vemagal, Karnataka. Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh, French Minister of the Armed Forces and Veterans Affairs Mr Catherine Vautrin, Union Minister of Civil Aviation Shri K. R. Naidu and Minister for Legal & Maritime Industries, Government of Karnataka Dr. M. B. Patil were present at the Final Assembly Line facility during the virtual inauguration.



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Bengaluru Startup Sarvam AI Unveils India's First Indigenous large language models: Sarvam-30B and Sarvam-105B

Follow us: [Telegram](#) , [Instagram](#) , [Download Our Mobile App For CA Shorts \(Swipe-up News\)](#)

visit: [Guidely Optimum CA](#) , [Smart Quiz GA](#) , [Daily CA & CA Quiz](#) , [e-Magazine](#)

- **Bengaluru-based startup Sarvam AI** has launched two **indigenous large language models (LLMs)**—**Sarvam-30B** and **Sarvam-105B**—that are fully developed in India.

Key Highlights :

- The **Indian Government** selected **Sarvam AI** in **April 2025** under the **IndiaAI Mission** to create the nation's **first autonomous large language model**.
- The **Sarvam-30B** model offers **reduced latency, economical implementation**, and is ideal for **real-time conversational use cases** with a **32,000-token context window** and pre-training on **16 trillion tokens**.
- The **Sarvam-105B** model is designed for **advanced corporate operations and complex reasoning**, featuring **105 billion parameters** and a **128,000-token context window**, enabling long-form tasks and deeper reasoning.
- The models support **all 22 Indian languages** and are **optimised for voice-first interaction**, facilitating **multilingual AI applications** for wider accessibility.
- Milestones shared at the launch show **Sarvam models** performing competitively against international models such as **Gemma 27B, Mistral-32-24B, Nemotron-30B, Qwen-30B, and GPT-OSS-20B**, excelling in **mathematical reasoning, coding accuracy, and general problem-solving**.
- **Vikram**, Sarvam's **AI chatbot**, demonstrated capabilities in multiple Indian languages including **Hindi and Punjabi**, named in honour of **Vikram Sarabhai**, the Indian physicist and astronomer.
- **Sarvam AI** is building India's **first sovereign LLM ecosystem**, including an **open-source 120 billion parameter AI model** to enhance governance and public service access through initiatives like **2047: Citizen Connect** and **AI4Pragati**.
- Other Indian AI startups like **Soket, Gnani, and Gan AI** are developing **multilingual foundation models** ranging from **70 billion to 120 billion parameters**, targeting **defense, healthcare, education, and text-to-speech** applications.
- The launch aligns with **OpenAI's IndQA benchmark** and **Anthropic's Claude model** for **Indic languages**, strengthening AI models' understanding and reasoning in **Indian linguistic and cultural contexts**.
- **Sarvam AI** has raised **\$50 million** in funding, supported by investors including **Khosla Ventures, Lightspeed Venture, and Peak XV**.

Bengaluru firm unveils two AI language models

Launch of the much-anticipated models is seen as an milestone for AI development in India, they are not yet available to public. Sarvam AI says 'Vikram' beats global models on various counts



Union Minister Kiren Rijju Launches NIGRANI App, Haj Wrist Band, and AI Chatbots at Minority Affairs Chintan Shivir

- The **Ministry of Minority Affairs** organized a two-day **National Chintan Shivir** at **Nalanda University, Rajgir, Bihar**, to formulate a policy roadmap for **minority welfare and socio-economic empowerment**.
- The Ministry showcased achievements through flagship schemes like **PMJVK, PMVIKAS, NMDFC, UMEED Central**

Union Minister of Minority Affairs & Parliamentary Affairs Shri Kiren Rijju launches NIGRANI App, Haj Wrist band and AI Chatbots of Ministry during formal inauguration of Chintan Shivir today

Shri Rijju highlighted that Chintan Shivir deliberations will help in streamlining Centre-State coordination, stakeholder's participation and achieve successful implementation at grassroots level

Posted On: 19 FEB 2026 4:08PM by PIB Delhi

Ministry of Minority Affairs concluded two-day National 'Chintan Shivir' at Nalanda University, Rajgir, Bihar, bringing together Union & State Ministers, senior officials, and domain experts to deliberate on a policy-driven roadmap for minority welfare and socio-economic empowerment.



Follow us: [Telegram](#) , [Instagram](#) , [Download Our Mobile App For CA Shorts \(Swipe-up News\)](#)

visit: [Guidely Optimum CA](#) , [Smart Quiz GA](#) , [Daily CA & CA Quiz](#) , [e-Magazine](#)

- **Portal**, and **Haj Modernization**, aligning with the vision of **Viksit Bharat @2047**.
- Union Minister **Shri Kiren Rijiju** launched the **NIGRANI App** under the **PMJVK Scheme**, aimed at bridging **infrastructural gaps** and ensuring **transparency** and **real-time monitoring**.
- Shri Rijiju also launched the **Haj Wrist Band** and **AI Chatbots** to enhance **digital governance** and **citizen services** for pilgrims.
- The **Chintan Shivir** emphasized **Centre-State coordination**, stakeholder participation, and **grassroots implementation** of welfare schemes.
- Union MoS **Shri George Kurian** highlighted the role of **PMJVK, PMVIKAS, NMDFC, UMEED**, and **Haj initiatives** in contributing to **Atmanirbhar Bharat**.
- Secretary **Shri Chandra Shekhar Kumar** appreciated the support of the **Bihar Government** and emphasized the **historic importance** of **Nalanda University**.
- The event promoted **Citizen Participation** through **Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishvaas, Sabka Prayaas**, and encouraged **Jan Bhaagidari** (Public-Private-Community Partnership).
- Leaders from **Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, and Tripura** appreciated schemes like **PMJVK** and **PMVIKAS** for bridging **skilling gaps** and supporting **community development**.
- The Shivir conducted **Focused Group Discussions (FGDs)** on five themes:
 - **Infrastructure Development (PMJVK)**
 - **Socio-economic Empowerment (PMVIKAS + NMDFC)**
 - **Waqf Management**
 - **Haj Management**
 - **Scholarship Schemes**
- The sessions encouraged **peer learning** and **collaborative problem-solving** to generate insights for future **policy improvements**.

Indian Institute of Technology Madras Global Research Foundation Launches First International AI Innovation Centre in Dubai, United Arab Emirates

- The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras Global Research Foundation** launched its **first international Applied Artificial Intelligence (AI) Innovation Centre** at **Dubai CommerCity**, Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- The agreement to establish the **AI Innovation Centre** was signed on the sidelines of **WORLDEF Dubai 2026** (held from February 12–14, 2026).
- In its **initial phase**, the Centre will host **six applied AI startups** with a combined valuation of **USD 118 million** and projected revenues of **USD 281 million** over five years.
- The Centre will focus on **product development**, accelerating **AI solution deployment, Intellectual Property (IP) creation**, innovation generation, and **partnerships** with industry, governments, and ecosystem stakeholders.
- Backed by **MCA Gulf**, the Centre aims to position **Dubai** as a **global hub for applied AI** by supporting the development and scaling of innovative AI solutions through a **sustainable platform**.
- The initiative aligns with **India-UAE cooperation frameworks**, including the **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** and the **Dubai Economic Agenda D33**.



Follow us: [Telegram](#) , [Instagram](#) , [Download Our Mobile App For CA Shorts \(Swipe-up News\)](#)

visit: [Guidely Optimum CA](#) , [Smart Quiz GA](#) , [Daily CA & CA Quiz](#) , [e-Magazine](#)

TVS Supply Chain Solutions Signs Memorandum of Understanding with ALA Group to Strengthen Aerospace and Defence Supply Chain Operations

- **TVS Supply Chain Solutions (TVS SCS)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **ALA Group**, an Italy-based aerospace and defence supply chain integrator, to jointly tap India's **USD 28 billion Aerospace & Defence (A&D) supply chain market**.
- The **MoU** aims to develop **integrated supply chain services** across the **production and aftermarket lifecycles** in the **Aerospace & Defence (A&D)** sector.
- The collaboration will provide services including **Production Support (PS), Spare Parts Distribution (SPD), Inventory Optimisation (IO), Defence-grade Logistics (DGL), Logistics Engineering (LE), and Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO)**.
- The partnership will **initially target India's Aerospace & Defence sector**, aligned with **Defence Offset Programmes (DOP)**, with plans for phased **global expansion**.
- The companies will offer **end-to-end certified solutions**, covering **complex assembly logistics, regulated procurement, digital inventory management, and spare parts supply** to **Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs)**.
- The services will include **defence-compliant engineering solutions** aligned with **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Stock Numbers (NSN)** standards.
- The collaboration is expected to strengthen **India's domestic aerospace and defence ecosystem** through **indigenisation, regulatory compliance, digitalisation, global supply chain integration**, and enhanced participation in **international A&D value chains**.



Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs Sets Up High-Level Advisory Group on Ease of Doing Business Headed by Gyaneshwar Kumar Singh

- The **Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA)**, under the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)**, set up a high-level **Advisory Group on Ease of Doing Business (EoDB)** to strengthen and modernise India's corporate regulatory framework, particularly compliance under the **Companies Act, 2013**.
- The **Advisory Group** is chaired by **Gyaneshwar Kumar Singh**, Director General (DG) & CEO of **IICA**.
- The **School of Business Environment (SoBE)**, IICA, will serve as the **Secretariat** to the Advisory Group, supporting research, consultations, and coordination activities.
- As part of the reform initiative, **IICA** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **MCA** to conduct a research study titled "**Re-envisioning Ease of Doing Business for Viksit Bharat 2047**".
- **IICA** renewed its **MoU** with **NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad (Telangana)** for another **five years** to strengthen academic collaboration and research.
- The **renewed MoU** was signed by **Gyaneshwar Kumar Singh**, DG & CEO of **IICA**, and **Srikrishna Deva Rao**, Vice-Chancellor of **NALSAR**.



Follow us: [Telegram](#) , [Instagram](#) , [Download Our Mobile App For CA Shorts \(Swipe-up News\)](#)

visit: [Guidely Optimum CA](#) , [Smart Quiz GA](#) , [Daily CA & CA Quiz](#) , [e-Magazine](#)

VoicERA Launched on BHASHINI Platform for Multilingual Voice AI at India AI Impact Summit 2026

- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** launched **VoicERA**, an **open-source, end-to-end Voice AI stack**, at the **India AI Impact Summit 2026**.
- The initiative is led by the **Digital India BHASHINI Division** under the **Digital India Corporation (DIC)**, strengthening India's **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** for multilingual voice technologies.
- **VoicERA** is deployed on the **BHASHINI National Language Infrastructure**, creating a **national execution layer for Voice and Language AI**.
- The platform is **open, modular, interoperable, cloud-deployable, and on-premise ready**, enabling secure and scalable deployment across **government departments, research institutions, and innovation ecosystems**.
- By **reducing duplication of effort** and **avoiding vendor lock-in**, **VoicERA** accelerates the development of inclusive, **voice-enabled digital services**.
- The initiative was spearheaded by **Amitabh Nag**, CEO of Digital India BHASHINI Division, in collaboration with **EkStep Foundation, COSS at IIT Bengaluru, and AI4Bharat**.
- **VoicERA** expands **BHASHINI's capabilities** beyond translation and text-based tools to **real-time speech systems, conversational AI, and multilingual telephony at population scale**.
- **Government departments** can deploy **voice-enabled citizen services** in areas like **agriculture advisories, education support, livelihood services, grievance redressal, and scheme discovery**.
- The launch reinforces India's commitment to **sovereign AI capabilities, inclusive digital governance**, and positions India at the forefront of **population-scale language and voice innovation**.

VoicERA Launched on BHASHINI National Infrastructure at India AI Impact Summit 2026

Posted On: 18 FEB 2026 6:02PM by PIB Delhi

The **Digital India BHASHINI Division (DBDI)**, under the **Digital India Corporation (DIC)**, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), marked a major milestone in India's **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** journey with the launch of **VoicERA**, an open source, end to end **Voice AI stack**, at the **India AI Impact Summit 2026**. The launch was led by **Shri Amitabh Nag**, CEO, Digital India BHASHINI Division with **EkStep Foundation**, in collaboration with **COSS, IIT Bengaluru, and AI4Bharat**.

Deployed on the **BHASHINI National Language Infrastructure**, **VoicERA** establishes a national execution layer for multilingual **Voice and Language AI**. Designed to be **open, pluggable, interoperable, cloud deployable, and on premise ready**, the platform enables secure and scalable deployment of voice systems across government, research institutions, and innovation ecosystems. By **modernising the voice stack**, it **reduces duplication of effort** and **eliminates vendor lock-in**.

The integration of **VoicERA** strengthens **BHASHINI's role as India's national language infrastructure**, expanding its capabilities from translation and language technologies to **real time speech systems, conversational AI, and multilingual telephony at population scale**. Departments can rapidly onboard voice enabled citizen services across sectors including agriculture advisories, education support, livelihood services, grievance redressal, citizen feedback, and scheme discovery.

Speaking at the launch, **Shri Amitabh Nag**, Chief Executive Officer, Digital India BHASHINI Division, stated, **"With BHASHINI as national language infrastructure and VoicERA as the open execution stack, India is entering a new phase of Digital Public Infrastructure where voice becomes the most natural interface for Bharat. This framework enables secure, scalable multilingual systems while empowering innovators to build on a shared national foundation. It is about dignity, access, and ensuring every citizen can speak to the State and be understood. This marks the beginning of a new Voice Era, and in this era, India owns its voice."**

Mr Santosh Keshini, Voice AI Strategist and Advisor associated with the initiative, stated, **"VoicERA is designed as digital public good for voice, enabling interoperable, execution ready deployment without reconstructing entire technology stacks."**

SPORTS NEWS

International Paralympic Committee Lifts Ban on Russian Athletes for Milan Cortina 2026 Winter Paralympics

- The **International Paralympic Committee** has **lifted the ban on Russian athletes** for the **Milan Cortina 2026 Winter Paralympics**. Russian and Belarusian athletes will now compete under their **national flags**, and their **national anthems** will be played during medal ceremonies.
- Earlier, after the **2022 Russia Ukraine conflict** and doping related sanctions, athletes were permitted to compete only as neutral participants without national symbols.



Paralympics (Image Via Sportstar)

After years of restrictions, Russian and Belarusian athletes will be allowed to compete under their national flags at the **Milano-Cortina 2026 Winter Paralympics**. The **International Paralympic Committee (IPC)** confirmed that a limited number of quota spots have been given to both nations. This means their flags can be displayed and, if they win, their national anthems can be played.

The decision marks a major shift from 2022, when Russian athletes were banned following Russia's military action in Ukraine. Since then, some athletes were allowed to compete only as neutral participants, without national symbols. Now, with the **Milano-Cortina Games** approaching, the IPC has outlined exactly how many athletes will take part and in which sports. However, the change applies only to the Paralympics. The restrictions for the 2026 Winter Olympics remain separate.

Key Highlights

Follow us: [Telegram](#) , [Instagram](#) , [Download Our Mobile App For CA Shorts \(Swipe-up News\)](#)

visit: [Guidely Optimum CA](#) , [Smart Quiz GA](#) , [Daily CA & CA Quiz](#) , [e-Magazine](#)

- The decision restores **full national recognition** for Russian and Belarusian athletes at the **2026 Winter Paralympics**.
- **Russia** has been allotted **6 quota slots**
 - 2 in **Para alpine skiing**
 - 2 in **Para cross country skiing**
 - 2 in **Para snowboard**
- **Belarus** has been allotted **4 quota slots**, all in **cross country skiing**.
- The earlier ban was imposed due to **state sponsored doping violations** and the **2022 conflict**, considered a violation of the **Olympic Truce**.
- The decision applies **only to the Winter Paralympics**, while restrictions related to the **Winter Olympic Games** remain separate.
- The **2026 Winter Paralympics** will be hosted by **Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy**.

IMPORTANT DAYS

21st February is to be celebrated as the International Mother Language Day

- Every year **February 21** is celebrated as **International Mother Language Day 2026** all over the world.
- It is a worldwide annual observance to bring awareness among people about linguistic and cultural diversities. It is celebrated to promote multilingualism among people all over the world.



History

- **UNESCO** declared **February 21st as International Mother Language Day in the year 1999** and has been witnessed all throughout the world since 2000.
- This declaration of Mother Language Day came into existence as a tribute to the language movement in Bangladesh. When Pakistan was separated in 1947 it had two partitions: East Pakistan and West Pakistan.
- The two parts were extremely different from each other in the sense of culture and languages. In 1948, the Pakistani government declared Urdu as the national language of both East and West Pakistan. But the majority of the people in both east and west Pakistan had Bengali or Bangla.
- The East Pakistan people started a protest as they have Bengali as their mother tongue. They demanded Bengali be at least one of the national languages in addition to Urdu.
- This was raised first by Dhirendranath Datta on February 23, 1948. To demolish the protest, the government of Pakistan outlawed public meetings and rallies.
- The students of the University of Dhaka, with the support of the general public, arranged massive rallies and meetings. **On 21 February 1952**, police opened fire on rallies. Three people died, with hundreds of others injured. This was a rare incident in history, where people sacrificed their lives for their mother tongue.
- Since then, Bangladeshis have celebrated International Mother Language Day as one of their tragic days. They visit the Shaheed Minar, a monument built in memory of the martyrs and its replicas to express their deep sorrow, respect, and gratitude to them. International Mother Language Day is a national holiday in Bangladesh.
- The resolution was suggested by Rafiqul Islam and Abdus Salam, Bengalis living in Vancouver, Canada. They wrote a letter to Kofi Annan on 9 January 1998 asking him

to take a step toward saving the world's languages from extinction by declaring an International Mother Language Day.

- Rafiq proposed the date as 21 February to commemorate the 1952 killings in Dhaka during the Language Movement. Rafiqul Islam's proposal was introduced in the Bangladesh Parliament and in due course (at the behest of the Prime Minister) a formal proposal was submitted to UNESCO by the government of Bangladesh.
- The process of shepherding the proposal through UNESCO's regulatory system was undertaken by Syed Muazzem Ali, then Bangladesh ambassador to France and Permanent Representative to UNESCO, and Tozammel Tony Huq, his predecessor, who was then a Special Adviser to UNESCO Secretary-General.
- Finally, **on 17 November 1999, the 30th General Assembly of UNESCO** unanimously resolved that "21st February be proclaimed International Mother Language Day throughout the world to commemorate the martyrs who sacrificed their lives on this very day in **1952**."

Daily CA One- Liner: February 21

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** announced the establishment of a **National Centre of Excellence for Skilling in Aeronautics and Defence** at **Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh** during a joint press statement with the President of France while inaugurating the **India France Year of Innovation**
- **India has officially joined Pax Silica**, a **United States** led strategic coalition aimed at building **secure and resilient supply chains for Artificial Intelligence, semiconductors and critical minerals**
- At the **India AI Impact Summit 2026**, Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology **Ashwini Vaishnaw** announced the **New Delhi Frontier AI Impact Commitments**
- The **Assam Cabinet** has approved **3 percent reservation** for **Tea Tribes and Adivasi communities** in **Class One and Class Two state government jobs** within the **Other Backward Classes** quota
- **India participated** as an observer in the **inaugural Gaza Board of Peace** meeting convened by **United States President Donald Trump**
- In a major clean energy development, **Andhra Pradesh has secured India's largest integrated lithium-ion battery Gigafactory** by **Waaree Energies** with an investment of **Rupees 8,175 crore**
- The **International Paralympic Committee** has **lifted the ban on Russian athletes** for the **Milan Cortina 2026 Winter Paralympics**. Russian and Belarusian athletes will now compete under their **national flags**, and their **national anthems** will be played during medal ceremonies.
- **Seven public sector banks (PSBs)** have deployed **32 generative AI use cases** under the **EASE 8.0 programme** as part of the government's banking reform push.
- **Axis Bank Limited**, India's 3rd largest private sector bank, partnered with **IndiGo (InterGlobe Aviation Limited)** to launch two co-branded travel and lifestyle credit cards — **IndiGo Axis Bank Credit Card** and **IndiGo Axis Bank Premium Credit Card**.
- **ASK Asset & Wealth Management Group**, a leading financial services company, received **regulatory approval from Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** to operate as an **investment manager** for the **Mutual Fund (MF) business** in India.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has mandated the use of **Unique Transaction Identifier (UTI)** for all **Over-the-Counter (OTC) derivative transactions** from **January 01, 2027**, deferring from the earlier proposed date of **April 01, 2026**.

Follow us: [Telegram](#) , [Instagram](#) , [Download Our Mobile App For CA Shorts \(Swipe-up News\)](#)

visit: [Guidely Optimum CA](#) , [Smart Quiz GA](#) , [Daily CA & CA Quiz](#) , [e-Magazine](#)

- **Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** presented the **Union Budget 2026-27**, highlighting a significant rise in **gender-focused allocations**.
- **Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** stated that **India** has increased its **climate action spending** to nearly **5.6% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**, up from **3.7 per cent** six years ago.
- The **Government of India (GoI)** signed a **Mutual Legal Assistance Agreement on Criminal Matters** with **Nepal** in **Kathmandu, Nepal**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and French President **Emmanuel Macron** virtually inaugurated the **Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) Final Assembly Line (FAL)** of the **Airbus H-125 Light Utility Helicopter** at **Vemagal, Karnataka**, from **Mumbai**.
- **Bengaluru-based startup Sarvam AI** has launched two **indigenous large language models (LLMs)**—**Sarvam-30B** and **Sarvam-105B**—that are fully developed in India.
- The **Ministry of Minority Affairs** organized a two-day **National Chintan Shivir** at **Nalanda University**, Rajgir, Bihar, to formulate a policy roadmap for **minority welfare** and **socio-economic empowerment**.
- The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras Global Research Foundation** launched its **first international Applied Artificial Intelligence (AI) Innovation Centre** at **Dubai CommerCity**, Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- **TVS Supply Chain Solutions (TVS SCS)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **ALA Group**, an Italy-based aerospace and defence supply chain integrator, to jointly tap India's **USD 28 billion Aerospace & Defence (A&D) supply chain market**.
- The **Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA)**, under the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)**, set up a high-level **Advisory Group on Ease of Doing Business (EoDB)** to strengthen and modernise India's corporate regulatory framework, particularly compliance under the **Companies Act, 2013**.
- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** launched **VoicERA**, an **open-source, end-to-end Voice AI stack**, at the **India AI Impact Summit 2026**.
- Every year **February 21** is celebrated as **International Mother Language Day 2026** all over the world.