



Daily Current Affairs

25th Feb 2026



BANKING, FINANCE & BUSINESS
Reserve Bank of India Establishes High-Security Data Centre in Odisha to Mitigate Threat and Seismic Risks

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has launched its second **high-security Data Centre** in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**, to strengthen the **safety, resilience, and continuity** of critical financial infrastructure.
- The **greenfield facility** is built on an **18.55-acre campus** at **Info Valley-II, Khordha (Odisha)** and will host the **RBI's core computing systems**.


Key Highlights :

- The centre will manage **currency (cash) supply operations, digital inter-bank payments, payment and settlement systems, and regulatory financial data monitoring**.
- The facility has achieved **Tier IV design certification**, meeting the highest global standards of **reliability, uptime, redundancy, and operational performance**.
- It is designed with **in-built fault tolerance, layered physical and cyber safeguards, high redundancy, and resilience architecture** to ensure uninterrupted functioning of core systems.
- The new centre is **strategically located** away from **cross-border threat zones and high seismic-risk regions**, enhancing **national financial security**.
- The **Primary Data Centre** of RBI is located at **Kharghar, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra**, which hosts core applications, databases, and software systems.
- With the rapid growth of **digital transactions and real-time payment systems**, secure **data infrastructure** is being treated as a **cornerstone of financial stability**.
- The initiative aligns with **global best practices**, similar to secure facilities operated by the **US Federal Reserve Bank**, such as the **East Rutherford Operations Center**.
- Other Indian institutions like the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** and the **State Bank of India (SBI)** are also developing their own **dedicated data centres**.
- As of **2025**, RBI is also launching a **pilot cloud facility** with data centres in **Mumbai and Hyderabad** to provide **sovereign local cloud storage solutions** for financial institutions.

Recent News :

- In Jan 2026, The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued **operational guidelines** for extending **interest subvention** on **pre- and post-shipment export credit** under the **Export Promotion Mission (EPM) – NIRYAT PROTSAHAN (1st Component)**.

ICRA Projects India's Gross Domestic Product Growth to Moderate to 7.2% in Q3 FY26

- **ICRA Limited** (formerly Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency of India Limited) has projected that **India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth** will moderate to **7.2% in Q3 FY26 (Oct–Dec 2025)** from **8.2% in Q2 FY26**.
- The **slowdown** is mainly driven by **moderation** in the **services and agriculture** sectors, despite improvement in **industrial activity**.



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- **Services sector growth** is expected to decline to **7.8%** in **Q3 FY26** from **9.2%** in **Q2 FY26**, reflecting **weaker momentum**.
- **Agriculture growth** is projected to ease to around **3%** in **Q3** compared to **3.5%** in **Q2 FY26**.
- **Industrial sector growth** is forecast to rise to **8.3%**, marking the **highest level in six quarters**.
- **Services Gross Value Added (GVA)** is estimated to moderate to **7.8%** year-on-year (YoY) in **Q3 FY26**, down from **9.2%** in **Q2 FY26**.
- Key factors behind the moderation include **unfavourable base effects** from FY25, a **23.4% contraction in central government capital expenditure**, and **subdued state government spending**.
- Additional pressures stem from **weak merchandise exports** and a **slowdown in services exports**, which have fallen to their **lowest levels** in several quarters.
- Overall, the projection indicates a **gradual economic moderation** in FY26, with **sectoral divergence** between **strong industrial output** and **weakening services and agriculture growth**.

Reserve Bank of India raises banks' acquisition financing exposure limit to 20% of Tier-1 capital

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) increased the aggregate exposure limit for **acquisition financing** by banks from **10% to 20% of Tier-1 capital**, allowing higher participation in **M&A transactions**.
- Banks can now finance up to **75% of the acquisition value**, while the remaining **25%** must be funded by the **acquirer's own funds**, ensuring **promoter skin in the game**.
- The **aggregate Capital Market Exposure (CME)** of a bank is capped at **40%** of its eligible capital base, and **acquisition finance exposure** must remain within this limit.
- Financing is now permitted for acquisition of **unlisted companies**, provided the target company has minimum **₹500 crore net worth**, is **profitable for the last three years**, and holds an **investment-grade rating (BBB- or above)**.
- The acquisition must result in **control of the target company** and be completed through single or interconnected transactions within **12 months** of the agreement.
- **RBI** has also allowed banks to provide loans against **government securities, sovereign gold bonds, shares, NCDs, mutual funds, ETF units, and Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs)**.
- The regulator fixed **Loan-to-Value (LTV)** ratios as follows: **75% against mutual funds, 60% against shares and NCDs, and 85% against debt mutual funds**.
- The framework supports **leveraged buyouts** and acquisition of **stressed assets** while maintaining safety through a **post-acquisition debt-to-equity ratio** not exceeding **3:1**.

Recent News :

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued draft amendment directions to clarify the calculation of **Owned Fund / Tier-1 Capital** for **NBFCs** and **Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs)** to comply with **credit and investment concentration limits** and invited public comments till **28 January 2026**.

RBI hikes banks' M&A financing limit to 20% of tier-1 capital

Our Bureau
Mumbai

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said banks can conduct acquisition financing of up to 20 per cent of their tier-1 capital, as against the proposed 10 per cent cap, in its draft guidelines. In November, business had reported that bankers had sought tweaks to the draft acquisition finance guidelines, including higher exposure limits, permission to fund unlisted companies' merger and acquisition (M&A) plans and approval to finance corporates acquiring majority stakes in tranches rather than in a single go.

"The aggregate capital market exposure (CME) of a bank, on both solo and consolidated basis, shall not exceed 40 per cent of its eligible capital base. A bank's direct capital market exposure, consisting of investment exposures, shall not exceed 20 per cent of eligible capital base, on both solo and con-



solidated basis. A bank's aggregate exposure to acquisition finance shall not exceed 20 per cent of its eligible capital base, within the aggregate CME ceiling of 40 per cent, both on a solo and consolidated basis," said the RBI.

ACQUISITION VALUE
Lenders can fund up to 75 per cent of the acquisition value, enabling acquisitions of both listed and unlisted entities, subject to different guidelines.

The acquisition shall result in the acquirer obtaining control of the target company through a single transaction, or a series of interconnected transactions but

completed within 12 months from the date of execution of the acquisition agreement.

Further, the RBI also allowed banks to lend against government securities, sovereign gold bonds, loan against shares, NCDs, mutual funds, units of ETFs and InvITs. The regulator has set 75 per cent loan to value (LTV) ratio against mutual funds, 60 per cent for loan against shares and NCDs and 85 per cent for debt mutual funds.

"The RBI has opened gates for leveraged buyouts, allowing banks to finance acquisition of control, including acquisition of substantial stake in already controlled entities by non financial acquiring companies. The directions permit acquisition of both domestic and overseas entities for up to 75 per cent of the acquisition value. With this, banks would be able to fund acquisitions directly without hiding it in the name of general corporate purposes," said Payal Agarwal, Partner, Vinod Kohari and Company.

Reserve Bank of India revises NBFC registration norms under NBFC Amendment Directions 2026

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued the **NBFC Amendment Directions, 2026**, effective from **1 April 2026**, to revise registration norms and regulatory treatment for **Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)** without **public funds** and **customer interface**.
- A new category called “**Unregistered Type I NBFC**” has been introduced for **NBFCs with asset size below ₹1,000 crore**, exempting them from registration under **Section 45IA** of the **RBI Act, 1934**.
- These **NBFCs** must operate on a **sustainable and durable business model** without using **public funds** and without **customer interface**, and must **disclose** their regulatory status and compliance in **financial statements**.
- Existing eligible **NBFCs**, including those holding **Type I NBFC Certificate of Registration**, can apply for **deregistration** through the **PRAVAAH** portal until **30 September 2026** with prescribed documents and **board resolutions**.
- **NBFCs with asset size of ₹1,000 crore or more** must **mandatorily register** as **Type I NBFCs**.
- **NBFCs** that want to access **public funds** or maintain **customer interface** must register as **Type II NBFCs**.
- The **exemption** applies only to **registration requirements** and does not exempt **NBFCs** from **RBI Act provisions, supervisory oversight, AML/PMLA compliance, or penal action** for violations.

RBI invites public comments on the draft Reserve Bank of India (Non-Banking Financial Companies – Registration, Exemptions and Framework for Scale Based Regulation) Amendment Directions, 2026

The Reserve Bank has announced, as part of the Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies dated February 06, 2026, to issue draft Amendment Directions for exemption from registration to eligible NBFCs not availing public funds and not having customer interface (including Type I NBFCs). Accordingly, the draft Reserve Bank of India (Non-Banking Financial Companies – Registration, Exemptions and Framework for Scale Based Regulation) Amendment Directions, 2026 have been issued for public comments.

2. The comments / feedback on the draft Amendment Directions are invited from the NBFCs, members of public and other stakeholders till March 04, 2026. The comments / feedback may be submitted through the link under the 'Connect 2 Regulator' Section available on RBI's website or may alternatively be forwarded to:

The Chief General Manager – In - Charge
Department of Regulation (DGR/NBFC)
Reserve Bank of India
12th Floor, Central Office Building
Shahid Bhagat Singh Marg, Fort, Mumbai – 400 001

Or

by email

With the subject line 'Feedback on the draft Reserve Bank of India (Non-Banking Financial Companies – Registration, Exemptions and Framework for Scale Based Regulation) Amendment Directions, 2026'.

Background and Objective

The Scale Based Regulatory Framework (SBR) for NBFCs introduced vide circular dated October 22, 2021 states that 'NBFCs not availing public funds and not having customer interface' bear a different risk profile and hence, deserve a differential regulatory treatment. Accordingly, these NBFCs are placed in the Base Layer of the regulatory structure under SBR Framework and are subject to relaxed regulatory requirements. It was also decided that the RBI will come out with separate regulations for these NBFCs in due course. Accordingly, the RBI has reviewed the regulatory framework for these NBFCs not availing public funds and not having customer interface. Considering their peculiar business model and lower risk profile, it has been decided that the NBFCs not availing public funds and not having customer interface, with asset size of less than ₹1000 crore, shall be exempted from registration requirement with the RBI, duly subject to the conditions as specified by the RBI. The proposed Directions include (a) above-mentioned exemption subject to the conditions specified, (b) procedure for deregistration or conversion of the existing NBFCs not availing public funds and not having customer interface, including NBFCs holding Certificate of Registration as Type I NBFC, and (c) other related aspects. A set of FAQs have also been released for the benefit of stakeholders to comprehend the expectations and

NATIONAL AND STATE NEWS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurates India's First Namoo Bharat Regional Rapid Transit System and Dedicates Delhi–Meerut Corridor

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's **first Namoo Bharat Regional Rapid Transit System** and dedicated the **Delhi–Meerut Namoo Bharat Corridor** to the nation in **Meerut, Uttar Pradesh**.
- The project marks the **first time in India** that a **Regional Rapid Transit System** and a **Metro service** are **operating from the same station and on the same track**, ushering in a new era of integrated and world-class infrastructure.

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurates India's first Namoo Bharat RRTS and dedicates Delhi–Meerut Namoo Bharat Corridor to the Nation

Today, Uttar Pradesh and the entire country are witnessing a new era of world-class infrastructure : PM

The inauguration of the Meerut Metro, Namoo Bharat train, and the new section of the Regional Rapid Transit System will make the lives of people in the NCR even simpler, smoother, and more convenient: PM

Our work culture is such that once the foundation stone of a task is laid, day and night are merged to complete it, that is why now projects do not remain pending like before: PM

Be it Namoo Bharat or the metro service, I had the opportunity to lay the foundation stone for both, and today I have also been fortunate to inaugurate them: PM

It is happening for the first time in the country that Namoo Bharat and Metro rail will operate on the same station and on the same track: PM

From the very same platform, one will be able to travel within the city, and from that same station, one can also commute directly to and from Delhi: PM

Key Highlights

- The Delhi–Meerut Corridor is **India's first operational Regional Rapid Transit System corridor** under the Namoo Bharat initiative.
- Alongside the Regional Rapid Transit System, the **Meerut Metro** was also inaugurated from the same platform, introducing an integrated transport model for both intra-city and inter-city travel.
- For the first time in India, **Namoo Bharat trains and Metro rail services will operate from the same station and share the same track infrastructure**, offering seamless transition for commuters.

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- The corridor provides **rapid and high-speed connectivity between Delhi and Meerut**, significantly reducing travel time and improving daily commuting convenience.
- Passengers can travel within Meerut city using the Metro service and use Namoo Bharat trains for regional travel to Delhi from the same platform.
- The project strengthens the **National Capital Region connectivity** and promotes the “Twin Cities” concept by integrating Meerut closely with Delhi.
- Major integration points along the corridor include:
 - Sarai Kale Khan
 - Anand Vihar
 - Ghaziabad
 - Meerut
- These stations provide multi-modal connectivity by linking Indian Railways, Metro services, and bus terminals for seamless transport movement.

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. The survey provides a data-driven framework focusing on investment-led growth, infrastructure expansion, industrial diversification, fiscal discipline, and human development.

Vice President Releases Book *Atal Bihari Vajpayee: The Eternal Statesman* in New Delhi

- Vice President **C. P. Radhakrishnan** released the coffee table book *Atal Bihari Vajpayee: The Eternal Statesman* in New Delhi.
- He described the publication as a fitting tribute to Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee, stating that the book is more than a collection of photographs and celebrates the **life, leadership, and enduring legacy** of one of India’s tallest statesmen whose ideals continue to inspire the nation.



Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan today released the coffee table book titled Atal Bihari Vajpayee: The Eternal Statesman in New Delhi. Speaking on the occasion, the Vice President said that the book is a fitting tribute to Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He added that the publication is not merely a collection of photographs but a celebration of one of India's tallest leaders, whose life and legacy continue to inspire the nation.

Key Highlights

- The book was **released in New Delhi** by Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan.
- It highlights **major milestones of Atal Bihari Vajpayee’s political journey**, covering both personal and political dimensions of his life.
- The book portrays Vajpayee’s commitment to **dialogue, consensus-building, and democratic values** throughout his political career.
- Key leadership milestones highlighted include:
 - **Pokhran Nuclear Tests (1998)**, which strengthened India’s national security.

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- Visionary infrastructure initiatives such as the **Delhi Metro project**, symbolising development-oriented governance.
- The Vice President observed that Vajpayee demonstrated how **strength and sensitivity can coexist in leadership**.
- The publication underscores three core pillars that defined Vajpayee's leadership:
 - **Dialogue over confrontation**
 - **Democracy as a foundational value**
 - **Development as a national priority**

Ministry of Home Affairs Launches 'Prahaar' – India's New National Counter-Terrorism Policy

- **The Ministry of Home Affairs** has launched '**Prahaar**', India's new national counter-terrorism policy, outlining a **zero-tolerance framework against terrorism**.
- Announced, the strategy aims to address evolving terror threats through **prevention, intelligence-led coordination, technological upgradation, and strict adherence to the rule of law**.
- The government reiterated that **terrorism has no religion, nationality, or community**, and that violence cannot be justified under any circumstances.



Key Highlights

- The **Prahaar policy** is built on the pillars of **prevention, response, capacity building, and legal safeguards**.
- Core objectives include:
 - **Preventing terror attacks before they occur**
 - Ensuring **swift and proportionate response mechanisms**
 - Strengthening coordination between **Central and State agencies**
 - Protecting **human rights within the constitutional framework**
 - Reducing conditions that enable **radicalisation**
 - Strengthening **community resilience**
- The strategy adopts a **whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach**, integrating intelligence agencies, law enforcement bodies, and community participation.
- The policy addresses emerging and high-technology threats such as:
 - **Cross-border terrorism and extremist networks**
 - Use of **drones in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir**
 - Online propaganda and **encrypted communication platforms**
 - Terror financing through the **dark web and crypto-wallet channels**
 - Threats involving **Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive and Digital (CBRNED) materials**
 - **Cyber-attacks by State and non-State actors**
- India's counter-terror response under Prahaar will be **proactive and intelligence-driven**. Key institutional mechanisms include:
 - Multi Agency Centre for real-time intelligence sharing
 - Joint Task Force on Intelligence for coordinated intelligence operations
 - National Investigation Agency for specialised terror investigations
 - National Security Guard as the nodal counter-terror force

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- The Ministry of Home Affairs in India has revoked the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Act, 2020, registration of the Centre for Policy Research (CPR) in New Delhi, alleging violations. The leading public policy research institution, spearheaded by Congress leader Mani Shankar Aiyar's daughter, Yamini Aiyar, has faced government scrutiny for purportedly breaching FCRA regulations.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah Laid Foundation Stone Laid for 10th Assam Police Battalion Headquarters in Kamrup

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah laid the foundation stone of the **10th Battalion Headquarters of the Assam Police** in Kamrup and asserted that strict action against infiltration will continue.
- Addressing a public gathering, he stated that Assam is set to become the industrial hub of eastern and North-Eastern India within the next five years.
- The event was attended by **Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya and Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.**

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah lays the foundation stone of the headquarters of 10th Battalion of the Assam Police in Kamrup, Assam, and addressed a public gathering

The opposition party damaged all three in Assam — jati (community), mati (land), and bheli (cultural foundation)

The Opposition party didn't give Lachit Borphukan Ji the recognition he deserved, whereas under our government, every child in the country is now aware of the bravery of Lachit Borphukan

The Opposition party left the North-East to its fate, whereas our government considers the North-East a priority

In the next five years, Assam is set to become the industrial hub of eastern India and the entire North-East

In Moran, where even building roads was once difficult, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi astonished the entire world by landing an Air Force aircraft on the highway there

Key Highlights

- The new Assam Police Battalion Headquarters will be developed across **124 bighas of land** with modern infrastructure facilities.
- Major facilities to be developed include:
 - Barracks for **750 male and 450 female personnel**
 - Residential and operational infrastructure
 - Hospital and training centre
 - Firing range and surveillance facilities
 - Sports complex
- Expansion of **self-help groups for women** and granting of **land rights to indigenous families** were also highlighted as key welfare measures.
- Referring to the recent Indian Air Force aircraft landing on a highway in Moran, he described it as a symbol of Assam's rapid infrastructure transformation.
- He credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for prioritising development of the North-East region through frequent visits and focused policies.
- He mentioned that recognition of Assamese hero Lachit Borphukan has enhanced Assam's cultural identity at the national level.
- The long-term strategy for Assam's growth includes:
 - Strong internal security
 - Crackdown on infiltration
 - Industrial investments
 - Employment generation
 - Infrastructure expansion
- The Assam Police Battalion supports district police in maintaining law and order and guarding vital installations round the clock.
- It plays a crucial role in **static security duties, counter-insurgency operations, and protection of communication lines and civilians.**
- Personnel are deployed at inter-state Border Out Posts in remote districts such as **Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Karbi Anglong and Cachar.**
- Many units also operate consumer cooperative societies and family welfare centres for the benefit of personnel and their families.

About Assam:

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- 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

Punjab Launches 'Meri Rasoi' Scheme for 40 Lakh Families

- **The Punjab government** has launched the **'Meri Rasoi'** scheme to provide nutritional support to nearly **40 lakh economically weaker families** across the state.
- The announcement was made after a **Cabinet meeting in Chandigarh by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann.**
- The scheme will provide **free food kits to blue card holder families**, in addition to wheat already supplied under existing welfare programmes.
- The announcement comes ahead of the **Punjab Budget Session** scheduled from **March 6 to March 16, 2026.**



Punjab Bhagwant Mann. File picture | Photo Credit: ANI

Ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections in Punjab, due in early 2027, the Aam Aadmi Party government in the State on Monday (February 23, 2026) announced to provide wheat, sugar, oil and salt to families covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), even as the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) termed it another attempt to trick the people in the run up to the impending polls.

Key Highlights

- The scheme targets **approximately 40 lakh blue card holder families** belonging to economically weaker sections.
- Food kits will be distributed **free of cost for three months at a time.**
- For the first phase covering **April, May and June 2026**, each eligible family will receive:
 - **2 kilogram chana dal**
 - **2 kilogram sugar**
 - **1 kilogram iodized salt**
 - **200 gram turmeric powder**
 - **1 litre mustard oil**
- The scheme is aimed at **addressing nutritional gaps among low income households, especially children.**
- The government stated that the initiative will help ensure **balanced and nutritious food supply, improved child health and reduction in malnutrition.**
- Regular **quality checks will be conducted to ensure standard food quality** for beneficiaries.
- The initiative strengthens **household food security and social welfare delivery** in the state.
- The Chief Minister emphasised that while Punjab contributes significantly to India's food security, the state must also ensure **nutrition security for its own citizens.**

About Punjab:

- Chief Minister: Bhagwant Mann
- Governor: Gulab Chand Kataria
- Capital: Chandigarh
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Abohar Wildlife Sanctuary, Aishvan Wildlife Sanctuary, Bir Bhadson Wildlife Sanctuary, Bir Bunerheri Wildlife Sanctuary, Bir Dosanjh Wildlife Sanctuary

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RECENT NEWS

- The Punjab government has started a major healthcare scheme called Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojana. Under this scheme, every family in the state will get free and cashless medical treatment worth up to ₹10 lakh. The aim is to make quality healthcare available to all residents without worrying about hospital expenses.

India Removes Most Favoured Nation Clause from India–France Tax Treaty

- **India has removed the Most Favoured Nation clause** from its **Double Taxation Avoidance Convention with France**.
- The revised **India–France tax treaty was signed during the recent visit of French President Emmanuel Macron**.
- The amendment modifies dividend taxation, capital gains rules and introduces global anti tax avoidance standards.
- The removal of the Most Favoured Nation clause ends the automatic extension of tax benefits granted to other countries.



tion purposes. File | Photo Credit: Gettyimages/Stockphoto

India has revised its three-decade-old tax treaty with France, which will help major French companies save millions of dollars in dividend levies, while it also broadens New Delhi's powers to tax certain transactions, the finance ministry said on Monday.

Key Highlights

- The India–France Double Taxation Avoidance Convention was originally signed in 1992 to prevent double taxation of the same income in both countries.
- **The Most Favoured Nation clause earlier allowed France to automatically claim lower tax rates or favourable provisions if India granted such benefits to another country in a separate treaty.**
- With the removal of this clause, France can now claim only those benefits that are explicitly mentioned in the revised treaty text.
- The decision aims to reduce prolonged tax disputes, avoid automatic interpretation of future treaty concessions and protect India's sovereign taxation rights.
- **Capital gains from the sale of shares will now be taxed in the country where the company is located.**
 - If a French investor sells shares of an Indian company, India will have full taxing rights on such gains.
- The updated **treaty incorporates Base Erosion and Profit Shifting standards to prevent tax avoidance and profit shifting.**
- New provisions include stronger permanent establishment rules, clearer definition of fees for technical services and improved exchange of tax information between the two countries.
- The amendment brings greater legal clarity in cross border taxation and aligns the treaty with global tax transparency standards.
- The revised treaty will come into force after both India and France complete their respective domestic ratification procedures.
- The removal of the Most Favoured Nation clause marks a significant shift in India's treaty policy by ensuring that future tax concessions are granted only through explicit negotiation and written agreement.

Delhi Airport Ranked 5th Busiest in Asia Pacific in 2025

- **Indira Gandhi International Airport** has been ranked the **5th busiest airport in the Asia Pacific region in 2025**, according to the latest data released by OAG.

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- The airport recorded **46.18 million one way departing seats in 2025**, marking a significant jump from its **9th position in 2019 before the Covid 19 pandemic**.
- The ranking highlights India's strong aviation growth, rising domestic air travel demand, and sustained airline capacity expansion.



OAG calculated the busiest airports based on the number of one-way departing seats from the airport for the year.
 Suggested Disruptive News Delhi
 3 min read Last updated: Feb 23, 2026 | 11:30 PM IST
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Delhi airport has seen a significant upward move in the pecking order on the list of top-10 most-busiest airports in Asia Pacific (Apac) region from pre-Covid 2019 compared to its performance in calendar year 2025 (CV25).

Key Highlights

- **Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi secured 5th position among the busiest airports in the Asia Pacific region in 2025** as per OAG data.
- **The airport recorded 46.18 million one way departing seats in 2025**, reflecting substantial growth in scheduled airline seat capacity.
- **In 2019, before the Covid 19 pandemic, Delhi Airport was ranked 9th in the Asia Pacific region, showing a sharp improvement in global aviation standings.**
- The ranking released by OAG is based strictly on **scheduled airline seat supply and not on actual passenger footfall.**
- Delhi Airport surpassed several major Asia Pacific aviation hubs in 2025 including
 - Singapore Changi Airport which recorded 42.57 million seats
 - Suvarnabhumi Airport which recorded 39.49 million seats
 - Incheon International Airport which recorded 43.40 million seats
- The improvement in ranking reflects a structural shift in Asia Pacific aviation trends after the pandemic, with India emerging as a high growth aviation market.
- **Surging domestic air travel demand in India has been a primary factor contributing to the expansion of seat capacity at Delhi Airport.**
- Capacity growth has been supported by expansion in both domestic and international flight operations from the national capital.
- A major contribution to this growth came from aggressive expansion by IndiGo, which increased fleet size, added new routes, and strengthened connectivity from Delhi.
- IndiGo's focus on high frequency domestic routes and expanding international operations significantly boosted overall scheduled seat capacity.
- Rising middle class income levels, affordable airfares, improved airport infrastructure, and enhanced connectivity across tier two and tier three cities further strengthened aviation demand.
- The latest ranking underscores India's growing influence and strategic importance in the Asia Pacific aviation market.

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways Launches Mobile Quality Control Vans to Enhance National Highway Quality

- To strengthen construction standards and ensure durability of highways, the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** has launched **Mobile Quality Control Vans (MQCVs)** for on-site monitoring of ongoing National Highway projects.
- The initiative aims to improve quality, safety and transparency in highway development across the country. Pilot implementation has commenced in selected states.

What if the country's highways could speak, not in words but through data, diagnostics and decisive action? As the nation builds roads at an unprecedented scale, the focus is now shifting from just expanding networks to ensuring world-class quality, safety and reliability.

A clear step in that direction is the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)'s pilot project to closely monitor construction quality on National Highways using Mobile Quality Control Vans (MQCV). The pilot has been implemented across five states — Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka and Odisha.

The goal is simple and focused:

These Mobile Quality Control Vans will be used for quick diagnosis of quality of ongoing National Highways works. Each mobile van functions as a on-the-move laboratory, fully equipped with non-destructive testing instruments. This Van includes ultrasonic pulse velocity meters, rebound hammers, asphalt density gauges and reflectometers, among others.



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Key Highlights

- **Mobile Quality Control Vans (MQCVs)** introduced to conduct real-time quality checks at highway construction sites.
- **Pilot projects launched in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka and Odisha.**
- Vans equipped with advanced **non-destructive testing equipment** including Ultrasonic Pulse Velocity Meters, Rebound Hammers, Asphalt Density Gauges and Reflectometers.
- Enables scientific assessment of **road strength, structural integrity and surface quality** without damaging infrastructure.
- Field offices to take **immediate corrective action** upon detection of deficiencies.
- Development of a **National Highway Quality Monitoring Portal** for digital reporting and monitoring.
- Portal to provide **real-time Global Positioning System tracking** of Mobile Quality Control Vans.
- Inspection reports to be uploaded online to ensure **greater transparency and accountability.**
- Initiative aligns with the government's focus on **quality, durability and safety** amid rapid National Highway expansion.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

South Korea's Former President Yoon Suk Yeol Gets Life Imprisonment for 2024 Martial Law Order

- Former South Korean President **Yoon Suk Yeol** was sentenced to **life imprisonment** for imposing **martial law** in 2024.
- He was convicted of **leading an insurrection** after deploying **military troops** around the **National Assembly** on **3 December 2024.**
- The **martial law decree** temporarily suspended **political activities**, controlled **media and publications**, and allowed **arrests without warrants.**
- The **martial law order** lasted about **6 hours**, before lawmakers broke through the military blockade and **unanimously voted** to lift it.
- **Yoon Suk Yeol** became the **first former South Korean president** to receive a **life sentence** since former military dictator **Chun Doo-hwan**, who was sentenced to death in 1996 for the **1979 coup** and the **1980 Gwangju democratic protest crackdown.**
- The case highlights issues related to **constitutional democracy, civil-military relations, and political accountability.**

About South Korea :

- **Capital : Seoul**
- **Currency : South Korean Won (KRW).**

Former South Korean President Yoon gets life term for imposing martial law in 2024

Associated Press
Seoul, South Korea

FORMER SOUTH Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol was found guilty of leading an insurrection on Thursday and sentenced to life in prison for his brief imposition of martial law in 2024, a ruling that marks a dramatic culmination of the country's biggest political crisis in decades.

The conservative leader was ousted from office after he declared martial law and sent troops to surround the National Assembly on Dec. 3, 2024, in a baffling attempt to overcome a legislature controlled by his liberal opponents.

Judge Jee Kui-youn of the Seoul Central District Court said he found Yoon, 65, guilty of rebellion for mobilizing military and police forces in an illegal attempt to seize the Assembly, arrest political opponents and establish unchecked power for an indefinite period.

Yoon's martial law imposition, the first of its kind in more than four decades, recalled South Korea's past military-backed governments when authorities occasionally proclaimed emergency decrees that allowed them to station soldiers, tanks and armored vehicles on streets or in public places such as schools to prevent anti-government demonstrations.

As lawmakers rushed to the



Former President Yoon Suk Yeol attends a hearing at the Constitutional Court in Seoul on February 11, 2025. (AP)

National Assembly, Yoon's martial law command issued a proclamation declaring sweeping powers, including suspending political activities, controlling the media and publications, and allowing arrests without warrants.

The decree lasted about six hours before being lifted after a quorum of lawmakers managed to break through a military blockade and unanimously voted to lift the measure.

Yoon was suspended from office on Dec. 14, 2024, after being impeached by lawmakers and was formally removed by the Constitutional Court in April 2025. He has been under arrest since last July while facing multiple criminal trials, with the rebellion charge carrying the most severe punishment.

India and Kenya collaborate to introduce DigiLocker pilot in Kenya

- **India and Kenya** signed an **Implementation Framework Agreement** to launch a **DigiLocker pilot project** in Kenya.

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- The agreement was signed on the sidelines of the **AI Impact Summit** in **New Delhi**, highlighting **digital cooperation** between the two nations.
- **DigiLocker** will enable **secure digital storage** and **real-time verification** of official documents in **Kenya**.
- The platform aims to **reduce paperwork** and improve access to **public services** for **citizens, students, and businesses**.
- In **India**, **DigiLocker** has over **500 million registered users** and more than **nine billion documents** issued digitally across over **2,000 services**.
- **DigiLocker** has become a **backbone** of **paperless, presence-less governance** in India.
- This initiative strengthens inclusive **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** collaboration between **India and Kenya**.

India And Kenya Sign Implementation Framework Agreement For DigiLocker Pilot Project In Kenya



About Kenya :

- **Capital** : Nairobi
- **Currency** : Kenyan Shilling.

Poland's withdrawal from 1997 Ottawa Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty comes into force

- **Poland** has officially **withdrawn from the Ottawa Convention** (1997 Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty), with the exit taking legal effect.
- **Poland** plans to deploy **anti-personnel and anti-tank landmines** along its eastern borders as part of its **national security strategy**.
- The **Ottawa Convention** prohibits the use, stockpiling, production, and transfer of **anti-personnel mines** due to their long-term danger to civilians, but **anti-tank mines** are not banned under the treaty.
- **Poland** had ratified the Ottawa Convention in **2012** and destroyed its landmine stockpiles by **2016**, but now plans to **restart domestic landmine production**, citing security threats.
- The decision is mainly driven by perceived **threats from Russia** and forms part of Poland's "**Eastern Shield**" (Tarcza Wschód) defence strategy.
- The **Eastern Shield strategy** aims to strengthen **border defence** against threats from **Russia and Belarus** through a multi-billion dollar network of fortifications.
- Several neighbouring countries have already **reconsidered treaty participation** or followed suit due to security concerns, including **Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Ukraine**.



Poland formally withdraws from Ottawa Convention on landmines, citing Russian threat



About Poland :

- **President** : Karol Nawrocki
- **Prime Minister** : Donald Tusk
- **Capital** : Warsaw
- **Currency** : Złoty

United States President Trump's Board of Peace holds first meeting on Gaza

reconstruction; India attends as observer

- United States (US) President **Donald Trump's "Board of Peace"** held its first meeting in **Washington, D.C.**, to discuss **Gaza's reconstruction**, with **India** attending only as an **observer**, reflecting a **cautious diplomatic approach**.
- **India** has expressed support for the **Gaza Peace Plan** and related UN efforts (including **UNSC Resolution 2803**) but avoided full membership, balancing engagement with the US while maintaining **strategic autonomy**.
- The **Board of Peace** includes **27 member countries**, mainly from **West Asia** (such as **Israel, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, and Egypt**) and some US allies, including **Pakistan**, while major powers like **Russia, China, France, and the UK** are absent, raising questions about its **legitimacy**.
- **India** joined as an **observer** to monitor developments, protect its interests, and avoid exclusion, especially given **Pakistan's presence** and the possibility of **India-Pakistan issues** being raised.
- President **Trump** announced that **nine member countries** collectively pledged **\$7 billion** for **Gaza's relief and reconstruction**, while the **United States** pledged an additional **\$10 billion** for the **Board of Peace**, though specific allocations were not detailed.



AWARDS AND HONOURS

Shashi Tharoor Conferred Honorary Doctor of Letters by St Xavier's University, Kolkata

- **Shashi Tharoor**, Member of Parliament from Thiruvananthapuram, was conferred an **Honorary Doctor of Letters (Doctorate of Literature – Honoris Causa)** by St Xavier's University, Kolkata during its **seventh convocation ceremony** held.
- The ceremony took place at the Biswa Bangla Convention Centre, where more than **1,000 students received their degrees**.
- Tharoor described the recognition as his **first honorary doctorate in India**, calling it deeply special as a former Xaverian.

Diplomat-turned-Congress MP Shashi Tharoor was on Saturday conferred an honorary Doctor of Letters (D.Litt) degree at the seventh convocation of St Xavier's University, Kolkata, which he described as his first honorary doctorate in India.

The ceremony was held at the Biswa Bangla Convention Centre in New Town, where degrees were awarded to 1,052 undergraduate and postgraduate students. Twenty-five PhD scholars were felicitated and 17 students received gold medals.

In a post on X, Tharoor said he was "incredibly honoured and humbled" to receive the Doctorate of Literature (Honoris Causa), recalling that he had been the university's first convocation speaker seven years ago.

Key Highlights

- Tharoor was awarded the **Doctor of Letters (D.Litt) – Honoris Causa** at the university's 7th convocation.
- He stated that although he had earned one doctorate academically and received honorary degrees abroad, **this was his first honorary doctorate in India**, making it particularly meaningful.
- He recalled serving as the **first convocation speaker of the university seven years ago**.
- **1,052 undergraduate and postgraduate students** were awarded degrees during the ceremony.
- **25 Doctor of Philosophy scholars** were felicitated.
- **17 gold medallists** were honoured, with Tharoor expressing happiness that most medal recipients were women.

- In his address, he emphasised that **education should go beyond information to formation, and beyond competence to conscience.**
- He urged students to combine **skill with sensitivity and success with service**, stressing the importance of civic responsibility.
- Reflecting on his Jesuit education, he highlighted values such as **intellectual curiosity, mental rigour, respect for hard work, self discipline and moral questioning.**
- Tharoor studied at St Xavier's Collegiate School, Kolkata between **1969 and 1971**, making the honour emotionally significant.
- A **four term Member of Parliament since 2009**, he is known for his diplomatic career at the United Nations, literary contributions and public discourse in India.

Boong Wins Best Children's and Family Film at BAFTA Awards 2026

- In a historic achievement for Indian cinema, **Boong became the first Indian film to win in the Best Children's and Family Film category at the 79th British Academy Film Awards 2026 held in London.**
- The Manipuri language debut feature brought global recognition to regional storytelling and marked a breakthrough moment for India at the prestigious BAFTA Awards.



Manipuri film Boong, produced by Farhan Akhtar's Excel Entertainment, won the prestigious BAFTA Award for Best Children's & Family Film in London yesterday. The film's debutant director, Lakshmi Priya Devi, made an emotional plea for peace in her acceptance speech after receiving the coveted trophy from Paddington Bear, the lead character starring in the West End show Paddington The Musical. She was joined on stage by producers Akhtar

Key Highlights

- **Boong won the Best Children's and Family Film award at the 79th British Academy Film Awards 2026.**
- The film was the **only Indian nominee at the awards this year.**
- Boong competed against major international titles including
 - Arco
 - Lilo & Stitch
 - Zootopia 2
- **This marks the first time an Indian film has won in the Best Children's and Family Film category at the BAFTA Awards.**
- The film is directed by Lakshmi Priya Devi and is her debut feature film. It is a Manipuri language production that highlights childhood innocence, identity, longing, and hope.
- Boong was produced by Farhan Akhtar along with Vikesh Bhutani, Alan McAlex, Ritesh Sidhwani, and Shujaat Saudagar.
- Farhan Akhtar attended the ceremony in London and received the award on behalf of the team.
- The film stars Gugun Kipgen and Bala Hijam in lead roles, delivering emotionally powerful performances.
- The story follows a young boy from Manipur who wishes to surprise his mother by bringing his father back home. The narrative explores themes of family, loss, resilience, and hope through a child's perspective.
- Before winning at the BAFTA Awards 2026, the film had its premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival 2024 in the Discovery section.

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- It was also screened at the Warsaw International Film Festival 2024, the International Film Festival of India, the MAMI Mumbai Film Festival 2024, and the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne 2025.
- The BAFTA Awards are presented by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts and are regarded among the most prestigious global film honours.
- Boong's victory represents a major milestone for Indian regional cinema and enhances India's global cultural footprint in international film awards.

DEFENCE NEWS

India–US Special Forces Exercise Vajra Prahar 2026 Held in Himachal Pradesh

- The **16th edition** of the **India–US joint Special Forces exercise Vajra Prahar** is being held at the **Special Forces Training School, Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh**, from **23 February to 15 March 2026**.
- The exercise involves **Special Forces** from the **Indian Army** and the **US Army Green Berets**, aimed at strengthening **mutual trust, interoperability, and joint operational readiness**.

Key Highlights :

- The **15th edition (2024)** was conducted in **Idaho, USA** (at the Orchard Combat Training Centre), while the **2023 edition** took place in **Umroi, Meghalaya**, featuring **helocasting operations** and joint drills.
- The exercise facilitates the **exchange of advanced special operations tactics, techniques, and procedures** between India and the US.
- **45 personnel** from each country participate, representing **Indian Special Forces units** and **US Green Berets**.
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** will conduct **Exercise Vayushakti-26** on **27 February 2026** at the **Pokhran Air-to-Ground Range, Jaisalmer**.
- **Exercise Vayushakti-26** showcases the **IAF's rapid response capability, ability to dominate the operational environment, and support in humanitarian assistance and disaster management**, including airlift, rescue, and evacuation operations.
- The exercise includes **full-spectrum operations** involving fighter, transport, and helicopter platforms such as **Tejas, Rafale, Jaguar, Mirage-2000, Sukhoi-30MKI, MiG-29, Hawk, C-130J, C-295, C-17, Chetak, ALH MK-IV, Mi-17 IV, LCH, Apache, Chinook, and Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA)**.
- Advanced weapon systems like **Short Range Loitering Munitions (SRLM), Akash, SpyDer, and Counter Unmanned Aerial Systems (CUAS)** will be employed in **day, dusk, and night missions** to demonstrate **IAF versatility** and readiness.
- The exercise environment includes **desert and semi-desert terrains**, preparing troops for **joint Special Forces operations** under challenging operational conditions.



Embraer and Mahindra Partner to Set Up C-390 Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul Facility in India

- **Embraer (Brazil) and Mahindra Group (India)** have announced collaboration plans to establish a state-of-the-art **Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO)** facility in India for the **C-390 Millennium** military transport aircraft.
- The proposed facility is subject to the selection of the **C-390 Millennium** by the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** under the **Medium Transport Aircraft (MTA)** procurement programme.
- A **Strategic Cooperation Agreement (SCA)** was signed in **October 2025** to enable production of the **C-390 in India**, supporting the **‘Make in India’** initiative.
- The proposed **MRO facility** will provide **end-to-end maintenance support**, including **base and heavy maintenance, structural inspection and testing, component repair and overhaul, avionics support, and training services.**
- The facility aims to ensure **high operational readiness, improved aircraft availability, and comprehensive in-country sustainment support** for the C-390 fleet.
- The **C-390 Millennium** is a **multi-mission military transport aircraft** with a **payload capacity** of up to **26 tonnes.**
- It offers **higher speed, greater operational range, and enhanced performance** compared to other medium-sized transport aircraft.
- The collaboration reflects deepening **India–Brazil defence cooperation** and strengthens India’s **aerospace and defence manufacturing ecosystem.**



Indian Navy to Commission INS Anjadip to Boost Anti-Submarine Warfare Capability

- The **Indian Navy (IN)** is set to enhance its **Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW)** capability with the commissioning of **INS Anjadip**, the **third vessel** of the eight-ship **ASW Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)** project.
- The **commissioning ceremony** will be held at **Chennai Port** on **27 February 2026** and will be presided over by **Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of Naval Staff (CNS).**
- The induction of **INS Anjadip** highlights India’s progress toward **Aatmanirbhar Bharat in Defence**, showcasing **indigenous warship design** and construction capability.
- The vessel was built by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata**, and is designed for **littoral combat operations** in coastal and shallow waters critical for maritime security.
- **INS Anjadip** is designed as a **“Dolphin Hunter”**, focusing on **detection, tracking, and neutralisation** of enemy submarines in coastal regions.
- The ship is equipped with **advanced indigenous ASW weapons and sensors**, including **Hull Mounted Sonar Abhay, Lightweight Torpedoes, and ASW Rockets.**
- Apart from ASW operations, the ship can perform **Coastal Surveillance, Low-Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO), and Search and Rescue (SAR)** missions.

INDIAN NAVY TO COMMISSION ANJADIP

Posted On: 23 FEB 2026 3:52PM by PIB Delhi

The Indian Navy is set to enhance its Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) capabilities with the commissioning of *Anjadip*, the third vessel of the eight-ship Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) project. The warship will be formally commissioned into the Eastern Naval Command at Chennai Port on 27 Feb 2026.

The ceremony will be presided over by **Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff.**

The commissioning ceremony highlights the nation’s accelerated progress towards achieving **‘Aatmanirbhar Bharat’** in defence, as the ASW-SWC project exemplifies the triumph of indigenous warship design and construction. Built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, *Anjadip* is a state-of-the-art vessel specifically designed to address the challenges of the littoral combat environment—the coastal and shallow waters vital for the nation’s security.

The vessel is engineered to act as a **‘Dolphin Hunter’**, focused on the detection, tracking, and neutralisation of enemy submarines in coastal areas. The ship is packed with **indigenous, cutting-edge Anti-Submarine Warfare weapons and sensor packages**, including the **Hull Mounted Sonar Abhay**, and armed with **Lightweight Torpedoes and ASW Rockets**. In addition to its primary ASW role, the agile and highly manoeuvrable warship is also equipped to undertake **Coastal Surveillance, Low-Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO) and Search & Rescue operations**. The 77 metre-long ship, features a **high-speed Water-Ski Preparation system**, enabling it to achieve a top speed of 25 knots for rapid response and sustained operations.

The induction of *Anjadip*, named after the historically significant island off the coast of Karwar, significantly bolsters the Navy’s capacity to safeguard India’s vast maritime interests and coastal approaches including Tamil Nadu and Puducherry Areas, marking another key step in transforming the Indian Navy into a formidable **‘Builder’s Navy’**.



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- The **77-metre-long warship** uses **Water-Jet Propulsion technology**, enabling a maximum speed of **25 knots** for rapid response operations.
- The ship is named after the **Anjadip Island**, a historically significant island near **Karwar coast**.
- The commissioning strengthens India's **maritime security** and supports the vision of transforming the Indian Navy into a '**Builder's Navy**' through **indigenous defence manufacturing**.
- The project is part of India's broader strategy to strengthen **coastal defence, naval warfare capabilities, and blue economy security**.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

India's 11,099 km Coastline and 24 Lakh sq. km Exclusive Economic Zone Remain Underutilised for Deep-Sea Fishing Resources

- India has a coastline of **~11,099 km** and an **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)** of **24 lakh sq. km**, but fishing is mostly limited to **40–50 nautical miles**, leaving deep-sea resources like **tuna** underutilised.
- The **Union Budget** announced a framework for **sustainable fisheries** in the **EEZ and high seas**, focusing on **Andaman & Nicobar** and **Lakshadweep**, which hold **49% of India's EEZ** and a potential of **2.48 lakh tonnes**.
- The government notified the **Sustainable Harnessing of Fisheries in the EEZ Rules, 2025** on **4 November 2025** under the **Maritime Zones Act, 1976** to promote **responsible fishing, marine conservation, international compliance, and fisher livelihoods**.
- Union Minister **Rajiv Ranjan Singh** launched the **Access Pass for Fishing in India's EEZ** at **Veraval, Gujarat**, on **20 February 2026**, distributing passes to **37 fishermen** from **13 coastal States/UTs**.
- The **Access Pass** enables **deep-sea fishing**, supports **fisher cooperatives/FFPOs**, and increases income through **higher-value catch**.
- The **Access Pass** is issued **free of cost** via the upgraded **ReALCRaft portal**, which enables **vessel registration, licensing, ownership transfer, and digital delivery** of passes.
- The **ReALCRaft portal** is integrated with the **Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)** portal for **Catch Certificates** and with the **Export Inspection Council (EIC)** for **Health Certificates**, creating a **single-window digital ecosystem**.
- **Traditional non-motorized fishing crafts** are **exempted** from the Access Pass requirement. Only **mechanised fishing vessels (~64,000)** and large **motorised vessels above 24 metres** require the Pass.
- The **Department of Fisheries** plans to roll out **structured training and capacity-building programmes** through **CIFNET, FSI**, and in partnership with coastal **States/UTs** to equip fishers with **deep-sea fishing skills**.
- Government initiatives include installing **1 lakh transponders** (50,000 already installed) for tracking and safety, providing **₹5 lakh accident insurance**, and offering **livelihood support** for **~6 lakh fisher families** during fishing bans.



APPS & PORTALS

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta Unveils Jan Sunwai Portal, EWS Admission Platform and e-District Integration Initiatives

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- **Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta** launched multiple **Information Technology (IT) initiatives** at the **Delhi Secretariat, New Delhi**, to strengthen **digital governance** and **citizen services**.
- The key initiative, **CM Jan Sunwai Portal** and **Mobile App**, establishes a **centralised grievance redressal system** covering all **Delhi Government Departments, MCD, DDA, and Delhi Police**.
- Complaints under **Jan Sunwai** can be registered via **online portal, mobile app, call centre (1902)**, and **offline submission** at **CM Office**, ensuring **multi-channel accessibility**.
- The grievance system follows a **three-tier mechanism** comprising **Grievance Redressal Officer (GRO), Appellate Authority (AA), and Final Appellate Authority (FAA)** with **unique reference IDs, SMS alerts, and auto-escalation** of unresolved complaints.
- A secure **cloud-based admission portal** has been launched for **EWS** (Economically Weaker Section), **DG** (Disadvantaged Group), and **CWSN** (Children With Special Needs) categories in private schools.
- The **admission system** ensures **Aadhaar-based verification, automated eligibility checks, digital certificate validation, and transparent seat allocation**.
- **e-District services** have been integrated with over **7,000 Common Service Centres (CSCs)**, enabling citizens to access certificates and welfare services at a **nominal fee of ₹30** per service.
- The **Digital Asset Portal (DAP)** and **CM Pragati Portal** enable **real-time monitoring** of government land, infrastructure projects, approvals, and delays, improving **accountability** and **cost control**.
- The government has implemented a **Cyber Crisis Management Plan (CCMP)** to enhance **cybersecurity preparedness**.
- Expansion of the **e-Office system** across **200+ departments** and proposed **WhatsApp-based citizen services** aim to improve **efficiency, transparency, and digital accessibility** in Delhi governance.



OBITUARIES

Ex-Union Minister and TMC Founder Mukul Roy Passed away at 71 in Kolkata

- Former Union Minister **Mukul Roy**, a **founding member** of the **All India Trinamool Congress (TMC)**, passed away at the age of **71** in **Kolkata, West Bengal**.

About Mukul Roy :

- He was born on **17 April 1954** in **Kanchrapara, West Bengal**, and held a **B.Sc. degree** from the **University of Calcutta** and a **Master's degree** from **Madurai Kamaraj University**.
- He began his political career with the **Youth Congress** and became a **founding member** of **TMC** in **1998** along with **Mamata Banerjee** after her split from the **Indian National Congress**.

Leaders Condole Demise Of Former Railway Minister Mukul Roy



- He was first elected to the **Rajya Sabha in 2006** and later served as the **Leader of the TMC Parliamentary Party** in Rajya Sabha (2009–2012).
- During the **UPA II Government** under **Prime Minister Manmohan Singh**, he served as **Minister of State (MoS) for Shipping (2009–2011)** and later became the **32nd Union Railway Minister in 2012**.
- He became **Railway Minister in 2012** after the resignation of **Dinesh Trivedi** and rolled back the proposed **railway fare hike**, but his tenure ended in **September 2012** when **TMC withdrew support** from UPA.
- In **July 2011**, he was removed from the **Railways portfolio** after failing to follow the **Prime Minister's directive** regarding a **train derailment in Assam**.
- His political career faced challenges due to alleged links to the **Saradha chit fund case** and the **Narada sting operation in 2015**.
- He **resigned from TMC in September 2017**, was **suspended for six years**, and later resigned from the **Rajya Sabha** before joining the **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in November 2017**.
- He won the **2021 West Bengal Assembly Election** as a **BJP candidate** from **Krishnanagar Uttar**, but **rejoined TMC in June 2021**.
- In **January 2022**, the **West Bengal Assembly Speaker** rejected a plea to **disqualify** him under the **Anti-Defection Law**.
- In **November 2025**, the **Calcutta High Court cancelled** his **MLA membership** on grounds of **defection**, though the order was subsequently **stayed by the Supreme Court in January 2026**.

Daily CA One- Liner: February 25

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated India's **first Nammo Bharat Regional Rapid Transit System** and dedicated the **Delhi–Meerut Nammo Bharat Corridor** to the nation in **Meerut, Uttar Pradesh**
- Vice President **C. P. Radhakrishnan** released the **coffee table book *Atal Bihari Vajpayee: The Eternal Statesman*** in **New Delhi**
- **The Ministry of Home Affairs** has launched '**Prahaar**', India's new national counter-terrorism policy, outlining a **zero-tolerance framework against terrorism**
- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** laid the foundation stone of the **10th Battalion Headquarters of the Assam Police** in **Kamrup** and asserted that strict action against infiltration will continue
- **The Punjab government** has launched the '**Meri Rasoi**' scheme to provide nutritional support to nearly **40 lakh economically weaker families** across the state
- **India has removed the Most Favoured Nation clause** from its **Double Taxation Avoidance Convention with France**
- **Indira Gandhi International Airport** has been ranked the **5th busiest airport in the Asia Pacific region in 2025**, according to the latest data released by OAG
- To strengthen construction standards and ensure durability of highways, the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** has launched **Mobile Quality Control Vans (MQCVs)** for on-site monitoring of ongoing National Highway projects
- **Shashi Tharoor**, Member of Parliament from **Thiruvananthapuram**, was conferred an **Honorary Doctor of Letters (Doctorate of Literature – Honoris Causa)** by **St Xavier's University, Kolkata** during its **seventh convocation ceremony** held.
- In a historic achievement for Indian cinema, **Boong** became the **first Indian film to win in the Best Children's and Family Film category at the 79th British Academy Film Awards 2026** held in **London**
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has launched its second **high-security Data Centre** in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**, to strengthen the **safety, resilience, and continuity** of critical financial infrastructure.

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- **ICRA Limited** (formerly Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency of India Limited) has projected that **India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth** will moderate to **7.2%** in **Q3 FY26 (Oct–Dec 2025)** from **8.2%** in **Q2 FY26**.
- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** increased the aggregate exposure limit for **acquisition financing** by banks from **10% to 20%** of **Tier-1 capital**, allowing higher participation in **M&A transactions**.
- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued the **NBFC Amendment Directions, 2026**, effective from **1 April 2026**, to revise **registration norms** and regulatory treatment for **Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)** without **public funds** and **customer interface**.
- Former South Korean President **Yoon Suk Yeol** was sentenced to **life imprisonment** for imposing **martial law** in **2024**.
- **India and Kenya** signed an **Implementation Framework Agreement** to launch a **DigiLocker pilot project** in **Kenya**.
- **Poland** has officially **withdrawn from the Ottawa Convention** (1997 Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty), with the exit taking legal effect.
- United States (US) President **Donald Trump's "Board of Peace"** held its first meeting in **Washington, D.C.**, to discuss **Gaza's reconstruction**, with **India** attending only as an **observer**, reflecting a **cautious diplomatic approach**.
- The **16th edition** of the **India–US joint Special Forces exercise Vajra Prahar** is being held at the **Special Forces Training School, Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh**, from **23 February to 15 March 2026**.
- **Embraer (Brazil)** and **Mahindra Group (India)** have announced collaboration plans to establish a state-of-the-art **Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO)** facility in India for the **C-390 Millennium** military transport aircraft.
- The **Indian Navy (IN)** is set to enhance its **Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW)** capability with the commissioning of **INS Anjadip**, the **third vessel** of the eight-ship **ASW Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)** project.
- **India** has a coastline of **~11,099 km** and an **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)** of **24 lakh sq. km**, but fishing is mostly limited to **40–50 nautical miles**, leaving deep-sea resources like **tuna** underutilised.
- **Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta** launched multiple **Information Technology (IT) initiatives** at the **Delhi Secretariat, New Delhi**, to strengthen **digital governance** and **citizen services**.
- Former Union Minister **Mukul Roy**, a **founding member** of the **All India Trinamool Congress (TMC)**, passed away at the age of **71** in **Kolkata, West Bengal**.