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THE HINDU REVIEW

• Current Affairs • Monthly Capsule

MARCH 2026

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Most Important Article of March 2026

T20 World Cup 2026 Title

The **ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026** ended in spectacular fashion as the **India national cricket team** defeated the **New Zealand national cricket team** by **96 runs** in the final at the **Narendra Modi Stadium**, **Ahmedabad**. With this victory, India secured **back-to-back T20 World Cup titles**, cementing their dominance in world T20 cricket.

India's Explosive Batting Sets Massive Target

After **New Zealand won the toss and opted to bowl**, India delivered a spectacular batting display and posted **255/5 in 20 overs**, one of the highest totals in a T20 World Cup final.

Key Performers for India

- **Sanju Samson** led the charge with a brilliant **89 runs off 46 balls**, smashing **5 fours and 8 sixes**.
- **Abhishek Sharma** gave India a blazing start with **52 off 21 balls**.
- **Ishan Kishan** continued the assault with **54 runs from 25 balls**.
- **Shivam Dube** finished the innings strongly with **26 runs off just 8 balls**.

India dominated the powerplay, scoring **92 runs in the first six overs**, putting New Zealand under immediate pressure.

New Zealand Bowled Out for 159

Chasing a huge target of **256**, New Zealand struggled against India's disciplined bowling attack and were bowled out for **159 in 19 overs**.

Top Scorers for New Zealand

- **Tim Seifert** – 52 (26)
- **Mitchell Santner** – 43 (35)

Despite their efforts, New Zealand could not keep up with the required run rate.

India's Bowlers Seal the Victory

India's bowlers delivered a dominant performance to secure the title.

Bowling Highlights

- **Jasprit Bumrah** – **4 wickets for 15 runs** in 4 overs
- **Axar Patel** – **3 wickets for 27 runs**
- **Hardik Pandya** – 1 wicket
- **Varun Chakaravarthy** – 1 wicket
- **Abhishek Sharma** – 1 wicket

Bumrah's brilliant spell dismantled New Zealand's middle order and ensured India stayed firmly in control throughout the chase.

Match Summary

Team	Score
India	255/5 (20 overs)
New Zealand	159 all out (19 overs)
Result	India won by **96 runs**

Key Highlights of the Final

- India scored **255/5**, one of the highest totals in a T20 World Cup final.
- **Sanju Samson** was the top scorer with **89 runs**.
- **Jasprit Bumrah** starred with the ball, taking **4 wickets**.
- New Zealand were bowled out for **159 runs**.
- India won the final by **96 runs**.
- India secured **back-to-back T20 World Cup titles**.

Oscars 2026 Winners List

98th Academy Awards 2026: Key Highlights

Category	Details
Event	98th Academy Awards
Date	March 15, 2026
Venue	Dolby Theatre, Hollywood, Los Angeles
Host	Conan O'Brien
Best Picture	One Battle After Another
Most Wins	One Battle After Another (6)
Most Nominations	Sinners (16)
Broadcast	ABC
Streaming	Hulu

The ceremony recognized the best films released in **2025 across 24 categories**.

Oscars 2026 Winners List (Major Categories)

Best Picture

Winner: One Battle After Another

Other nominees included:

- Bugonia
- F1
- Frankenstein
- Hamnet
- Marty Supreme
- The Secret Agent
- Sentimental Value
- Sinners
- Train Dreams

Best Actor

Winner: Michael B. Jordan – *Sinners*

Other nominees:

- Timothée Chalamet – Marty Supreme
- Leonardo DiCaprio – One Battle After Another
- Ethan Hawke – Blue Moon
- Wagner Moura – The Secret Agent

Best Actress

Winner: Jessie Buckley – *Hamnet*

Other nominees:

- Rose Byrne – If I Had Legs I'd Kick You
- Renate Reinsve – Sentimental Value
- Emma Stone – Bugonia
- Kate Hudson – Song Sung Blue

Best Director

Winner: Paul Thomas Anderson – *One Battle After Another*

Other nominees:

- Ryan Coogler – Sinners
- Chloé Zhao – Hamnet
- Josh Safdie – Marty Supreme
- Joachim Trier – Sentimental Value

Oscars 2026 Supporting Categories Winners

Category	Winner	Film
Best Supporting Actor	Sean Penn	One Battle After Another
Best Supporting Actress	Amy Madigan	Weapons
Best Original Screenplay	Ryan Coogler	Sinners
Best Adapted Screenplay	One Battle After Another	Paul Thomas Anderson

The film **"One Battle After Another" dominated the ceremony with six Oscars**, including Best Picture and Best Director.

Other Major Oscars 2026 Winners

Category	Winner
Best Animated Feature	KPop Demon Hunters
Best International Feature	Sentimental Value
Best Documentary Feature	Mr. Nobody Against Putin
Best Visual Effects	Avatar: Fire and Ash
Best Sound	F1
Best Original Score	Sinners

These awards showcased the diversity of global cinema and technical excellence in filmmaking.

Oscars 2026: Major Highlights

Several memorable moments defined the ceremony:

- **"One Battle After Another" won six awards**, becoming the biggest winner of the night.
- **Michael B. Jordan won Best Actor** for his role in *Sinners*.
- **Jessie Buckley won Best Actress** for *Hamnet*.
- **Sean Penn won his third Oscar** for Best Supporting Actor.
- Norwegian film **"Sentimental Value" won Best International Feature**.

Oscars 2026 Records and Interesting Facts

- The film **Sinners received 16 nominations**, the highest for the ceremony.
- A **tie occurred in the Best Live Action Short Film category**.
- **Autumn Durald Arkapaw became the first woman to win Best Cinematography**.
- The Academy introduced a **new award category for Best Casting**.

Sahitya Akademi Award 2025

Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 Categories and Genres

The Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 recognizes literary excellence across multiple genres which are representing India's diverse literary traditions.

This award distribution show the wide range of literary forms being celebrated this year.

The Categories awarded in the Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 are the,

Poetry – 8 books
Novels – 4 books
Short story collections – 6 books
Essays – 2 books
Literary criticism – 1 book
Autobiography – 1 book
Memoirs – 2 books

Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 Winners List

The Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 winners list includes authors from the across India representing different literary traditions. This award highlights important works in poetry, fiction, essays and memoirs.

Category	Books
Poetry	• Shrestha Kabita (Bengali) – Prasun Bandyopadhyay • Bhattkhadaki (Gujarati) – Yogesh Vaidya • Padapurana (Odia) – Girijakumar Baliyar Singh • Animesha (Telugu) – Nandini Sidha Reddy • Safar Jaari Hai (Urdu) – Pritpal Singh Betab • Prasthanacatustaye Brahmaghosah (Sanskrit) – Sadhu Bhadreshdas
Novel Winners	• Karhi Khelar Sadhu (Assamese) – Devabrat Das • Dwngnwi Lama Mwnse Gathwn (Bodo) – Sahaisuli Brahma • Crimson Spring (English) – Navtej Sarna • Maayaamanushyar (Malayalam) – N. Prabhakaran

Category	Books
Short Story Winners	• Dada Seerisu Tande (Kannada) – Amaresh Nugadoni • Safety Kit (Punjabi) – Jinder • Bharkhama (Rajasthani) – Jitender Kumar Soni • Waghoo (Sindhi) – Bhagwan Atlani
Essay	• Konkani Kavyem: Rupani Ani Rupakam (Konkani) – Henry Mendonca • Nepali Paramparik Sanskriti Ra Sabhyata Ko Dukuti (Nepali) – Prakash Bhattarai
Literary Criticism	• Thamiz Sirukathaiyin Thadangal (Tamil) – Sa. Tamilselvan
Autobiography	• Kalyanilya Resha (Marathi)
Memoir	• Jeete Jee Allahabad (Hindi) – Mamta Kalia • Dhatri Paat San Gaam (Maithili) – Mahendra

Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 Winners List Language Wise

Language	Title and Genre	Name of the Author
Assamese	Karhi Khelar Sadhu (Novel)	Devabrat Das
Bengali	Shrestha Kabita (Poetry)	Prasun Bandyopadhyay
Bodo	Dwngnwi Lama Mwnse Gathwn (Novel)	Sahaisuli Brahma
Dogri	Thakur Satsayie (Poetry, Couplets)	Khajur Singh Thakur
English	Crimson Spring (Novel)	Navtej Sarna
Gujarati	Bhattkhadaki (Poetry)	Yogesh Vaidya
Hindi	Jeete Jee Allahabad (Memoir)	Mamta Kalia
Kannada	Dada Seerisu Tande (Short Stories)	Amaresh Nugadoni
Kashmiri	Najdavanek'y Pot Aalav (Poetry)	Ali Shaida
Konkani	Konkani Kavyem: Rupani Ani Rupakam (Essays)	Henry Mendonca (H.M. Pernal)
Maithili	Dhatri Paat San Gaam (Memoir)	Mahendra
Malayalam	Maayaamanushyar (Novel)	N. Prabhakaran
Manipuri	Kanglamdriba Eephut (Short Stories)	Haobam Nalini
Marathi	Kalyanilya Resha (Autobiography)	Raju Baviskar
Nepali	Nepali Paramparik Sanskriti Ra Sabhyata Ko Dukuti (Essays)	Prakash Bhattarai
Odia	Padapurana (Poetry)	Girijakumar Baliyar Singh
Punjabi	Safety Kit (Stories)	Jinder
Rajasthani	Bharkhama (Stories)	Jitender Kumar Soni
Sanskrit	Prasthanacatustaye Brahmaghosah (Poetry)	Mahamahopadhyaya Sadhu Bhadreshdas
Santali	Mid Birna Chenne Saon Inag Sagai (Short Stories)	Sumitra Soren
Sindhi	Waghoo (Stories)	Bhagwan Atlani
Tamil	Thamiz Sirukathaiyin Thadangal (Literary Criticism)	Sa. Tamilselvan
Telugu	Animesha (Poetry)	Nandini Sidha Reddy
Urdu	Safar Jaari Hai (Poetry)	Pritpal Singh Betab

Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 Ceremony Details

The official Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 ceremony will take place on 31 March 2026 in the New Delhi.

During that event all award winners will be honored in a formal literary gathering. And this event also attended by writers, scholars and cultural leaders.

Each recipient of the Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 will receive,

- ₹1,00,000 cash prize
- A ceremonial shawl
- An engraved copper plaque (casket)

World Happiness Report 2026

In the World Happiness Report 2026, released on March 20, 2026, **India is ranked 116th out of 147 nations**. While this marks a slight improvement from the 2025 ranking, India still ranks behind several neighbors, including China (60th) and Pakistan (104th). Finland secured the top spot for the ninth consecutive year.

Top-10 Happiest Countries in the World in 2026

Did you know that happiness can be measured across countries? Every year, experts study how people feel about their lives. The 2026 report highlights nations where people enjoy better well-being, support, and overall life satisfaction.

Here is the list of top-10 happiest countries in the world in 2026:

Rank		Life Evaluation Score
1.	Finland	7.764
2.	Denmark	7.540
3.	Iceland	7.539
4.	Costa Rica	7.439
5.	Sweden	7.225
6.	Norway	7.242
7.	Netherlands	7.223
8.	Israel	7.187
9.	Luxembourg	7.063
10.	Switzerland	7.018

Ramnath Goenka Awards 2026 Winners List

The awards covered diverse categories, showcasing excellence across multiple formats and languages.

Category	Winner(s)	Organization /Publication
Print (Hindi)	Avadhesh Akodia	Dainik Bhaskar
Broadcast/Digital (Hindi)	Sarvapriya Sangwan	BBC News Hindi
Print/Digital (Regional Languages)	Muhammad Sabith & Akhil Sivanand	Mathrubhumi
Broadcast/Digital (Regional Languages)	Fousiya Musthafa	News Malayalam 24*7
Environment, Science & Technology Reporting	Jayashree Nandi & Tannu Jain	Hindustan Times
Environment, Science & Technology Reporting (Broadcast/Digital)	Rohini Krishnamurthy & Dhruval Parekh	Down to Earth
Uncovering India Invisible	Vijay Pal Dudi	Dainik Bhaskar
Uncovering India Invisible (Broadcast/Digital)	Basant Kumar	NewsLaundry
Business & Economic Journalism	Praveen Paramasivam, Munsif Vengattil & Aditya Kalra	Thomson Reuters
Reporting on Politics and Government	Deeptiman Tiwary	The Indian Express
Reporting on Politics and Government (Broadcast/Digital)	Rishika Kashyap	Deccan Herald
Sports Journalism	Srikkanth Dhasarathy	DT Next
Investigative Reporting (Print/Digital)	Mridulika Jha	Aaj Tak
Investigative Reporting (Broadcast)	Sreya Chatterjee	India Today
Feature Writing	Vidheesha Kuntamalla	The Indian Express
Civic Journalism	Sandip Dighe	The Times of India
Civic Journalism	Sreya Chatterjee & Arvind Ojha	India Today
Photojournalism	Praveen Jain	The Print
Books (Non-Fiction)	Aparajith Ramnath	Penguin Random House

Top 10 Richest People in the World 2026

Top 10 Richest People in the World – March 2026

Rank	Person	Net Worth	Major Business
1	Elon Musk	$841.4B	Tesla, SpaceX
2	Larry Page	$250.5B	Google
3	Sergey Brin	$231.2B	Google
4	Jeff Bezos	$229.7B	Amazon
5	Mark Zuckerberg	$228.9B	Meta (Facebook)
6	Larry Ellison	$197.1B	Oracle
7	Jensen Huang	$158.5B	Nvidia
8	Bernard Arnault & family	$157.1B	LVMH
9	Rob Walton & family	$145.9B	Walmart
10	Warren Buffett	$144.1B	Berkshire Hathaway

Supreme Court Rules on SC Status

In the significant ruling the Respectable Supreme Court of India has clarified that Scheduled Caste (SC) status is limited to the individuals belonging to Hindu, Sikhs or Buddhist communities only. The top court stated that conversion to any other religion such as the Christianity will leads to the immediate loss of SC status regardless of that one's birth background. Judgement was delivered in March 2026 and it upholds an earlier decision of the Andhra Pradesh High Court. And it reinforced the constitutional framework which will governing caste-based reservations and protections.

What Did the Supreme Court Rule?

The Supreme Court bench which comprising Justice P. K. Mishra and Justice Manmohan clearly stated that once the person converts to Christianity and actively practices the new religion they are no longer be treated as a member of a Scheduled Caste. The Court said that the restriction is itself rooted in the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950. This order explicitly defines the eligibility criteria for SC status.

According to the judgment the rule is absolute and left no scope for interpretation which is based on birth alone.

This means that even if the person is born into a Scheduled Caste their legal status changes after conversion to a religion outside the specified list.

Constitutional Basis: The 1950 Presidential Order

The Court heavily relied on heavily on Clause 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950.

This clause states that,

- Only persons professing Hinduism were initially eligible for SC status

Over year the scope was expanded to include Sikhism (1956) and Buddhism (1990)

However individuals who are practicing religions such as Christianity or Islam are excluded from SC classification under this order.

The Court confirmed that this constitutional provision is binding and cannot be diluted through the judicial interpretation.

Impact on SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act

Another key aspect of the judgment is its implication on legal protections. As per court ruling if that a person who has converted to Christianity cannot claim protection under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

This is important as because the Act is designed to protect the members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes from discrimination and violence.

Once SC status is lost and the legal safeguards under this Act also cease to apply.

Why Religion Matters in SC Classification

The linkage between religion and caste status has long historical roots. The SC category was originally created to address social discrimination within the Hindu caste system and main focus point was untouchability.

The logic behind limiting SC status to certain religions is based on the argument that,

- Caste-based discrimination is traditionally associated with Hindu social structur
- Sikhism and Buddhism were included later due to historical and social connections with caste dynamics in country

Understanding Scheduled Caste Status in India

In India Scheduled Castes are groups identified under the Constitution. As they were historically disadvantaged due to untouchability and social exclusion.

They are entitled to get,

- Reservation in education and government jobs
- Political representation
- Legal protection under special laws

The list of Scheduled Castes are notified by the Honorable President of India under Article 341 of the Indian Constitution. Any changes to this list require Parliamentary approval not just the judicial interpretation.

Supreme Court Panel Urges Union Government to Withdraw Transgender Rights Amendment Bill 2026

The panel appointed by the Supreme Court of India has urged the Union government to withdraw the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill 2026. As the committee states the raising serious concerns over its impact on transgender rights. The recommendation was sent to Union Minister Virendra Kumar on the same day the Lok Sabha passed the Bill and it intensifying the debate. This advisory committee was chaired by former judge Justice Asha Menon highlighted that the proposed amendments could roll back the rights for them.

Background: Why the Panel Was Formed

The committee was constituted in the October 2025 by the Supreme Court while hearing the case which involving a transgender woman who was dismissed from teaching jobs in Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat due to her gender identity.

The court has noted the gaps in the implementation of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act 2019. So it has formed panel to,

- Identify legal and policy shortcomings
- Recommend the an equal opportunity framework
- Ensure the reasonable accommodation for transgender individuals

Key Changes Proposed in the 2026 Amendment Bill

The 2026 Amendment Bill introduced the several major changes that have become the core of the controversy. One of the most debated provisions is the removal of the right to self-identify gender.

This right was earlier recognized in the landmark judgement NALSA v. Union of India (2014). This judgement allowed the individuals to identify their gender without medical intervention.

Under the new Bill,

- Gender identity would require the medical certification
- A district-level medical board will be headed by a Chief Medical Officer and he would assess individuals
- The definition of the transgender persons is narrowed

Opposition and Public Reaction Intensify

The passage of the Bill in Parliament was saw the strong opposition. Several MPs have demanded that the Bill to be referred to a parliamentary standing committee for deeper detailing but the request was rejected.

Outside Parliament protests have erupted across major cities. Members of the LGBTQIA+ community and activists argue that the Bill,

- Undermines gender autonomy
- Imposes unscientific and invasive procedures
- Risks erasing diverse gender identities

Government's Stand vs Critics Concerns

The government has defended the Bill while stating that it is part of the broader effort to create a more structured and inclusive framework for all sections of society.

However the critics have argue that the amendments contradict earlier judicial principles and weaken protections already granted.

They question both the timing and the haste with which the legislation was passed.

India AI Impact Summit 2026

The India AI Impact Summit 2026 which was held from 16-21 February 2026 in Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. This Summit marked a turning point in the global AI landscape. In this Summit With around 6 lakh in person attendees and over 9 lakh virtual views. The Summit saw participation from 100+ countries and 20 international organizations. From landmark global declarations to over USD 200 billion AI investment commitments and the event positioned India at the centre of responsible and inclusive artificial intelligence development.

Guinness World Record and IndiaAI Mission Expansion

Guinness World Record Achievement

- India achieved a Guinness World Record for the "**Most pledges received for an AI responsibility campaign in 24 hours.**"
- Over 2.5 lakh validated pledges reaffirmed public commitment to responsible AI adoption.

IndiaAI Mission Compute Expansion

- 38,000+ GPUs already provisioned under the IndiaAI Mission.
- Additional 20,000 GPUs to be added soon.
- Strengthens India's sovereign AI compute capacity and national infrastructure.

This expansion reflects India's strategy to build robust AI infrastructure to support research, startups and governance applications.

India AI Impact Summit Declaration and Global Commitments

A major outcome of the India AI Impact Summit 2026 was the endorsement of the India AI Impact Summit Declaration by 92 countries and international organizations.

Key Global Initiatives Announced

- New Delhi Frontier AI Impact Commitments by 13 global AI model developers.
- Launch of the Global AI Impact Commons (80+ impact stories across 30+ countries).
- Release of the Equitable AI Transition Playbook with the International Labour Organization.
- Signing of Voluntary Guiding Principles for Resilient AI (20+ countries).
- Principles for Reskilling in the Age of AI endorsed by 23 countries.
- Adoption of the Charter for the Democratic Diffusion of AI (22 countries).
- Launch of the Resilient AI Challenge with UNESCO and France.
- Announcement of the Trusted AI Commons (22 partner countries).
- Formation of the Alliance for Advancing Inclusion Through AI (with UNICEF).
- Launch of the Network of AI for Science Institutions (19 countries).

These frameworks aim to ensure AI remains inclusive, democratic and development-oriented.

AI Impact Expo and Grassroots Digital Adoption

The AI Impact Expo became one of the world's largest AI exhibitions,

- 850+ exhibitors across 10 thematic pavilions.
- Live demonstration of an open sourced handheld assistive device developed by BHASHINI and Current AI.
- Device recognizes objects through voice queries and responds in multiple languages.
- Prototype opened to startups for further innovation.

Six global AI casebooks were released covering AI in Health (WHO), Energy (IEA), Gender Empowerment (UN Women), Agriculture (Maharashtra Govt + World Bank), Education, and Accessibility.

Interestingly, 80% of food court transactions during the Summit were conducted via UPI which highlighting India's strong digital ecosystem.

$200 Billion AI Investment Announcements

The India AI Impact Summit 2026 catalyzed over USD 200 billion in AI-related investments.

Major Announcements

- **Reliance Industries:** USD 110 billion over seven years for AI infrastructure.
- **Tata Group:** Partnership with OpenAI for AI ready data centres.
- **Adani Enterprises:** USD 100 billion investment plan by 2035.
- **General Catalyst:** USD 5 billion over five years.
- **Lightspeed Venture Partners:** USD 10 billion commitment.

Sundar Pichai (Google CEO)

- USD 15 billion AI hub in Visakhapatnam.
- New India-US subsea cable routes.
- Training 20 million civil servants.

- Supporting 11 million students.

These investments span AI infrastructure, foundation models, hardware, connectivity and applications.

Importance of India AI Impact Summit 2026 Globally

The Summit demonstrated,

- Strong international consensus on responsible AI.
- Focus on inclusive growth and reskilling.
- Expansion of sovereign AI infrastructure.
- Collaboration between governments, startups and global tech leaders.

The India AI Impact Summit Declaration signals a shift toward coordinated global AI governance frameworks.

National News

1. State Budgets (FY 2026-27 & FY 2027)

Haryana

- **Haryana Budget 2026-27 Presented with ₹2.23 Lakh Crore Outlay:** Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini presented Haryana's Budget 2026-27 with total outlay of ₹2.23 lakh crore (10.28% increase from ₹2.028 lakh crore in FY26), capital expenditure of ₹28,205 crore (12.6% of total allocation), fiscal deficit of ₹40,293.17 crore (2.65% of GDP), and major allocations for Agriculture (₹8,319.77 crore), Education & Sports (₹23,603.69 crore), Health (₹14,007.28 crore), with announcements for Haryana Agri Discom, Green Climate Resilience Fund, Green Hydrogen Policy, AMRIT pharmacies in district hospitals, and upgraded Para Sports Stadium.

Chhattisgarh

- **Chhattisgarh Presents ₹1.72 Lakh Crore Budget for FY26-27:** Finance Minister Om Prakash Chaudhary presented Chhattisgarh's Budget 2026-27 with total outlay of ₹1,72,000 crore (4.2% increase from ₹1,65,000 crore in FY25-26), revenue receipts of ₹1,43,000 crore, capital expenditure of ₹26,500 crore (15.4% of total), fiscal deficit of ₹20,400 crore (2.87% of GSDP), and sector allocations including 40% for social sector, 36% for economic development, 24% for administrative services, with major allocations for Public Health (₹8,050 crore), Women and Child Development (₹11,000 crore), Agriculture (₹13,507 crore).

Goa

- **Goa CM Pramod Sawant Presents ₹30,195 Crore Budget for FY27:** Goa CM Pramod Sawant presented his 7th budget worth ₹30,195 crore for FY27, projecting ₹1.31 lakh crore GSDP, with fiscal deficit of 2.9% of GSDP (within FRBM limits); major allocations include Health ₹2,217 crore, Roads ₹1,237 crore, Drinking Water ₹1,009 crore, Tourism ₹385 crore.

Punjab

- **Punjab FM Harpal Singh Cheema Presents ₹2,60,437 Crore Budget for FY27:** Punjab FM presented FY27 budget worth ₹2,60,437 crore with 10% GSDP growth projected at ₹9,80,635 crore, allocating ₹18,304 crore for women welfare (including ₹9,300 crore Mukh Mantri Mawan Dhiyan Satkar Yojana providing ₹1,000/month to women, ₹1,500 to Dalit women), ₹19,279 crore for education (7% increase), ₹15,377 crore for agriculture (6% increase).
- **Punjab Budget 2026-27: Mukh Mantri Mawan Dhiyan Satkar Yojana Announced:** The Punjab Budget 2026-27 introduced the Mukh Mantri Mawan Dhiyan Satkar Yojana providing ₹1,000 per month to women and ₹1,500 to Dalit women, expected to cover 97% of state's women with ₹9,300 crore allocation, excluding government employees, pensioners, income tax payers, MPs, and MLAs but including current social security pensioners.

Uttarakhand

- **Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami Presents ₹1,11,703 Crore Budget for FY27:** Uttarakhand CM presented FY27 budget of ₹1,11,703 crore (10.41% increase over FY26), allocating ₹64,989 crore revenue expenditure and ₹46,713.73 crore capital expenditure, with focus on GYAN model (Garib, Yuva, Annadata, Nari Shakti); major allocations include Education & Sports ₹11,871 crore, Agriculture ₹1,113 crore, Infrastructure ₹2,501 crore.

Karnataka

- **Karnataka Budget 2026-27 announced ₹4.48 trillion spending:** focusing on education, welfare, infrastructure, and technology. Plans include 15,000 teaching posts, electric buses, Bengaluru Ring Road, and the BRAINz AI-Robotics innovation zone.
- **Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah Presents ₹4.48 Lakh Crore Budget for FY27:** Karnataka CM presented FY27 budget of ₹4.48 lakh crore (13.3% increase over FY26), with fiscal deficit of 2.95% GSDP (₹97,449 crore); proposed social media ban for children under 16, allocated ₹94,663 crore for women programmes (Gruhalakshmi Scheme ₹2,000/month), ₹5,300 crore for Shakti Free Bus Travel, ₹2,000 crore for 4,000 electric buses, ₹233 crore for new Science City.

Maharashtra

- **Maharashtra Budget 2026-27:** announced a ₹2 lakh farm loan waiver under the Punyashlok Ahilyabai Holkar Scheme, benefiting millions of farmers. Plans include metro expansion, 6,000 km highways, solar projects, and new Mumbai 3.0 and 4.0 zones.
- **Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis Presents ₹7.69 Lakh Crore Budget for FY27:** Maharashtra CM presented FY27 budget of ₹7,69,467 crore with fiscal deficit of 2.7% GSDP (₹1,50,491 crore), allocating ₹60,000 crore to three flagship welfare programmes including Punyashlok Ahilyabai Holkar Farmers' Loan Waiver Scheme (crop loans up to ₹2 lakh waived), declared FY27 as "Year of Social Equality and Harmony".

Tripura

- **Tripura FM Presents ₹34,212 Crore Budget for FY27:** Finance Minister Pranajit Singha Roy of Tripura presented the state budget worth ₹34,212.31 crore for FY 2026-27, marking a 5.52% increase over the previous fiscal year with fiscal deficit of ₹240.72 crore and capital expenditure (CapEx) of ₹8,945.92 crore (13.19% increase). Key allocations included health sector (₹2,441.50 crore, +25.29%), agriculture (₹1,985.61 crore, +5.31%), and education (₹6,439.56 crore, +4.43%), with major announcements including 5% DA/DR increase, establishment of Tripura Government Technical University, Women's University, and University of Health Sciences, and launch of NAVCHETNA Initiative.

Telangana

- **Telangana Budget 2026-27: ₹3.24 Lakh Crore with Focus on Infrastructure and Welfare:** Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka presented Telangana's budget for FY 2026-27 in March 2026 with a total outlay of ₹3,24,234 crore, an increase of nearly ₹20,000 crore compared to FY26 (₹3.04 lakh crore). The state's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) is estimated at ₹17,82,198 crore with a 10.7% growth rate (2.7% above national average), with the government aiming for a ₹1 trillion economy by 2034. Key allocations include ₹2,34,406 crore for revenue expenditure and ₹47,267 crore for capital expenditure, emphasizing infrastructure development, welfare programs, urban expansion, and economic growth.

Himachal Pradesh

- **Himachal Pradesh Budget 2026-27: ₹54,928 Crore Focuses on Fiscal Consolidation:** Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu presented Himachal Pradesh's budget for FY27 in March 2026 with ₹54,928 crore (a contraction of ₹3,586 crore from previous year's ₹58,514 crore), focusing on fiscal consolidation, social welfare, green energy, rural development, and employment generation. The budget projects a Revenue Deficit (RD) of ₹6,577 crore with Revenue Receipts (RR) of ₹40,361 crore against Revenue Expenditure (RE) of ₹46,938 crore, and a fiscal deficit of ₹9,698 crore (3.49% of GSDP). The state economy is expected to grow at 8.3% with GSDP estimated at ₹2,54,000 crore and Per Capita Income (PCI) at ₹2,83,626.

Delhi

- **Delhi Budget 2026-27: ₹1.03 Lakh Crore with Green Development Focus:** Chief Minister Rekha Gupta presented Delhi's budget for FY27 in March 2026 with a total outlay of ₹1,03,700 crore, representing a 3.7% increase compared to the previous year (₹1 lakh crore), described as a "Green Budget" with emphasis on environmental sustainability. About 21% of the total allocation has been earmarked for green initiatives to address air pollution, with major allocations including ₹19,148 crore for education, ₹12,645 crore for health, ₹11,666 crore for Municipal Corporation, and ₹9,000 crore for the Delhi Jal Board. The budget estimated Revenue Surplus of ₹9,092 crore for FY27 with GSDP growth projected at 5.09% and GSDP expected to reach ₹13.27 lakh crore in FY26 (from ₹12.13 lakh crore in FY25).

2. National Infrastructure, PM Visits & Metro Projects

- **New Delhi Inaugurates India's First Ring Metro Corridor:** PM Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first fully operational Ring Metro corridor in Delhi, completing the 12.3 km Majlis Park–Maujpur-Babarpur section of Pink Line with 10 new stations, making the Pink Line span 71.56 km and enabling circumnavigation without central interchanges. The PM also inaugurated 9.9 km Magenta Line extension (Deepali Chowk–Majlis Park) adding 7 stations, bringing Magenta Line length to 49 km.
- **PM Modi Inaugurates Metro Projects and Lays Foundation for Phase-V Corridors in New Delhi:** PM Modi laid foundation stones for three new metro corridors under Delhi Metro Phase-V (A): Central Vista Corridor (913 m underground, Ramakrishna Ashram Marg to Indraprastha), Golden Line Extensions to Indira Gandhi International Airport Terminal-1 and Kalindi Kunj, connecting major landmarks like India Gate, Central Secretariat, War Memorial-High Court, and Bharat Mandapam.
- **PM Modi Inaugurates Development Projects Worth ₹16,450 Crore in Kerala and Tamil Nadu:** PM Modi inaugurated projects worth ₹10,800 crore in Ernakulam, Kerala including ₹5,500 crore Polypropylene Unit at BPCL's Kochi Refinery (400 KTPA capacity), and ₹5,650 crore projects in Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu including ₹3,680 crore City Gas Distribution network for Nilgiris and Erode districts (8.8 lakh household PNG connections, 201 CNG stations).
- **PM Modi Inaugurates Development Projects Worth ₹5,600 Crore in Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu:** PM Modi inaugurated Lube Blending Plant of Indian Oil Corporation (Chennai), largest global lubricant facility; laid foundation for ₹3,700 crore City Gas Distribution network (Nilgiris-Erode districts), inaugurated 370 km of rural roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, laid foundation for highway bypass near Gangaikonda Cholapuram Temple (UNESCO heritage site), and flagged off train services to Nagercoil, Coimbatore, Rameswaram, Tirunelveli, Mayiladuthurai, and Karaikkudi.
- **PM Narendra Modi's Two-Day Visit to Assam & West Bengal - ₹66,280 Crore Projects:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Assam and West Bengal from March 13-14, 2026, inaugurating and laying foundation stones for development projects worth over ₹66,280 crore (₹47,600 crore in Assam, ₹18,680 crore in West Bengal). In Assam, projects included Kopili Hydro Electric Project (₹2,300+ crore), Numaligarh–Siliguri product pipeline capacity enhancement, North East Gas Grid Phase 1, railway electrification projects (₹2,250 crore), cruise terminals at Bishwanath Ghat and Neamati, and Regional Centre of Excellence at Bogibeel in Dibrugarh for maritime training. In West Bengal, National Highway projects (420+ km, ₹16,990 crore) were inaugurated, and Bhoomi Poojan was performed for Assam Mala 3.0 (₹3,200 crore) covering 900+ km roads and 37 bridges across 34 districts.

- **PM Modi Announces ₹24,000 Crore Development Projects During Assam Visit:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced development projects worth ₹24,000+ crore in Assam, including land ownership certificates distributed to 3.5 lakh families in 825 tea gardens addressing a two-century-old issue. The 22nd installment of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi was released, transferring ₹2,000 directly to 9.3 crore farmers across India, strengthening the northeast region's energy infrastructure, railway connectivity, and tourism development.
- **Bharat Electricity Summit 2026: Indian Carbon Market Portal Launched:** The first edition of Bharat Electricity Summit (BES 2026) was held from March 19-22, 2026 at Yashobhoomi, Dwarka, New Delhi, inaugurated by Union Minister Manohar Lal with the theme "Electrifying Growth. Empowering Sustainability. Connecting Globally". During the event, the Indian Carbon Market Portal (www.indiancarbonmarket.gov.in), a central platform for implementing and administering the carbon market, was launched. The summit facilitated high-level bilateral meetings with countries such as Malawi, Tajikistan, Mauritius, Kyrgyzstan, and Russia, with the next edition (BES 2028) scheduled for Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- **GoI Approves Puducherry IT Park - ₹1,250 Crore SEZ Project:** The Government of India granted approval for Puducherry Government to establish a dedicated Special Economic Zone (SEZ) for the Information Technology (IT) sector spanning 21.30 acres near Thattanchavady, at a cost of ₹1,250 crore. Nearly 70% will be 'Plug-and-Play' offices for immediate occupancy, with 30% for social infrastructure including employee housing, shopping complex, medical centre, bank, and fire station, expected to generate 30,000 jobs and achieve ₹10,000 crore in service exports over 10 years.

3. State-Specific Initiatives & News

Tamil Nadu

- **Tamil Nadu Launches First Dark Sky Park at Kolli Hills:** Tamil Nadu's Forest Minister R S Rajakannappan inaugurated the State's first Dark Sky Park at Ariyur Shola Reserve Forest, Kolli Hills in Namakkal district with ₹1 crore investment, featuring three advanced telescopes and solar-powered infrastructure, minimal artificial light within 1.5 km radius, and operational period from 15 January to 15 June annually, positioning Tamil Nadu as an emerging astro-tourism destination.

Maharashtra

- **Soundala Village in Maharashtra Declares Itself 'Caste-Free':** Soundala village in Ahilyanagar district, Maharashtra, approximately 350 km from Mumbai, declared itself a "caste-free village" through a unanimous Gram Sabha resolution under Sarpanch Sharad Argade, prohibiting caste inquiries, banning caste-based discrimination, ensuring equal access to public spaces (temples, schools, crematoriums, water sources), with the motto "My caste is humanity," and implementing ₹500 fines for abusive language and ₹11,000 support for widow remarriage.
- **Maharashtra Launches Divyang Sahayak Portal:** The Government of Maharashtra launched India's first fully integrated online platform for disability welfare schemes—the Divyang Sahayak Portal—featuring online applications, real-time tracking, automatic approvals, artificial intelligence-based grievance redressal, integration with Unique Disability Identity and Aadhaar systems, with 11 modules covering unified scheme delivery, grievance redressal, institution information management, digital marketplace for persons with disabilities, and accessibility audit management.
- **Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Passes Land Revenue Code Amendment Bill:** The Maharashtra Assembly passed the Land Revenue Code Amendment Bill permitting municipal corporations and councils to utilize unused grazing land (gairan land) for public development projects with estimated 7,700 hectares in municipal corporations, 4,000 hectares in municipal areas, and 3,000 hectares in municipal councils.
- **Maharashtra Celebrates International Women's Day with Guinness World Record Lezim Dance:** Maharashtra celebrated International Women's Day 2026 with 9,111 women and girls performing traditional Lezim dance simultaneously at Savalaram Maharaj Sports Complex in Dombivli, breaking previous record of 7,338 participants; Deputy CM Eknath Shinde launched HPV vaccination campaign (Gardasil-4 vaccine free for girls ≤14 years in Latur and Nanded districts).
- **Maharashtra Celebrates International Women's Day 2026 with Guinness World Record:** Maharashtra celebrated International Women's Day 2026 with 9,111 women and girls from Dombivli and Kalyan performing traditional Lezim dance simultaneously, breaking previous Guinness World Record of 7,338 participants at Savalaram Maharaj Sports Complex.
- **Maharashtra Passes Freedom of Religion Bill 2026:** Maharashtra passed the Freedom of Religion Bill 2026, introducing up to 7 years imprisonment for forced religious conversions through marriage, fraud, or coercion, with stricter penalties (10 years max) for repeat offenders and special protections for minors, women, SC/ST, ensuring transparent and voluntary religious conversions.
- **Maharashtra Freedom of Religion Bill 2026 Details:** The Bill, passed by voice vote, targets conversions through coercion, fraud, inducement, or marriage, aiming to ensure transparency and protect constitutional rights with special protections for vulnerable groups. Punishments include up to 7 years imprisonment + ₹1 lakh fine for conversions involving marriage, fraud, coercion, 7 years imprisonment + ₹5 lakh fine for conversions of minors, women, SC/ST, mass conversions, and up to 10 years imprisonment + ₹5 lakh fine for repeat offenders.

West Bengal

- **West Bengal Approves ₹4,648 Crore ADB Projects for Education and ICDS:** The West Bengal State Cabinet, headed by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, approved two major ADB-funded development projects worth ₹4,648 crore following a 70:30 funding model (70% ADB, 30% State Government) to strengthen secondary education infrastructure through smart classrooms in 11 districts and upgrade approximately 50,000 Integrated Child Development Services centres in the state.
- **West Bengal Signs MoU with GIZ and SMCG for Transboundary Rivers Masterplans:** The Government of West Bengal signed an MoU with German federal enterprise GIZ and the State Mission for Clean Ganga to develop basin-based masterplans for the Ichhamati and Jalangi rivers under the ₹200 crore 'Nodi Bandhan' programme announced in the 2025-26 State Budget, addressing environmental degradation, pollution, declining water flow, and transboundary river cooperation with Bangladesh through dredging, pollution abatement, groundwater recharge, flood mitigation, and irrigation strengthening within one year.

Rajasthan

- **Rajasthan Renames Three Towns:** The Rajasthan Government approved the renaming of three towns—Mount Abu as Aburaj, Kaman as Kamvan, and Jahazpur as Yagyapur—to reconnect modern administrative names with historical references rooted in regional heritage, with necessary updates to be implemented in administrative usage and official communication.

Nagaland

- **Nagaland Signs MoU with IMD for Weather Forecasting:** The Department of Higher Education, Nagaland, signed a 20-year MoU with the India Meteorological Department under the Ministry of Earth Sciences to strengthen weather forecasting, atmospheric research, and capacity building through installation of an X-band Polarimetric Doppler Weather Radar at Dimapur Government College under the Mission Mausam scheme to enhance understanding of state-specific weather hazards and support disaster preparedness.

Gujarat

- **Gujarat Launches STI Policy 2026-2031:** Gujarat unveiled its Science, Technology and Innovation Policy 2026-2031 with a ₹1,000 crore innovation fund targeting 1 lakh research professionals and 1,000 intellectual property filings annually by 2031 through innovation clusters in Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Rajkot, Junagadh, and Kachchh to strengthen India's technology ecosystem and support deep-tech startups.
- **Gujarat Receives ₹1,600 Crore Semiconductor Ecosystem Investment:** Gujarat's semiconductor ecosystem received investment proposals worth ₹1,600 crore from Japan, South Korea, and Malaysia, announced during the Gujarat Semiconnect Conference, including Japan's Horiba Group's Research and Development centre for semiconductor-grade mass flow controllers in Ahmedabad, Malaysia's Hotayi Electronic's ₹250 crore SSD and memory module production facility, Hi-Spec's ₹750 crore semiconductor-grade hydrofluoric acid manufacturing unit, and partnerships with Rohm Semiconductor and Kaynes Semicon for integrated circuit packaging and testing solutions.
- **Gujarat Launches 'Lake and Air Watch' Initiative:** The Gujarat Government launched 'Lake and Air Watch' initiative to monitor air quality and lake health in urban areas across the state through air quality monitoring systems in 17 municipal corporations and 152 municipal areas, using satellite technology to monitor lake health with estimated budget of ₹10 crore.
- **Gujarat Achieves Historic Space Milestone - First Sounding Rocket Launch:** Gujarat successfully launched its first sounding rocket at Bavaliyari village near Dholera on March 15, 2026, developed by Ahmedabad-based Omspace Rocket and Exploration Private Limited (OSRE). The single-stage sub-orbital rocket reached an altitude of approximately 3 kilometers, carrying a mini-satellite for weather data collection built using carbon fibre and advanced composites under the Make in India initiative, with approval from IN-SPACe and support from Gujarat Spacetech Policy 2025–2030.
- **Gujarat Launches Foot and Mouth Disease Vaccination Drive:** Gujarat Government launched a statewide Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccination drive from March 1 to April 15, 2026 across the state under the National Animal Disease Control Programme, targeting livestock including cattle, buffaloes, sheep, and goats through veterinary teams visiting villages and dairy farms with ear tagging and upload to INAPH portal for tracking.
- **Gujarat Launches 'Lake and Air Watch' Initiative:** The Gujarat state government launched the 'Lake and Air Watch' initiative to monitor and improve air quality and lake health across urban areas through the Gujarat Urban Development Mission (GUDM) under the Urban Development and Urban Housing Department.
- **Gujarat Digitalizes 20 Citizen Services Under Sugam Digital Gujarat Initiative:** The Government of Gujarat digitalized 20 high-demand citizen services under the Sugam Digital Gujarat Initiative announced on March 23, 2026, promoting faceless, cashless, and paperless governance through the Digital Gujarat Portal. Services digitalized across five departments include Caste Certificates (SC, SEBC), Income Certificates, Ration card services, Certified documents, ST Certificates, and ready affidavits using technologies like Aadhaar authentication, DigiLocker, eSign, and UPI payments. The initiative is expected to reduce approval timelines and dependency on in-person visits while ensuring faster and more efficient service delivery.

Telangana

- **Telangana's SERP Partners with TBIS, T-Hub, WE Hub for Challenge Fund:** The Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP), Telangana, in collaboration with Technology Business Incubator Society (TBIS) at BITS Pilani Hyderabad, Telangana Hub (T-Hub), and Women Entrepreneurs Hub (WE Hub), launched a ₹12.66 crore Challenge Fund to promote rural entrepreneurship targeting 300+ women and young entrepreneurs with institutional support, enterprise diagnostics, and customized growth roadmaps across all 33 districts of Telangana through manufacturing, food processing, handicrafts, and agri-allied services.
- **Telangana Announces Major Welfare Schemes: Family Life Insurance and Cashless Health:** The Telangana State Budget 2026 announced the Indiramma Family Life Insurance Scheme (to be launched on June 2, 2026) providing ₹5 lakh insurance coverage per family for approximately 1.15 crore families, ensuring financial protection in case of death of the primary earning member. The Cashless Health Scheme, implemented through Rajiv Aarogyasri Trust, covers 23.51 lakh beneficiaries including government employees, pensioners, and dependents for 1,998 diseases, with ₹1.20 crore accident insurance and ₹10 lakh term life insurance (up to 60 years) for government employees and pensioners.

Uttar Pradesh

- **UP Government Signs ₹200 Crore MoU with Germany's RAILONE GmbH:** The Government of Uttar Pradesh signed an MoU worth ₹200 crore with RAILONE GmbH, a Germany-based railway infrastructure company, to strengthen and modernize rail infrastructure in the state through technology transfer, adoption of global best practices, and technical collaboration in railway components for modern track technology and concrete sleeper manufacturing systems.
- **Varanasi Sets Guinness World Record for Tree Planting:** Varanasi set a Guinness World Record by planting 2,51,446 saplings within one hour at Sujabad Domari area, surpassing China's 2018 record of 1,53,981 saplings, using the Miyawaki technique across 350 bighas to create an urban forest with 27 native species (sheesham, Arjun, teak, bamboo, mango, guava, papaya, ashwagandha, shatavari, giloy), supported by a 10.8 km pipeline network and 360 rain gun irrigation systems.
- **Uttar Pradesh Clean Air Program - World Bank ₹299.66 Million Loan:** The World Bank signed an agreement to provide USD 299.66 million to Uttar Pradesh for the Clean Air Transition Programme, including installation of 200 new air quality monitoring stations, adoption of electric buses and three-wheelers, transition of 700 brick kilns to cleaner technologies, and benefit approximately 9 million households with clean cooking solutions. The programme has a maturity of 10 years with a 2-year grace period and will leverage USD 150 million in private capital for transport and MSME sectors to boost economic growth and employment.
- **Chandigarh University UP Launches CoE in Smart Healthcare:** Chandigarh University in Uttar Pradesh, India's first AI-augmented multidisciplinary university, launched a Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Smart Healthcare headed by Dr. Thipendra P. Singh with support from Minister of State Aseem Arun. The CoE is powered by advanced GPU systems (168 GB memory using NVIDIA Blackwell architecture) enabling high-end research and AI model development, functioning as a testbed for smart city healthcare solutions while supporting five AI startups over two years and facilitating hospital-based technology validation.
- **UP CM Launches 'Nivesh Mitra 3.0' for Enhanced Ease of Doing Business:** Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched 'Nivesh Mitra 3.0' on March 24, 2026, in Lucknow, an upgraded digital single-window platform integrating over 530 services from 43 departments into fewer than 200 streamlined digital services using PAN-based single user ID. The platform features an AI-based chatbot providing instant assistance with real-time SMS alerts and application tracking. Simultaneously, 'UP Private Business Park Development Scheme-2025' and 'Plug-and-Play Industrial Sheds Scheme' were unveiled to boost industrial infrastructure through government land and private investment.
- **Kalinjar Fort Hill Declared National Geo-Heritage Site by GSI:** Kalinjar Fort Hill in Banda district, Uttar Pradesh was declared a National Geo-Heritage Site by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) in March 2026, recognizing its rare geological formations, historical significance, and tourism potential. The site features the Eparchaean Unconformity, representing approximately 2.5 billion-year-old Bundelkhand granite beneath 1.2 billion-year-old Kaimur sandstone, reflecting distinct geological eras critical for studying Earth's long-term evolution. The designation is expected to boost tourism, research activities, and support the local economy in Banda district while promoting Kalinjar Fort alongside Khajuraho Group of Monuments and Chitrakoot as a regional tourism circuit.

Andhra Pradesh

- **Andhra Pradesh Launches Project HANUMAN:** Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan launched Project HANUMAN (Healing and Nurturing Units for Monitoring, Aid and Nursing of Wildlife) to address growing human-wildlife conflict in Andhra Pradesh through deployment of 100 GPS-enabled vehicles (93 Rapid Response and Rescue Vehicles, 7 Wildlife Ambulances), establishment of four Wildlife Rescue and Treatment Centres at Visakhapatnam, Rajamahendravaram, Tirupati, and Bairluty, and increased compensation for wildlife attack deaths from ₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh and injuries up to ₹2 lakh.

Sikkim

- **Sikkim Police Receives President's Police Colour Award:** The Sikkim Police was conferred with the President's Police Colour Award, one of the highest distinctions for police forces in India, recognizing sustained excellence, professionalism, and dedication to duty in public service.
- **Sikkim's Stuti Pradhan Selected for World Youth Parliament 2026:** Stuti Pradhan from Sikkim was selected in March 2026 to represent India at the World Youth Parliament (WYP), showcasing India's growing youth role in global policy and diplomacy. She was recognized for excellence in parliamentary debate and secured state winner title at Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament 2025, being honored as special guest at Lok Bhawan, Sikkim during Republic Day 2026.

Karnataka

- **The Karnataka government proposed a social media ban for children under 16:** in the Budget 2026-27 to reduce digital addiction and harmful online content. Similar age-based regulations are being examined nationally under the Digital Personal Data Protection Act.
- **Karnataka Proposes Social Media Ban for Children Under 16 in Budget 2026:** The Karnataka Government proposed a ban on social media usage for children below 16 years in Budget 2026-27, making Karnataka potentially the first Indian state with age-based social media restrictions, with similar proposals being considered by Andhra Pradesh and discussions ongoing at national level with Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.

Uttarakhand

- **Uttarakhand Ranks First Nationally in Implementing New Criminal Laws:** Uttarakhand secured first position nationally in implementing Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) 2.0, scoring 93.46 on CCTNS Progress Dashboard (data up to January 2026) released by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), attributed to CM Pushkar Singh Dhami's leadership in implementing three new criminal laws (BNS, BNSS, BSA) and implementing "One Data, One Entry" mechanism for seamless data sharing.

Kerala

- **Kerala Introduces Cyber Safety Protocol 2026 for Schools:** The Government of Kerala introduced Cyber Safety Protocol 2026, developed by KITE (Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education), to create safe digital learning environments protecting students from AI-generated misinformation, deepfakes, digital grooming, and cyber fraud, with 13 major objectives and 25 cyber safety guidelines for students, 16 recommendations for parents, and 17 responsibilities for school heads.

Assam

- **Assam Infrastructure and Inland Waterway Projects Launched:** An elevated road corridor linking Pandu Port to NH-27 and cruise terminals at Biswanath Ghat and Neamati were launched to boost logistics and river tourism in Assam.
- **Chirag Paswan Inaugurates Common Incubation Centre at Tezpur University:** Union Minister Chirag Paswan of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries inaugurated a Common Incubation Centre at Tezpur University in Sonitpur district, Assam with full financial support from PMFME Scheme (₹2.35 crore). The facility supports self-help groups, farmer producer organizations, cooperatives, start-ups, and provides technical mentorship in food processing technology, packaging, branding, and food safety compliance through seven specialized processing lines for fruits, grains, spices, bakery products, benefiting entrepreneurs from districts including Darrang, Udalguri, Biswanath, Nagaon, and Golaghat.
- **Assam's Karbi Anglong Ginger Export to London - Historic Achievement:** Assam achieved a major milestone in agricultural exports as GI-tagged Karbi Anglong Ginger was exported to London for the first time on March 2, 2026, flagged off by Assam Agriculture Minister Atul Bora at Krishi Bhawan in Khanapara, Guwahati.

Chhattisgarh

- **Chhattisgarh Launches Gaudham Yojana - 1,460 Cattle Shelters:** Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai of Chhattisgarh launched the Gaudham Yojana at Lakhasar village, Takhatpur, Bilaspur district to establish 1,460 cattle shelters across the state with 10 shelters per Development Block accommodating ~200 cattle each. During the event, 29 Gaudhams across 11 districts were virtually inaugurated, providing Daily Feed Assistance (DFA) of ₹10-35 per day per cattle and ₹5 lakh annually for Infrastructure Development and Maintenance (IDM), with shepherds receiving ₹10,916 monthly honorarium and Gausevaks receiving ₹13,126.

Himachal Pradesh

- **Himachal Pradesh Signs Three MoUs with NDDB - Dairy Sector Strengthening:** The Government of Himachal Pradesh (HP) signed three MoUs with the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) in Shimla to strengthen dairy infrastructure through Kangra Milk Union formation and establishment of two milk processing plants (20,000 litres per day each) at Nahan and Nalagarh, plus two chilling centres at Jalari and Jhalera. An automated plant at Dhagwar (₹250 crore) will process 1.5 lakh litres per day, expandable to 3 lakh litres, with Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software implementation for improved transparency and efficiency.
- **Himachal Pradesh Cannabis (Hemp) Farming Pilot Project:** In response to increasing global demand, Himachal Pradesh Government under Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu approved a pilot project for cannabis (hemp) farming, emphasizing medicinal and industrial uses for potential economic benefits and agricultural diversification.

Odisha

- **Odisha's First Smart Village - Kusunpur in Kendrapada District:** Kusunpur village in Kendrapada district, Odisha is set to become the state's first smart village under an initiative by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research with a population of ~700 living in 130 families. Multiple CSIR institutions including Central Building Research Institute (Roorkee), Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (Bhubaneswar), and others will implement practical and scalable solutions following a mission-mode approach to create a self-sufficient, climate-resilient, and sustainable village model.
- **Odisha Retains Top Position in Fiscal Health Index 2026 with 73.1 Score:** Odisha retained its top position in the Fiscal Health Index 2026 with a score of 73.1, demonstrating strong fiscal management through efficient revenue mobilization and controlled fiscal deficits compared to other states.

Punjab

- **Punjab Government Launches 'Punjab Sikhya Kranti 2.0' - ₹3,500 Crore Investment:** The Government of Punjab in collaboration with the World Bank (WB) launched 'Punjab Sikhya Kranti 2.0', an ambitious educational reform programme with ₹3,500 crore investment for 6 years, with WB providing ₹2,500 crore as loan assistance and Punjab Government contributing ₹1,000 crore. The programme focuses on three pillars: implementing structured assessments for foundational learning in literacy and numeracy, increasing access to high-demand academic streams, upgrading vocational training, and launching a digital Career Guidance portal for personalized student guidance.

Jammu & Kashmir

- **Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden Opens - 1.8 Million Tulips:** The Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden in Srinagar, Asia's largest tulip garden spanning 74 acres, was inaugurated on March 16, 2026 by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah with over 1.8 million tulips featuring 70-75 varieties including imported species from the Netherlands. The garden showcases seasonal spring flowers including Hyacinth, Daffodil, Muscari, and Ranunculus, marking the official beginning of Kashmir's spring tourism season.

4. Appointments & Constitutional Bodies

- **Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti Assumes NCBC Chairperson Role:** Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti, former Union Minister of State, assumed charge as Chairperson of National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) in March 2026. Mrs. Kiran Umesh Mahalle, former Mayor of Municipal Corporation Amravati, assumed charge as NCBC Member, both bringing extensive social welfare and governance experience to strengthen the commission.

March Month Launches & Inaugurations

- **RAJMARG PRAVESH Version 2.0:** Union Minister Nitin Gadkari launched the upgraded RAJMARG PRAVESH portal (Version 2.0) on 25 February 2026 to simplify and digitalize the issuance of No Objection Certificates for fuel stations, wayside amenities, private properties, rest areas, connecting roads, water pipelines, gas pipelines, optical fibre cables, and electrical lines along National Highways.
- **Census-2027 Digital Tools and Mascots:** Union Minister Amit Shah soft-launched four digital tools (Houselisting Block Creator Web App, House Listing Officer Mobile App, Self-Enumeration Portal, Census Management and Monitoring System Portal) and mascots 'Pragati' (female) and 'Vikas' (male) for India's first fully digital Census-2027, developed by C-DAC under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- **Four Women-Centric Schemes in Delhi:** President Droupadi Murmu dedicated four major welfare schemes—Delhi Lakhpati Bitiya Scheme (₹61,000 government deposit maturing to ₹1.25 lakh), Saheli Pink Smart Card (free public transport), Free LPG Cylinder Scheme (₹853 per consumer), and Meri Poonji Mera Adhikaar (pending Ladli Scheme disbursement to 1.75 lakh beneficiaries)—during 'Sashakt Nari Samriddh Delhi' programme in New Delhi.
- **BEE Star Label Mobile Application:** Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar unveiled the BEE Star Label Mobile Application (scanning QR codes on appliances for energy details) during the Bureau of Energy Efficiency's 25th Foundation Day.
- **Renewable Consumption Obligation Portal:** Introduced by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency to strengthen compliance and transparency in renewable energy obligations.
- **SHINE App:** Indian Railways launched the SHINE (Sexual Harassment Incident Notification for Empowerment) app on International Women's Day (8 March 2026), enabling women employees and other individuals to confidentially report workplace sexual harassment through the Human Resources Management System (HRMS).
- **PureAir Tower in New Delhi:** New Delhi deployed India's first microalgae-based PureAir Tower along Aerocity highway corridor using photosynthetic microalgae technology to absorb pollutants (CO_2, particulate matter, NO_x), with each tower providing air purification effect comparable to 15 mature trees, developed by C P Arora Private Limited and Carbelim Pvt Ltd.
- **NDSA New Office & Digital Initiatives:** Union Minister C. R. Patil inaugurated the new National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) office at West Block II, R.K. Puram, New Delhi in March 2026. The inauguration featured the launch of three major digital initiatives: NDSA website with GIS-based "Specified Dams" section, NETRA (AI-enabled platform) developed in collaboration with Indian Navy, and Rashtriya Bandh Suraksha Darpan (RBSD) visualization platform by C-DAC for Dam Break Analysis.

- **Inland Waterway Projects in Assam:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated an elevated road corridor connecting Pandu Port to National Highway-27 and laid the foundation for four major inland waterway projects worth ₹526 crore under the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) including Elevated Road Corridor (₹180 crore), Cruise Terminals at Biswanath Ghat and Neamati, and Regional Centre of Excellence at Bogibeel in Dibrugarh (₹188 crore) for maritime skill development supporting 5,000+ students annually.
- **Common Incubation Centre at Tezpur University:** Union Minister Chirag Paswan inaugurated a food processing incubation centre under the PMFME scheme with ₹2.35 crore support to promote micro food enterprises.
- **Noida International Airport (Jewar):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate Phase I of Noida International Airport (Jewar) on March 28, 2026, developed at ₹11,200 crore cost with 12 million annual passenger capacity. The airport features a 3,900-metre runway, designed as net-zero emissions facility, with integrated cargo terminal handling 2.5 lakh metric tonnes annually and 40-acre MRO facility.
- **Asia-Africa Agri Alliance (AAAA):** Senior ambassadors, diplomats, and agribusiness leaders from over ten nations formally launched the AAAA in New Delhi as a Section 8 Not-for-Profit Organisation under the Companies Act 2013 to strengthen trade, agricultural cooperation, investment, and technology exchange.
- **'24 Speed Post' Service:** The Department of Posts launched the '24 Speed Post' premium express service effective from March 17, 2026 across six metro cities (New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad) offering next-day (D+1) guaranteed delivery with OTP-based secure delivery.
- **RISA Brand:** The Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched the 'RISA: Timeless Tribal' brand to enhance global reach and income of tribal artisans, promoting India's rich tribal craft heritage and cultural products in international markets.
- **'Women's Mode' Feature:** SBI Securities launched 'Women's Mode' on its mobile app developed under the Infinity8 initiative based on feedback from 6,000+ women investors, offering goal-based investment journeys, simplified tools, and special brokerage plans.
- **PRARAMBH 2026 IT Awareness Campaign:** FM Nirmala Sitharaman launched PRARAMBH 2026 in New Delhi on March 2026, a nationwide Income Tax Department awareness campaign for the implementation of the Income Tax Act, 2025, effective from April 1, 2026. Includes the launch of upgraded Income Tax Website 2.0 and AI-enabled chatbot Kar Saathi.
- **PRISM-SG Portal:** Union Ministers Nitin Gadkari (MoRTH) and Ashwini Vaishnaw (Railways) jointly launched 'PRISM-SG Portal' in New Delhi on March 26, 2026, reducing approval timelines from 12 months to 3-4 months for Road Over Bridges (ROBs).

Important Festival

- **Janaushadhi Saptah 2026:** The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers observed 'Janaushadhi Saptah 2026' from 1-7 March 2026 with theme "Jan Aushadhi – affordable and trustworthy, good health with savings" to promote generic medicines under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana.
- **National Arogya Fair 2026:** Organized by the Ministry of AYUSH in collaboration with the All India Ayurvedic Congress, inaugurated by President Droupadi Murmu at Shegaon in Buldhana district, Maharashtra, showcasing Allopathy, Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy.
- **Tribes Art Fest:** Announced by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, held from 2-13 March at Travancore Palace, New Delhi, to showcase tribal arts, music, culture, and commerce.
- **Living Roots Festival:** Announced by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, held from 13-15 March at Bikaner House, New Delhi.
- **Bharat Tribes Fest:** Announced by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, held from 18-30 March at Sunder Nursery, New Delhi.
- **BEE 25th Foundation Day:** The Bureau of Energy Efficiency marked its 25th Foundation Day at India Habitat Centre with Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar unveiling the BEE@25 commemorative logo.
- **Central Warehousing Corporation 70th Foundation Day:** Celebrated at Bharat Mandapam with record financial performance—turnover of ₹2,776.88 crore in FY24-25.
- **National Science Day 2026:** India observed National Science Day on 28 February 2026 marking the 40th observance and 1928 discovery of the Raman Effect by Sir C. V. Raman with the theme "Women in Science: Catalysing Viksit Bharat" at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- **International Women's Day 2026 (Maharashtra):** Maharashtra celebrated with 9,111 women and girls performing traditional Lezim dance simultaneously at Dombivli, breaking the previous Guinness World Record of 7,338 participants.
- **Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden Opening:** Asia's largest tulip garden in Srinagar, spanning 74 acres, was inaugurated on March 16, 2026 by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah with over 1.8 million tulips featuring 70-75 varieties.

Miscellaneous National News

- **India-Germany Climate Resilience Initiative:** India and Germany launched a EUR 20 million climate resilience programme under the International Climate Initiative to strengthen ecosystem-based adaptation in high-risk zones including the Himalayas, Western Ghats, and North-East India.

- **Hindi Advisory Committee:** Union Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda was named chairman of the newly reconstituted Hindi Advisory Committee for the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
- **Exercise Kalari Leap:** The Southern Air Command of the Indian Air Force successfully conducted Exercise Kalari Leap across the Lakshadweep and Minicoy archipelago in the Arabian Sea involving the Armed Forces Special Operations Division and Indian Coast Guard.
- **Exercise Vayushakti-26:** The Indian Air Force successfully conducted Exercise Vayushakti-26 at Pokhran Field Firing Range in Jaisalmer with President Droupadi Murmu as Chief Guest, featuring over 130 aircraft.
- **SWAYATT Initiative (GeM):** Government e-Marketplace (GeM) marked 7 years of the SWAYATT Initiative. Women entrepreneurs' cumulative order value increased to ₹83,323 crore (FY2026) while startup orders rose to ₹54,005.8 crore.
- **TRP Suspension:** The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting ordered BARC to suspend TRP ratings for TV news channels for four weeks from March 7, 2026, aiming to reduce sensational reporting on the Israel–Iran conflict.
- **Hurun Rich List 2026:** Shows India with 308 billionaires, becoming the third-largest billionaire hub after the United States and China. Mukesh Ambani remains richest.
- **Jal Jeevan Mission Extension:** The Union Cabinet approved the extension of the JJM until December 2028 with an enhanced outlay of ₹8.69 lakh crore. Introduced "Sujalam Bharat" digital framework and "Sujal Gaon ID" unique digital identifier system.
- **FDI Framework Amendment:** The Union Cabinet approved amendments to India's FDI framework governing investments from seven land border countries, permitting non-controlling stakes up to 10% through automatic route.
- **Railway Multitracking Projects:** The Cabinet approved ₹4,474 crore railway multitracking projects spanning five districts across West Bengal and Jharkhand, expanding the network by 192 km.
- **Noida Airport Connectivity:** Approved ₹3,630.77 crore for Greenfield road connectivity to Noida International Airport (Jewar).
- **Madhya Pradesh NH-752D:** Approved ₹3,839.42 crore for four-laning NH-752D in Madhya Pradesh.
- **Madurai Airport Status:** The Union Cabinet granted international airport status to Madurai Airport in Tamil Nadu under the Pradhan Mantri Gati Shakti National Master Plan.
- **Green Ammonia and Methanol Standards:** The Government notified standards for green ammonia (max 0.38 kg CO_2 eq per kg) and green methanol (max 0.44 kg CO_2 eq per kg) under the National Green Hydrogen Mission.
- **RBI Prudential Norms:** RBI issued revised dividend framework capping maximum dividend payout for banks at 75% of Profit After Tax (PAT) effective from FY27.
- **RBI Counterparty Credit Risk:** Released Third Amendment Directions 2026 revising capital adequacy framework for commercial banks aligned with Basel Norms.
- **Digital Banking Customer Protection:** RBI mandated SMS alerts for transactions above ₹500, zero liability on fraud due to bank negligence, and 30-day complaint resolution.
- **Aadhaar Bug Bounty Program:** UIDAI launched the first structured bug bounty program engaging 20 cybersecurity researchers to identify vulnerabilities.
- **"Team Kalki" Drug Bust:** The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) dismantled a major drug trafficking network that dispatched over 1,000 drug consignments since January 2025 using the darknet.
- **Maharashtra Land & Stamp Bills:** Maharashtra Assembly passed the Land Revenue Code Amendment Bill (unused grazing land for public projects) and the Stamp Amendment Bill 2026.
- **Mizo Language Resolution:** The Mizoram Legislative Assembly unanimously passed a resolution seeking inclusion of the Mizo language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.
- **Chhattisgarh Freedom of Religion Bill 2026:** Chhattisgarh Cabinet approved the draft bill aimed at preventing illegal religious conversions carried out through force or fraud.
- **Cotton Products Export:** India overtook China to become the largest exporter of cotton products to the United States in 2025 (0.6 million tonnes).
- **Project GANGA:** Uttar Pradesh Government launched Project GANGA to provide high-speed internet connectivity to 20 lakh+ rural households.
- **Inter-Regional Power Transmission:** India plans to increase capacity to 143 GW by 2027 and 168 GW by 2032.
- **Malawi Humanitarian Assistance:** India dispatched 1,000 metric tons of rice to Malawi to address food shortages caused by El Niño drought.
- **Project Cheetah Milestone:** The cheetah population reached 53 after Namibian cheetah Jwala gave birth to 5 cubs at Kuno National Park.
- **PM Modi Assam Visit:** Inaugurated projects worth over ₹24,000 crore, including the Kopili Hydro Project.
- **FSSAI License Reform:** Approved perpetual validity for FSSAI licenses and increased basic registration turnover limit to ₹1.5 crore effective April 1, 2026.
- **Anti-Child Marriage Campaign:** Strengthened the “Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat” campaign, reaching over 11.81 crore people.
- **BHAVYA Scheme:** Approved ₹33,660 crore for developing 100 plug-and-play industrial parks across the country.

- **Small Hydro Power Development Scheme:** Approved ₹2,584.60 crore for FY2026-27 to FY2030-31 to develop 1,500 MW capacity.
- **MSP Support for Cotton:** Approved ₹1,718.56 crore in MSP funding for cotton farmers for the 2023-24 season.
- **NH-927 Project UP:** Sanctioned ₹6,969.04 crore for the National Highway-927 project from Barabanki to Bahraich.
- **RELIEF Scheme for Exporters:** DGFT announced the Resilience and Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation (RELIEF) scheme with ₹497 crore outlay for exporters impacted by West Asia conflict.
- **CEA Midterm Review:** Projected India's installed power generation capacity to reach 1,121 GW by 2035-36.
- **Horticulture Production Estimates:** Production increased to 3,707.38 lakh tonnes, registering 4.51% growth.
- **ALMM Framework Expansion:** MNRE extended the framework to solar ingots and wafers effective June 2028.
- **Gyan Bharatam National Manuscript Survey:** Ministry of Culture launched a three-month nationwide exercise to map India's manuscript heritage.
- **JPC Tenure Extension:** Lok Sabha extended the tenure of the committee reviewing the One Nation One Election proposal until the Monsoon Session 2026.
- **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS):** India's overall unemployment rate dropped to 4.9% in February 2026.
- **Digital Payment Awareness:** RBI launched the 6th edition of Digital Payments Awareness Week (DPAW) and "Thoda Dhyan Se" campaign.
- **Nagoya Protocol Report:** India submitted its First National Report, highlighting 3,556 Internationally Recognised Certificates of Compliance published (over 60% of global total).
- **Maternity Leave for Adoptive Mothers:** Supreme Court struck down age restrictions, guaranteeing 12 weeks of leave regardless of adopted child age.
- **DGP Appointment Rules:** UPSC clarified state governments cannot delay sending names or appoint "acting DGP" without Supreme Court approval.
- **NMDC Production Record:** Became the first mining company in India to produce 50 million tonnes of iron ore in a fiscal year (FY26).
- **Integrated Aqua Park J&K:** Sanctioned ₹100 crore project in Anantnag district.
- **Tribal Homestay Programme:** Launched by ITDC and Ministry of Tribal Affairs to train participants from Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, and Gujarat.
- **Metro Network Milestone:** India became the world's third largest metro network with 1,143 km operational across 29 cities.
- **Startup Diversity:** Recognized startups crossed 2.12 lakh, with over 1 lakh having at least one woman director.
- **Coconut Production:** India leads global production with a 30.37% share.
- **Joha Rice Export:** APEDA facilitated the first export of GI-tagged Joha rice from Assam to the United Kingdom and Italy.
- **National Dental Commission:** Constituted in March 2026, replacing the Dental Council of India (DCI).
- **Expert Committee on Invasive Alien Species:** Constituted by the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA).
- **Seven Empowered Groups (West Asia Crisis):** Formed by PM Modi to address strategic and economic impacts on energy and trade.
- **Gujarat UCC Bill:** Gujarat Legislative Assembly passed the Uniform Civil Code Bill 2026, becoming the second state after Uttarakhand.
- **PM Modi Tenure Record:** Became India's longest-serving elected head of government (8,931 days), surpassing Pawan Kumar Chamling.
- **Modified UDAN Scheme:** Revamped regional air connectivity scheme with ₹28,840 crore outlay to connect 120 new destinations.
- **IVFRT Scheme Extension:** Extended until 2031 with a budget of ₹1,800 crore for immigration and visa tracking.
- **India's NDC Targets 2031-35:** Emissions intensity reduction target raised to 47% by 2035 compared to 2005 levels.
- **'Reform Express' Initiative:** Railway Ministry introduced five new reforms covering wagon designs and ticket cancellation rules.
- **Operation Urja Suraksha:** Indian Navy mission to escort and safeguard 22 India-bound energy vessels through the Strait of Hormuz.
- **Project 'Vayu Baan':** Indian Air Force project for India's first helicopter-launched Unmanned Aerial System (UAS).
- **Ministry of Culture & YouTube MoU:** Signed to globally promote India's folk and tribal music.
- **Department of Posts & TRIFED MoU:** Two-year logistics partnership to deliver tribal products through the Tribes India marketplace.
- **Indian Army-IITM Pravartak MoU:** Corps of EME and IITM partner for a Nodal Indigenisation Centre (NIC) in Avadi.
- **Jan Vishwas Bill 2026:** Introduced to decriminalize 717 provisions across 79 Central Acts.
- **Fertilizer Subsidies FY25:** Allocated ₹1,77,129.50 crore.
- **TV Ratings Policy 2026:** Notified to reduce net worth requirements for agencies and mandate 50% independent directors.

GOVT SCHEMES

Name of Initiative	Ministry / Authority	Year	Purpose & Key Features
PM Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)	Chemicals & Fertilizers	2026 (Update)	**Purpose:** To provide affordable generic medicines. **Features:** Observed "Janaushadhi Saptah" (March 1-7); 18,000+ Kendras active; target to reach 25,000 by March 2027.
Small Hydro Power (SHP) Dev. Scheme	New & Renewable Energy	2026–2031	**Purpose:** To develop 1,500 MW hydro capacity (1-25 MW projects). **Support:** ₹3.6 Cr/MW for NE states; ₹2.4 Cr/MW for other states.
National Quantum Mission (NQM)	Science & Technology	2026 (Update)	**Purpose:** Establish quantum teaching labs in 23 institutions to build a skilled workforce for future computing and tech.
PM Internship Scheme (Revamped)	Ministry of Corporate Affairs	2026 (Revamp)	**Purpose:** Provide 1 lakh internships in top sectors (Semiconductors, GCCs). **Features:** Stipend increased to **₹9,000/month**; age limit revised to 18–25 years.
Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA)	Education / MHA	2026–2029	**Purpose:** 3-Year Action Plan to make schools drug-free. **Features:** Declares a 500-meter radius around schools as drug-free zones.
Bharat Tex 2026	Ministry of Textiles	2026 (Launch)	**Purpose:** World's largest integrated textile fair to promote "Farm to Foreign" (5F Vision). Scheduled for July 2026.
Mission Karmayogi (Upskilling)	Karmayogi Bharat / Coursera	2026 (Partner)	**Purpose:** Advanced AI and leadership upskilling for civil servants through the iGOT Karmayogi digital platform.
Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) / Jal Mahotsav	Ministry of Jal Shakti	2026 (Update)	**Purpose:** Rural water management. **Features:** Launched "Jal Mahotsav" (March 8-22); highlights women's role as "Sujalam Shakti."
National AI Skilling Initiative	Info. & Broadcasting	2026	**Purpose:** Train 15,000 creative professionals in AI in partnership with Google and YouTube.
Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Scheme	Chemicals & Fertilizers	FY 2024-25	**Purpose:** Ensure balanced fertilization. **Features:** Subsidy based on N, P, K, and S content; ₹1,77,129.50 Cr allocated to keep prices low.
5G Innovation Hackathon 2026	Dept. of Telecomm (DoT)	2026	**Purpose:** Promote indigenous 5G/AI/IoT solutions. **Reward:** Prize pool of ₹10 Lakh+ and IPR support for 25 teams.
Mandatory Gold Hallmarking (Phase VI)	BIS (Consumer Affairs)	2026	**Purpose:** Ensure purity of gold. **Features:** Added 7 new districts (e.g., Banda-UP, Beed-Maharashtra, Katihar-Bihar). Total districts: 380.
Jan Vishwas Bill 2026	Ministry of Commerce	2026	**Purpose:** Decriminalize 717 minor provisions across 79 Acts to promote "Ease of Living" and reduce imprisonment for minor errors.

STATE GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

The following schemes were specifically dedicated or launched for the **Delhi** and **Andhra Pradesh** regions as per your reports.

Name of Initiative	State	Year	Purpose & Key Features
Delhi Lakhpati Bitiya Scheme	Delhi	2026	**Purpose:** Financial security for girls. **Benefit:** ₹56,000 deposited in installments, growing to **₹1.25 Lakh** by age 21.
Saheli Pink Common Mobility Card	Delhi	2026	**Purpose:** Empower women's mobility. **Benefit: Free travel** for women in DTC buses, Delhi Metro, and RRTS.
Free LPG Cylinder Scheme	Delhi	2026	**Purpose:** Cooking fuel support. **Benefit:** ₹853 per consumer transferred via DBT during Holi and Diwali.
Meri Poonji Mera Adhikaar	Delhi	2026	**Purpose:** Clear the backlog of the Ladli Scheme. **Benefit:** Disbursing pending funds to 1.75 lakh women beneficiaries.
RISE Centre Financial Aid	Andhra Pradesh	2026	**Purpose:** Rural entrepreneurship. **Benefit:** ₹1.55 Cr (via NITI Aayog) to train 1,000+ women in AI, solar tech, and Englis

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Visit to Israel (26-27 February 2026)**: Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Israel at the invitation of PM Benjamin Netanyahu, paying tribute to Holocaust victims at Yad Vashem Memorial in Jerusalem, becoming the first Indian PM to address the Israeli Parliament (Knesset), receiving the Medal of the Knesset from Speaker Amir Ohana, and announcing the establishment of a Special Strategic Partnership for Peace, Innovation, and Prosperity covering cooperation in defence, security, cybersecurity, trade, and technology with bilateral agreements on geophysical exploration, maritime heritage, culture, digital payments, agriculture, AI, fisheries, financial regulation, labour mobility, education, arbitration, academia, and cybersecurity.
2. **India-European Union Most Favoured Nation Status Agreement**: The Government of India and the European Union agreed on 27 February 2026 to grant each other Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status for five years from the entry into force of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement, with MFN status subject to a fourth-year Joint Committee review and automatic termination unless mutually extended, excluding benefits from Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements, GATS recognition and licensing, and sensitive agricultural products (soya, beef, sugar, rice, dairy), with the India-EU FTA finalized in January 2026 eliminating or reducing tariffs on 96.6% of traded goods by value, saving €4 billion for European companies and potentially doubling EU exports to India by 2032.
3. **Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney's India Visit (27 February-2 March 2026)**: Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney visited India from 27 February to 2 March 2026 at the invitation of PM Narendra Modi, marking his first official visit since his predecessor Justin Trudeau attended the 2018 G-20 summit, with delegation-level talks at Hyderabad House on 2 March launching negotiations for the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), setting a bilateral trade goal of USD 50 billion by 2030 across pharmaceuticals, iron and steel, seafood, cotton garments, electronics, chemicals, pulses, coal, fertilizers, paper, and crude petroleum, and signing multiple MoUs on AI, healthcare, agriculture, innovation, education, and culture.
4. **India-Japan Bilateral Swap Arrangement Renewed for USD 75 Billion**: The Reserve Bank of India and Bank of Japan signed the Third Amendment and Restatement Agreement of the Bilateral Swap Arrangement on 28 February 2026, maintaining the facility size at USD 75 billion as a two-way currency swap framework to strengthen financial cooperation and complement existing financial safety nets, with the renewed BSA becoming effective from 28 February 2026, representing the third restatement since the original agreement signed in October 2018 and the first restatement in 2022.
5. **Chile Becomes First Country in Americas to Eliminate Leprosy**: The World Health Organization, in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization, officially verified that Chile has eliminated leprosy as a public health problem, becoming the first country in the Americas and the second globally after Jordan to achieve this recognition, making Chile the 61st country globally and the 6th in the Americas to eliminate at least one Neglected Tropical Disease under the WHO definition of prevalence rate below 1 case per 10,000 population.
6. **Scotland Legalizes Water Cremation**: Scotland became the first United Kingdom nation to legalize water cremation (Alkaline Hydrolysis), a green alternative to traditional cremation using alkaline solution heated to 150°C for 90 minutes to accelerate natural decomposition, reducing carbon emissions seven times compared to flame cremation, with 84% public support in 2023 consultation, marking the biggest funeral law reform since traditional cremation's introduction in 1902.
7. **Mobile World Congress 2026 in Barcelona**: The Mobile World Congress 2026, the world's largest event for the mobile and technology industry, was held from 2-5 March 2026 at Fira Barcelona Gran Via with the theme "The IQ Era" emphasizing integration of Artificial Intelligence with advanced connectivity for smarter networks, digital innovation, and societal transformation, with India's participation led by Union Minister Jyotiraditya Madhavrao Scindia representing India at GSMA Ministerial Programme and Main Stage discussions, and Indian telecom innovators coordinated by the Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council with Department of Telecommunications support.
8. **Hurun Global Rich List 2026**: The Hurun Research Institute released the 15th edition of the Hurun Global Rich List 2026, with Elon Musk (USA) retaining the world's richest person status with USD 792 billion net worth (up 89%), followed by Jeff Bezos (USD 300 billion) and Larry Page (USD 271 billion), while Mukesh Ambani (RIL Chairman) emerged as India's and Asia's richest person with net worth of ₹9.8 lakh crore, with India ranking third globally with 308 billionaires (57 new entrants) after China and USA, and combined wealth of ₹112 lakh crore, with Roshni Nadar Malhotra being India's richest woman and first to enter overall top three.
9. **Indonesia** will **ban social media for children under 16** from **March 28, 2026**, requiring platforms like **TikTok, YouTube, Instagram, and Facebook** to enforce **age verification** to prevent **cyberbullying, fraud, pornography exposure, and addiction**.

10. **Balendra 'Balen' Shah**, leader of the **Rastriya Swatantra Party**, is set to become **Nepal's Prime Minister** after the **2026 parliamentary elections**, following the **Gen Z protests** that toppled **K. P. Sharma Oli's government**.
11. **Mattel** launched the **Barbie Dream Team 2026** honoring global women icons including **Serena Williams** and **Smriti Mandhana**. Mandhana became the **first Indian cricketer featured**, aiming to **inspire girls worldwide** and celebrate achievements across diverse fields.
12. **Finland President Alexander Stubb Visits India (March 4-7, 2026)** Finland President **Alexander Stubb** paid **4-day State Visit** to India (4-7 March 2026) at PM Modi's invitation, elevating bilateral ties to **Strategic Partnership for Digitalisation and Sustainability**; President Stubb held bilateral discussions, met President Droupadi Murmu, VP C.P. Radhakrishnan, and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar; attended **11th Raisina Dialogue 2026** as Chief Guest and keynote speaker with theme **"Samskara – Assertion, Accommodation, Advancement"**.
13. **India and Finland Establish Strategic Partnership for Innovation and Sustainability** India and Finland elevated bilateral relations to **Strategic Partnership for Innovation and Sustainability**, focusing on **Digital Technologies, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Quantum Computing, Green Hydrogen, and 6G Technology**, marking Finland President Alexander Stubb's first visit to India in his current capacity.
14. **Romania Ratifies International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement** Ambassador of Romania **Sena Latif** submitted **Instrument of Ratification** to **Ministry of External Affairs** on **14 March 2026**, confirming Romania's ratification of **International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework Agreement**, making Romania officially an ISA member after signing as **118th member country** in December 2023.
15. **India and Uzbekistan Launch Pharma-Nutraceutical Corridor for Eurasian Market** India and Uzbekistan jointly launched **Indo-CIS Pharma-Nutraceutical Corridor** (March 2026) designed to access **CIS and Eurasian healthcare market** valued at **USD 7-10 billion**, formalized through partnership between **Uzbekistan's Ministry of Health, Nutrify Today** (Bengaluru-based nutraceutical platform), and **Pharma Eurasia** (Tashkent-based platform); commercial launch scheduled for **Pharma Eurasia 2026** (20-22 May 2026, Tashkent).
16. **USA Announces First New Oil Refinery in 50 Years with Reliance Investment** President **Donald Trump** announced **USD 300 billion** investment from **Reliance Industries Limited** to build first new major oil refinery in nearly **50 years** at **Port of Brownsville, Texas** (last major refinery in 1977), developed by **America First Refining (AFR)**, designed to process **1.2 billion barrels of US shale oil** (valued at USD 125 billion) and produce **50 billion gallons** of refined petroleum (worth USD 175 billion).
17. **World Health Organization Confirms Chile as First Country in Americas to Eliminate Leprosy** The **World Health Organization (WHO)**, in collaboration with **Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)**, verified that **Chile** eliminated leprosy as public health problem, making Chile **1st country in Americas** and **2nd globally** (after Jordan) to achieve this milestone, with **61st country globally** eliminating at least one **Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD)**.
18. **Mobile World Congress 2026 Concludes in Barcelona** The **Mobile World Congress (MWC) 2026** held in Barcelona (2-5 March 2026) featured theme **"The IQ Era"** highlighting **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** integration with advanced connectivity; India's participation led by **Union Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia** (Ministry of Communications), who launched **TJ1600-D3 Hyper-scalable Data Center Interconnect (DCI) Platform** by **Tejas Networks Limited** (Bengaluru-based).
19. **United States and South Korea Begin "Freedom Shield" Joint Military Exercise** The **United States and South Korea** commenced large-scale joint military exercise **"Freedom Shield 2026"** on **9 March 2026** involving **~18,000 South Korean troops** and unconfirmed US troops, running until **19 March 2026**, focusing on counter-threats and operational coordination in **Korea Theater of Operations**.
20. **NATO Commences Biennial Arctic Military Exercise "Cold Response 2026" NATO** launched biennial Arctic military exercise **"Cold Response 2026"** on **9 March 2026** across **Northern Norway and Finland** (until 19 March 2026), involving **~25,000 troops from 14 NATO countries** (including **4,000 from USA** and Denmark), focusing on civilians' role in military operations and Arctic Sentry presence.
21. **World Health Organization Certifies Denmark as First EU Country to Eliminate Mother-to-Child HIV Transmission** The **World Health Organization (WHO)** certified **Denmark** as **first European Union country** to eliminate mother-to-child transmission (EMTCT) of **HIV and syphilis**, maintaining very low transmission rates and **95% testing and treatment coverage** for pregnant women, joining **22 other countries and territories** with EMTCT validation.
22. **India and Seychelles Launch Joint Military Exercise LAMITIYE-2026** The Indian Armed Forces and **Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF)** commenced **11th edition** of Joint Military Exercise **"LAMITIYE-2026"** (9-20 March 2026) at **Seychelles Defence Academy, Victoria**, marking **first tri-service participation** of Indian Armed Forces with **Assam Regiment**, **INS Trikand** (Talwar-class frigate), and **IAF C-130 transport aircraft**, focusing on **Sub-Conventional Operations** in **Semi-Urban Environments** and **UN Peacekeeping Operations**.

23. **India-Japan Joint Military Exercise Dharma Guardian 2026 Concludes** The **7th edition** of **India-Japan joint military exercise Dharma Guardian 2026** concluded at **Chaubattia** (24 February - 8 March 2026), involving Indian Army and **Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF)**, focusing on **counter-insurgency (CI) and counter-terrorism (CT)** operations with **Exercise ASAHI SHAKTI** (48-hour validation exercise with drone surveillance).
24. **US Submarine Strikes Iranian Warship IRIS Dena Near Sri Lanka** A **US submarine** torpedoed the Iranian warship **IRIS Dena** off **Sri Lanka coast**, killing **at least 80 sailors**, occurring in **Sri Lanka's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)** while ship was returning from **International Fleet Review and MILAN-2026 naval exercise** hosted by India near Visakhapatnam, expanding **US-Israel-Iran conflict** into **Indian Ocean region**.
25. **SIPRI Report 2025: India Remains World's 2nd Largest Arms Importer** The **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)** released report **'Trends in International Arms Transfers, 2025'** highlighting India remained **2nd largest global arms importer** (2021-2025) with **8.2% of global imports** after **Ukraine** (9.7%), followed by **Saudi Arabia** (6.8%); **USA, France, Russia** were top 3 exporters; India received **24% of France's exports** and **48% of Russia's exports**.
26. **Iran Appoints Mojtaba Khamenei as New Supreme Leader** The **Assembly of Experts** appointed **Mojtaba Khamenei** as **Supreme Leader of Iran** following death of his father **Ali Khamenei** in airstrikes, making him **3rd Supreme Leader** of **Islamic Republic of Iran**, succeeding interim Supreme Leader **Alireza Arafi**.
27. **Rapper-Turned-Politician Balendra Shah Set to Become Nepal's Next Prime Minister Balendra Shah** (popularly known as **Balen Shah**), aged **35**, is set to become **Prime Minister of Nepal** after his party **Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP)** secured landslide victory, leading in **100+ constituencies** and surpassing **Communist Party of Nepal** leader **K.P. Sharma Oli**; Shah defeated Oli with **68,348 votes against 18,734 votes** in **Jhapa-5 constituency**.
28. **José Antonio Kast Takes Oath as President of Chile**: Conservative leader José Antonio Kast assumed office as Chile's President on 11 March 2026, promising strong action on crime, immigration, and economic reforms.
29. **US and South Korea Begin Freedom Shield Military Exercise**: The two allies launched the annual Freedom Shield exercise involving command-post simulations and field drills with around 18,000 South Korean troops.
30. **IISc Professor Arpita Patra Summits Nevado Ojos del Salado - World's Highest Volcano Arpita Patra**, **Professor at Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru (Karnataka)**, successfully summited **Nevado Ojos del Salado (6,893 metres)** on **March 6, 2026**, the **world's highest volcanic peak** and **highest mountain in Chile** on the **Chile–Argentina border** in the **Atacama Desert**. She became the **second Indian woman** to scale the peak after **Arunima Sinha (2019)**, with previous achievements including **Mount Kilimanjaro (5,895 m - Africa)**, **Mount Elbrus (5,642 m - Europe)**, **Mount Giluwe (4,367 m - Oceania - first Indian woman)**, and **Pico de Orizaba (5,636 m - North America - second Indian woman)**.
31. **Jose Antonio Kast Sworn in as 38th President of Chile Jose Antonio Kast Rist**, founder and leader of the **Republican Party of Chile**, was sworn in as the **38th President of Chile** for a **four-year term** on **March 19, 2026** following his **2025 election victory**. **Union Minister of State Kirti Vardhan Singh (MEA)** represented the **Government of India** at the **National Congress in Valparaíso**, where **Kast** formally received the **Piocha de O'Higgins**, the **traditional symbol of Chilean presidency**, from outgoing **President Gabriel Boric Font**.
32. **Indian Navy Participates in USA-Led Multinational Exercise Sea Dragon 2026 in Guam** The **Indian Navy** participated in a **two-week multinational Exercise Sea Dragon 2026**, a **United States Navy 7th Fleet**-led **Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) exercise** at **Andersen Air Force Base, Guam** in March 2026. The exercise included forces from **India, Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF)**, **Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF)**, **Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF)**, and **United States Navy (USN)**, with **tabletop planning sessions** for strategy alignment, technology integration, and mission tactics coordination.
33. **NE Indian Institutions and Japan Sign LoI for Academic Consortium at IIT-Guwahati 22 institutions from North East (NE) India** led by **Indian Institute of Technology-Guwahati (IIT-Guwahati), Assam** and **Japan's Gifu University** signed a **Letter of Intent (LoI)** on **March 16, 2026** to establish the **'North East Region (NER)-Japan International Academic and Research Consortium'** during the **Japan-North East Academic Industry Cooperation Symposium (JNTCS 2026)**. Out of **22 NER institutions**, the consortium includes **8 NITs**, **2 IITs**, **North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology (NERIST)**, **AIIMS-Guwahati**, **NERIWALM**, **Tezpur University**, **Gauhati University**, **Cotton University**, and **Assam Engineering College**, with **IIT-Guwahati** as nodal institution on Indian side and **Gifu University** leading on Japanese side, focusing on **education, research, technology transfer**, and **social engagement**.
34. **India and Vietnam Strengthen Cooperation in Tribal and Ethnic Development India** and **Vietnam** enhanced cooperation in **tribal and ethnic development** following a high-level ministerial meeting in **New Delhi**, co-chaired by **Union Minister Jual Oram (Ministry of Tribal Affairs)** and **Vietnam's Minister Dao Ngoc Dung**. The engagement aims to deepen ties under the **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**, with emphasis on **livelihood promotion, skill development, sustainable agriculture, value addition to forest-based products, research collaboration**, and **cultural preservation**, strengthening **people-to-people connections** through **Exhibition of Sacred Relics of Lord Buddha from Sarnath in Vietnam**.

35. **Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India and Indo Canada Chamber Sign MoU** The **Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)** and the **Indo Canada Chamber of Commerce (ICCC)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** during the **India–Canada Business Roundtable** in **New Delhi** to enhance **trade, investment, and institutional cooperation** through information exchange on trade policies, economic regulations, and investment opportunities. The agreement promotes **joint ventures, production collaboration, trade missions, business delegations**, and joint organization of **seminars, conferences, workshops** for **business networking** and **capacity building**.
36. **MSDE Signs MoU with GATI Foundation - Global Skill Mobility** The **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Global Access to Talent from India (GATI) Foundation**, a project under the **SFI Impact Foundation**, on a **non-financial, collaborative basis** for **three years** to strengthen mechanisms for **overseas employment** of skilled Indian workers. The **MoU** creates a framework to position **India as the global skills capital by 2047**, with **MSDE coordinating with Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** and **Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoL&E)**, while **GATI Foundation** sets up a **Project Management Unit (PMU) at Kaushal Bhawan, New Delhi** for **research, monitoring, international partnerships**, and workforce development through **Skill India International Centres (SIICs)**.
37. **DEPwD and Coalition of the Willing - Hearing Impaired Support Model** The **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MSJE)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **"Coalition of the Willing"** to launch **India's first integrated life-cycle support model** for **persons with hearing impairment**. The **coalition** comprises **Yunikee (Gopalakrishnan Foundation for the Deaf)**, **Blee Tech Innovations Pvt. Ltd.**, **TEACH**, **WinVinaya Foundation**, **Buddy4Study India Foundation**, **VCrop Technologies Pvt. Ltd.**, and **ISLRTC**, implementing a **public–private–civil society partnership** focusing on **awareness generation, assistive technologies, early identification, education, skill development, employment, scholarships, Indian Sign Language (ISL) learning**, and **sustainable livelihoods**.
38. **OIL Signs MoU with NSTFDC - Healthcare in Tribal Areas of MP Oil India Limited (OIL)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC)** at the **OIL corporate office, Noida, Uttar Pradesh (UP)** on **March 18, 2026** to improve **healthcare infrastructure** in **tribal-dominated regions of Madhya Pradesh (MP)**. **OIL** sanctioned **₹86.27 lakh** to strengthen **Community Health Centres (CHCs)** and **Primary Health Centres (PHCs)** in **Rajgarh district**, an **Aspirational District**, equipping facilities with **ambulances, life-care equipment, diagnostic equipment, ventilators, CPAP machines, BiPAP machines**, and **Ultrasonography (USG) machines**, aligning with the **Prime Minister's vision of Viksit Bharat**.
39. **T-Hub and JETRO Partner - India-Japan Deep-Tech Collaboration Technology Hub (T-Hub)**, India's **largest startup incubator** based in **Hyderabad, Telangana**, entered into a **strategic partnership** with the **Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO)** in March 2026 to bolster collaboration between **Indian and Japanese deep-tech startups**. The partnership creates **high-impact innovation networks** across **deep-tech and manufacturing sectors**, providing **Japanese startups, corporates, and investors** with access to **India's innovation ecosystem** while offering **Indian startups** structured pathways to expand into **Japan**. Focus areas include **pharma, medical equipment, space and aerospace, defence, mobility, smart infrastructure, deep-tech, AI, emerging technologies, Industry 4.0**, and **IoT**, with initiatives including **curated startup exchange programs, corporate open-innovation engagements, market access support**, and **regulatory guidance**.
40. **NCB and TraceXero Technologies Partner for CCU Technologies** The **National Council for Cement and Building Materials (NCB)** under the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I)**, collaborated with **M/s TraceXero Technologies Private Limited**, an **Indian technology startup**, on **March 17, 2026** at **NCB Ballabgarh, Haryana**. The partnership aims to develop **Carbon Capture and Utilisation (CCU) technologies** for the **cement sector**, with **TraceXero Technologies** capturing **Carbon Dioxide (CO2)** using a **proprietary solvent** and converting it into **graphitic carbon and graphene**, transforming **cement industry emissions** (nearly **7% of global CO2**) into **valuable material resources**.
41. **FIFA Partners with YouTube for FIFA World Cup 2026 Streaming FIFA** partnered with **YouTube** to introduce a new **digital streaming format** for the **FIFA World Cup 2026**, allowing fans to watch the **first 10 minutes of matches live on YouTube**, after which they are redirected to **official broadcasters**. The initiative aims to expand **digital reach** and attract **younger, mobile-first audiences**, creating a **hybrid viewing model** combining **traditional broadcasting with online accessibility** for the **largest FIFA World Cup edition** with **48 teams and 104 matches** hosted by **USA, Canada, and Mexico** from **June 11 to July 19, 2026**.

42. **India Initiates Trade Negotiations with Philippines and Maldives India** started the process of signing **Terms of Reference** to begin **trade negotiations** with the **Philippines** for a **Preferential Trade Agreement** and with the **Maldives** for a **Free Trade Agreement**. **India's exports to Philippines** increased by **3.11%** to **USD 2.16 billion** in **2024-25**, while **imports declined 17.8%** to **USD 1.17 billion**, and **exports to Maldives declined 37.11%** to **USD 56.88 million** while **imports increased 37.14%** to **USD 118.82 million**.
43. **Argentina Officially Withdraws from WHO Argentina** officially withdrew from the **World Health Organization (WHO)** effective after **one year notification**, with **Foreign Minister Pablo Quirno** confirming the formal exit under the **Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (VCLT)**, following **President Javier Milei's announcement in February 2025**. The move reflects a broader shift with the **USA also exiting WHO in January 2026**, following disagreement over **pandemic handling** and **management of doping cases**.
44. **Brazil Implements Stricter Social Media Regulations for Users Under 16 Brazil** began enforcing a **new law regulating minors' access to social media** effective 2026, requiring **children and adolescents under 16** to link accounts to **legal guardians** with **reliable age verification systems** (identity documents, biometric verification). The law bans **targeted advertising to minors** and restricts **"loot boxes"** in video games, with **breaches punishable by fines up to 50 million reais**, **account suspensions**, or **complete bans**, overseen by Brazil's **data protection authority (ANPD)**.
45. **Bhumika Shrestha Elected as Nepal's First Transgender Woman MP Bhumika Shrestha**, a **37-year-old LGBTQ rights activist**, became **Nepal's first transgender woman Member of Parliament** in March 2026, elected as a **proportional representation MP** under the **Rastriya Swatantra Party**. Her appointment follows political changes in **Nepal**, including **anti-corruption protests in 2025**, enabling **greater representation for underrepresented communities**, with policy priorities including **effective implementation of constitutional provisions for LGBTQ rights**, **legal protection**, **social inclusion**, and **addressing systemic discrimination**.
46. **Fitch Ratings Raises India's GDP Growth Forecast to 7.5% for FY26 Fitch Ratings** released its **'Global Economic Outlook – March 2026'**, projecting **India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** growth at **7.5%** for **FY 2025–26 (FY26)**, slightly increased from **7.4%** estimated in December 2025. For **FY 2026–27 (FY27)**, **Fitch revised upward** to **6.7%** (compared to **6.4%** in December), with growth expected around **6.5%** in **FY28**. **Domestic demand** remains the main growth driver, with **consumer spending projected at 8.6% rise** and **investment growth at 6.9%**, though **growth moderation expected** in **FY27's first half** due to **rising inflation affecting real incomes**.
47. **WTO Global Trade Outlook 2026 - Merchandise Trade Growth to Slow to 1.9%** The **World Trade Organization (WTO)** released its **Global Trade Outlook and Statistics - March 2026** report, projecting **global merchandise trade growth** to slow sharply to **1.9%** in **2026** from **4.6%** in **2025**, driven by **geopolitical tensions in West Asia, AI-related demand normalization**, and **effects of tariff-driven front-loading**. **2027 merchandise trade** projected to recover to **2.6%**, with **combined goods and services trade** at **2.7%** in **2026** vs **4.7%** in **2025**, **commercial services trade** easing to **4.8%** (down from **5.3%**), and **global GDP growth** moderating from **2.9%** to **2.8%** in **2026-27**.
48. **Hurun Global Rich List 2026 - Elon Musk Tops; Mukesh Ambani Leads Asia** The **Hurun Global Rich List 2026** reported over **4,020 billionaires** globally with **578 new billionaires** added in one year. **Elon Musk** remains the **world's richest person** with **USD 792 billion**, holding the **top position** for the **fifth time in six years**, while **Mukesh Ambani, Chairman of Reliance Industries**, continues as **Asia's richest** with **USD 109 billion**. **Shah Rukh Khan re-entered** the billionaire list with **USD 1.3 billion**, and the **USA leads** with **989 billionaires**, followed by **Mainland China (539)**, with **India ranking third (229)**.
49. **Forbes Top 10 Youngest Billionaires 2026 - Surya Midha Ranks 6th** The **Forbes 2026 Top 10 Youngest Billionaires** (under 30) includes **Surya Midha** from **India** at the **6th position** with wealth of **USD 2.2 billion**, ranking as one of the **youngest self-made billionaires** at **age 22**. The list reflects a mix of **inherited wealth and self-made entrepreneurs**, with **increasing influence of technology and start-ups**, and **Surya Midha's co-founders Brendan Foody** and **Adarsh Hiremath** also ranking highly, representing the **AI-driven wealth creation trend**.
50. **Forbes World's Billionaires List 2026 - Record 3,428 Billionaires Forbes** released its **40th annual World's Billionaires List 2026** featuring a **record 3,428 billionaires** with **combined net worth of USD 20.1 trillion** (up from **USD 16.1 trillion in 2025**), with **390 new entrants** and rising younger billionaires. **Elon Musk** tops with **USD 839 billion**, **Larry Page** ranks second (**USD 257 billion**), and **Sergey Brin** third (**USD 237 billion**). The **USA leads with 989 billionaires**, **China with 539**, and **India third with 229**, with **481 women (14%)** on the list, up from **13.4% in 2025**, with **Walmart heir Alice Walton** as **world's richest woman** (**USD 134 billion**).
51. **World Happiness Report 2026 - Finland Tops for 9th Consecutive Year** The **World Happiness Report 2026**, released by **Wellbeing Research Centre, University of Oxford**, ranked **Finland** as the **happiest country** for the **9th consecutive year** with **strong social welfare system, high institutional trust, quality education, healthcare**, and **work-life balance**. The top 10 includes **Iceland, Denmark, Costa Rica, Sweden, Norway, Netherlands, Israel, Luxembourg**, and **Switzerland**, with no **English-speaking country** in top 10 for the second consecutive year. **India ranked 116th** with a score of **4.536**, facing challenges in **social support, income, governance**, and **freedom of choice**.

52. **India-Indonesia Collaborate to Restore Prambanan Temple in Yogyakarta India and Indonesia** announced a collaborative initiative on **March 16, 2026**, in Jakarta, to restore the **Prambanan Temple complex** in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, strengthening cultural diplomacy and heritage conservation. The temple, the **largest Hindu temple complex** in Indonesia, was built in the **9th century by the Sanjaya dynasty** and is dedicated to the **Hindu Trimurti (Shiva, Vishnu, and Brahma)**, recognized as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1991**. The restoration will use the **anastylosis method**, a scientific archaeological conservation technique, with the **Archaeological Survey of India** providing technical expertise and experience.
53. **9th India-Italy Foreign Office Consultations Held in New Delhi India and Italy** held the **9th round of Foreign Office Consultations (FOC)** on **March 20, 2026**, in New Delhi, led by **Sibi George**, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs, and **Nicoletta Bombardiere**, Director General at Italy's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. Both sides reviewed progress of the **Joint Strategic Action Plan (JSAP) 2025-29** covering trade, technology, space, defence, security, renewable energy, education, research, innovation, culture, and people-to-people ties. They agreed to expedite the **Joint Initiative to Counter Financing of Terrorism (CFT)** and hold the **first Maritime Security Dialogue (MSD)**, with both countries deciding to hold the **10th FOC in Italy**.
54. **India-Bhutan Sign MoU to Strengthen Postal Cooperation India and Bhutan** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** in Thimphu on **March 19-22, 2026**, during the visit of **Vandita Kaul**, Secretary (Posts), Ministry of Communications, to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the postal sector. The MoU established a **structured framework** for collaboration between **India Post** and **Bhutan Post** across areas such as postal operations, technology development, capacity building, logistics connectivity, e-commerce, financial services, and philately. A key initiative under the MoU is the launch of the **Universal Postal Union–Unified Payments Interface (UPU–UPI) cross-border remittance system**.
55. **Indian Navy Participates in Exercise Kakadu 2026 in Australia INS Nilgiri**, a frigate of the **Indian Navy**, participated in the **sea phase of Exercise Kakadu 2026** in **March 2026** in Australia as part of its **Western Pacific deployment**, aimed at enhancing maritime cooperation in the **Indo-Pacific region**. The **17th edition of Exercise Kakadu 2026** witnessed participation from over **19 nations** and **6,000 personnel**, covering the area from **Jervis Bay to Darwin, Australia**, with a **Fleet Review held in Sydney Harbour on March 21, 2026**, marking the **largest gathering of foreign warships in over a decade**. The crew of **INS Nilgiri won the Kakadu Shield Trophy** during sporting events at Darwin, demonstrating India's maritime strength and interoperability with regional partners.
56. **Global Terrorism Index 2026: Pakistan Most Affected; India Ranked 13th** The **Global Terrorism Index 2026**, released by the **Australian think tank Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)** in **March 2026**, indicated a **significant shift in the global security landscape**, with **Pakistan ranked as the country most impacted by terrorism** with a score of **8.574**, recording **1,139 deaths and 1,045 terrorist incidents in 2025** (highest fatality levels since 2013). **India ranked 13th** with a score of **6.428**, followed by Afghanistan (11th with 6.678). The report highlighted that **terrorist incidents in 2025 were nearly six times higher than in 2020**, while **terrorism-related deaths declined by 28% to 5,582** in 2025, marking a significant global improvement.
57. **QS World University Rankings 2026: IIT-ISM Dhanbad and IIM Ahmedabad Rank 21st Globally** The **16th edition of QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026**, released in **March 2026**, showed **Indian Institute of Technology – Indian School of Mines (IIT-ISM) Dhanbad, Jharkhand** ranked **21st globally in Engineering – Mineral and Mining**, and **Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad, Gujarat** secured **21st place in both Business and Management Studies and Marketing**. **India now has 99 institutions** (up from 79 in 2025) with **599 subject entries** and **27 positions in top-50 subject rankings** across 12 institutions. The **USA** leads globally with **228 institutions** and first place in **37 subjects**, while India became the **fourth-largest higher education system by entries**.
58. **UNESCO Raises Concerns Over Aghanashini-Vedavathi River-Linking Project** The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** raised concerns over the proposed **Aghanashini–Vedavathi river-linking project** in **March 2026**, urging India to strictly follow **World Heritage conservation norms** under the **World Heritage Convention, 1972**. The project plans to divert around **35 thousand million cubic feet (tmc ft) of water** from the **Aghanashini river** to the **Vedavathi river**, raising concerns over **large-scale ecological alteration** and affecting **thousands of families** dependent on the river system for livelihood, agriculture, and water security.
59. **Asia Africa Agri Alliance Launched in New Delhi** Senior ambassadors, diplomats, policymakers, and agribusiness leaders from over **ten nations** formally launched the **Asia Africa Agri Alliance (AAAA)** in **New Delhi** in **March 2026**, a new institutional platform aimed at strengthening trade, agricultural cooperation, investment, and technology exchange between Asia and Africa. Established as a **Section 8 Not-for-Profit Organization** under the **Companies Act, 2013**, the AAAA operates through **five key pillars**: Trade and Market Access, Technology and Innovation Transfer, Investment and Finance, Policy Standards and Agriculture Diplomacy, and Capacity Building and Knowledge Exchange.

60. **Carolina Marín Announces Retirement from Professional Badminton** Spanish Olympic and World Badminton Champion **Carolina María Marín Martín** announced her retirement in March 2026 at age **32** after failing to recover from a **third serious knee injury**. She held **World Number One ranking for 66 weeks**, won **Olympic gold (Rio 2016)** becoming the **first non-Asian woman** to claim singles title, and secured **3 World Championships (2014, 2015, 2018)**.
61. **IOC Approves New Policy on Female Category Protection in Olympic Sport** The **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** approved landmark **'Protection of the Female (Women's) Category in Olympic Sport'** policy in March 2026, effective from **LA28 Olympics (July 14-30, 2028)**. The policy requires athletes to be **SRY-negative** to compete in female categories; **SRY-positive athletes** including **XY transgender individuals** are ineligible except for **CAIS cases**, with exceptions for specific **DSD cases** without testosterone advantage.
62. **United Nations Declares 2026 as International Year of the Woman Farmer** The **United Nations** declared **2026 as International Year of the Woman Farmer (IYWF 2026)** recognizing their critical agricultural role. In India, **80% of rural women** are engaged in agriculture and allied sectors (33% as laborers, 48% as farmers); India hosted **Global Conference on Women in Agri-Food Systems (GCWAS-2026)** in New Delhi focusing on gender-inclusive policies and climate-smart agriculture.
63. **Balendra Shah Sworn-in as Nepal's Youngest PM Balendra Shah** (35), a **Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP)** leader and former rapper, was sworn-in as **Nepal's youngest Prime Minister** on March 27, 2026, after RSP secured **182 seats out of 275** in parliamentary elections held on **March 5, 2026**. He succeeded **Sushila Karki** (Interim PM) and crossed the **138-seat majority threshold**, enabling formation of **first majority government** under Nepal's federal framework.
64. **NASA Scraps Lunar Gateway Plan, Announces $20 Billion Moon Surface Base NASA** announced major Artemis Program shift in March 2026, scrapping the **Lunar Gateway space station** and instead constructing a **$20 billion lunar surface base**. NASA unveiled plans for **nuclear-powered Mars mission** with **"Space Reactor 1 Freedom"** spacecraft launching **before 2028**, featuring **advanced nuclear electric propulsion** and deploying **helicopters on Mars**, with **Moon landing targeted by 2028**.
65. **Prime Minister Modi Remains Most Popular Global Leader** According to **US-based Morning Consult** survey (March 2-8, 2026), Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** remains world's **most popular global leader** with **68% approval rating** and **26% disapproval**, beating **Switzerland's Guy Parmelin (62%)** and **South Korea's Lee Jae-myung (62%)**. Major global leaders ranked: **Donald Trump (39%)**, **Keir Starmer (24%)**, **Friedrich Merz (20%)**, **Emmanuel Macron (17%)**.

BANKING & FINANCE

BANKING NEWS

RBI Actions & Directives

1. **RBI Imposes ₹11.50 Lakh Penalty on Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services**
   - Monetary penalty under Section 58G(1)(b) of RBI Act 1934
   - Reasons: Breach of Fair Practices Code, charging revised foreclosure fees without proper loan agreement terms, deficiencies in grievance redressal system
   - Date: FY25 annual inspection
2. **RBI Imposes ₹2.7 Lakh Penalty on Manappuram Finance**
   - Non-compliance with KMP compensation guidelines
   - Required revision of Remuneration Policy with mandatory deferral, malus, and clawback provisions
   - Compliance with Scale Based Regulation (SBR) framework
   - Date: March 2026
3. **RBI Imposes ₹31.80 Lakh Penalty on HSBC India**
   - Non-compliance with regulatory directions on inoperative accounts and unclaimed deposits
   - Failed to maintain searchable database of unclaimed deposits
   - Did not generate Unclaimed Deposits Reference Numbers (UDRN)
   - Lapses in deposits transferred to DEA Fund
   - Date: March 2026
4. **RBI Imposes ₹3.10 Lakh Penalty on Cashfree Payments**
   - Non-compliance with Payment Aggregator and Payment Gateway guidelines
   - Impermissible debits from escrow account
   - Under Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007
   - Inspection period: April 2024 to June 2025
5. **RBI Renews USD 75 Billion Bilateral Swap Arrangement with Bank of Japan**
   - Third Amendment and Restatement Agreement signed on 28 February 2026
   - Two-way currency swap framework
   - Effective from 28 February 2026
   - Strengthens bilateral financial cooperation
6. **RBI Allows NUCFDC as Umbrella Organisation for Urban Co-operative Banks**
   - Issued NBFC–Miscellaneous Amendment Directions 2026
   - Enables private placement of equity shares to 200+ persons per financial year

- Targets UCBs and National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC)
- Valid until 31 March 2029

7. **RBI Revises Prudential Guidelines Linking Dividend Payouts to CET1 Ratios**
   - Effective April 1, 2027
   - Dividend linked to Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) capital ratios
   - 10 capital-ratio buckets for different payout percentages
   - Banks with CET1 ≤8% barred from dividend; above 20% may pay up to 100% of adjusted PAT
   - Total dividend capped at 75% irrespective of bucket
8. **RBI Launches Digital Payments Awareness Program**
   - Pilot awareness program in Maharashtra
   - Participation from about 10 lakh people
   - Part of Digital Payments Awareness Week (DPAW) 2026 (March 9–13)
   - Multi-media campaign "Thoda Dhyan Se" for online payment safety
   - Tabletop planning sessions with Payment Systems Operators (PSOs)
9. **RBI Holds 622nd Central Board Meeting in Patna**
   - Under Governor Sanjay Malhotra's chairmanship
   - Approved RBI's budget for 2026-27
   - Approved Medium Term Strategy Framework (Utkarsh 3.0) for 2026-29
   - Deputy Governors: T. Rabi Sankar, Shri Swaminathan J., Dr. Poonam Gupta, Shri Shirish Chandra Murmu
10. **RBI Constituent Frequency Data - Digital Lending Ecosystem Regulation**
    - Working Group on Digital Lending covering Online Platforms and Mobile Apps
    - Regulatory guidelines to strengthen framework and customer protection
    - RBI launched Digital Lending Apps (DLA) directory on July 1, 2025
    - Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) can block fraudulent loan apps
11. **RBI Cancels Certificate of Registration of 36 NBFCs**
    - 36 NBFCs had CoR cancelled (16-24 February 2026)
    - Includes: Excellence Broking & Finance Pvt Ltd, Jibralter Traders Ltd, Bahubali Leasing Limited, Wintech Telecom Pvt Ltd
    - 9 NBFCs voluntarily surrendered licences
12. **RBI Purchases ₹1 Lakh Crore Government Bonds Through OMO**
    - Open Market Operations in March 2026
    - Purpose: Inject liquidity, stabilize bond yields, support banks
    - Address year-end tax and GST outflows

Bank-Specific News

13. **Bank of Baroda Raises ₹10,000 Crore Through Green Infrastructure Bonds**
    - First bank in India to raise this amount via Series-I long-term Green Infrastructure Bonds
    - Listing: National Stock Exchange of India (NSE), Mumbai (March 2026)
    - 7-year bonds at 7.1% annual coupon rate
    - Base issue ₹5,000 crore with equal greenshoe option
    - Total bids: ₹16,415 crore (3x base size)
    - Rating: AAA stable from CARE Ratings and ICRA
14. **Bank of Baroda Launches 'bob Women Sapphire Savings Account'**
    - Exclusive for women customers
    - Minimum Monthly Average Balance (MAB): ₹1 lakh
    - Benefits: ₹10 lakh cancer care coverage (ages 18-60), free online doctor consultations (6 family members), 15% medicine concession, 20% pathology test concession
    - bob Bhoomi RuPay Select Debit Card with airport lounge access, gym membership, spa/salon services, OTT subscriptions
    - Date: March 2026
15. **Bank of Baroda Secures $500 Million Five-Year Syndicated Term Loan**
    - Raised through IFSC Banking Unit in GIFT City, Gujarat
    - MUFG Bank and HSBC as mandated lead arrangers
    - Participation from 13 investors across Asian markets (Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, Singapore)
    - Date: March 2026
    - First return to global syndicated loan market after one-year gap
16. **Bank of Baroda Launches UPI-Linked Credit Line for Women SHGs**
    - Overdraft (OD) facility on credit line on UPI
    - Verified women Self-Help Group (SHG) members with PMJDY accounts
    - Eligible women can access up to ₹5,000 OD
    - First bank in the country with such digital credit solution
    - Collaboration with NPCI, IBA, and DAY-NRLM
    - Date: March 2026
17. **State Bank of India Raises ₹6,051 Crore via Basel III-Compliant Tier-2 Bonds**
    - Coupon rate: 7.05%
    - Tenor: 10 years with call option after 5 years
    - Investor response: ~2x bids on base issue (₹5,000 crore)
    - Investors: 47 qualified institutional investors (provident funds, pension funds, mutual funds, banks)
    - Rating: AAA with stable outlook by CRISIL Ratings and India Ratings

18. **HDFC Bank and Swiggy Launch Two New Co-Branded Credit Cards**
    - **Swiggy BLCK HDFC Bank Credit Card**: 10% cashback on Swiggy, max 5% on entertainment/travel/e-commerce, 3-month Swiggy One BLCK membership
    - **Swiggy Ornge HDFC Bank Credit Card**: 5% cashback on Swiggy, 12-month Swiggy One BLCK membership
    - Both: Max ₹48,000 annual savings with instant discounts through partner platforms
    - Date: March 2026
19. **Yes Bank Names Vinay Muralidhar Tonse as MD & CEO**
    - Effective: 6 April 2026
    - 3-year term approved by RBI
    - Succeeds Prashant Kumar
    - Previously: MD (Retail Business & Operations) at State Bank of India (November 2023 - November 2025)
20. **Yes Bank Introduces 'YES Essence' Salary Account for Women**
    - Exclusive for Indian female residents aged 18+ as primary account holders
    - Benefits: Free locker facility (1 year), ₹5 lakh complimentary health insurance, complimentary annual preventive health check-up
    - Elegance Debit Card with 5% cashback up to ₹6,000/year
    - Date: Ahead of International Women's Day (March 2026)
21. **South Indian Bank Launches Digital Loan Against Mutual Funds (LAMF) Facility**
    - Starting at 9.99% per annum
    - Partnership with smallcase (fintech firm)
    - Customers access liquidity using mutual fund holdings as collateral
    - No need to redeem investments
    - Features: Fully digital end-to-end process, API-led integration for fintech partners
    - Date: March 2026
22. **South Indian Bank Launches EPF Payment Facility via SIBerNet**
    - EPF payment services through SIBerNet internet banking platform
    - Collaboration with Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)
    - Enables employers and establishments to remit EPF contributions online
    - Date: March 12, 2026
    - Inaugurated by Uttam Prakash (Regional PF Commissioner), P R Seshadri (MD & CEO), Biji S S (Senior GM & Head of Branch Banking)
23. **Federal Bank Launches 'Fed Wealth' Platform for Wealth Management**
    - First Wealth Hub inaugurated in Kochi, Kerala
    - Investment solutions: Fixed income, equities, mutual funds, alternative investments, GIFT City opportunities
    - Restructured partnership with Equirus Capital Private Limited
    - Led by Virendra Somwanshi (experienced wealth management professional)
    - Date: March 2026
24. **Central Bank of India Signs Distribution Agreement with Canara Robeco AMC**
    - Date: 7 February 2026
    - Mutual Fund products distribution
    - Diversified equity, debt, and hybrid schemes
    - Distribution through branch network and digital channels
    - Disclosure compliance: SEBI Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements Regulations 2015
25. **Jio Payments Bank Introduces Cardless UPI Cash Withdrawal**
    - Subsidiary of Jio Financial Services
    - Cash withdrawal at Business Correspondent (BC) points
    - Via UPI QR code scanning and app authorization
    - No debit cards or ATMs required
    - Benefits: Rural and semi-urban users, financial inclusion, first-time digital users

Housing Finance & Related

26. **IIFL Home Finance Secures USD 300 Million ADB Loan**
    - Date: 27 February 2026
    - Sources: USD 150 million from ADB, USD 150 million from parallel loans
    - Parallel lenders: Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group (Japan), Emirates NBD Bank (UAE), Sampath Bank PLC (Sri Lanka), Hatton National Bank PLC (Sri Lanka)
    - Purpose: Expand affordable housing finance for lower-income borrowers, primarily women
    - Green homes: At least 25% proceeds for green-certified affordable homes
27. **MOHFL Signs USD 100 Million NCD Deal with ADB**
    - Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited (MOHFL)
    - Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs)
    - Date: March 2026
    - Purpose: Expand affordable housing finance
    - Funds: Primary for affordable housing loans to women borrowers in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities
    - Green housing: ~10% allocated for green-certified residential housing units

28. **NHB Launches 'Gruh Sugam Portal' for Defence Personnel Home Loans**
    - Date: 26 March 2026
    - Digitizes home loan access for defence personnel, paramilitary forces, government employees
    - Digital loan applications through administrative units
    - Online comparison and application through single seamless interface
    - Benefits especially remote postings

Non-Banking Finance Companies & Related

29. **German DEG and Citi Provide USD 76 Million Funding to Shriram Finance**
    - DEG: Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft mbH (Germany)
    - Date: March 2026
    - DEG: USD 46 million (EUR 40 million)
    - Citi: ₹260 crore
    - Purpose: Financial inclusion and sustainable mobility
    - Support for: MSMEs, women borrowers, Electric Vehicles, underserved areas
30. **L&T Finance Becomes Signatory to United Nations Global Compact**
    - Date: March 2026
    - Aligns strategy with UNGC principles: human rights, labour, environment, anti-corruption
    - Annual reporting on Ten Principles of Global Compact
    - Also signatory to Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF)
    - Purpose: Measure and manage financed emissions
31. **Axis Max Life Insurance Partners with Saarathi Finance for MSME Credit-Linked Insurance**
    - Strategic Corporate Agent partnership
    - Date: March 2026
    - Integration of Group Credit Life Secure (GCLS) insurance with MSME loans
    - Protection of loan obligations in case of unexpected events
    - Aligns with universal insurance coverage by 2047 objective

Other Financial Institutions

32. **AU Small Finance Bank Relaxes NOFHC Requirement for Universal Bank Transition**
    - RBI modified key condition
    - Relaxed requirement: NOFHC applies only if bank establishes additional group financial services entity in future
    - In-principle approval valid for 18 months from 7 August 2025
33. **Reserve Bank Approves Avenir Investment's Acquisition of Sammaan Capital**
    - Date: March 2026
    - Avenir Investment RSC Limited (Abu Dhabi-based) acquiring Sammaan Capital Limited
    - Investment: ₹8,850 crore through preferential share allotment
    - Acquiring stake: 41.23%, expandable to 63.36% if open offer fully subscribed
    - Status: SEBI approval still pending

RBI NEWS - REGULATORY AUTHORITIES

RBI Monetary Policy & Liquidity Management

34. **RBI Foreign Exchange Reserves Reach Record $728.49 Billion**
    - Date: By 27 February 2026
    - Driven by: Rising gold reserves and foreign currency assets
    - Impact: Strengthens external stability and financial resilience
35. **RBI Constituent Frequency Data - Digital Lending Ecosystem**
    - Working Group on Digital Lending established
    - Coverage: Loans through Online Platforms and Mobile Apps
    - RBI launched Digital Lending Apps (DLA) directory (July 1, 2025)
    - Users can verify authorized digital lending apps linked to REs

SEBI NEWS

Market Regulations & Intermediaries

36. **SEBI Deploys AI System 'Sudarshan' to Remove Misleading Finfluencer Posts**
    - In-house AI system deployment
    - Removed: 1.20 lakh+ misleading social media posts from unregistered financial influencers
    - Detection: Patterns indicating unregistered advisory activity and misleading claims
    - Coverage: Audio, video, and text content
37. **SEBI Introduces Life Cycle Funds with Age-Based Investment Framework**
    - Open-ended target-date funds
    - Equity and debt exposure limits based on investor age
    - Glide path investment strategy across multiple asset classes: Equity, Debt, InvITs, ETCDs, Gold ETFs, Silver ETFs
    - Minimum tenure: 5 years, Maximum: 30 years (multiples of 5)
    - Maximum 6 funds at any time
    - Exit load: 3% (1 year), 2% (2 years), 1% (3 years)
    - Discontinuation of solution-oriented fund category

38. **SEBI Introduces Major Mutual Fund Industry Reforms**
    - Market size: ₹81 lakh crore
    - Discontinuation of solution-oriented schemes (retirement, children's funds) - ₹60,000 crore affected
    - "True-to-label" investment norms: Strict adherence to stated objectives
    - Investment allowances: Up to 35% in Gold, Silver, and InvITs
    - Multi-cap equity: Minimum 25% in large-cap, mid-cap, and small-cap
    - Portfolio overlap: Less than 50% between sectoral/thematic and equity schemes
39. **SEBI Permits Mutual Funds Intraday Borrowing Operations**
    - Effective: April 1, 2026
    - Formal intraday borrowing policy required (approved by AMC board and trustees)
    - Allowed purposes: Repurchase/redemption of units, interest payments, IDCW payouts
    - Borrowing limits: Not exceeding guaranteed same-day receivables from GoI, RBI, CCIL, and specified securities
    - Per SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 2026
40. **SEBI Proposes Streamlined Nomination Norms for Demat and MF Accounts**
    - Nomination as default option for new accounts with explicit opt-out
    - Capping nominees at four
    - Mandatory information limited to: Name and relationship nature
    - Periodic reminders and pop-up prompts on nominee benefits
    - Goals: Reduce investor onboarding friction, prevent unclaimed asset accumulation
41. **SEBI Announces Major Reforms at 213th Board Meeting**
    - Date: March 2026
    - Location: Mumbai, Maharashtra
    - Changes covering: Market intermediaries, foreign investors, alternative investment funds (AIFs), governance norms
    - **Social Impact Funds (SIF)**: Minimum investment reduced from ₹2 lakh to ₹1,000 for individuals
    - **AIFs**: Flexibility in winding up schemes to retain liquidation proceeds beyond tenure (pending litigation, tax liabilities, operational expenses)
42. **SEBI Launches 'Verified App Label' Initiative**
    - Date: March 2026
    - Chairperson: Tuhin Kanta Pandey
    - Purpose: Protect investors against fraudulent mobile applications
    - Fraudulent apps reported/removed: 1.3 lakh+ (66 fake trading apps)
    - Initiative principle: "First verify. Then invest."
    - Verified badge display on Google Play Store for SEBI-registered intermediaries
43. **SEBI Registered Intermediaries & Apps**
    - Digital security through verified badging system
    - Investor protection from fraudulent investment apps

Mutual Fund & Investment Regulations

44. **Edelweiss AMC Launches India's 1st Hybrid Passive Index Fund**
    - Name: Edelweiss Nifty LargeMidcap250 Plus 8–13 yr G-sec 70:30 Index Fund
    - Asset allocation: Equities 70%, Government Securities 30%
    - Automatic monthly rebalancing
    - NFO period: March 18 - April 01, 2026
    - Minimum investment: ₹100 with ₹1 multiples
    - Managers: Bhavesh Jain, Bharat Lahoti (equity); Dhawal Dalal, Hetul Raval (debt)
45. **Lakshya AMC Receives SEBI Approval for Mutual Fund Business**
    - Date: March 2026
    - Sponsor: Wealth First Portfolio Managers (NSE and BSE listed)
    - Headquarters: Ahmedabad, Gujarat (first AMC in city)
    - Leadership from Benchmark AMC: Sanjiv Shah, Rajan Mehta, Sanjay Gaitonde
    - Benchmark AMC pioneered: Nifty BeES, Gold ETF, Gold BeES
46. **Nippon India ETF Gold BeES Ranks 6th Globally in Gold ETF Inflows**
    - Date: As of Feb 28, 2026
    - Ranking: 6th globally among top 15 gold ETFs by fund flows
    - Inflows: USD 1,085.2 million (~6.6 tonnes gold demand)
    - Holdings: 36.2 tonnes of gold
    - Status: Only Indian ETF in global top 10 gold funds
    - Global context: Top 15 ETFs attracted USD 42.86 billion inflows (~301.3 tonnes)

OTHER IMPORTANT BANKING & FINANCIAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

Fintech & Digital Payments

47. **Bharti Airtel and Google Launch Secure RCS Messaging in India**
    - Date: February 2026
    - Technology: Rich Communications Services (RCS) platform
    - Features: AI-powered spam filters, real-time identity validation of business senders, multi-tiered threat detection, malicious domain filtering
    - Access: Google Messages application on Android smartphones
    - Benefits: High-quality media sharing, message reactions

48. **Jio Finance Launches AI-Backed Mobile App 'Finsider'**
    - Company: Jio Finance Platform and Service Limited (wholly owned subsidiary of Jio Financial Services)
    - Technology: Agentic Artificial Intelligence and Neural Networks
    - Features: Hyper-personalized financial services, agent-based AI recommendations, dynamic UI adjustment
    - Marketplace offerings: Loans, credit cards, insurance, UPI, Fixed Deposits, digital gold, investment products, Mutual Funds, tax planning, digital savings accounts
    - Additional: JioPoints rewards redeemable against benefits
49. **Gnani.ai and Razorpay Launch Agentic AI Payment Collections Platform**
    - Date: 27 February 2026
    - Integration: Gnani.ai's agentic AI systems with Razorpay's MCP server
    - Features: Real-time UPI payment completion during live calls, payment intent assessment, payment link generation, status tracking
    - Support: One-time and mandate-based recurring UPI payments, multiple Indian languages, secure compliant transactions
50. **PayU and GoKwik Launch India's First Integrated C2C Stack**
    - Date: March 2026
    - Technology: Conversion-to-Completion (C2C) stack
    - Integration: GoKwik's conversion intelligence and checkout tools with PayU's digital payment infrastructure
    - Target: Direct-to-Consumer (D2C) brands
    - Benefits: Address checkout drop-offs and payment failures
51. **CRED Authorized by RBI as Payment Aggregator**
    - Company: CRED (Dreamplug Technologies Private Limited)
    - Date: March 2026
    - Authorization: Payment Aggregator (PA) under Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007
    - Capabilities: Direct merchant onboarding and payment flow management
    - Existing licenses: PPI operator (RBI), corporate agency (IRDAI), investment adviser (SEBI), TPAP (NPCI)
52. **Razorpay Unveils World's First AI-Powered Agent Studio for Payment Management**
    - Event: FTX 2026
    - Technology: Built using Claude Agent SDK from Anthropic
    - Platform: Agentic Experience Platform (AI-native system)
    - Features: Agentic AI for abandoned cart recovery, subscription recovery, settlement reconciliation, payment dispute resolution
    - Onboarding: 5-minute process with automated identity verification via PAN
    - Integrations: Shopify, Shiprocket, WhatsApp, Slack, Tally, Sarvam, Quickbook
53. **PayU Partners with CoRover.ai for Multilingual Voice-Enabled Payments**
    - Date: Integration announced
    - Technology: CoRover's BharatGPT-powered conversational AI
    - Features: Voice-first and multilingual payment experiences
    - Support: 100+ Indian languages and dialects
    - Early use case: Afterlife (digital succession planning platform)
    - Future expansion: E-commerce, travel, OTT, BFSI
54. **Razorpay Partners with Sarvam AI to Launch Voice-Led Multilingual Digital Commerce**
    - Date: March 2026
    - Features: Voice-led, multilingual digital commerce solutions
    - Capabilities: Discover products, place orders, complete payments via voice
    - Initial rollout: Sarvam AI's Indus App
    - Early partner: Swiggy (voice-based food ordering)
55. **Scapia Launches 'Scapia Pay' App - Rewards via RuPay Credit Cards**
    - Platform: Travel fintech company
    - Feature: In-application UPI payment service
    - Benefits: Earn rewards on RuPay credit card transactions
    - Card options: Scapia Federal RuPay, Scapia BOBCARD RuPay
    - Additional services: Flights, buses, visas, financial services
56. **PhonePe Launches RuPay 'On-The-Go' National Common Mobility Card**
    - Technology: RuPay (National Common Mobility Card - NCMC)
    - Features: Contactless transit payments, ₹2,000 maximum balance on chip
    - Offline support: Transactions up to ₹500 without internet
    - Initial launch: Hyderabad Metro with L&T Metro Rail (Hyderabad) Limited (LTMRHL)
    - Interoperability: Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru transport systems
57. **Jio Payments Bank Introduces Cardless UPI Cash Withdrawal**
    - Parent: Jio Financial Services
    - Process: Scan UPI QR code at BC points, authorize via UPI app
    - No requirements: Debit cards or ATMs
    - Benefits: Rural/semi-urban users, financial inclusion, first-time digital users

58. **NPCI Expands UPI Merchant Acceptance in Sri Lanka**
    - Organization: NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL)
    - Implementation: UPI acceptance across Sri Lankan merchants
    - Feature: Lanka Quick Response (QR) code scanning for UPI payments
    - Monthly transactions: 20+ billion through 700+ million QR touch points
    - Operating in: 8+ countries (UAE, Singapore, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, France, Mauritius, Qatar)

Insurance & Related

59. **IRDAI Proposes Ind AS Adoption for All Insurers from April 1, 2026**
    - Authority: Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India
    - Implementation: Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) from 1 April 2026
    - Coverage: All insurers (Life, General, Health, Reinsurers)
    - Benefits: Global comparability, market-consistent liability measurement, improved disclosures
    - Timeline: Parallel reporting FY26, retrospective from FY27, calibrated adoption FY28-FY29
60. **IRDAI Grants Final Approval to Allianz Jio Reinsurance and Kiwi General Insurance**
    - **Allianz Jio Reinsurance Limited (AJRL)**
    - 50:50 JV: Allianz Group and Jio Financial Services
    - **Kiwi General Insurance Limited**
    - Backed by: WestBridge Capital and former Tata AIG CEO Neelesh Garg
    - Date: March 2026 (134th IRDAI Board Meeting, Hyderabad)
    - Impact: Total general insurers in India increased to 35 (7 Standalone Health Insurers)
61. **Shriram General Insurance Launches 'Shri Health Suraksha 2.0'**
    - Features: Flexible and comprehensive medical coverage
    - Restoration: Unlimited within policy year
    - Cumulative bonus: Up to 250% for claim-free years
    - Coverage: No room rent capping, zero co-payment, ambulance/air ambulance
    - Inclusions: Medical consumables, AYUSH treatments
    - Goal: Reduce out-of-pocket expenses
62. **Health Insurance Sector Shows Strong Growth**
    - Growth rate: Around 9%
    - Total premiums (2024-25): ₹1.2 lakh crore+
    - Claim processing timelines: 1-hour pre-authorization, 3-hour final authorization
    - Claims paid ratio (by number): 87.50% in 2024-25 (up from 66% in 2022-23)
63. **HDFC ERGO General Insurance Appoints Parthanil Ghosh as MD & CEO**
    - Effective: 16 April 2026 (subject to IRDAI approval)
    - Succeeds: Anuj Tyagi (resigned 16 January 2026)
    - Experience: 30+ years in financial services, 16+ years in general insurance
64. **Lloyd's of London to Launch Operations in GIFT City**
    - Timeline: March 2026
    - Authority review: International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)
    - Entity: Statutory insurance and reinsurance entity
    - IFSC context: IIOs increased to 24 (from 19), IIIOs reached 31 (from 25)
    - Premiums (Q3 FY2025-26): ₹299 million (double from ₹148 million year earlier)

International Financial Services & Cross-Border

65. **Sri Lanka's First Blue Bond Dual Listed on NSE IX at GIFT City**
    - Issuer: DFCC Bank Plc (Sri Lanka)
    - Amount: LKR 3 billion
    - Date: February 2026
    - Location: NSE IX at GIFT City, Gujarat
    - Significance: First Blue Bond in India's IFSC
    - MoU: Between NSE IX and Colombo Stock Exchange for cross-border collaboration
66. **Ellinas Finance to Become First Overseas Firm Listed on NSE International Exchange**
    - Company: Ellinas Finance (Cyprus-based)
    - Exchange: NSE International Exchange (NSE IX) at GIFT City, Gujarat
    - Dual listing: Alongside Cyprus Stock Exchange
    - Impact: First cross-border equity listing in GIFT IFSC
    - Services: Lending, private equity funding, investor services, business financing
67. **India INX GA Partners with HSBC IBU for Global Investment Access**
    - Subsidiary: India INX Global Access IFSC Limited (India INX)
    - Partner: HSBC International Financial Services Centre Banking Unit (HSBC IBU)
    - Date: March 2026
    - Model: Referral-based access
    - Global coverage: 135+ exchanges in 33 countries
    - Limit: RBI's Liberalised Remittance Scheme - USD 250,000 per FY
68. **Pine Labs to Launch Stablecoin-Backed Prepaid Card Across 9 Countries**
    - Announcement: Plans to launch across 9 countries
    - Timeline: By April 2026
    - Regions: Middle East, Africa, Southeast Asia
    - Feature: Real-time stablecoin conversion to local currencies at POS

- Exclusions: India and China (regulatory restrictions on virtual currency products)
- Context: Stablecoin market growth exceeds $310 billion
- Significance: First such initiative by listed Indian fintech

Government & Policy Actions

69. **Ministry of Statistics Releases New GDP Series with 7.6% FY26 Growth**
    - Authority: National Statistics Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
    - Base year change: 2011-12 → 2022-23
    - **FY26 Second Advanced Estimates**:
    - Real GDP growth: 7.6% at ₹322.58 lakh crore
    - Nominal GDP: ₹345.47 lakh crore (8.6% growth)
    - Real GVA: ₹294.40 lakh crore (7.7% growth)
    - Nominal GVA: ₹313.61 lakh crore (8.7% growth)
    - Coverage: Quarterly estimates Q1 FY23 to Q3 FY26
70. **Current Account Deficit Widens to 1.3% of GDP in Q3 FY26**
    - **Q3 FY25-26 Figures**:
    - CAD: $13.2 billion (1.3% of GDP) vs $11.3 billion in Q3 FY25
    - Merchandise trade deficit: $93.6 billion (vs $79.3 billion)
    - Goods exports: $111.7 billion
    - Goods imports: $205.3 billion
    - Remittances: $36.9 billion
    - Net services receipts: $57.5 billion
    - FPI: Marginal outflow $0.2 billion (vs $11.4 billion outflow in Q3 FY25)
    - FX reserves declined: $24.4 billion on BoP basis
71. **India's Merchandise and Services Exports Rise 5.79% to USD 790.86 Billion**
    - Period: April–February 2025-26
    - Total exports: $790.86 Bn (5.79% growth)
    - Merchandise exports: $402.93 Bn (up from $395.66 Bn)
    - Services exports: $387.93 Bn (up from $351.93 Bn, 10.23% growth)
    - Total imports: $900.51 Bn (7.37% increase)
    - Merchandise imports: $713.53 Bn
    - Merchandise trade deficit: $310.60 Bn (from $261.80 Bn)
    - Services trade surplus: $200.96 Bn
72. **India's February 2026 Trade Performance - Strong Export Growth**
    - Total exports: $76.13 Bn (11.05% growth)
    - Engineering Goods: 90% growth to $10.36 Bn
    - Electronic Goods: 10.37% increase to $4.18 Bn
    - Non-petroleum exports: 5.03% rise to $354.12 Bn
    - Regional growth: China (37.66%), USA (3.84%), UAE (8.52%), Spain (45.31%)
    - Meat, Dairy & Poultry: 22.66% growth
    - Services surplus: $200.96 Bn
73. **India Expands Free Trade Agreement Network to 38 Countries**
    - Total FTAs: 9 covering 38 countries over past decade
    - **Agreements**:
        1. India-Mauritius CECPA (2021)
        2. India-UAE CEPA (May 2022)
        3. India-Australia ECTA (December 2022)
        4. India-EFTA TEPA (1 October 2025)
        5. India-UK CEAA (July 2025)
        6. India-Oman CEPA (December 2025)
        7. India-New Zealand FTA (22 December 2025)
        8. India-EU FTA (27 January 2026)
        9. India-USA interim trade agreement (7 February 2026)
    - Beneficiaries: Farmers, exporters, entrepreneurs
74. **Ministry of Finance Revises Minimum Public Shareholding Norms**
    - Department: Department of Economic Affairs (DEA)
    - Changes: Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957 amendments
    - MPS at listing: 5% → 2.5%
    - Categories: Expanded from 3 to 6 based on post-issue capital size
    - Up to ₹1,600 crore
    - ₹1,600–4,000 crore
    - ₹4,000–50,000 crore
    - ₹50,000 crore–1 lakh crore
    - ₹1–5 lakh crore
    - ₹5 lakh crore
    - Purpose: Facilitate large-scale IPOs while maintaining market liquidity
75. **Department of Economic Affairs - Revised Minimum Public Shareholding Framework**
    - Graded framework for smaller public share offerings at IPO
    - Expanded timeline categories: 3 → 6
    - Timeline reduction: MPS at listing 5% → 2.5%
    - Goal: Ease large company IPO processes
76. **CBIC Launches Eligible Manufacturer Importers Scheme**
    - Authority: Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)
    - Effective: 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2028
    - Feature: Clear goods without immediate Customs duty
    - Payment: Monthly under Deferred Payment of Import Duty Rules 2016
    - Eligibility: Based on compliance history, GST, Customs records, turnover, financial standing
    - Benefit: Expected upgrade to higher-tier AEO status

77. **RBI Approved SBI Mutual Fund's Stake Acquisition in RBL and Bandhan Bank**
    - Company: SBI Mutual Fund (State Bank of India subsidiary)
    - Acquisition: Up to 9.99% of paid-up share capital and voting rights
    - Banks: RBL Bank and Bandhan Bank
    - Completion period: One year from RBI approval date
    - Regulatory compliance: Banking Regulation Act 1949, RBI Commercial Banks Directions 2025, FEMA 1999, SEBI regulations
78. **Competition Commission Approves State Street's Acquisition in Groww Asset Management**
    - Acquirer: State Street Global Advisors Inc. (subsidiary of State Street Corporation)
    - Target: Groww Asset Management Limited (wholly-owned by Billionbrains Garage Ventures)
    - Date: March 2026
    - Products: Diversified range (equity, hybrid, debt funds, ETFs)
79. **Facebook Overseas Acquires 30% Stake in Reliance Enterprise Intelligence**
    - Acquirer: Facebook Overseas (Meta Platforms Inc. subsidiary)
    - Target: Reliance Enterprise Intelligence Limited (REIL, Reliance Intelligence Limited subsidiary)
    - Date: Acquisition completed
    - Investment: ₹256.6 crore (~₹10 per share for 25.65 crore shares)
    - REIL total shares: 85.32 crore
    - Reliance Industries allotment: 59.66 crore shares worth ₹596.6 crore
    - Focus: Enterprise AI solutions and digital intelligence capabilities

Government Schemes & Financial Inclusion

80. **Government Boosts Financial Inclusion Through Flagship Schemes**
    - **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)** - August 2014 launch
        - Accounts: 57.78 crore (as of Feb 2026)
        - Deposits: ₹2,94,702 crore
        - Women accounts: 32.21 crore (55.8%)
        - Rural/semi-urban: 45.17 crore (78.2%)
    - **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)**
        - Enrolments: 26.88 crore cumulative
        - Coverage: ₹2 lakh life insurance
    - **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)**
        - Enrolments: 57.11 crore cumulative
        - Coverage: ₹2 lakh accidental/permanent disability, ₹1 lakh permanent partial disability
    - **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)**
        - Enrolments: 8.84 crore cumulative
    - **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)**
        - Loans sanctioned: 57.26 crore
        - Amount: ₹39.48 lakh crore
        - Limit: Up to ₹20 lakh per unit
81. **Credit Guarantee Scheme for Microfinance Institutions 2.0 (CGSMFI-2.0)**
    - Date: Introduced March 2026 (effective March 20, 2026)
    - Purpose: Facilitate increased credit flow to MFIs
    - Coverage: Guarantee cover to Member Lending Institutions (MLIs)
    - Beneficiaries: NBFC-MFIs and MFIs
    - Management: National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC)
    - Impact: Expected to benefit ~36 lakh borrowers
    - Validity: Till June 30, 2026 or ₹20,000 crores guarantee, whichever comes first
82. **Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs (MCGS-MSME) Revised**
    - Launch: January 2025
    - Revision: March 2026
    - Management: NCGTC
    - Coverage: 60% guarantee to MLIs for loans up to ₹100 crore
    - Purpose: Purchase of plant and machinery
    - Borrower contribution: 5% upfront (refundable from 4th year with satisfactory performance)
    - Export MSMEs: Special provisions with guaranteed loan up to ₹20 crore
    - Eligibility: 25%+ exports of turnover in each of last 3 financial years
83. **Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya Chairs 239th CBT & EPF Meeting**
    - Date: March 2026
    - Body: Central Board of Trustees (CBT), Employees' Provident Fund (EPF)
    - **Decisions**:
        - EPF interest rate: Retained at 8.25% for FY26
        - Amnesty Scheme: For income tax-recognized trusts to resolve compliance issues
        - New schemes: EPF Scheme 2026, Employees Pension Scheme 2026, EDLI Scheme 2026
        - Pilot project: Auto-initiation of claim settlement in inoperative EPFO accounts
84. **Government Maintains Inflation Target at 4% for 2026-31 Period**
    - Authority: Ministry of Finance (in consultation with RBI)
    - Basis: Section 45ZA of RBI Act, 1934
    - Target: 4% (unchanged for 2nd consecutive period)
    - Tolerance band: Upper 6%, Lower 2%
    - Framework: Flexible Inflation Targeting (FIT) - introduced 2016

Economic Forecasts & Analysis

85. **CRISIL Intelligence Projects India's GDP Growth at 7.1% for FY27**
    - Report: "India Outlook: Wading through Squally Waters"
    - Date: March 2026
    - FY27 growth: 7.1% (down from 7.6% FY26)
    - Retail inflation: 4.3% (from 2.5% FY26)
    - Industrial CapEx: Projected increase to ~₹9.1 lakh crore annually (FY27-FY31)
86. **Nomura Lowers India GDP Forecast to 7% in FY27**
    - Date: 2026
    - Previous forecast: 7.1%
    - Reason: West Asia conflict risks to energy supplies
    - Inflation forecast: 4.5% (raised 70 bps from 3.8%)
    - CAD projection: 1.6% of GDP (from 1.2%)
87. **Goldman Sachs Lowers India's GDP Growth Rate Forecast to 5.9% for CY26**
    - Date: March 2026
    - Previous forecast: 7% (pre-Iran war)
    - Inflation projection: 4.6% in CY26 (vs 3.9% previous)
    - CAD projection: 2% of GDP in CY26
    - Regional growth: South Asia at 6.5% for CY26
88. **S&P Global Lifts India FY27 GDP Forecast to 7.1%**
    - Date: March 2026
    - Increase: 40 basis points from previous
    - FY28 forecast: 7.2% (increased 20 bps)
    - FY29 forecast: 7.0% (increased 20 bps)
    - CPI inflation FY27: 4.3% (from 2.5% FY26)
89. **OECD Revises India Growth Forecast to 6.1% for FY27**
    - Report: 'Testing Resilience' Interim Report
    - Date: March 2026
    - FY27: 6.1% (revised down 10 bps from 6.2%)
    - FY26: 7.6%
    - FY28: 6.4%
    - Global growth: 2.9% in 2026, 3% in 2027 (lowered from 3.1%)
90. **ASSOCHAM Projects India GDP Growth Above 7% for FY27**
    - Drivers: Strong demand and rising investments
    - Outlook: Economic resilience despite global uncertainties

Inflation & Monetary Indicators

91. **India's Retail Inflation Jumps to 3.21% in February**
    - Month-on-month: 3.21% (Feb) from 2.74% (Jan 2026)
    - Drivers: Food, clothing, housing, utility prices
    - Rural inflation: 3.37% (from 2.73%)
    - Urban inflation: 3.02% (from 2.75%)
    - RBI target: 4% (both remain below)
    - CPI series: New base year 2024 (food weight declining from 45.86% to 36.75%)
92. **NSO Reports WPI Inflation Surge**
    - WPI inflation: 2.13% in February 2026
    - Trend: Fourth consecutive month of increases
    - Drivers: Higher food and manufactured product costs
93. **India's Core Sector Growth - 2.3% in February 2026**
    - Steel: 7.2% growth
    - Cement: 9.3% growth
    - Challenges: Crude oil, natural gas, refinery output declined

Stock Market & Capital Markets

94. **National Stock Exchange Selects 20 Merchant Bankers for IPO**
    - Process: Structured and competitive
    - Approval: NSE IPO Committee
    - Purpose: NSE's long-awaited IPO
    - Law firms appointed: 8 leading firms
        - Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas
        - Khaitan & Co
        - AZB & Partners
        - Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co
        - Trilegal
    - Areas: Legal and regulatory aspects
95. **Nashik Municipal Corporation Lists Maharashtra's First ULB Green Municipal Bond**
    - Date: 9 March 2026
    - Listing: National Stock Exchange (NSE), Mumbai
    - Significance: Maharashtra's first Urban Local Body (ULB) Green Municipal Bond
    - Ceremony: CM Devendra Fadnavis and NSE MD Ashishkumar Chauhan
    - Fund allocation: Renewable energy, waste management, clean transportation, sustainable water management, climate resilience
    - Goal: Support India's net-zero emissions by 2047
96. **HDFC Securities Launches NxtOption**
    - Date: March 2026
    - Company: HDFC Securities Limited (HDFC Bank subsidiary)
    - Purpose: Simplify advanced options trading for retail investors
    - Features: Examine, build, execute F&O strategies through single interface
    - Strategies enabled: Straddles, Strangles, Iron Condors
    - Analytics: Delta, Gamma, Theta, Vega, Implied Volatility, Open Interest trends

Tax & Regulatory Framework

97. **Income-tax Act 2025 - Digital Taxation Framework Effective April 1, 2026**
    - Significant Economic Presence (SEP): ₹2 crore/3 lakh users threshold
    - Features: Digital taxation, stricter compliance, audit trails
    - Capital gains: Simplified taxation
    - Dividend taxation: Simplified framework
    - Goal: Transparency and ease of compliance

Development Assistance & International Cooperation

98. **World Bank Approves USD 300 Million Loan to UP for Clean Air Transition**
    - Agreement signed by: Juhi Mukherjee (Joint Secretary, DEA), B Chandrakala (CEO, Clean Air Management Authority), Paul Procee (WB Acting Country Director)
    - Purpose: Support Uttar Pradesh's Clean Air Plan and transition
    - Terms: 10-year maturity with 2-year grace period
    - Support: Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP), multi-donor
    - Context: Regional Air Quality Management Program in Indo-Gangetic Plain Hotspot (IGP-HF)
99. **JICA Signs Four ODA Loan Agreements Worth ₹16,420 Crore**
    - Date: March 2026
    - Organization: Japan International Cooperation Agency
    - **Projects**:
        1. Healthcare in Maharashtra: 62,294 million JPY
        2. Climate-resilient horticulture in Punjab: 18,684 million JPY
        3. Bengaluru Metro Rail Phase 3: 102,480 million JPY (44.65 km elevated)
        4. Mumbai Metro Line 11: 92,400 million JPY (17.51 km underground)
    - States: Punjab, Maharashtra, Karnataka
100. **DCM Shriram Secured USD 90 Million from IFC via Sustainability-Linked NCDs**
    - Organization: International Finance Corporation (World Bank Group)
    - Date: March 2026
    - Instrument: Sustainability-Linked Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs)
    - Purpose: Strategic initiatives and long-term growth
    - Areas: Downstream chemicals expansion, agri-business capex
    - Validation: CareEdge Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) independent validation

Other Financial Institutions & Developments

101. **Public Sector Banks Earn Over ₹28,000 Crore from Third-Party Financial Product Sales**
    - Period: Last 5 years
    - Products: Insurance (life/non-life), mutual funds, credit cards, demat accounts
    - **Top earners**:
        - SBI: ₹17,043.49 crore
        - Punjab National Bank: ₹2,865.54 crore
        - Canara Bank: ₹2,059.54 crore
        - Bank of Baroda: ₹1,904.52 crore
        - Union Bank of India: ₹1,832.69 crore
    - RBI action: Draft directions under Commercial Banks - Responsible Business Conduct Amendment Directions, 2026
    - Goal: Prevent mis-selling incentives
102. **Private Banks Earn Over ₹11,000 Crore from Minimum Balance Penalties**
    - Period: FY2022-23 to FY2024-25
    - **Top earners**:
        - HDFC Bank: ₹3,800 crore+
        - Axis Bank: ₹2,700 crore
        - ICICI Bank: ₹1,200 crore
    - PSBs earnings: ~₹8,000 crore
        - Punjab National Bank: ~₹1,500 crore
        - Bank of Baroda: ~₹1,200 crore
        - Indian Bank: ~₹1,100 crore
    - Notable: SBI waived penalties since March 2020
    - Exemption: Basic Savings Bank Deposit Accounts (BSDBA) and PMJDY accounts
103. **ATMA Leadership Changes**
    - Organization: Automotive Tyre Manufacturers Association
    - Chairman: Arun Mammen (re-elected)
    - Vice Chairman: Rajarshi Moitra (appointed)
    - Director General: Sanjay Chatterjee (elevated)
    - Focus: Raw material costs and technological transformation

MoU's & AGREEMENTS

- **International Solar Alliance and IIT Delhi Framework for Action**: The International Solar Alliance and Indian Institute of Technology Delhi formalized a Framework for Action in New Delhi to strengthen cooperation in advancing renewable energy, capacity building, academic collaboration, and human resource development across ISA Member Countries, focusing on four core areas—Capacity (Solar Technology Application Resource-Centre trainer programmes, one-year Post Graduate Diploma based on Train-the-Trainers model), Academic (expanding beyond M.Tech to Master's in Public Policy and Ph.D. in Solar Energy leveraging INES France), Research (promoting solar energy research integrating AI, Machine Learning, Blockchain), and Knowledge (organizing joint workshops and outreach).
- **HCLTech and IIT Kanpur Partnership on Deep Tech Innovation**: HCL Technologies and Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur signed an MoU during the 'GCC 4.0: Co-Creating India's Innovation Powerhouse' summit in Hyderabad, Telangana, to translate Artificial Intelligence and intelligent systems research into enterprise-ready solutions for Global Capability Centers, combining HCLTech's GCC solutions with IIT Kanpur's research and startup ecosystem, providing researchers access to real-world challenges, research funding, and industry mentorship across AI, robotics, advanced engineering, and next-generation technologies.
- **IIT Kharagpur and Telecommunication Engineering Centre 6G Partnership**: IIT Kharagpur, West Bengal, signed an MoU with the Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC) under the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to strengthen indigenous development of 6G, AI, and next-generation telecom technologies, focusing on 6G architecture, satellite and Non-Terrestrial Networks (NTNs), advanced antenna systems and Multiple Input Multiple Output (MIMO) technologies, AI-enabled Electromagnetic Field monitoring, and telecom standardization.
- **Nagaland Higher Education and India Meteorological Department Weather Partnership**: The Department of Higher Education, Nagaland, signed a 20-year MoU with the India Meteorological Department under the Ministry of Earth Sciences to strengthen weather forecasting, atmospheric research, and capacity building through installation of an X-band Polarimetric Doppler Weather Radar at Dimapur Government College under the Mission Mausam scheme, enhancing understanding of state-specific weather hazards and supporting disaster preparedness in the state.
- **Pondicherry University and Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities**: Pondicherry University, Puducherry, signed an MoU with the Office of the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) under the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) to strengthen institutional ties in disability rights, accessibility, and inclusive education through joint research, internships, academic exchanges, capacity building, conferences, and structured academic engagement.
- **Survey of India and Kerala Digital University Geospatial Collaboration**: The Survey of India under the Department of Science and Technology signed a five-year MoU with Kerala Digital University to advance excellence in geospatial data collection, processing, and analysis using Geoinformatics, AI, and Machine Learning, collaborating on Research and Development in mapping and spatial data sciences, training programmes, internships, knowledge exchange, and joint projects aligned with national geospatial priorities.
- **Ministry of Culture and FICCI for Cultural and Creative Economy Strategy**: The Ministry of Culture signed an MoU with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry to formulate a comprehensive national strategy for India's Cultural and Creative Economy, developing a structured roadmap integrating culture with economic policy, expanding domestic and international market access, promoting entrepreneurship and innovation, and generating employment opportunities in cultural sectors covering visual and performing arts, traditional crafts, handlooms, film, television, digital media, music, publishing, design, fashion, cultural tourism, heritage conservation, museums, gaming, and animation.
- **NITI Aayog and UNICEF Child Nutrition Partnership**: The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) signed a Statement of Intent with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) India to strengthen nutrition and health outcomes in Aspirational districts and blocks through improved maternal and child nutrition, strengthening Anganwadi infrastructure, improving nutrition literacy, enhancing uptake of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), capacity building of frontline workers, and mobilizing Corporate Social Responsibility investment into nutrition-focused initiatives through the IMPAct4Nutrition platform.
- **NITI Aayog and Japan International Cooperation Agency SDGs Cooperation Phase II**: NITI Aayog and the Japan International Cooperation Agency signed the Record of Discussions for Phase II of the Japan-India Cooperative Actions towards Sustainable Development Goals to strengthen development interventions in Aspirational Districts and Aspirational Blocks, implementing under the Aspirational Districts Programme and Aspirational Blocks Programme with focus on evidence-based planning and strengthened monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

- **India Artificial Intelligence Mission and Business Sweden Cooperation**: The India Artificial Intelligence Mission under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology signed a Statement of Intent with Business Sweden at the India Artificial Intelligence Impact Summit 2026 to strengthen India-Sweden cooperation in AI and digital technologies, launching the Sweden-India Technology and AI Corridor as the primary platform connecting governments, industries, startups, investors, researchers, and academic institutions.
- **Indian Army and Ladakh Forest Department Wildlife Conservation**: The Indian Army's Fire and Fury Corps (14 Corps) and the Forest, Ecology and Environment Department of Ladakh signed an MoU on 3 March 2026 on World Wildlife Day to preserve fragile high-altitude ecology and conserve iconic wildlife species including Snow Leopard, Himalayan Wolf, Bharal (Blue Sheep), Ibex, Himalayan Marmot, and Black-necked Crane through establishment of a joint Snow Leopard Conservation Cell under the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection (GSLEP) programme.
- **BEL and Bellatrix Aerospace VLEO Satellite Partnership**: Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) signed an MoU with Bellatrix Aerospace Private Limited to design, develop, manufacture satellite systems and payloads for Very Low Earth Orbit (VLEO) operations between 150-450 km altitude, developing integrated satellite solutions for strategic defence and civilian space missions, reflecting India's approach of combining public sector manufacturing capabilities with deep-tech startup innovation.
- **NSE IX and Colombo Stock Exchange Dual Listing Agreement**: The National Stock Exchange Limited – International Exchange (NSE IX) at GIFT City signed an MoU with Colombo Stock Exchange to facilitate dual listings and promote cross-border capital market collaboration, enabling innovative financial products across jurisdictions, as evidenced by Sri Lanka's first Blue Bond (LKR 3 billion issuance by DFCC Bank) achieving dual listing on NSE IX at GIFT City.
- **Sarvam and SBI Life Insurance AI Deployment Partnership**: Indian AI startup Sarvam entered into a strategic partnership with SBI Life Insurance Company Limited, a subsidiary of the State Bank of India, for deployment of AI tools across its nationwide insurance distribution network through Samvaad (conversational AI platform) and Arya (multi-agent orchestration layer), expected to reach 8 crore customers and support 3.5 lakh distributors across the country.
- **AIIMS and ISRO Sign MoU for Space Medicine Research All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi** and **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** signed **MoU** (March 2026) to enhance medical research related to human spaceflight and develop healthcare solutions for astronauts; signed by **M. Srinivas** (AIIMS Director) and **Dinesh Kumar Singh** (ISRO's Human Space Flight Centre Director), focusing on **microgravity research**, **astronaut health monitoring**, **space radiation studies**, **psychological health assessments**, and **specialized medical training**.
- **ISRO and ESA Sign Agreement for Earth Observation Missions Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** and **European Space Agency (ESA)** virtually signed **"ESA–ISRO Arrangement concerning Joint Calibration and Validation Activities and Scientific Studies for Earth Observation Missions"** (March 2026), signed by **M. Ganesh Pillai** (ISRO Scientific Secretary) and **Simonetta Cheli** (ESA Director of Earth Observation), supporting **FLEX mission** (Fluorescence Explorer satellite) for global vegetation health monitoring.
- **NITI Aayog and TEPL Partner for Electronics Manufacturing Growth National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog)** collaborated with **Tata Electronics Private Limited (TEPL)** (March 2026), with **Suman Bery** (NITI Vice-Chairman) meeting **Randhir Thakur** (TEPL MD & CEO), focusing on **scaling up electronics production**, **bolstering supply chains**, and **enhancing global value chain participation**; **Union Budget 2026-27** enhanced **Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS)** outlay to **₹40,000 crore**.
- **DPIIT and Voltas Limited Sign MoU for Cooling and Smart Appliance Innovation Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** signed **MoU** with **Voltas Limited** (Tata Enterprise) (March 2026) to promote industry-startup collaboration in **cooling and smart appliance ecosystem**, focusing on **HVAC, advanced control systems, power electronics, AI/ML diagnostics, IoT-enabled appliances**, with **Bharat Startup Grand Challenge (BSGC)** innovation challenges and hackathons for selected startups.
- **WHO Foundation and Novo Nordisk Partner to Combat Childhood Obesity in India** The **WHO Foundation** partnered with **Novo Nordisk** (Danish multinational pharmaceutical company) (March 2026) to address childhood obesity in India through **school-based health programme** in selected districts, integrating **health screening, lifestyle education, physical activity promotion, mental health support** aligned with **Ayushman Bharat – School Health and Wellness Programme**.
- **IIT Bombay and Honeywell Establish Centre of Excellence for Sustainability Skills Indian Institute of Technology Bombay** partnered with **Honeywell** to establish **IIT Bombay–Honeywell Centre of Excellence for Future Skills and Innovation** at **Powai Campus, Mumbai**, funded by **Honeywell Hometown Solutions India Foundation**, aiming to train **100,000+ students by 2030** in sustainability focusing on **sustainability reporting, sustainable finance, energy security, sustainable infrastructure, policy advocacy**.

- **BEL and Bellatrix Aerospace Sign MoU for VLEO Satellite Development Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** signed **MoU** with **Bellatrix Aerospace** (Bengaluru-based space startup) (March 2026) to develop satellite systems and payloads for **Very Low Earth Orbit (VLEO)** altitudes (**150-450 km**), enabling higher-resolution imaging, faster communications, and improved atmospheric observations.
- **BEL and SASMOS Sign MoU for Indigenous Defence Manufacturing Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** signed **MoU** with **SASMOS HET Technologies Limited** (March 2026) in presence of **Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** to enhance indigenous defence electronics manufacturing, focusing on **high-reliability photonics, fibre-optic systems, avionics, aerospace-grade interconnect solutions**, with demonstration of **naval radar communication network subsystem** developed within **6 months**.
- **BEL-Chennai and ALIMCO Sign MoU for Assistive Devices Bharat Electronics Limited – Chennai Unit (BEL-Chennai)** signed **MoU** with **Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO)** to provide assistive devices to **709 Persons with Disabilities (Divyaangans)** in **Ramanathapuram and Sivagangai districts, Tamil Nadu**.
- **IIT Guwahati Signs MoU with Coventry University Group for AI and Healthcare Research Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IIT-G)** signed **MoU** with **Coventry University Group (CUG), United Kingdom** to strengthen research collaboration in **Artificial Intelligence and Healthcare**, promoting **academic mobility, joint research, collaborative degree programmes**, focusing on **"Artificial Intelligence for One Health"** addressing human health, animal health, and environmental ecosystems.
- **ASSOCHAM and ICCC Sign MoU to Strengthen India-Canada Business Collaboration Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)** and **Indo Canada Chamber of Commerce (ICCC)** signed **MoU** during **India-Canada Business Roundtable** in New Delhi to enhance **trade, investment, and institutional cooperation**, promoting **policy cooperation, business collaboration, capacity building initiatives** including trade missions, business delegations, and exhibitions.
- **SBI and MUFG Bank Sign Strategic Partnership for India-Japan Financial Ties State Bank of India (SBI)** signed strategic partnership with **MUFG Bank, Ltd.** (leading Japanese global financial institution) (March 2026) to strengthen **cross-border capital flows** and expand financing opportunities, focusing on **M&A, aviation and real estate financing**, with **MUFG acting as Mandated Lead Arranger** for **USD 500 million social loan** for women's economic empowerment.
- **Jammu and Kashmir Bank Joins with NBFCs for Home and Gold Loan Business Jammu and Kashmir Bank (J&K Bank)** partnered with **Home First Finance Company India Limited** (home loans) and **IIFL Finance** (gold loans) through co-lending agreements to expand retail lending business, particularly outside **Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir**.
- **All India Institute of Medical Sciences and Indian Space Research Organisation MoU** The **All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)** and the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** to strengthen **medical research related to human spaceflight** and develop **healthcare solutions for astronauts** in future **Indian space missions**. The agreement, signed by **Srinivas, Director of AIIMS, New Delhi** and **Dinesh Kumar Singh, Director of ISRO's Human Space Flight Centre**, covers **microgravity research, astronaut health monitoring, space radiation studies, psychological health assessments**, and **specialised medical training** to enhance **India's space medicine capabilities**.
- **Reliance Industries Signs $3 Billion Green Ammonia Supply Deal with Samsung C&T Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)** signed a binding **long-term Supply and Purchase Agreement (SPA)** with **Samsung C&T Corporation, South Korea** on March 18, 2026 for **green ammonia supply** over a **15-year period** starting from **second half of FY2028-29**, valued at over **USD 3 billion** as one of the **world's largest off-take agreements for green fuel**. Under the **SPA**, **RIL** will supply **green ammonia** produced through a **fully integrated clean energy ecosystem** in **India**, marking the **first in a series of global offtake agreements** aligned with the **National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM)** to achieve **net-zero emissions by 2035**.
- **Tata Steel and USTB MoU for Low-Carbon Steelmaking Technologies Tata Steel Limited** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **University of Science and Technology Beijing (USTB), Beijing, China** in March 2026 to develop **low-carbon steelmaking technologies**. **Tata Steel Research and Innovation Limited** and **USTB** will jointly undertake work across **four major themes**: **scrap-based steelmaking, steel waste valorisation, end-product performance**, and **Carbon Capture and Utilisation (CCU) technologies**, leveraging **USTB's academic expertise** with **experimental and pilot-scale facilities** for testing, validating, and scaling promising technologies.
- **FSI and BISAG-N Sign MoU to Boost Geospatial Tech in Forestry** The **Forest Survey of India (FSI)** under the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)**, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Bhaskarcharya National Institute for Space Applications**

and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N) during the **90th meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (SC-NBWL)** in **Dehradun, Uttarakhand**, to enhance the use of **geospatial technologies** in forestry and environmental management. The MoU aims to strengthen the use of **remote sensing and AI/ML-based tools** for enhanced forest management, wildlife conservation, and **data-driven decision support systems**.

- **NPC Signs Agreement with MoEF&CC to Act as Environment Audit Designated Agency** The **National Productivity Council (NPC)**, under the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I), signed an agreement with the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)** in **March 2026** to act as the **Environment Audit Designated Agency (EADA)** under the **Environment Audit Rules (EAR) 2025**, officially notified on **August 29, 2025**. The NPC's role encompasses **certification and registration of auditors**, **development of eligibility criteria and screening methodologies**, **monitoring performance**, **issuing guidelines**, and **taking disciplinary actions** including suspension, cancellation, or renewal of environmental auditor registrations.
- **RRU and SSB Academy Sign MoU to Enhance National Security Training Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU)**, an Institution of National Importance under the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) Academy** in **New Delhi** in **March 2026** to strengthen national security training and capacity building. Under the strategic partnership, **RRU will offer academic accreditation** for training programs conducted at the **SSB Academy**, facilitating exchange of resources including faculty expertise, pedagogical tools, and specialized training facilities, while reviewing existing curriculum and jointly developing additional course content.
- **DPIIT Signs MoU with Blue Star to Support Product-Based Startups** The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I)**, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Blue Star Limited**, a leading Air Conditioning company, in **New Delhi** in **March 2026**, to promote innovation and support startups in India. The partnership aims to strengthen India's manufacturing and innovation ecosystem with focus on **Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) technologies**, digital solutions, and advanced manufacturing, with startups receiving **mentorship from industry experts**, access to **R&D laboratories**, and **testing facilities for infrastructure support**.
- **DPIIT Signs MoUs with Razorpay to Strengthen Startup Ecosystem; Launches 'Startup Sahayak' Platform** The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I), signed strategic **Memoranda of Understanding (MoU)** with **Razorpay** on **March 25, 2026**, to empower startups, especially in **Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities**, by providing financial tools, technical and advisory support, and digital payment solutions. A dedicated platform, **'Startup Sahayak'**, has been launched to provide **end-to-end assistance** including company incorporation, access to central and state government schemes, and guidance on funding opportunities, organized through the **Startup India Hub (SIH)** and **Bharat Startup Grand Challenge (BSGC)**.
- **BHASHINI–PFRDA Sign MoU to Enable Multilingual Pension Services** The **Digital India BHASHa Interface for India (BHASHINI) Division (DIBD)** under **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** and the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** under **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** on **March 25, 2026**, under the initiative **'BHASHINI for Seva–Sanchalan'** to enhance multilingual accessibility of pension services across India. The initiative enables **multilingual access across PFRDA platforms in all 22 Eighth Schedule languages**, including Hindi, Bengali, Telugu, Marathi, Tamil, Urdu, and Sanskrit, leveraging **BHASHINI as a Digital Public Infrastructure** with **AI models for real-time translation and contextual processing**.
- **Cochin Chamber Signs MoU with Latvian Chamber to Strengthen Bilateral Trade** The **Cochin Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), Latvia**, in **March 2026**, to bolster bilateral trade and economic cooperation between Latvia and India. The **CCCI** (established **1857**, the oldest Chamber of Commerce in Kerala) became the **second Chamber of Commerce in India** and **first in South India** to enter into an agreement with the **LCCI**, opening significant business opportunities across key sectors like **pharmaceuticals, education, and the wood industry**.
- **BHASHINI-PFRDA MoU for Multilingual Pension Services** The **Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD)** under **MeitY** and **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** signed MoU under **"BHASHINI for Seva–Sanchalan"** initiative. The collaboration enables pension service access in **all 22 Eighth Schedule languages** (Hindi, Bengali, Telugu, Marathi, Tamil, Urdu, Sanskrit) using **AI-driven real-time translation** and **voice-enabled interfaces**, strengthening **multilingual digital governance** and **inclusive financial services**.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

- **Ayatollah Alireza Arafi Named Iran's Interim Supreme Leader**: On 1 March 2026, senior Iranian cleric Ayatollah Alireza Arafi was appointed as Iran's interim Supreme Leader following the death of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in a reported US-Israel airstrike, serving as Deputy Chairman of the Assembly of Experts (AoE) and member of the Guardian Council (GC) since 2019, with Article 111 of Iran's Constitution mandating a three-member Interim Leadership Council (comprising President Masoud Pezeshkian, Chief Justice Gholam-Hossein Mohseni-Ejei, and Ayatollah Alireza Arafi as jurist member) to exercise powers temporarily until the Assembly of Experts appoints a successor.
- **Jio Platforms Appoints Dan Bailey as President for International Business**: Jio Platforms Limited appointed Dan Bailey as President to lead international business operations, with responsibility for expanding Jio's global footprint, driving international partnerships, and scaling digital services across global markets, reporting to Akash Ambani (Chairman of Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited) and joining the Executive Committee of Jio Platforms Limited, bringing over 35 years of experience in consulting and investment banking from Schroders/Citi, Morgan Stanley, HSBC, and recently serving as Chairman of Deutsche Bank's Technology, Media and Telecom (TMT) practice.
- **ACC Reappoints Dr. Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi as DCGI**: The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the reappointment of Dr. Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi as Drugs Controller General (India) (DCGI) at the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) on a contract basis for a further period of 1 year effective from 1 March 2026 or until appointment of regular incumbent, representing his second tenure extension after initial appointment on 23 February 2023 and previous extension until February 2026.
- **President Droupadi Murmu Appoints New Governors for 9 States and UTs**: On 6 March 2026, President Droupadi Murmu announced new appointments and transfers of Governors and Lieutenant Governors across 9 states and UTs, with Lieutenant General Syed Ata Hasnain appointed as Governor of Bihar (succeeding Arif Mohammed Khan), Jishnu Dev Varma appointed as Governor of Maharashtra (from Telangana), Shiv Pratap Shukla appointed as Governor of Telangana (from Himachal Pradesh), Nand Kishore Yadav appointed as Governor of Nagaland, R.N. Ravi transferred as Governor of West Bengal (from Tamil Nadu), Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar holding additional charge of Tamil Nadu (from Kerala), Kavinder Gupta appointed as Governor of Himachal Pradesh (from Ladakh LG), Taranjit Singh Sandhu appointed as LG of NCT of Delhi, and Vinai Kumar Saxena transferred as LG of Ladakh (from Delhi LG).
- **B.P. Singh Assumes Charge as Director General of Naval Armament**: B. P. Singh assumed charge as Director General of Naval Armament (DGONA) at Naval Headquarters, New Delhi, belonging to the 1994 batch of the Indian Naval Armament Service (INAS) with over 30 years' experience in Naval Armament Organisation supporting Indian Navy operational capabilities, succeeding Shri Divakar Jayant who superannuated on 28 February 2026, with extensive expertise in conventional ammunition, guided weapon systems, procurement, storage, maintenance, safety management, logistics support, and life-cycle management of weapon systems.
- **Borge Brende Steps Down as World Economic Forum President and CEO**: Børge Brende, President and CEO of the World Economic Forum, officially announced his resignation on March 1, 2026, with Alois Zwinggi appointed as Interim President and CEO following Brende's resignation, with Brende being a Norwegian politician and diplomat recognized for expertise in international relations, diplomacy, and multilateral economic and social policy, having served as Minister of Foreign Affairs (2013-2017), Minister of Trade and Industry (2004-2005), and Minister of Environment (2001-2004) in Norwegian government before leading WEF since 2017.
- **Justice Sushrut Arvind Dharmadhikari Appointed as Chief Justice of Madras HC**: President Droupadi Murmu appointed Justice Sushrut Arvind Dharmadhikari as Chief Justice of the Madras High Court under Article 217(1) of the Constitution of India in March 2026, succeeding Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava who retired on 5 March 2026, with Dharmadhikari enrolled as advocate in 1992 and serving as Standing Counsel for Union of India, Income Tax Department, and RBI (2000-2015), previously serving as Judge of Kerala HC and Permanent Judge of Madhya Pradesh HC.
- **RBI Approves Ketan Merchant as Interim CEO of Fino Payments Bank** The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** approved appointment of **Ketan Merchant**, **Chief Financial Officer (CFO)** of **Fino Payments Bank**, as **interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** (March 2026) for period not exceeding **4 months**, succeeding **Rishi Gupta** (arrested for alleged **GST violations**); **Anup Agarwal** appointed as **Interim CFO** for **up to 4 months** (effective **6 March 2026**).
- **Justice Sushrut Arvind Dharmadhikari Appointed Chief Justice of Madras High Court President Droupadi Murmu** appointed **Justice Sushrut Arvind Dharmadhikari** as **Chief Justice (CJ)** of **Madras High Court** (under **Article 217(1)** of Constitution), succeeding **Manindra Mohan Shrivastava** (retired 5 March 2026); oath administered by **Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi** at **Lok Bhavan, Chennai**; became **55th Chief Justice** of **Madras High Court** (established August 1862).

- **Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth Appointed Vice Chief of Army Staff** The **Indian Army** announced appointment of **Lieutenant General (Lt Gen) Dhiraj Seth** (current **GOC-in-C of Southern Command**) as **Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS)** (to assume office **1 April 2026**), succeeding **Lt Gen P.P. Singh**; Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth is **Armoured Corps officer** commissioned **December 1986**, previously commanded **XXI Strike Corps** (Mathura, UP).
- **Phanindranath Kakarla Appointed CEO & MD of Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Limited (Arcil) Phanindranath Kakarla** assumed charge as **Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director (CEO & MD)** of **Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Limited (Arcil)** (effective **8 March 2026**), succeeding **Pallav Mohapatra** (led Arcil since March 2021); Kakarla joined Arcil as **President** (2 April 2025) under board-approved succession plan.
- **Rahul Bhatia Becomes Interim CEO of IndiGo Rahul Bhatia**, **billionaire entrepreneur and co-founder of IndiGo**, assumed charge as **interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** following resignation of **Pieter Elbers**, taking management responsibilities during transition as India's largest airline by market share faces operational challenges.
- **RM Nachammai Appointed First Woman Chief of Functional Nuclear Power Plant RM Nachammai** became **first woman** to head operations of functional nuclear power plant in India, appointed **Chief Superintendent** of **Kaiga Generating Station Units 3 and 4, Karnataka** (effective **15 March 2026**) under **Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL)**; holds **35+ years** nuclear plant operations experience and **Electrical and Electronics Engineering degree** from **University of Madras** (secured university rank 1990).
- **Uniqlo Appoints Jasprit Bumrah as Brand Ambassador** Global apparel brand **Uniqlo** appointed **Indian fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah** as **brand ambassador for India**, launching a **nationwide campaign** emphasizing the **LifeWear philosophy** of **practical, comfortable, and timeless design** across **digital and retail platforms**.
- **KV Ramana Murty Appointed Whole-Time Member of SEBI** The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, approved the appointment of **Kompella Venkata (K.V.) Ramana Murty** as a **Whole-Time Member (WTM)** of the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** for **three years from date of assuming charge**. **K.V. Ramana Murty**, a **1991-batch Indian Defence Accounts Service (IDAS)** officer, previously served as **Additional Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA) in Ministry of Defence (MoD)** and as a **part-time SEBI board member** representing the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MoCA)**. With his appointment, the **total number of WTMs on SEBI board reached 4**, comprising **Kamlesh Chandra Varshney, Sandip Pradhan, and Amarjeet Singh**, alongside the **Chairperson and 4 part-time members** including **MoCA, Ministry of Finance, and RBI representatives**.
- **Atanu Chakraborty Resigns as HDFC Bank Part-Time Chairman Atanu Chakraborty**, **Part-time Chairman and Independent Director of HDFC Bank**, resigned with **immediate effect on March 19, 2026**, citing **ethical concerns** and differences over **values** regarding certain **bank practices over the past two years**. **Keki Mistry** was appointed **interim Part-time Chairman** for **three months**, a **Non-Executive Director at HDFC Bank** with over **four decades** in **housing finance, banking, and financial services**, and currently **Chairman of HDFC Life Insurance Company Limited** and **Operating Advisor at Kedaara Capital**.
- **Vikram Doraiswami Appointed Ambassador to China India** appointed **1992-batch IFS officer Vikram Doraiswami** as **Ambassador to China** in March 2026, strengthening **diplomatic ties** between the two nations.
- **Election Commission Appoints Manjeet Singh as Assam Special Observer** The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** appointed **Manjeet Singh**, a **retired 1988-batch IAS officer (Rajasthan cadre)**, as **Special Observer** for the **2026 General Election to the Legislative Assembly of Assam**, scheduled for **April 9, 2026** with **vote counting on May 4, 2026**. The **Special Observer** will **monitor poll preparedness** and **conduct of elections**, providing inputs to the **ECI** for necessary action under **Article 324 of the Constitution of India**.
- **JP Nadda Appointed Chairman of Reconstituted Hindi Advisory Panel** The **Union Government** reconstituted the **Hindi Advisory Committee** for the **Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers**, appointing **Union Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda** as **Chairman** and **Minister of State Anupriya Patel** as **Vice-Chairperson**. The committee comprises **Chairman, Vice-Chairman, 15 nominated members** (including **4 MPs from Parliamentary Affairs, 2 MPs from Parliamentary Committee on Official Language, 4 ministry officials, 3 from Department of Official Language, and representatives from Vishwa Hindi Parishad and Hindi Prachar Sabha, Hyderabad**), plus **37 official members** including **Secretaries of Fertilizers, Chemicals & Petrochemicals, and Pharmaceuticals departments**, with **3-year tenure** and potential modifications under special circumstances.
- **City Union Bank Appoints Cricketer Ravindra Jadeja as Brand Ambassador City Union Bank (CUB)**, a **private sector bank headquartered in Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu**, appointed **cricketer Ravindra Jadeja** as its **primary Brand Ambassador**, signing a **two-year agreement** on **March 16, 2026** with **Ravindra Jadeja and Baseline Ventures (India) Private Limited**. The partnership aims to enhance **bank's visibility and outreach**, boost **customer acquisition**, and expand **market presence** through **Jadeja's association with reliability and multifaceted excellence**.

- **T. N. Natarajan Appointed Director (Commercial) at SAIL T. N. Natarajan** was appointed **Director (Commercial)** at **SAIL (Steel Authority of India Limited)**, bringing **32+ years experience** and transforming **marketing strategy** into **customer-centric approach**, enhancing **brand value, competitiveness**, and strengthening **domestic and global steel market presence**.
- **Krishna Kumar Thakur Appointed Director (Personnel) at NMDC Krishna Kumar Thakur** was appointed **Director (Personnel)** at **NMDC Limited**, with **20+ years HR experience** in **large-scale recruitment, HR reforms implementation, improving employee engagement and productivity**, strengthening **people-centric organizational practices**.
- **Dr. Partha Biswas Takes Charge as Member of NCSC Dr. Partha Biswas**, holding a **Ph.D. in Defence & Strategic Studies**, took charge as **Member of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes**, having completed studies at **University of Calcutta, Jadavpur University, and Kanpur University** and received a **Post-Doctoral Fellowship** from **ICSSR at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi**. The **NCSC** works towards **protection of constitutional safeguards** and **promotion of welfare and socio-economic development** of **Scheduled Castes (SCs)** in **India**.
- **MS Dhoni Appointed Brand Ambassador of BHIM Payments App NPCI BHIM Services Limited (NBSL)**, a **subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, appointed **Indian cricketer Mahendra Singh (M.S.) Dhoni** as **brand ambassador for the BHIM Payments Application (App)**. The partnership aims to enhance **trust, inclusion, and scale** in **India's digital payments ecosystem**, with **MS Dhoni** featuring in **multi-channel promotional initiatives** highlighting **BHIM's ease of use, security features**, and **accessibility**. Launched in **2016** on **NPCI's UPI platform**, **BHIM** is positioned as **"Bharat Ka Apna Payments App"** with **wide reach across Tier 1–3 cities**, support for **15+ regional languages**, optimization for **low-connectivity areas**, and **user engagement through rewards and merchant partnerships**.
- **South Indian Bank Appoints Jose Joseph Kattoor as Part-Time Chairman South Indian Bank (SIB)** appointed **Jose Joseph Kattoor**, a former **Executive Director (ED) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, as the **Non-Executive Part-Time Chairman (Independent Director)** on **March 23, 2026**, for a **three-year term** in compliance with the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**, following **RBI approval**. He succeeds **V. J. Kurian**, whose tenure concluded on **March 22, 2026**, and brings **over three decades of experience** in central banking and financial regulation, having served in the **RBI from 1991 to 2023**, retiring as **ED** and leading key departments including **Enforcement, Corporate Strategy, Currency Management, and Human Resources**.
- **City Union Bank Appoints Ravindra Jadeja as Brand Ambassador City Union Bank Limited (CUB)** appointed **Indian cricketer Ravindrasinh Anirudhsinh Jadeja** as its **brand ambassador** in **March 2026**, valid for a **two-year period**, as per a regulatory filing made in compliance with disclosure norms. The initiative aims to **strengthen the bank's visibility** and connect with a broader customer base across India. The agreement was executed in association with **Baseline Ventures India Private Limited**, which manages sports personalities and brand partnerships.
- **KV Ramana Murty Appointed Whole-Time Member of SEBI** The **Government of India** appointed **Kompella Venkata (K.V.) Ramana Murty** as a **Whole-Time Member (WTM)** of the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** in **March 2026** for a tenure of **three years from the date of assuming charge** or until further orders. **K.V. Ramana Murty** is a retired **1991-batch Indian Defence Accounts Service (IDAS) officer** with **extensive experience in public financial administration**, having served as **Additional Controller General of Defence Accounts** under the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)**.
- **CA P.V. Narayana Rao Appointed Co-opted Member of ICAI's SRSB for 2026-27 Chartered Accountant (CA) P.V. Narayana Rao** was appointed as a **Co-opted Member of the Sustainability Reporting Standards Board (SRSB)** of the **Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)** on **March 23, 2026**, for the term **2026-27**. As a co-opted member, he will contribute to the development and strengthening of sustainability reporting standards in India, with the **ICAI's SRSB** established in **February 2020** to develop **globally aligned sustainability frameworks and reporting standards**.
- **UNIQLO Names Indian Cricketer Jasprit Bumrah as Brand Ambassador in India UNIQLO** appointed **Indian cricketer Jasprit Bumrah** as its **brand ambassador in India** in **March 2026**, marking a strategic collaboration between sports and lifestyle fashion. The partnership aligns with **UNIQLO's LifeWear philosophy**, focusing on simple, high-quality, comfortable, and functional clothing designed for everyday life, with the campaign highlighting the **AIRism collection**, particularly the **AIRism Oversized T-shirt**.
- **Yamaha Music India Appoints AR Rahman as Brand Ambassador A. R. Rahman** was appointed as the **brand ambassador of Yamaha Music India Private Limited** in **March 2026**. **Yamaha Music India** is the Indian subsidiary of **Yamaha Corporation, Japan**, engaged in manufacturing musical instruments and professional audio equipment,

operating a manufacturing facility in **Chennai**, a corporate office in **Gurugram**, and an experience centre in **Bengaluru**.

- **Balendra Shah Becomes Nepal's Youngest Prime Minister at 35 Balendra Shah** (35), leader of **Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP)** and former rapper, was sworn-in as **Nepal's youngest Prime Minister** on **March 27, 2026**, succeeding **Sushila Karki** (Interim PM). His party secured **182 out of 275 seats** in **March 5, 2026 elections**, crossing **138-seat majority** to form first majority government under Nepal's federal framework.
- **Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti Assumes NCBC Chairperson Position** **Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti**, former Union Minister of State (Rural Development, Consumer Affairs), assumed charge as **Chairperson of National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)** in March 2026 with extensive experience in social and community development for weaker sections.
- **Kiran Umesh Mahalle Appointed as NCBC Member Mrs. Kiran Umesh Mahalle**, former Mayor of **Municipal Corporation Amravati**, was appointed as **Member of NCBC** in March 2026, bringing strong governance, women empowerment, and grassroots development experience from her roles in cooperative and social institutions.

AWARDS

- **TIME Women of the Year 2026: Safeena Husain Among 16 Global Leaders**: In March 2026, Safeena Husain, founder of the Non-Profit Organisation Educate Girls, was featured on the TIME Women of the Year 2026 list alongside fellow Indian-origin leaders Reshma Kewalramani and Reshma Saujani, recognized for impactful contributions to education, biotechnology, and social advocacy toward a more equitable world, with the distinguished list including actor and singer Teyana Taylor, actor Lucy Liu, singer-songwriter Brandi Carlile, actor Sheryl Lee Ralph, filmmaker Chloé Zhao, and Olympic gold medallist Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone, to be honoured at Women of the Year Leadership Forum and Gala on 10 March 2026 in Los Angeles, USA.
- **Mangaluru International Airport Wins 2025 Airport Service Quality Award for Best Arrivals**: Mangaluru International Airport won the 2025 Airport Service Quality Award for Best Airport at Arrivals Globally, marking the second consecutive year (2024 and 2025) of recognition, with only six airports worldwide selected in this category, based entirely on real-time passenger feedback under the Airport Service Quality framework evaluating immigration services, baggage delivery, cleanliness, ambience, signage, and overall passenger comfort, with awards presentation scheduled at Airport Experience Summit 2026 in Istanbul from 31 August to 4 September 2026.
- **KV Subramanian Becomes 1st Indian Economist to Win Chicago Alumni Award**: In March 2026, The University of Chicago honoured eminent Indian economist Dr. Krishnamurthy Venkata (K.V.) Subramanian with the Alumni Award for Professional Achievement, becoming the 1st Indian economist to receive this honour since establishment in 1941, joining distinguished recipients including Paul Samuelson, Gary Becker, Claudia Goldin, Carl Sagan, with Subramanian serving as Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) to GoI (2018-2021), later representing India as Executive Director (ED) at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and currently Professor of Finance at Indian School of Business (ISB).
- **Simone Biles Named Laureus Ambassador**: Simone Biles, seven-time Olympic gold medallist and most decorated gymnast in history, was appointed as a Laureus Ambassador, joining global sporting icons alongside athletes such as Neeraj Chopra and Yuvraj Singh, with the Laureus Sport for Good Programme supporting 300+ global projects using sports to fight violence, discrimination, and social inequality while promoting social inclusion, with Biles as four-time Laureus Sportswoman of the Year Award winner, officially starting ambassador role during visit to Milan where she visited Polisportiva Garegnano—a Laureus-supported sports project providing safe and inclusive opportunities for children and young people.
- **India Women's Cricket Team Nominated for 2026 Laureus World Team of the Year Award**: The India women's national cricket team earned its first-ever nomination for the Laureus World Team of the Year Award 2026 following their historic victory at the ICC Women's World Cup 2025, marking the first time a women's cricket team has been nominated in this category, with the team led by Harmanpreet Kaur delivering outstanding performance throughout the tournament including achievement of the highest successful run chase in women's ODI history, defeating Australia in the semi-final, alongside nominations from elite global teams such as England women's national football team, Paris Saint-Germain F.C., and McLaren Formula 1 Team.
- **Bokaro Steel Plant Receives BIS Certification for Four New Steel Grades Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL)**, unit of **Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)**, received **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** certification for **four new steel grades** – **ISC 440 LA, ISC 470 LA, ISC 510 LA, ISC 550 LA** (March 2026), enabling expansion of **High Strength Low Alloy (HSLA) cold-rolled steel** production under **IS 513 (Part 2)**; also produced **1,100 tonnes of 0.5 mm IS 18316 LS Grade Non-Grain Oriented (NGO) Electrical Steel** for first time, used in **electric motors, generators, transformers, hybrid/EV rotors**.

- **Rashmika Mandanna Wins Best Actress at Telangana Gaddar Film Awards Rashmika Mandanna** won **Best Actress** award at **Telangana Gaddar Film Awards** for her performance in Telugu film **"The Girlfriend"** (2025), portraying character **Bhooma Devi** (postgraduate student) exploring themes of **toxic relationships, emotional manipulation, personal self-realization**; film written and directed by **Rahul Ravindran**.
- **Mattel Launches Barbie Dream Team 2026 to Celebrate International Women's Day Mattel** launched **Barbie Dream Team 2026** during **International Women's Day** celebrations as **month-long global campaign** recognizing influential women who created history, creating **one-of-a-kind Barbie dolls** in likeness of selected global female role models including **Smriti Mandhana** (India - first Indian woman cricketer with centuries in Tests, ODIs, T20Is), **Serena Williams** (USA - 23 Grand Slam titles), **Kellie Gerardi** (USA - astronaut), **Regina Sirvent Alvarado** (Mexico - race car driver), **Chloe Kelly** (UK - footballer), **Helene Fischer** (Germany - pop artist), **Zoja Skubis** (Poland - youngest to summit Everest and Manaslu), **Stephanie Gilmore** (Australia - 8 World Surf League titles).
- **Shah Rukh Khan Debuts in Hurun Global Rich List 2026** Bollywood actor and entrepreneur **Shah Rukh Khan** made debut in **Hurun Global Rich List 2026** with estimated net worth of **USD 1.3 billion**, joining celebrity billionaires including **Michael Jordan** (USD 3.6 billion), **Jay-Z** (USD 2.8 billion), **Tiger Woods** (USD 1.9 billion), **Taylor Swift** (USD 1.6 billion), **Rihanna** (USD 1.5 billion); wealth derived from **Red Chillies Entertainment** (co-owned with Gauri Khan), brand endorsements, film distribution rights.
- **Hurun Rich List 2026: India Ranks Third Globally with 308 Billionaires** The **Hurun Rich List 2026** reported India has **308 billionaires**, ranking **3rd globally** after USA and China, adding **57 new billionaires** (27 dropped out = net **24 billionaire increase**); Indian billionaires' total wealth increased **10% year-on-year** to **₹112.6 trillion**; top 3: **Mukesh Ambani** (**₹9.8 trillion**, Chairman Reliance Industries), **Gautam Adani** (**₹7.5 trillion**, Adani Group), **Roshni Nadar Malhotra** (**₹3.2 trillion**, HCL Technologies); healthcare sector produced highest new billionaires (**53**); **Mumbai** largest billionaire hub with **95 billionaires**.
- **Amol Palekar to Receive META Lifetime Achievement Award 2026** Veteran actor and filmmaker **Amol Palekar** to receive **META Lifetime Achievement Award 2026** at **Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards (META)** (21st edition, 19-25 March 2026, New Delhi) recognizing his outstanding contributions to Indian theatre, cinema and storytelling through experimental performance formats in unconventional venues (parks, terraces, canteens, garages), known for **iconic middle-class roles** in Hindi cinema (Chhoti Si Baat, Chitchor, Bhumika, Baaton Baaton Mein, Gol Maal).
- **98th Academy Awards (Oscars 2026) - Best Picture and Major Awards** The **98th Edition of the Academy Awards (Oscars 2026)** was held on **March 15, 2026** at the **Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, Los Angeles, USA**, honoring **the best films released in 2025** across **24 categories**. The film **"One Battle After Another,"** directed by **Paul Thomas Anderson**, emerged as the **biggest winner** with **six Oscars**: **Best Picture, Best Director, Best Supporting Actor (Sean Penn), Best Adapted Screenplay, Best Film Editing, and Best Casting**. The film **"Sinners"** received the **highest nominations (16)**, with **Michael B. Jordan** winning **Best Actor in a Leading Role**, and **Jessie Buckley** becoming the **first Irish actress** to win **Best Actress** for **"Hamnet"**. The **Academy introduced a new category – Achievement in Casting**, with **Cassandra Kulukundis** winning the **inaugural award** for **"One Battle After Another." Priyanka Chopra** presented the **Best International Feature Film award** along with **Spanish actor Javier Bardem**.
- **Jawed Ashraf Conferred France's Legion d'honour - Commandeur Rank** On **March 18, 2026**, **Jawed Ashraf**, **former Ambassador of India to France**, was conferred **France's Legion of Honour (Commandeur rank)** for his contribution to **strengthening the India–France Strategic Partnership**, becoming the **first Indian Ambassador** to receive this honour. The award was presented in **New Delhi** by **French Ambassador Thierry Mathou** in the presence of **National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval**. The **Commander rank** has been conferred on limited Indians including **Jehangir Ratanji Dadabhoy (JRD) Tata, Ratan Tata, Amartya Sen, Pandit Ravi Shankar, Satyajit Ray, Syed Haider (S.H.) Raza**, and **Manna Dey**, with **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** awarded the **Grand Cross (highest level) in July 2023**.
- **N Chandrasekaran Conferred Honorary Knighthood by UK Natarajan Chandrasekaran**, **Chairman of Tata Sons** (the holding company of the **Tata Group**), was conferred the **Honorary Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (KBE)** by the **United Kingdom** government in March 2026 for his contribution to **strengthening India–UK business relations**. The honour was presented by **Lindy Cameron, British High Commissioner to India**, at the **British High Commissioner's residence in New Delhi**, on behalf of **King Charles III**. The **KBE (Civil Division)** is an **honorary knighthood** awarded to **foreign nationals** for **pre-eminent service in business, public life, culture, and international relations**, with previous Indian recipients including **Jamshed Irani (1997), Ravi Shankar (2001), Ratan Tata (2009, later elevated to GBE in 2014), Lakshmi Niwas Mittal (2015)**, and **Sunil Bharti Mittal (2025)**.

- **Kaveh Madani Named 2026 Stockholm Water Prize Laureate Kaveh Madani, Director of the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH)**, was named the **2026 Stockholm Water Prize Laureate** on **March 18, 2026** at a ceremony held at **UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France** during the **2026 World Water Day (March 22) event**. At **age 44**, **Kaveh Madani** became the **youngest recipient** in the **prize's 35-year history**, and the **first UN official** as well as the **first former politician** to receive the award. An **Iranian scientist**, he was honoured for his **contributions to water governance and crisis management**, which **shifted global focus** from **infrastructure-based solutions** to **governance-driven approaches**, highlighting that **weak governance is a key cause of water crises**.
- **RBI Wins 'Initiative of the Year' Award for '.bank.in' Domain Rollout Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** won the **'Initiative of the Year'** award by the **London-based Central Banking** at the **13th annual Central Banking Awards** in March 2026 for its innovative **'.bank.in' domain rollout** initiative designed to **combat rising cyber frauds** in the **digital financial ecosystem**. The domain, launched in **February 2025**, is designed around **exclusivity and stringent control**, with only **RBI-licensed banks** allowed to use it, making **India the world's 1st country** to **mandate a secure and exclusive internet domain** for the **banking system**. **RBI appointed the Institute for Development and Research on Banking Technology (IDRBT)** as the **sole registrar** for the **domain rollout**, with banks mandated to **transition their net banking websites** by **October 31, 2025**.
- **BCCI Naman Awards 2026 - Honours for Outstanding Cricket Performances** The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** presented its **annual Naman Awards 2026** in **New Delhi**, honouring **outstanding performances and contributions** in **Indian cricket for the 2024–25 season**. **Roger Binny** and **Rahul Dravid** were conferred the **highest honour of BCCI: Colonel (Col.) C. K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award**, while **Mithali Raj** received the **Lifetime Achievement Award (Women)**. **Shubman Gill** won the **Polly Umrigar Award for Best International Cricketer (Men)** after scoring **983 runs in Tests and 490 runs in ODIs**, and **Smriti Mandhana** was named **Best International Cricketer (IC) (Women)** for the **fifth time**, scoring **434 runs in Women's ODI World Cup (WWC)** and setting a record with **five ODI centuries in 2025**. **Shafali Verma** won the **Jagmohan Dalmiya Trophy (JDT)** for **Best Woman Cricketer in Senior Domestic One Day (SDOD)** cricket, with **Harshit Rana (Men)** and **N Sree Charani (Women)** receiving **Best International Debut awards**, and **Deepti Sharma** emerging as the **highest wicket-taker in Women's One Day Internationals (WODIs)**.
- **Indian Mountaineer Bhupathiraju Anmish Varma Sets Guinness World Record for Seven Volcanic Summits Bhupathiraju Anmish Varma**, a native of **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**, set a **Guinness World Record (GWR)** in **March 2026** for the **fastest time to climb the Seven Volcanic Summits (in male category)**, completing the challenge in **92 days, 4 hours, and 45 minutes**, breaking previous global benchmarks. He officially started his expedition from **Mount Elbrus (Europe) in Southwest Russia on October 23, 2024**, and concluded at **Mount Sidley, Antarctica** on **January 23, 2025**. The record was **officially recognized on February 6, 2026**, and he received his certificate in **Delhi on March 17, 2026**.
- **Rituparna Sengupta Receives Women Empowerment Award at House of Commons UK Indian actress Rituparna Sengupta**, a **National Film Awardee**, was honored with the **Women Empowerment Award for Arts and Culture** at the **House of Commons (British Parliament) in London, United Kingdom** in **March 2026**. She received the award in recognition of her work in art and culture during an event organised by **GloWomen CiC** (a UK-based registered Community Interest Company) to mark **International Women's Day (March 8)**. She is best known for films like **Rajkahini (2015)**, **Ahaa Re (2019)**, and **Parcel (2020)**, and won the **National Film Award in 'Best Actress' category for her role in Rituparno Ghosh's film Dahan (1998)**.
- **Kalpana Soren Conferred Women Empowerment Trailblazer Award at BRICS CCI WE Summit 2026 Kalpana Soren**, **Member of Legislative Assembly from Gandey, Jharkhand**, was honoured with the **Women Empowerment Trailblazer Award 2026** during the **BRICS CCI WE Annual Women Summit and Felicitation 2026** held in **New Delhi** in **March 2026**. The recognition was given for her contribution to promoting **women-led development and grassroots empowerment**, particularly in rural and tribal areas of **Jharkhand**.
- **Karnataka Grameena Bank Receives National Award for SHG-Bank Linkage 2024-25** The **Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)** conferred the **National Award for Outstanding Performance in Self-Help Groups (SHG)-Bank Linkage 2024-25** to **Karnataka Grameena Bank (KGB)** in **March 2026** for its significant contribution to rural economic empowerment and financial inclusion. **Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, MoRD**, presented the award to **V. M. Rukmini Devi, General Manager (GM) of KGB**, during the **National Conference on Financial Literacy and Capacity Building** and **25th Central Level Coordination Committee (CLCC) meeting held in Hyderabad, Telangana**. **KGB** has extended **₹2,835 crore credit to 80,904 SHGs** aligned with **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)**.

- **Kaveh Madani Named Stockholm Water Prize 2026 Laureate Kaveh Madani, Director of the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health**, was named the **Stockholm Water Prize 2026 Laureate** in **March 2026**, during the **World Water Day (March 22)** event held at the **UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France**. At **44 years of age**, he became the **youngest recipient in the 35-year history** of the **Stockholm Water Prize** and the **first United Nations official and first former politician** to receive the award.
- **Natarajan Chandrasekaran Conferred Honorary Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire Natarajan Chandrasekaran, Chairman of Tata Sons**, was conferred the **Honorary Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire** by the **United Kingdom government** in **March 2026**. The honour was awarded for his contribution to **strengthening India–United Kingdom business relations**, presented by **Lindy Cameron** at the **British High Commissioner's residence in New Delhi** on behalf of **Charles III**.
- **Nandamuri Balakrishna Receives Lifetime Achievement Award at IFFD 2026** Veteran Telugu actor **Nandamuri Balakrishna** was honored with **Lifetime Achievement Award** at **International Film Festival of Delhi 2026** on March 26, recognizing his **50-year contribution** to Indian cinema. The award was presented by **Rekha Gupta** at **Bharat Mandapam**; his film **'Bhagavanth Kesari'** (directed by Anil Ravipudi) won **Best Telugu Film at 71st National Film Awards**, and he received **Padma Bhushan (2025)**.
- **Shabana Azmi Honored with BRICS CCI WE Trailblazer Award** Veteran actress **Shabana Azmi** was honored with **BRICS CCI WE Trailblazer: Living Legend Award** at **6th BRICS Chamber of Commerce Women Empowerment Summit** (March 21-23, 2026) in New Delhi for **"50 Years of Excellence in Indian Cinema"** contributing significantly to Indian film industry and cultural excellence.
- **Meenakshi Lekhi Unveils Mission ShakthiSAT Initiative Meenakshi Lekhi**, former **Union Minister of State for External Affairs** and **Global Chair of Mission ShakthiSAT**, unveiled the initiative at **6th BRICS CCI WE Summit** (March 21-23, 2026) in New Delhi promoting **women's participation in space, science, and advanced technology domains** across BRICS nations.

SUMMITS, EVENTS & CONFERENCE

Category	Event Name	Location & Date	Key Points (Exam Focused)
International Tech Summit	Mobile World Congress (MWC) 2026	Barcelona, Spain (2–5 March)	• World's largest mobile tech event • Theme: *"The IQ Era"* • Focus on AI + advanced connectivity • Organized by GSMA • India represented by Jyotiraditya Scindia • Tejas Networks launched TJ1600-D3 platform
AI / Technology	India AI Impact Summit 2026	India	• Participation: 100+ countries • Guinness Record: 2.5 lakh AI pledges • $200B+ AI investment announced • Boost to responsible AI leadership
Innovation / Industry	GCC 4.0 Summit	Hyderabad, Telangana	• Focus on Global Capability Centers (GCCs) • AI & deep-tech innovation • Partnership: HCLTech + IIT Kanpur • Industry-academia collaboration
Geopolitics	11th Raisina Dialogue 2026	New Delhi (5–7 March)	• India's flagship geo-politics conference • Theme: *"Samskara"* • Inaugurated by Narendra Modi • Chief Guest: Alexander Stubb • Organized by ORF + MEA • 110+ countries participated
Steel / Industry	Bharat Steel Summit 2026	New Delhi (16 April)	• Focus: Green steel & sustainability • Strengthening global steel ecosystem • Industry + policy collaboration

Category	Event Name	Location & Date	Key Points (Exam Focused)
Fisheries / Agriculture	National Cold Water Fisheries Conference	Srinagar / Anantnag (J&K)	• ₹100 crore Aqua Park announced • Model Guidelines for fisheries released • Focus: biodiversity & aquaculture • Awards to farmers & startups
Energy / Power	Bharat Electricity Summit (BES) 2026	New Delhi (19–22 March)	• Theme: *Electrifying Growth* • Carbon Market Portal launched • Next edition: Gandhinagar (2028)
Energy Report	EPS Report (CEA)	New Delhi	• Power capacity: 520 GW → 1121 GW by 2035–36 • Peak demand: 459 GW • Electricity need: 3365 BU
Science / Technology	India International Science Festival (IISF) 2026	Pune	• Organized by DBT • Focus: science innovation & outreach
Technology Day	National Technology Day 2026	New Delhi (11 May)	• 500+ innovations showcased • 3000+ participants
International Academic	JNTCS 2026	IIT Guwahati	• India–Japan collaboration IN • Consortium formed (NER–Japan) • Led by IIT Guwahati & Gifu University
Trade / Business	India–Canada Business Roundtable	New Delhi	• MoU signed (ASSOCHAM + ICCC) • Focus: trade & investment
Women Empowerment	6th BRICS CCI WE Summit	New Delhi (21–23 March)	• Theme: *WISE* • Focus: women in innovation & leadership • Mission ShakthiSAT launched
Global Trade	WTO MC14	Yaoundé, Cameroon (26–29 March)	• 160+ countries participated • India raised food security issues • Chair: Luc Magloire Mbarga Atangana
Upcoming Global Summit	High Seas Summit (UN)	New York (Jan 2027)	• Based on BBNJ Treaty • Focus: ocean protection • Issues: climate change, overfishing
Global Summit Invite	G7 Summit 2026	France (15–17 June)	• India invited as partner nation • Shows global strategic importance

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- **Sapien Labs 'Global Mind Health in 2025' Report**: The American Non-Government Organisation Sapien Labs released its global report titled "Global Mind Health in 2025: Mind Health – The Ability to Navigate Life's Challenges and Function Productively", revealing that India's youth aged 18-34 years ranked 60th out of 84 countries with Mind Health Quotient score of 33, while Indians aged 55+ ranked 49th with significantly higher score of 96, highlighting emotional, social, cognitive, and physical capacity disparities across age groups.
- **Hurun Global Rich List 2026**: The Hurun Research Institute released the 15th edition of the Hurun Global Rich List 2026, ranking USD billionaires based on wealth calculated as of 15 January 2026, covering 4,020 billionaires from 2,914 companies across 73 countries (first time global count crossed 4,000), with Elon Musk (USA) retaining world's richest person at USD 792 billion (up 89%), Mukesh Ambani as India's richest person with ₹9.8 lakh crore, India ranking third globally with 308 billionaires (57 new entrants), and combined Indian billionaire wealth at ₹112 lakh crore.
- **World Obesity Atlas 2026 (Childhood Obesity – 2nd Edition)**: According to the World Obesity Atlas 2026, about 41 million children in India are affected by overweight or obesity, overtaking the United States to become the second highest country globally just behind China, with 14.9 million children (5-9 years) and over 26 million adolescents (10-19 years) overweight or obese, projected to rise to 20 million obese and 56 million overweight or obese children by 2040, driven by low physical activity (74% of adolescents not meeting recommended levels), sugary drinks consumption, poor nutrition, and only 35.5% of school-age children receiving school meals.

- **Brand Finance Banking 500-2026**: According to Brand Finance Banking 500-2026, the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) remained the world's most valuable bank brand for the 10th consecutive year, followed by major Chinese and US banks, while SBI and HDFC Bank represent India globally in the ranking.
- **Hurun Global Rich List 2026 Women Rankings**: Among women billionaires, China dominated self-made category with 75%, while Diane Hendricks (78) of ABC Supply (USA) remained world's richest self-made woman for fourth time with USD 24 billion, Alice Walton (76) of Walmart was richest woman globally with USD 119 billion, and Roshni Nadar Malhotra was India's richest woman and first to enter overall top three.
- **NITI Aayog Releases Fiscal Health Index 2026; Odisha Ranks First NITI Aayog** released **second annual Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2026** evaluating fiscal performance of Indian states for **FY2023-24** (based on **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)** data); **Odisha** secured top rank with **FHI score of 73.1**, followed by **Goa** (54.7) and **Jharkhand** (50.5); **Front-Runner states** include **Gujarat, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, UP, Karnataka**; **Performer states** include **MP, Haryana, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan**; **Aspirational states** (**West Bengal, Kerala, AP, Punjab**) face fiscal deficits of **35-45% GSDP**.
- **Brand Finance Banking 500 Report 2026: ICBC Tops Global Banking Brand Ranking** According to **Brand Finance Banking 500 Report 2026**, combined brand value of world's **top 500 banking brands** reached **~USD 1.8 trillion** (**13% increase** over 2025); **Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC)** ranked **1st globally** for **10th consecutive year** with **USD 90.9 billion brand value** and **AAA+ rating**; India has **19 banks** with combined brand value of **USD 47.8 billion** - **HDFC Bank** (31st globally, **USD 12.4 billion**), **State Bank of India** (56th globally, **USD 8.1 billion**, only Indian bank with **AAA+ rating**).
- **India Submits 7th National Report to Convention on Biological Diversity** India submitted **7th National Report (NR7)** to **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** assessing progress toward **23 National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs)** and **142 indicators** aligned with **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)** (first full assessment since KMGBF adoption December 2022); only **2 out of 23 targets** currently on track; report prepared by **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** with inputs from **33 central ministries**, **Wildlife Institute of India**, **National Biodiversity Authority**; highlights include **forest/tree cover 25.17%** (₹827,357 sq km, increased 1,445.81 sq km 2021-2023), **₹81.5 million tonnes forest carbon stock increase**, but **29.77% land degradation** remains major challenge.
- **SIPRI Report 2025: India Remains World's 2nd Biggest Arms Importer Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)** released **'Trends in International Arms Transfers, 2025'** highlighting India remained **2nd largest global arms importer** (2021-2025) with **8.2% of global imports** after **Ukraine** (9.7%), followed by **Saudi Arabia** (6.8%); India's arms imports declined **~4%** compared to previous period (2016-2020); top exporters: **USA, France, Russia**; India received **24% of France's exports** and **48% of Russia's exports**; global arms transfers increased **~10%** due to geopolitical tensions.
- **India Tops Medal Table at World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026 with 208 Medals India** topped the **medal standings at the World Para Athletics Grand Prix (WPAGP) 2026 – New Delhi leg**, the **second stop of the 13th Grand Prix season**, winning **208 medals (75 gold, 69 silver, and 64 bronze)** at the **three-day event held at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi (Delhi), from March 11–13, 2026**. **Russia finished second with 35 medals** (15 gold, 14 silver, 6 bronze), while **Bosnia & Herzegovina secured third place with 3 medals** (1 gold, 2 silver). The competition featured **more than 90 track and field events** across various classification categories including **100m, 200m, 400m, 800m races**, **long jump, high jump, javelin throw, shot put, discus throw**, **wheelchair racing**, and other **adapted athletics events**, serving as a **key qualifying event** offering **classification and performance opportunities** for the **2026 World Para Athletics Championships** and the **2028 Los Angeles Paralympics**.
- **Mayank Chakraborty Becomes India's 94th Grandmaster Mayank Chakraborty**, a **17-year-old International Master (IM) from Guwahati (Assam)**, created history by becoming **India's 94th Grandmaster (GM)** and the **first-ever Grandmaster from the North East region of India** in March 2026. He achieved this milestone at the **First Hotels Young Talents Tournament** held in **Stockholm, Sweden**, securing his **third and final GM norm** at the **8th GM Tournament** by finishing **first with a score of 7/9 points**, winning **six games, drawing two, and losing one**, finishing **half a point ahead** of **Aksel Bu Kvaloy of Norway** to clinch the title. Along with achieving **three GM norms**, he also crossed the mandatory **2500 rating of the Fédération Internationale des Échecs (FIDE)**, fulfilling all criteria for the **Grandmaster title**.
- **Mercedes' Kimi Antonelli Wins First F1 Chinese Grand Prix 2026** On **March 15, 2026**, **Italy's Andrea Kimi Antonelli**, driving for **Mercedes-AMG Petronas**, won his **first-ever 2026 Chinese Grand Prix (GP)** (also known as **Formula 1 (F1) Heineken Chinese Grand Prix 2026**) held at the **Shanghai International Circuit in Shanghai (China)**, with **George Russell (United Kingdom, UK)** of **Mercedes** finishing second and **Lewis Hamilton (UK)** of **Ferrari** securing third place. The **2026 race marked the 19th running** of the **Chinese GP** and the **19th time** it was **hosted at the Shanghai International Circuit (SIC)**, serving as the **second round of the 2026 Formula One World Championship (F1WC)**, with **Charles Leclerc of Ferrari** finishing fourth and **Oliver Bearman of Haas** securing fifth place (**his best result of the 2026 season**).

- **India Wins Five Medals at World Boxing Futures Cup 2026** **India** finished with a **total of five medals** at the **World Boxing Futures Cup 2026**, securing **one gold, three silver, and one bronze medal** at the tournament held in **Bangkok, Thailand from March 8 to March 15, 2026**. **Chandrika Pujari** led **India's medal tally** by winning the **gold medal in the women's 51kg category**, defeating **Mardonova Nazokat of Uzbekistan by unanimous decision**. **Gunjan** won the **silver medal in the women's 48kg category** after losing the final to an opponent from **United Kingdom by 5–0 decision**, **Joyshree Devi secured the silver medal in the women's 54kg category** losing to **Guadalupe Ruiz of United States** by **4–1**, **Ambekar Meetui** won the **silver medal in the men's 50kg category** after finishing as **runner-up** (losing to **Mykhailo Sydorenko of Ukraine**), and **Radhamani Longjam** won the **bronze medal in the women's 57kg category** after reaching the **semi-finals** where she faced **Yevanhelina Petruk of Ukraine**.
- **Former Pakistan Captain Sarfaraz Ahmed Announces Retirement from International Cricket Sarfaraz Ahmed**, **former Pakistan cricket captain**, announced his **retirement from international cricket** in March 2026, concluding a career that **spanned nearly two decades (2007–2023)**. **Sarfaraz Ahmed** made his **international debut for Pakistan in 2007**, with his **final appearance** in a **Test match against Australia at Perth, Australia in 2023**. During his **international career**, **Sarfaraz Ahmed** played **54 Test matches, 117 One Day Internationals (ODIs), and 61 Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is)**, totaling **232 matches**, and scored **6,164 runs**, including **6 centuries and 35 half-centuries** across formats. He recorded **315 catches and 56 stumpings** across **international formats**. He captained **Pakistan in 100 international matches**, leading the team to **No.1 T20I ranking**, a **record 11 consecutive T20I series wins**, and the **International Cricket Council (ICC) Champions Trophy 2017 title**, after earlier winning the **ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup 2006** as captain.
- **World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Defers Decision on Ban for Government Officials** The **World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)** postponed its **decision on a proposed rule to ban government officials** from **attending major sporting events** until **September 2026**, after the **FIFA World Cup 2026** to be held in the **United States of America, Canada, and Mexico**. The proposed rule seeks to **restrict officials from countries** that fail to **pay financial dues to WADA**. The **Executive Committee** stated that **further discussions and consultations** are required due to the **global and sensitive nature** of the issue, with the decision **ensuring that FIFA World Cup 2026 remains unaffected**, with **no restrictions on attendance** of **political leaders**. The issue is linked to a **funding dispute** with the **United States of America**, which has **withheld around USD 7.3 million since 2023** over concerns regarding the **handling of doping cases**, including those involving **Chinese athletes**.
- **India to Host World Indoor Athletics Championships 2028 in Bhubaneswar** The **World Athletics Council (WAC)** awarded **India** the **hosting rights** for the **22nd edition of the World Indoor Athletics Championships (WIAC 2028)**, to be held at **Kalinga Indoor Athletics Stadium (KIAS)** in **Bhubaneswar (Odisha)** during a meeting held in **Toruń (Poland)**. **India** will host the **WIAC** for the **first time**, becoming the **fourth Asian nation** after **Japan, Qatar, and China**. The **21st edition of WIAC** is being held in **Toruń, Poland from March 20–22, 2026**, while the **23rd edition of WIAC 2030** has been awarded to **Astana, Kazakhstan**. The development aligns with **India's ambitions** to host the **Commonwealth Games (CWG) 2030** and **Olympic Games (OG) 2036**.
- **Global Terrorism Index 2026: Pakistan Most Affected by Terrorism; India Ranked 13th** The **Global Terrorism Index (GTI) 2026**, released by the **Australian think tank Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)** in **March 2026**, indicated a **significant shift in the global security landscape**, with **Pakistan ranked as the country most impacted by terrorism** with an overall score of **8.574**, recording **1,139 deaths and 1,045 terrorist incidents in 2025** (highest fatality levels since 2013). **India ranked 13th** with an overall score of **6.428**, followed by **Afghanistan (11th)** with **6.678**. The report highlighted that **terrorist incidents in 2025 were nearly six times higher than in 2020**, while **terrorism-related deaths declined by 28% to 5,582** and **incidents decreased by 22% to 2,944**, marking the **lowest figures since 2007**.
- **QS World University Rankings 2026: IIT (ISM) Dhanbad and IIM Ahmedabad Topped Among Indian Institutes** The **16th edition of the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026**, released in **March 2026**, showed **Indian Institute of Technology – Indian School of Mines (IIT-ISM) Dhanbad, Jharkhand** ranked **21st globally in Engineering – Mineral and Mining**, and **Indian Institute Of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad, Gujarat**, secured **21st place in both Business and Management Studies and Marketing**, marking India's debut in the **Marketing subject ranking**. **India now has 99 institutions** (up from 79 in 2025) with **599 subject entries**, and India has **doubled its top-50 subject presence since 2024**, achieving **27 positions across 12 institutions**. The **USA leads globally with 228 institutions** and first place in **37 subjects**, while **India became the fourth-largest higher education system by entries**.

- **World Trade Organization Trade Outlook 2026: Global Goods Trade Growth Expected to Ease to 1.9%** The **World Trade Organization (WTO)** released its **'Global Trade Outlook and Statistics – March 2026'** in **March 2026**, projecting **global merchandise trade growth to slow sharply to 1.9% in 2026**, down from **6% in 2025**. The slowdown is attributed to **geopolitical tensions in West Asia, normalization of AI-related demand, and tariff-driven front-loading of shipments**, with **global merchandise trade growth expected to recover to 2.6% in 2027**. **Commercial services trade growth** is expected to decline to **4.8% in 2026** from **3% in 2025**, before rising to **5.1% in 2027**, while **global GDP growth** is forecast to moderate slightly from **9% in 2025** to **2.8% in 2026 and 2027**.
- **Hurun Report 2026: Number of Self-Made Women Billionaires Reaches Record 150 Globally** As per the **Hurun Report 2026** released in **March 2026**, the number of **self-made women billionaires worldwide reached 150**, with **combined wealth rising to $470 billion**. The number has **doubled from 75 in the last decade**, reflecting strong growth in **women-led entrepreneurship globally**, with **total wealth increasing by 52% in the last three years** and **60 new entrants added in 2026**. **China ranked first globally with 78 self-made women billionaires**, accounting for **more than half of the total**, followed by the **United States of America (USA) with 40 billionaires**, with **Diane Hendricks topping the list with wealth of $24 billion**.
- **India's Sports Economy Crosses $2 Billion Mark in 2025: Reaches ₹18,864 Crore India's sports economy crossed the $2 billion mark in 2025**, reaching **₹18,864 crore ($2.13 billion)**, according to the **WPP Media report titled 'Sporting Nation: Building a Legacy'** released in **March 2026**. The sector recorded a **4% year-on-year growth** compared to **₹16,633 crore in 2024**, with **media spending remaining the largest contributor**, accounting for **51% of the total market** in 2025. **Cricket continued to dominate India's sports economy**, contributing **₹16,704 crore (about 89% of the total market)** in 2025.
- **China Becomes India's Third-Largest Export Destination in February 2026 China became India's third-largest export destination in February 2026**, overtaking **Netherlands**, with **India's exports to China increasing by 32.4% to 1.67 billion United States dollars** in **February 2026**. India's overall exports declined slightly by **0.81% year-on-year to 36.61 billion United States dollars** during the month, with the increase driven by **higher shipments in electronics and marine products**.
- **OECD Interim Report: India's FY27 Growth Revised to 6.1%** The **OECD Economic Outlook Interim Report (March 2026)**, titled **'Testing Resilience'**, projected **India's GDP growth at 6.1% for FY27** (down **10 bps** from **6.2%**) citing **global uncertainty**, with projections of **7.6% for FY26** and **6.4% for FY28**. **Global growth outlook** remained **2.9% for 2026** but was lowered to **3% for 2027** from **3.1%**.
- **Prime Minister Modi Tops Global Leader Approval Rankings Prime Minister Narendra Modi** ranked as world's **most popular global leader** in **Morning Consult survey (March 2-8, 2026)** with **68% approval rating** and **26% disapproval**, surpassing **Switzerland's Guy Parmelin (62%)** and **South Korea's Lee Jae-myung (62%)**, while **Donald Trump (39%), Keir Starmer (24%), Friedrich Merz (20%), and Emmanuel Macron (17%)** ranked lower among major global leaders.
- **Nippon India ETF Gold BeES Ranks 6th Globally in Gold ETF Inflows Nippon India ETF Gold BeES** achieved **6th rank globally** among top 15 gold ETFs by fund flows (per **World Gold Council**, Feb 28, 2026) with **USD 1,085.2 million inflows (≈6.6 tonnes)**, holding **36.2 tonnes of gold** as the **only Indian ETF in global top 10** gold fund rankings.

DEFENCE

1. **Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal Inaugurates Three Inland Waterways Projects on NW-2**: On 26 February 2026, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated three major inland waterways infrastructure projects on National Waterway-2 (NW-2) (River Brahmaputra) at Chowkidingee Playground in Dibrugarh, Assam, including Bogibeel Customs & Immigration Complex (modern tourist-cum-cargo terminal integrating customs, immigration, IWAI functions with arrival/departure halls, cargo storage, staff amenities, security systems), Dhubri Customs & Immigration Complex (enhancing regulatory oversight, export-import operations, positioning Dhubri as strategic gateway for IWT and cross-border trade with Bangladesh and Bhutan), and renovated IWAI Heritage Building at Dibrugarh (combining architectural restoration with upgraded operational infrastructure).
2. **IAF's SAC Conducts Joint Maritime Exercise 'Kalari Leap' in Arabian Sea**: In February 2026, the Southern Air Command (SAC) of the Indian Air Force successfully conducted 'Kalari Leap', a joint maritime exercise, across the Lakshadweep and Minicoy archipelago in the Arabian Sea focusing on validating joint operational planning, rapid force projection, and precision execution in complex maritime environments through coordinated operations with Armed Forces Special Operations Division (AFSOD) and Indian Coast Guard (ICG), involving airborne and air-landed insertions, heliborne and amphibious drills, anti-ship strikes, search-and-rescue missions, IAF deployment of AN-32 transport planes, Mi-17V5 helicopters, Su-30MKI fighter jets, and ICG contribution with ships, Gemini boats, and Dornier 228 aircraft.

3. **IAF Conducts Exercise Vayushakti-26 at Pokhran Range with Presidential Participation**: In February 2026, the Indian Air Force successfully conducted 'Exercise Vayushakti-26' at Pokhran Field Firing Range in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, with President Droupadi Murmu attending as Chief Guest accompanied by Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Union Minister Kinjarapur Ram Mohan Naidu (MoCA), and other eminent dignitaries, featuring for the first time a defined operational storyline creating simulated live combat theatre seamlessly combining offensive air strikes, air defence operations, special forces missions, and humanitarian assistance, with over 130 aircraft participation (Rafale, Su-30 MKI, Mirage-2000, MiG-29, Jaguar, Hawk, Mi-17, C-130J, C-295, C-17, ALH Dhruv, LCH Prachand) in day-and-night operations demonstrating IAF's multi-domain integrated force capability.
4. **Ministry of Defence Signs ₹5,083 Crore Contracts for ALH Mk-III and VL-Shtil Missiles**: In March 2026, the Ministry of Defence signed defence procurement contracts worth ₹5,083 crore in presence of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh, including ₹2,901 crore contract with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for acquisition of six Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) Mk-III (Maritime Role) with operational role equipment, engineering support package, and performance-based logistics support for Indian Coast Guard (ICG), and ₹2,182 crore contract with JSC Rosoboronexport (Russian Federation) for Surface-to-Air Vertical Launch (VL) – Shtil missiles with associated missile holding frames for Indian Navy (IN).
5. **Indian Navy Signs Contract with Shoft Shipyard for Four Self-Propelled Fuel Barges**: In March 2026, the Indian Navy signed a contract with M/s Shoft Shipyard Private Limited, Thane, Maharashtra, for construction of four 500-tonne Self-Propelled Fuel Barges constructed according to Indian Register of Shipping (IRS) classification rules to support naval logistics operations by supplying fuel to Indian Naval Ships (INS) and submarines in harbours and anchorage areas, supporting the Government of India's initiatives like 'Make in India' and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' for strengthening indigenous defence manufacturing.
6. **DRDO Conducts Flight Trials of VSHORADS Missile System at Chandipur**: On 27 February 2026, The Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) under the Ministry of Defence successfully conducted three consecutive flight trials of the indigenously developed Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur off the coast of Odisha, with VSHORADS being a man-portable air defence missile system (MANPADS) designed to neutralize low-altitude aerial threats such as fighter aircraft, helicopters, UAVs, and drones, successfully intercepting and destroying targets simulating enemy aircraft under various threat conditions with flight data recorded using advanced telemetry systems, electro-optical tracking systems, and radars.
7. **Indian Navy Commissions INS Anjadip 'Dolphin Hunter' Anti-Submarine Vessel**: On 28 February 2026, the Indian Navy commissioned Indian Naval Ship (INS) Anjadip, the third of eight indigenously built Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC), nicknamed the 'Dolphin Hunter', at Chennai Port, Tamil Nadu, under the commissioning ceremony conducted by Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi (Chief of Naval Staff), built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata with over 80% indigenous content, with specifications of 77 metres length, 1,400 tonnes displacement, powered by high-speed water-jet propulsion system reaching speeds up to 25 knots for rapid response in littoral and shallow-water operations.
8. **Raksha Rajya Mantri Sanjay Seth Inaugurates Restored Chungthang-Lachen Axis and Taram Chu Bridge**: On 3 March 2026, Raksha Rajya Mantri Sanjay Seth inaugurated the restored 28-kilometre Chungthang-Lachen Axis and the 400-foot Bailey Suspension Taram Chu Bridge in North Sikkim, rebuilt by Border Roads Organisation after severe damage from Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (October 2023), Cyclone Remal (June 2024), and cloudbursts (May-June 2025), with restoration clearing 96 landslides, completing 8 km fresh formation cutting, creating multiple diversions to bypass unstable stretches, ensuring all-weather connectivity and supporting the 'Atmanirbhar Sikkim – Viksit Bharat Vision' of Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang.
9. **INS Sudarshini Makes Historic Arrival in Alexandria After Suez Transit**: INS Sudarshini arrived at Alexandria as part of transoceanic expedition Lokayan-26, marking an important milestone in maritime training and diplomacy after transiting through the Suez Canal (193-km strategic maritime gateway), with the traditionally constructed stitched ship using ancient Indian maritime techniques combined with coir rope and natural resins, representing revival of India's ancient maritime craftsmanship, conceptualized from 5th century CE depiction in Ajanta Caves, strengthening India–Egypt cultural and maritime relations.
10. **Operation Sankalp**, launched by the **Indian Navy in 2019**, safeguards **Indian merchant ships** in the **Gulf of Oman and Gulf of Aden** through naval patrols, surveillance aircraft, and special forces to ensure **maritime security**.
11. **Lt Gen Pushpendra Pal Singh** will become **General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Western Command**, succeeding **Lt Gen M. K. Katiyar**. A **Parachute Regiment officer**, he has served in operations including **Pawan, Meghdoot, Rakshak, and Orchid**.

12. **DRDO and Indian Navy Successfully Test Indigenous Air Droppable Container 'ADC-150' Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and **Indian Navy (IN)** successfully conducted **four in-flight release trials** of indigenous **Air Droppable Container (ADC-150)** from **P-8I aircraft** (Boeing P-8I Poseidon) off **Goa coast** (21 February - 1 March 2026) under extreme conditions; **ADC-150** designed to deliver **150 kg payload** for rapid supply of critical materials to naval vessels operating far from coast.
13. **IG Defence Unveils Indigenous Long-Range Strike Drone 'Project KAL' IG Defence** unveiled **Project KAL**, indigenous **long-range strike drone** designed for **deep-strike missions** with **1,000 km range, 3-5 hours endurance**, carrying **high-explosive payload** targeting logistics hubs, radar systems, strategic infrastructure; comparable to **Shahed-class drones**, offering **cost-effective option** for **precision strikes**.
14. **Union Minister Rajnath Singh Releases 'Defence Forces Vision 2047' Roadmap Union Minister Rajnath Singh**, **Ministry of Defence (MoD)**, released **'Defence Forces Vision 2047: A Roadmap for a Future-Ready Indian Military'** (10 March 2026) at **South Block, New Delhi**, prepared by **Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS)**, outlining strategy to transform **Indian Armed Forces** into **modern, integrated, technologically-advanced, multi-domain military** by 2047, emphasizing **jointness among Army, Navy, Air Force**, **advanced technologies (AI, cyber defence)**, and **Aatmanirbharta in defence**.
15. **INS Tarangini Reaches Colombo After Conducting Sea Training for Sri Lanka Navy** The **Indian Navy's sail training ship INS Tarangini** arrived at **Colombo, Sri Lanka** after completing sail training deployment for **3 officers and 26 trainees** from **Sri Lanka Naval and Maritime Academy**, providing intensive training in **sail setting, navigation, watchkeeping**, enhancing **India-Sri Lanka maritime partnership** and **defence collaboration**.
16. **Indian Army Central Command Hosts First Strategic Communication Conclave** The **Indian Army's Central Command** conducted **first-ever Strategic Communication Conclave** in **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh** with **~500 attendees** (senior military officers, diplomats, government communication experts, media professionals), focusing on strategic communication within India's **national security architecture** and discussing **weaponization of narratives** and **conflicts below war threshold** (information warfare, psychological operations).
17. **US Submarine Strikes Iranian Warship IRIS Dena Near Sri Lanka** A **US submarine** torpedoed the Iranian warship **IRIS Dena** off **Sri Lanka coast**, killing **at least 80 sailors**, occurring in **Sri Lanka's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)** while ship was returning from **International Fleet Review and MILAN-2026** naval exercise hosted by India near **Visakhapatnam**, expanding **US-Israel-Iran conflict** into **Indian Ocean region**.
18. **DRDO Sanctions Rs 99.15 Lakh Research Project to Bharathiar University** The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** sanctioned research project **'Development of Novel Antidote(s) for Highly Toxic Organophosphorous Compounds'** with **₹99.15 lakh funding** to **Bharathiar University, Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu)** (March 2026) for **36-month duration**, conducted by **DRDO Industry Academia-Centre of Excellence (DIA-CoE)** under **Dr. N. Jayakumar** (Principal Investigator) and **Dr. S. Suja** (Co-PI).
19. **Freedom Shield Exercise Strengthens Regional Security**: The US-South Korea Freedom Shield military drills include joint operations and training aimed at countering potential threats from North Korea.
20. **Sagar Defence Lays Foundation of World's First Autonomous Maritime Shipbuilding Centre in AP Sagar Defence Engineering Private Limited**, a **defence technology company**, laid the foundation stone for the **world's first Autonomous Maritime Shipbuilding and Systems Centre** at **Juvvaladinne Fishing Harbour, Nellore district, Andhra Pradesh (AP)** on March 18, 2026. The **proposed advanced shipyard** will integrate **robotics and Artificial Intelligence (AI)** into **key production processes**, improving **shipbuilding efficiency, workforce productivity**, and **sustainability**, with integrated facilities including **autonomous shipbuilding units, testing infrastructure, R&D centre, MRO facilities**, and **specialized training hub** employing **smart manufacturing technologies** like **robotic fabrication systems** for **welding, cutting, painting, assembly**, **automated guided vehicles**, and **additive manufacturing (3D printing)** for **rapid production of specialized components**.
21. **Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh Announced ₹100 Crore Integrated Aqua Park Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh** of the **Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (MoFAH&D)** and **Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR)** announced the sanction of **₹100 crore Integrated Aqua Park project** in **Anantnag district, Jammu and Kashmir**, during the **National Conference on Cold Water Fisheries** at **Sher-e-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), Srinagar**. The minister also released **Model Guidelines for the Development of Cold-Water Fisheries (MG-CWF)** to promote **scientific and sustainable development** of the sector with frameworks covering **Scientific Seed Stocking**, **Cage and Pen-Based Aquaculture**, **governance mechanisms**, **biodiversity conservation**, **value-chain development**, and **monitoring systems**, with awards presented to **Best Fisheries Cooperative Societies, Progressive Fish Farmers, KCC beneficiaries**, and **Fisheries Start-ups**.

22. **Indian Navy Advances IOS SAGAR Initiative - Maritime Cooperation India** reaffirmed commitment to **collaborative maritime security** through the **second edition of Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) SAGAR**, commencing in March 2026 with **India's assumption of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) chair in February 2026**. The initiative includes participation from **16 IONS nations**, aligning with the **Government of India's SAGAR vision** (**Security and Growth for All in the Region**) and **MAHASAGAR framework** (**Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security Across the Regions**). The **IOS SAGAR** programme enables **naval personnel from Friendly Foreign Countries** to **train and sail together onboard an Indian Naval Ship**, promoting **practical cooperation, interoperability**, and **shared understanding of maritime operations** through **professional training interactions** at **Indian Naval training establishments in Kochi** and **deployment onboard Indian Naval Ships** with **maritime engagement activities and port visits** for strengthening **professional linkages** and **sharing best practices**.
23. **INS Sudarshini Reaches Valletta, Malta - Lokayan-26 Expedition** The **Indian Naval Sail Training Ship INS Sudarshini** arrived at the **port of Valletta, Malta** as part of its **transoceanic expedition "Lokayan-26"**, highlighting **strong maritime ties between India and Malta** during the ship's **22,000-nautical-mile global voyage**. Before reaching **Malta**, **INS Sudarshini** successfully **transited the Suez Canal** and made a **port call at Alexandria in Egypt**. The ship's visit to **Malta** supports the **MAHASAGAR vision**, promotes **maritime cooperation** and **people-to-people connections**, with the **Commanding Officer** calling on **Rachita Bhandari, High Commissioner of India to Malta**, and community outreach activities including an **"Open Ship" event** for **schoolchildren and Indian diaspora**, before sailing to the **French coast** to participate in the **Escale à Sète Maritime Festival**.
24. **INS Trikand Completes Port Visit to Port Louis, Mauritius** **INS Trikand** concluded its **port call at Port Louis, Mauritius**, participating in the **58th Mauritius National Day Parade on March 12, 2026** with a **marching contingent, naval band**, and **integral helicopter fly-past at Champ de Mars**. **Captain Sachin Kulkarni, Commanding Officer of INS Trikand**, called on **Mr Rampersad Sooroojebally, Commissioner of Police**, and **H.E Mr Anurag Srivastava, High Commissioner of India to Mauritius**, with the ship hosting a **cultural evening** with **Dr Mahend Gungapersad, Minister of Education and Human Resources of Mauritius**, as **Chief Guest**. Over **500 visitors** attended the **open ship event on March 12**, with **professional interactions, cultural engagements, sports fixtures**, and **community outreach** activities strengthening **India–Mauritius bilateral relations**. Training was provided to **Mauritius National Coast Guard personnel** on **harbour and sea watchkeeping, firefighting**, and **damage control**, with the ship undertaking a **Passage Exercise (PASSEX)** and **joint Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) surveillance with CGS Valiant** on departure, aligning with **India's MAHASAGAR vision**.
25. **Keel Laid for Next-Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels at YMPL, Ratnagiri** The **keel laying ceremony** for **Yard 16402 & 16403**, the **second and third ships** of **six Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs)**, was held at **M/s YMPL, Ratnagiri**, with the ceremony presided over by **IG Sudhir Sahni, TM, DDG (M&M)** in the presence of **senior officials from Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** and **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)**. The **Next Generation OPVs** feature **117-meter length**, **crew strength of 11 officers and 110 men**, **range of 5,000 nautical miles**, **maximum speed of 23 knots**, and **state-of-the-art machinery** including **AI-based predictive maintenance, Remote Piloted Drones, Integrated Bridge System (IBS)**, and **Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS)**. The **six OPVs** are being **indigenously designed, developed, and constructed by MDL** under the **Buy (Indian-IDDM) category**, supporting **India's Atmanirbhar Bharat** initiative, with the contract concluded on **December 20, 2023**, marking a **key milestone** in **ICG's efforts** to **enhance operational capabilities** and **bolster coastal security**.
26. **Indian Army Successfully Conducted Exercise 'Amogh Jwala' at Babina** The **Southern Command of Indian Army (IA)** successfully conducted **Exercise 'Amogh Jwala'** from **March 6 to 18, 2026** at the **Babina Field Firing Ranges, Uttar Pradesh (UP)**. The **13-day military exercise** aimed to **validate the IA's preparedness** for **mechanised warfare in multi-domain operational environment**, with the key highlight being the **successful demonstration of deployment of mechanised forces** with **newly inducted Apache attack helicopters, fighter aircraft, drone and counter-drone systems, and network-enabled battlefield platforms**. The drill used **advanced surveillance systems, precision firepower, and real-time communication networks** to enhance **battlefield transparency** and **decision-making**, highlighting the **effective integration of Electronic Warfare (EW), Air Defence (AD), and night-fighting capabilities**, reflecting the **rising combat edge** of a **networked and future-ready force**.
27. **Indian Navy Participates in 'Exercise KAKADU 2026' in Australia** The **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Nilgiri**, a frigate of the **Indian Navy**, participated in the **sea phase of 'Exercise Kakadu 2026'** in **March 2026** in Australia as part of its deployment to the **Western Pacific**, aimed at enhancing maritime cooperation in the **Indo-Pacific region**. The **17th edition of Exercise Kakadu 2026** witnessed participation from **over 19 nations and 6,000 personnel**, covering the area from **Jervis Bay to Darwin, Australia**, with a **Kakadu Fleet Review held in Sydney Harbour on March 21, 2026**, marking the **largest gathering of foreign warships in over a decade** and commemorating the **125th anniversary of the RAN**. The crew of **INS Nilgiri won the Kakadu Shield Trophy** during sporting events held in the harbour phase at **Darwin, Australia**.

28. **Indian Navy to Commission Advanced Stealth Frigate 'Taragiri' (F41)** The **Indian Navy** is set to commission its latest **stealth Frigate, Taragiri (F41)**, on **April 3, 2026** at **Visakhapatnam**, with the ceremony presided over by **Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh**. **Taragiri (F41)** is the **fourth platform of the Project 17A class** and weighs **6,670 tonnes**, built by **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai**, with **indigenous content exceeding 75%** and involvement of over **200 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**. The ship is equipped with a **world-class weapon suite**, including **supersonic Surface-to-Surface Missiles**, **Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missiles**, and **anti-submarine warfare (ASW) suite**, integrated through a **state-of-the-art Combat Management System (CMS)**.
29. **Indian Army Holds 'Amogh Jwala' Exercise at Babina Field Firing Ranges in Uttar Pradesh** The **Indian Army Southern Command** conducted **Exercise 'Amogh Jwala'** at the **Babina Field Firing Ranges, Uttar Pradesh** from **March 6 to 18, 2026**, a **13-day military exercise** aimed at validating the **Indian Army's preparedness for mechanised warfare in a multi-domain operational environment**. The exercise demonstrated **high-tempo mechanised operations** using **Attack Helicopters, Fighter Aircraft, drones, and counter-drone systems**, with key highlights including deployment of **Apache attack helicopters** alongside **network-enabled battlefield platforms**. **Lieutenant General Dhiraj**, Army Commander, praised the troops for **professionalism, operational excellence, and battle readiness**, highlighting the importance of **Tech-Absorption, Jointness, and integration** of land, air, cyber, space, and **ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance) capabilities**.
30. **Ministry of Defence Signs ₹858 Crore Defence Procurement Deals** The **Ministry of Defence** signed two contracts worth **₹858 crore** in New Delhi: (1) **₹445 crore contract** with **JSC Rosoboronexport (Russia)** for **Tunguska Air Defence Missile System** for Indian Army enhancing **multi-layered air defence** against **aircraft, drones, and cruise missiles**; (2) **₹413 crore contract** with **Boeing India Defense** for **P-8I Maritime Reconnaissance Aircraft depot-level inspection** under **'Buy Indian' category (100% indigenous content)**, enabling **in-country MRO facility** reducing foreign dependence.
31. **Operation Urja Suraksha Protects Energy Vessels in Strategic Waters** The Indian Navy deployed **5+ frontline warships** under **'Operation Urja Suraksha'** in March 2026 to escort **22 India-bound energy vessels** including **20 priority ships** carrying **LNG, LPG, and crude oil** through **Strait of Hormuz** strategic chokepoint. Successful escorts completed for **Pine Gas, Jag Vasant, Shivalik, Nanda Devi, and Jag Laadki** strengthening India's energy security infrastructure.
32. **Project 'Vayu Baan' Develops India's First Helicopter-Launched Drone** The **Indian Air Force's Directorate of Aerospace Design (DAD)** launched **'Vayu Baan'** project in March 2026, issuing **Request for Proposal (RFP)** to domestic vendors for autonomous **helicopter-launched UAS** that deploys from **50+ km stand-off distance**, protecting aircrew from **MANPADS** range. India joins **USA and China** as 3rd country with this helicopter-drone capability.
33. **Indian Army-IITM Pravartak Partnership Accelerates Defence Indigenisation** The Indian Army's **Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (EME)** signed MoU with **IITM Pravartak Technologies Foundation** in March 2026 establishing **Nodal Indigenisation Centre (NIC)** at **Avadi, Chennai**, for identifying equipment issues, developing prototypes, and supporting deployment. Partnership focuses on **sensing, Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS), and Autonomous Technologies (AT)** leveraging **Tamil Nadu Defence Corridor (TNDC)**.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

1. **Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh Inaugurates Central Facility for Recombinant Cells and Sensors**: On 1 March 2026 (as part of National Science Day 2026 celebrations on 28 February), Union Minister of State Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated the newly established Central Facility for Recombinant Cells and Sensors at Biotechnology Research and Innovation Centre–Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (BRIC-RGCB), Akkulam campus, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, with advanced biotechnology research facility aiming to strengthen drug discovery, Medical Genomics (MG), and Agri-Genomics (AG) research while accelerating target-specific drug discovery and high-throughput screening, developed with approximate ₹60 crore capital outlay by Department of Biotechnology (DBT).
2. **Union Minister Jitendra Singh Lays Foundation for cGMP Facility at BRIC-RGCB**: Union Minister Jitendra Singh laid the foundation stone for state-of-the-art current Good Manufacturing Practice (cGMP) facility at Akkulam campus of BRIC-RGCB, implemented in two phases with total outlay of ₹80 crore by Department of Biotechnology (DBT) to support pharmaceutical and biomedical manufacturing quality standards and research translation.
3. **Union Minister Jitendra Singh Releases "Quantum Physics: One Hundred Magical Years"**: Union Minister Jitendra Singh released the book titled "Quantum Physics: One Hundred Magical Years" authored by V. P. N. Nampoori, highlighting developments in quantum physics research and history during National Science Day 2026 celebrations.

4. **Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh Launches India's First State Innovation Mission in Tripura**: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Dr. Jitendra Singh of the Ministry of Science and Technology launched India's 1st State Innovation Mission (SIM) at Hapania International Exhibition Center, Agartala, Tripura, describing the Northeast region as the 'New Engine' of India's economic and innovation growth, designed as long-term institutional framework to support States and Union Territories (UTs) in developing inclusive, robust, region-specific innovation ecosystems aligned with national priorities and local capabilities.
5. **Tripura Chief Minister Dr Manik Saha Launches T-NEST**: Tripura Chief Minister Dr Manik Saha launched 'T-NEST (Tripura: Nurturing Entrepreneurship and Startups)', Tripura's 1st premier incubation and innovation hub, supporting entrepreneurs, startups, and innovation-based businesses in the state, with the government also launching one of India's 1st District Innovator Fellowships (DIF) to identify and support grassroots innovators with structured lifecycle mentoring and support systems.
6. **Tripura Government to Introduce State AI Policy**: The Tripura government announced plans to soon introduce a State Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy to promote AI-based development, digital transformation, and technology governance.
7. **Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta Launches 'CM Jan Sunwai Portal' and Mobile App**: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta launched the 'CM Jan Sunwai Portal' and mobile application to strengthen public grievance redressal and enhance citizen engagement through technology-driven framework, featuring centralized unified grievance platform covering all government departments, digitized public hearings (Jan Sunwai) with complaint mapping and departmental officer accountability, four submission channels (online portal, mobile app, helpline 1902, offline at CMO), unique reference ID for complaint tracking, SMS updates at every stage, and structured three-tier grievance redressal mechanism (Grievance Redressal Officer, Appellate Authority, Final Appellate Authority).
8. **DRDO Conducts Flight Trials of VSHORADS Missile System**: The Defence Research and Development Organization successfully conducted three consecutive flight trials of the indigenously developed Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur off the coast of Odisha, with VSHORADS being a man-portable air defence missile system (MANPADS) designed to neutralize low-altitude aerial threats such as fighter aircraft, helicopters, UAVs, and drones, successfully intercepting and destroying targets simulating enemy aircraft under various threat conditions with flight data recorded using telemetry systems, electro-optical tracking systems, and radars.
9. **Indian Navy Commissions INS Anjadip Anti-Submarine Vessel**: On 28 February 2026, the Indian Navy commissioned Indian Naval Ship (INS) Anjadip, the third of eight indigenously built Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC), nicknamed the 'Dolphin Hunter', at Chennai Port, Tamil Nadu, under commissioning ceremony conducted by Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi (Chief of Naval Staff), built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata with over 80% indigenous content.
10. **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology Launches 30 kW WBG-Based Integrated Drive System for EVs**: In March 2026, S. Krishnan, Secretary of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), launched an indigenously developed 30 kilowatts (kW) Wide Band Gap (WBG)-based Integrated Drive System (IDS) for electric vehicle (EV) applications at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, aiming to reduce import dependency on EV powertrain systems, lower system costs through localization, and support scalable manufacturing under Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, with the system integrating electric motor and inverter into compact, high power-density unit based on Interior Permanent Magnet Synchronous Motor (IPMSM) architecture utilizing Silicon Carbide (SiC) Metal-Oxide-Semiconductor Field-Effect Transistor (MOSFET) power modules.
11. **Maharashtra Launches Saksham Skill Census, India's First AI-Powered Skill Survey**: In March 2026, Ashish Shelar, Minister of Information Technology & Cultural Affairs, Government of Maharashtra, formally launched 'Saksham Skill Census', India's first-of-its-kind Artificial Intelligence-powered skill census, at RD National College, Bandra West in Mumbai, Maharashtra, aiming to evaluate skills of youth aged 18-40 years to improve employability, with survey conducted by Sapio Analytics covering 55,000 houses in H-West ward of Mumbai using advanced AI technology and Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping with hyperlocal skill mapping dividing areas into regions, AI-based door-to-door surveys studying educational qualification, skill interest, and necessary training for employment.
12. **IBM Launches Sangam Infrastructure Innovation Center in Bengaluru**: In March 2026, International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) launched its first Sangam Infrastructure Innovation Center at India Systems Development Lab (ISDL) campus in Bengaluru, Karnataka, aiming to strengthen India's position as global hub for advanced infrastructure engineering and Artificial Intelligence (AI) development, with centre designed to accelerate development and deployment of enterprise-grade AI systems by integrating infrastructure technologies, hybrid cloud capabilities, and AI solutions under one platform, functioning as collaborative engineering hub bringing together IBM's systems architects and infrastructure specialists from ISDL to co-create AI solutions with wide ecosystem of partners.

13. **Ministry of Culture Launches Upgraded Version of Indian Culture Portal in New Delhi**: In March 2026, Vivek Aggarwal, Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, launched Version 2.0 of the Indian Culture Portal (ICP) at Kartavya Bhawan in New Delhi, Delhi, serving as national digital platform providing easy access to India's vast cultural heritage for scholars, researchers, and general public, with upgraded portal featuring modern architecture with React-based frontend and Drupal backend improving speed, scalability, and performance, including AI-powered chatbot Bharti integrated with Bhashini platform to support responses in 22 Indian languages, functioning as Progressive Web App (PWA) enabling seamless access across devices, providing immersive experiences such as 3D walkthroughs and 360-degree virtual tours of heritage monuments, and 46 curated cultural categories.
14. **Scientists Discover Two New Earthworm Species in Silent Valley National Park, Kerala**: In March 2026, researchers discovered two new species of moniligastrid earthworms—'Moniligaster girishi' and 'Drawida reynoldsi'—in Silent Valley National Park located in Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (NBR) of Western Ghats, Kerala, with findings published in peer-reviewed scientific journal Zootaxa, increasing total number of recognized moniligastrid earthworm species in India to 95, of which 70 species found in Western Ghats, with Moniligaster girishi collected from tropical wet evergreen forest near Chembotti belonging to gravelyi species-group distinguished by unique single undivided spermathecal atrial gland, and Drawida reynoldsi collected from montane grasslands belonging to robusta species-group characterized by sausage-like prostatic capsule.
15. **New Genus and Species of Blind Miniature Fish Discovered in Assam**: In March 2026, a group of international researchers from Germany, India, and Switzerland discovered a new genus and species of blind, aquifer-dwelling (phreatobitic) fish named 'Gitchak nakan', living in hand-dug well in Assam village, with discovery published in Nature Portfolio journal Scientific Reports, marking 1st record of aquifer-dwelling fish species from North-East (NE) India and eastern Himalayan region, with name derived from Garo language describing physical appearance ('Gitchak' meaning red, 'na-tok' and 'kana' referring to absence of eyes), miniature fish growing maximum 2 centimetres with translucent body, lacking any skin pigment giving striking bright red color, and most unusual feature being complete absence of skull roof with brain covered only by skin rather than bone.
16. **Scientists Find Evidence of Earth's Earliest Animals in 541-Million-Year-Old Rocks**: Scientists discovered evidence of Earth's earliest animals in Precambrian rocks more than 541 million years old, pushing back timeline of complex life evolution on Earth, with study suggesting soft-bodied sea sponges among first animals in Earth's oceans existing before Cambrian explosion, with research conducted by scientists from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences detecting chemical fossils called steranes (molecular biomarkers derived from sterols), with 30-carbon steranes strongly associated with demosponges (modern sea sponges), scientific evidence showing early animals surviving in low-oxygen ancient ocean environments.
17. **ISRO and ESA Sign Agreement to Strengthen Cooperation in Earth Observation Missions Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** and **European Space Agency (ESA)** virtually signed agreement **"ESA–ISRO Arrangement concerning Joint Calibration and Validation Activities and Scientific Studies for Earth Observation Missions"** (March 2026), signed by **M. Ganesh Pillai** (**ISRO Scientific Secretary**) and **Simonetta Cheli** (**ESA Director of Earth Observation Programmes**); partnership began **1978**, renewed **2002**, expanded to **Earth observation, navigation systems, ground station support, human spaceflight, Chandrayaan and Aditya missions, deep-space communications**; specifically supports **FLEX mission** (Fluorescence Explorer - ESA Earth Explorer satellite measuring **chlorophyll fluorescence** for global vegetation health monitoring).
18. **AquaAirX Unveils India's First Amphibious Surveillance Drone 'AVATAAR' AquaAirX Autonomous Systems**, deep-tech startup, introduced **'AVATAAR (Amphibious Vehicle for Autonomous Tactical Aerial & Aquatic Reconnaissance)'** (March 2026), India's **first amphibious drone** operating in **air and underwater** for **Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR)** missions in maritime and coastal environments; **dual-domain operation** transitioning between air and underwater within **seconds**; equipped with **imaging sonar, Doppler Velocity Logger (DVL), acoustic communication modem, LED lights, cameras, Ultra-Short Baseline (USBL) navigation system**; features **AI-assisted navigation** and **mission control software**; achieved **Technology Readiness Level 6 (TRL-6)** indicating functional prototype tested in operational environments.
19. **IBM Opens Sangam Artificial Intelligence & Infrastructure Innovation Centre in Bengaluru International Business Machines Corporation (IBM)** launched **Sangam Infrastructure Innovation Center** at **India Systems Development Lab (ISDL) campus, Bengaluru, Karnataka** (March 2026), strengthening India's position as **global hub** for **advanced infrastructure engineering** and **AI development**; functions as **collaborative engineering hub** bringing together **IBM system architects, ISDL infrastructure specialists, Clients, Independent Software Vendors (ISVs), Global System Integrators (GSIs), Global Capability Centers (GCCs)**, creating **secure, scalable, responsible enterprise AI solutions** through **hybrid cloud infrastructure integration**.

20. **United States Successfully Tests Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missile United States Air Force Global Strike Command** conducted successful test launch of **LGM-30G Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM)** from **Vandenberg Space Force Base, California** (designated **GT-255/Glory Trip 255**), part of **long-term reliability testing programme** with **300+ similar tests** over decades; **unarmed missile** equipped with **two test reentry vehicles** traveled **~4,200 miles** before striking target zone near **Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands**; **Minuteman III** component of **US nuclear triad** (land-based missiles, submarine-launched missiles, strategic bombers), deployed **1970**, operational range **~6,000 miles**, travel speed exceeding **Mach 23**; **~400 Minuteman III missiles** remain on alert in **Montana, North Dakota, Wyoming**.
21. **Researchers Develop Sunlight-Driven Method to Turn Plastic Waste into Acetic Acid** Researchers at **University of Waterloo, Canada**, developed innovative method to convert **plastic waste into acetic acid** (vinegar's main component) using **sunlight** without extreme heat or toxic chemicals; **photocatalysis system** uses **sunlight as primary energy source** transforming **plastic polymers** at **room temperature**; tested on **polyethylene (PE), polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polypropylene (PP), polyvinyl chloride (PVC)**, successfully producing **acetic acid** with **PVC** showing highest yield; global **acetic acid production** exceeds **17 million tonnes annually**, primarily using **fossil fuels** (natural gas, coal).
22. **Union Minister Jitendra Singh Reviews Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion Plant in Lakshadweep Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Dr. Jitendra Singh, Ministry of Science & Technology**, reviewed progress of **India's first Integrated Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) plant** at **Kavaratti, Lakshadweep** (March 2026); examined **seawater intake system, deep-sea cold-water pipeline, turbine-generator unit, desalination modules**; **OTEC technology** utilizes **temperature difference between warm surface seawater and cold deep seawater** generating **electricity and potable water**; project implemented by **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)** and **National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai**; also reviewed **Low Temperature Thermal Desalination (LTTD) plants** across **8 Lakshadweep islands** converting seawater to **drinking water** using **deep-sea water** from **350-400 metres depth**; **OTEC plant** with **8 km high-density polyethylene pipeline** drawing **cold seawater from >1,000 metres depth** expected **100 cubic metres/day desalination capacity** operating independent of **diesel-based electricity**.
23. **Indian Institute of Science Partners with Pratiksha Trust for Brain Co-Processor Moonshot Project Indian Institute of Science (IISc)** launched **Moonshot Project on Brain Co-Processors** funded by **Pratiksha Trust** (founded by **Senapathy 'Kris' Gopalakrishnan** and **Sudha Gopalakrishnan**), developing **advanced technologies** to **enhance or restore brain function**; integrates **neuromorphic hardware and AI algorithms** creating **implantable and non-invasive brain co-processors** decoding **neural signals**, processing via **AI**, sending **feedback to brain**; builds on **IISc's Brain, Computation and Data Science initiative** (20+ faculty members), focusing on **cognitive rehabilitation of stroke survivors**; **first phase** develops **non-invasive neural co-processor** for **sensorimotor feedback in stroke survivors**; **second phase** focuses on **embedded, minimally invasive co-processor** restoring **sensorimotor coordination** in **chronic middle cerebral artery (MCA) stroke** patients.
24. **SEBI Forms High-Level Panel to Develop Technology Roadmap for Securities Market Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** set up **high-level expert working group** (chaired by **Dr D B Phatak**, **Professor Emeritus, IIT Bombay**) to prepare **short-term and long-term technology roadmaps** for India's **securities market ecosystem**; SEBI developed internal tools: **"SEBI Sudarshan"** (real-time surveillance system monitoring **unauthorized digital market activity**) and **"SEBI R(AI)DAR"** (AI-based system reviewing **securities market advertisements**); strengthening supervisory frameworks for **Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs)** (stock exchanges, clearing corporations, depositories) with **external independent performance evaluations**.
25. **Forest Survey of India Halts Fortnightly Deforestation Alerts via AI-Based Anavaran Portal Forest Survey of India (FSI)**, under **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**, halted issuing **fortnightly deforestation alerts** through **AI-based Anavaran portal** (operational January 2024); **Anavaran-Deforestation Alert System** provided **near-real-time alerts** on **forest cover loss** using **satellite imagery** and **machine learning**, utilizing **Google Earth Engine** (data processing), **Sentinel-2 optical imagery** (forest cover detection), **Sentinel-1 Synthetic Aperture Radar data** (cloudy/monsoon monitoring); between **January 2024 - October 2025**, issued **12,351 deforestation alerts** (averaging **561/month**, higher **November-March**); states with highest alerts: **Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Uttarakhand, Assam, Tripura**; **Anavaran** functioned as **pilot project** with effectiveness currently under review.
26. • **ISRO Conducts Successful CE20 Cryogenic Engine Hot Test**: ISRO completed a 165-second sea-level hot test of the CE20 engine powering the LVM3 rocket, enhancing payload capacity for future missions.

27. **ISRO Successfully Conducts Sea Level Hot Test of Cryogenic Engine CE20** The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** successfully conducted a **165-second sea level hot test** of the **Cryogenic Engine (CE20)** at **22 tonne thrust** using a **Nozzle Protection System (NPS)** and **multi-element igniter** at the **ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu (TN)**. The test supports the development of the **uprated Cryogenic Stage (C32)** for **future missions of the Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3)**, enhancing the **vehicle's payload capability** for **upcoming space missions**. Operating the **CE20 at 22-tonne thrust** will **enhance the payload capability of the LVM3**, while **earlier sea-level hot tests** were conducted at **19-tonne thrust**. Sea-level testing is challenging due to the **high area-ratio nozzle** with an **exit pressure of around 50 millibar (mbar)**, which can cause **flow separation** leading to **vibrations, thermal stress**, and **possible mechanical damage**. The **NPS** was used to **control flow separation effects** and ensure **safe sea-level testing**, with the **tested CE20** completing a **record 20 hot tests**, enabling **qualification of multiple technologies** using a **single engine**.
28. **Gujarat Achieves Historic Space Milestone - First Sounding Rocket Launch Gujarat** achieved a **major milestone** in the **space sector** with the **successful launch of its first sounding rocket** at **Bavaliyari village near Dholera** on **March 15, 2026**, developed by **Ahmedabad-based Omspace Rocket and Exploration Private Limited (OSRE)**. The **single-stage sub-orbital rocket** was **launched from a temporary facility** and **successfully reached an altitude of nearly 3 kilometres (km)**. The rocket carried a **mini-satellite for weather data collection** and was built using **carbon fibre and advanced composites** under the **Make in India initiative**. The launch was conducted with **approval from Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe)** and supported by the **Gujarat Spacetech Policy 2025–2030**, marking **a historic milestone in Gujarat's space research sector**.
29. **Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati Develops MXene-Based Material** Researchers at **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati** developed a **MXene-based material** capable of both **hydrogen fuel production and seawater desalination**, addressing **clean energy generation and safe drinking water** challenges. The innovation is based on **MXenes**, a class of **two-dimensional materials** known for **high electrical conductivity**, enhanced through **ultra-thin ribbon-like structures** and **ruthenium atom addition**. For **hydrogen production**, the material achieved a **very low hydrogen evolution reaction overpotential of 12 millivolts**, outperforming **platinum-based catalysts**, supporting **clean and cost-effective hydrogen fuel** production. For **desalination**, a **solar-powered system** employs a **Janus evaporator** (floating device) achieving an **evaporation rate of 3.2 kilograms per square metre per hour**, operated **continuously for five days** without **salt accumulation**, meeting **international drinking water standards**.
30. **Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati Develops Advanced Desalination Technology IIT Guwahati** researchers developed an **advanced material** for **hydrogen production via water electrolysis** and **solar-powered desalination**, published in the journal **"Advanced Functional Materials"**. The material demonstrates **exceptional hydrogen evolution performance** with **ultralow overpotential of 12 mV**, outperforming **platinum-based catalysts**, making it suitable for **transportation, industrial energy systems**, and **decentralized water treatment**.
31. **India Tests Indigenous Floating LiDAR Buoy System India** achieved a **technological milestone** with the **successful testing** of an **indigenously developed Floating LiDAR Buoy System** by the **National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT)** off the coast of **Muttom, Tamil Nadu**. The **Floating LiDAR Buoy System** is an **advanced ocean-based instrument** designed to **measure wind conditions over the sea** using **LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging)**, emitting **laser pulses** that interact with **airborne particles** to determine **wind speed, direction, and atmospheric variations** at different altitudes. Unlike **traditional tools**, the system can **measure wind profiles up to 300 metres** above sea level, providing **comprehensive and accurate real-time data**. The system reduces **dependency on imported technologies**, supporting **India's push for self-reliance** in **scientific innovation**, expected to **enhance weather forecasting accuracy, improve cyclone tracking**, and provide **valuable data for climate change studies**.
32. **Reliance Industries Inks $3 Billion Green Ammonia Supply Deal Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)** signed a **binding long-term Supply and Purchase Agreement (SPA)** with **Samsung C&T Corporation, South Korea** for **green ammonia supply** over a **15-year period** starting from **second half of FY2028-29**, valued at **over USD 3 billion**. The agreement marks the **first in a series of global offtake agreements** supporting **RIL's clean energy expansion**, aligned with the **National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM)** to build a **competitive clean-energy platform** and achieve **net-zero emissions by 2035**.
33. **Shipping Corporation of India Inks Deal with Mazagon Dock for Green Vessel Shipping Corporation of India Limited (SCI)** signed a **shipbuilding contract** with **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)** to build a **green methanol dual-fuel vessel** in March 2026, marking the **first alternative-fuel vessel in SCI's fleet** and **India's first methanol dual-fuel Platform Supply Vessel (PSV)**. The **PSV (3,000 Deadweight Tonnage - DWT)** is equipped with **methanol dual-fuel technology**, enabling operation on **conventional marine fuel and green methanol** to reduce **emissions**, aligning with the **National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM)** and supporting **Government of India's net-zero and green shipping goals**.

34. **ICAR–Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute Initiates Deep-Sea Survey** The **ICAR–Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)** launched a **deep-sea expedition** in the **Arabian Sea** to study **seamount fisheries**, focusing on **cephalopods such as squid, cuttlefish, and octopus**, aiming to study their **diversity, ecology, distribution, and biology**. The expedition is **funded by the Ministry of Earth Sciences** with a **total cost of ₹4.986 crore for a two-year duration**, developing **AI-based tools** for **automated species identification**, implemented under **Vertical-3 of the Deep Ocean Mission**, in collaboration with the **National Institute of Technology (NIT), Surathkal**. The research aims to **generate insights for conservation strategies** and **sustainable management** of **seamount-associated fishery resources**.
35. **Reliance Announces Green Ammonia Supply Deal - USD 3 Billion Reliance Industries** signed a **long-term supply agreement** with **Samsung C&T** for **green ammonia** over **15 years** starting **FY2028-29**, valued at **USD 3+ billion**, aligning with the **National Green Hydrogen Mission** to achieve **net-zero emissions by 2035**.
36. **Netflix Launches Eyeline Studios in Hyderabad Netflix** launched **Eyeline Studios**, its **global production and innovation studio**, in **Hyderabad**, strengthening **India's Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comics (AVGC)** ecosystem. The **Hyderabad studio** functions as part of **Eyeline Studios' global network**, which includes centres in **Los Angeles, Vancouver, Seoul**, and **London**, aiming to **strengthen India's role** in **global production pipelines**, promote **technology adoption**, and support **talent development**.
37. **ISRO Expands Student Involvement in Space Missions** The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** is **expanding student participation** in **space missions**, allowing students to **design satellites and develop payloads** under **mentorship programs**. The **Student Satellite Programme**, led by **U R Rao Satellite Centre**, provides **technical mentorship** from **ISRO scientists** to **universities** for **satellite development**. The **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe)** has **authorised 17 student satellites and payloads**, with **11 already successfully launched**, and initiatives like **RESPOND Programme** and **Space Technology Minor Course** (approved by **AICTE**) strengthen **space education**. The government allocates **~₹10 crore annually** for **space science outreach** and **student-focused programs**, with **Space Technology Incubation Centres** facilitating **collaborative research** and enabling **development of indigenous space technologies**.
38. **NIOT Tests Indigenous Floating LiDAR Buoy to Enhance Weather Forecasting & Offshore Wind Energy** The **National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT)**, an autonomous body under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**, successfully tested an **indigenously developed Floating Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) Buoy System** off the coast of **Muttom, Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu (TN)** in **March 2026**. The **Floating LiDAR Buoy** is an **ocean-based device** that uses **LiDAR technology** mounted on a floating platform to **measure offshore wind speed and direction** at various heights, providing accurate, continuous data even in deep-sea areas where traditional towers are not feasible. The technology **enhances weather forecasting, cyclone prediction** through improved atmospheric and oceanographic modelling and **supports offshore wind energy** through better modelling, assessment, and optimization of renewable energy generation.
39. **GoI Establishes Rare Earth Magnet Pilot Plant at ARCI Hyderabad, Telangana** The **Government of India (GoI)** established a **pilot plant** for manufacturing **Neodymium-Iron-Boron (Nd-Fe-B) rare earth permanent magnets** at the **International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI)** under the **Department of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Science & Technology (MoS&T)**, in **Hyderabad, Telangana** in **March 2026**. The newly established **pilot-plant** uses an **end-to-end process** which includes **strip-cast alloy production to finished sintered magnets**, enabling the development of a **robust and self-reliant manufacturing system**. These **high-performance magnets** are **essential for electric vehicles (EV), Renewable Energy (RE) systems, and advanced electronics**, and the initiative is expected to **reduce import dependence** while strengthening **India's position in the global rare earth supply chain**.
40. **ZSI Scientists Discover New Cockroach Species 'Neoloboptera peninsularis' in Maharashtra** Scientists from the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** discovered a **new species of cockroach**, named **'Neoloboptera peninsularis'**, in the **agricultural areas of the Deccan Peninsula**, specifically in **Nathachiwadi, Pune (Maharashtra)** in **March 2026**. The discovery was published in the scientific journal **'Records of ZSI'**, and the study used **integrative taxonomy**, combining **morphological analysis, genitalic study, DNA barcoding, and phylogenetic analysis**, marking it as the **first DNA-based cockroach identification in India**. The species is the **third of the genus Neoloboptera** recorded in India, raising the **total cockroach species count to 190**, about **3.8% of global cockroach diversity**, and confirming it as **endemic to India**.
41. **IIT-Kharagpur and PRL Scientists Study Formation of Titanium-Rich Lunar Basalts** Researchers from **IIT-Kharagpur** and **Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad**, conducted a study on the **formation of titanium-rich basalts on the Moon**, published in **Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta** in **March 2026**. **Lunar volcanic rocks** contain unusually high levels of **titanium dioxide (TiO_2)**, with some basalts having up to **18% TiO_2**, compared to less than **2% TiO_2** in **Earth's volcanic rocks**. Researchers simulated **lunar interior conditions** using **high-pressure and high-temperature experiments**, replicating depths of up to **700 km** inside the Moon, with findings expected to aid planning for future lunar missions, including **India's Chandrayaan-4 mission (2028)**.

42. **Agnikul Cosmos Successfully Test Fires World's First Fully 3D-Printed Booster Engine 'Agnite' Agnikul Cosmos Private Limited**, an **end-to-end space transportation company**, successfully conducted a **critical booster engine test** of its rocket engine **'Agnite'** at the **Agnikul Launchpad (ALP-01) in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN)** in **March 2026**. The test marked a **major milestone in India's private space sector**, with **Agnikul successfully testing a full metre-long rocket engine**. The **Agnite engine is fully 3D printed**, reducing **manufacturing time from 7 months to just 7 days**, significantly **lowering costs to one-tenth** and improving production efficiency. The test demonstrated **large-scale 3D printing capability**, positioning **Agnikul as a leader in advanced aerospace manufacturing**.
43. **National Biodiversity Authority Constitutes Expert Committee on Invasive Alien Species** The **National Biodiversity Authority**, a statutory body under the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**, constituted a **multi-disciplinary Expert Committee on Invasive Alien Species** in **March 2026** under the **Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (amended in 2023)**. The committee, formed to address **rising ecological and socio-economic threats** to biodiversity and food security in India, has **Dhananjai Mohan**, former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of **Uttarakhand**, as Chair and **A. Biju Kumar**, Vice Chancellor of **Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies**, as Co-Chair for a **two-year tenure**. The committee will **prepare a consolidated national list of invasive alien species**, **prioritize high-risk species**, and **recommend science-based strategies** for prevention, control, eradication, and ecological restoration.
44. **Central Electricity Authority Releases National Generation Adequacy Plan 2026–27 to 2035–36** The **Central Electricity Authority** under the **Ministry of Power** released the **midterm review of the 20th Electric Power Survey** titled **"National Generation Adequacy Plan (2026–27 to 2035–36)"** during the **Bharat Electricity Summit 2026** held at **Yashobhoomi, New Delhi** in **March 2026**. **India's installed power generation capacity** is projected to **increase from around 520 Gigawatt (as of January 31, 2026) to 1,121 Gigawatt by 2035–36**. **Solar Photovoltaic capacity** is expected to lead the energy mix with **509 Gigawatt capacity (45 percent share) by 2035–36**, followed by **coal-based capacity at 315 Gigawatt (28 percent share)** and **wind power at 155 Gigawatt (14 percent share)**.
45. **Elon Musk Unveils Terafab, Set to Become the Largest Semiconductor Factory Globally Elon Musk** launched the **"Terafab" project** in **March 2026** to manufacture **in-house AI chips** for robotics, artificial intelligence, and space technologies. The project will be set up in **Austin, Texas**, and will be jointly operated by **Tesla and SpaceX**, with involvement from **xAI**. **Terafab** will begin with an **advanced technology fabrication unit**, producing **2-nanometre chips**, with a projected cost of **$20–25 billion**. The facility is expected to support **100–200 GW of computing power annually** and produce **1 million chip wafers per month**, compared to **TSMC's plan to produce 140,000 2-nanometer chip wafers per month by end of 2026**.
46. **New Wild Kiwi Species "Actinidia indica" Discovered in Arunachal Pradesh by BSI** Scientists from the **Botanical Survey of India (BSI)** identified a **new species of wild kiwi** named **"Actinidia indica"** in **Arunachal Pradesh** in **March 2026**. The discovery was recorded near **Ziro Valley, Arunachal Pradesh**, at an **elevation of 1,725 metres**, adding to **India's botanical diversity** and highlighting the **ecological richness of the Eastern Himalayas**. The species grows in a **transition zone between temperate and subtropical forests** with **high biodiversity and favourable climatic conditions**, increasing the **global count of Actinidia species to 56**, with few species found in India.
47. **Desert Moss Syntrichia caninervis Identified as Key for Future Mars Ecosystems Syntrichia caninervis**, a **resilient desert moss**, was identified as a **potential candidate for future Mars colonisation** in **March 2026**, with the study published in **The Innovation** journal. The moss can **survive extreme dehydration, freezing temperatures, and intense radiation**, making it highly adaptable to harsh conditions. It can **lose over 98% of its cellular water** and **enter a dormant state**, resuming **photosynthesis within seconds when exposed to moisture**. Tested in **simulated Martian conditions** with high carbon dioxide, low pressure, and UV radiation, the **moss survived for several days** and regenerated growth, with resilience due to **efficient cellular repair systems** that recover damage lethal to other organisms.
48. **BHASHINI Initiative Enhances Multilingual Digital Governance** The **Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD)** under **MeitY** implemented **BHASHINI (National Language Translation Mission)** supporting **36 Indian languages, 23 voices, and 35 international languages** as **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)**. The AI-driven initiative uses **APIs and AI models** for **real-time translation** and **contextual language processing** with **voice-enabled interfaces** featuring **speech-to-text and text-to-speech technologies**.
49. **Project 'Vayu Baan' Develops Autonomous Helicopter-Launched Drone** The **Indian Air Force's Directorate of Aerospace Design (DAD)** initiated **'Vayu Baan'** project in March 2026 issuing **Request for Proposal (RFP)** to design **small autonomous drone** deployed from **moving helicopter mid-flight** that **unfolds wings and activates propulsion** post-release. The system allows **50+ km stand-off engagement distance**, protecting aircrew from **MANPADS range**, making India **3rd country** after **USA and China** with this capability.

50. **IIT Ropar's ANNAM.AI Deploys 100 AI-Based Weather Stations ANNAM.AI** (Government-supported Centre of Excellence at **IIT Ropar**) launched initiative deploying **100 AI-based weather stations** across **Punjab by March 30, 2026**. The hyperlocal real-time weather data system, provided free to farmers, improves decisions on **sowing, irrigation, and crop protection**, enhancing **farm productivity** and **climate resilience** as **digital public good** supported by **Ministry of Education** with planned expansion to **Haryana, UP, Kerala, Odisha, Bihar, J&K, HP, Maharashtra**.
51. **National Commission for Women Partners with Truecaller for Digital Safety** The **National Commission for Women (NCW)** collaborated with **Truecaller** launching **"TrueCyberSakhi: A Digital Safety Toolkit, Created for Her"** initiative at **Sushma Swaraj Bhawan**. The toolkit includes **interactive modules, quizzes, self-assessment tools** educating on **spam, phishing, impersonation, harassment, financial fraud**, and provides **NCW 24×7 helpline** guidance with **Truecaller's Government Directory Service (GDS)** verification improving trust and access to institutional support.
52. **NASA Announces Major Artemis Program Shift Toward Moon Surface Base NASA** scrapped **Lunar Gateway space station** plan in March 2026, announcing **$20 billion lunar surface base** construction under **Artemis Program** with step-by-step approach similar to **Apollo Program**. **NASA Chief Jared Isaacman** unveiled plans for **nuclear-powered Mars mission** with **"Space Reactor 1 Freedom"** spacecraft launching **before 2028** featuring **advanced nuclear electric propulsion** and **Mars helicopters**, targeting **Moon astronaut landing by 2028**.

SPORTS

1. **Jammu & Kashmir Clinches First Ranji Trophy Title 2025-26**: The Jammu and Kashmir cricket team won its first-ever Ranji Trophy title 2025-26 by defeating eight-time champions Karnataka in the final held at KSCA Rajnagar Stadium, Hubballi, Karnataka on 28 February 2026, with J&K clinching championship with commanding 291-run first-innings lead in drawn five-day final, becoming 19th team to win the trophy since debut in 1959-60, with match summary showing J&K posting 584 runs (Shubham Pundir 121) and bowling out Karnataka for 293 (Auqib Nabi 5/54), second-innings centuries from Qamran Iqbal (160*) and Sahil Lotra (101) extending lead to 633 runs, Auqib Nabi named Player of Tournament with 62 wickets, and Abdul Samad J&K's highest scorer with 748 runs at 57 average.
2. **Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya Unveils Logo of Cycling League of India**: In March 2026, Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya unveiled the logo of the Cycling League of India (CLI), the world's first franchise-based road cycling league, featuring eight city or region-based franchises comprising ten cyclists each, with team composition including two international riders bringing global expertise and competitiveness and two junior cyclists nurturing emerging Indian talent, with competitions conducted in three phases leading to grand finale featuring diverse formats including criterium races, team time trials, and mass start events.
3. **Alyssa Healy Retires from All Forms of Cricket**: Former Australia Captain Alyssa Healy retired from all forms of international cricket after memorable final One Day International match in Hobart, scoring stunning 158 runs off 98 balls, leading Australia to 409 for 7 against India who were bowled out for 224, securing 185-run victory, reaching first 50 in 49 balls, second 50 in 30 balls, final 50 in just 16 deliveries, hitting 23 runs in single over against spinner Sree Charani, finishing ODI career with 125 ODIs, 3,619 runs at 83 average, 8 centuries, 19 half-centuries, and outstanding strike rate of 100.69.
4. **Mumbai Cricket Association Names Wankhede Stadium Stand After Ravi Shastri**: The Mumbai Cricket Association approved naming the Level 1 Stand below the Press Box at Wankhede Stadium after former India captain Ravi Shastri, recognizing his contribution as all-rounder, former India captain, head coach, and commentator, celebrating his long-standing association with Mumbai and Indian cricket, with gates also being named after cricket legends—Gate No. 3 after Dilip Sardesai (30 Tests, 179 First-Class matches), Gate No. 5 honoring Diana Edulji (former India women's team captain), and Gate No. 6 named after Eknath Solkar (known for exceptional close-in fielding).
5. **Indian Army Retains Khelo India Winter Games 2026 Team Championship**: The Indian Army successfully defended its team championship title at Khelo India Winter Games 2026, winning total of 23 medals including 9 gold (8 golds in Gulmarg leg), with Himachal Pradesh finishing as runners-up with 14 total medals (6 gold, 7 silver, 1 bronze) and Haryana securing third with 7 total medals (4 gold, 1 silver, 2 bronze), with Khelo India Winter Games 2026 hosted by Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council and managed by Sports Authority of India, featuring mascot Sheen-E-She (Snow Leopard) symbolizing resilience and adaptability, with first leg held in Ladakh (20-26 January).

6. **Sanju Samson Scores Match-Winning Innings in T20 World Cup**: Sanju Samson's match-winning 97-run knock guided India to successfully chase 196 runs against West Indies at Eden Gardens, securing a semifinal berth and scripting the third-highest successful chase in T20 World Cup history, demonstrating exceptional batting performance and crucial contribution to India's tournament advancement.
7. The **first Khelo India Tribal Games 2026** will be held in **Chhattisgarh from March 26 to April 6**, featuring **seven sports** including athletics, hockey, wrestling, and archery to **identify and nurture tribal sporting talent**.
8. **Jasprit Bumrah** reached **500 international wickets** during the **ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 semifinal** against **England**, dismissing **Harry Brook**. Since debuting in **2016**, he has become a cornerstone of **India's bowling attack**.
9. **Lakshya Sen** reached the **semi-finals of the All England Open 2026** after defeating **Li Shi Feng** in straight games at **Utilita Arena Birmingham**, remaining **India's only contender** in the prestigious **BWF Super 1000 tournament**.
10. **India Won ICC Men's T20 World Cup Title 2026 by Defeating New Zealand by 96 Runs** The **India men's national cricket team** won **10th ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026** defeating **New Zealand by 96 runs** in final (8 March 2026) at **Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad (Gujarat)**; India scored **255/5** (highest T20 World Cup final total), with **Sanju Samson** scoring **89 runs** (Player of Series), **Abhishek Sharma 52**, **Ishan Kishan 54**, **Shivam Dube 26**; New Zealand managed **159/all out** in 19 overs with **Jasprit Bumrah taking 4/15** (Player of Match); India won **3rd T20 World Cup title** (previous wins: 2007, 2024) becoming **first team to successfully defend** title; tournament hosted by **BCCI and Sri Lanka Cricket** (7 February - 8 March 2026); prize pool **USD 13.5 million** with India winning **USD 3 million** (₹27.48 crore) and New Zealand **USD 1.6 million**.
11. **BCCI Announces ₹131 Crore Cash Reward for Team India After ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 Victory** The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** announced **₹131 crore cash reward** for **Team India** after winning **ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026**, distributed among **players, coaching staff, support staff, selectors**; **₹6 crore higher** than **₹125 crore reward** after 2024 T20 World Cup victory; combined with **ICC prize money USD 2.34 million** (₹21.5 crore).
12. **George Russell Won Australian Grand Prix 2026 for Mercedes George Russell** of **Mercedes-AMG Petronas Formula One Team** won **2026 Australian Grand Prix** at **Albert Park Circuit, Melbourne** (8 March 2026), marking **F1 2026 season opener** and beginning of **new technical regulation era**; Russell led **1-2 finish** ahead of teammate **Kimi Antonelli** (full-season debut), with **Charles Leclerc** (Ferrari) finishing **3rd**; victory marked **Russell's 6th F1 Grand Prix win** and **Mercedes' 132nd Grand Prix victory** with **61st one-two finish**; **F1 2026 regulations** feature **50:50 power split** between **Internal Combustion Engine (ICE)** and **Electric Power Unit (EPU)**.
13. **Jasprit Bumrah Completes 500 Wickets in International Cricket Indian fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah** completed **500 wickets in international cricket** during **ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 semifinal** against **England** at **Wankhede Stadium** (dismissing **Harry Brook**), taking **234 Test wickets** (52 matches), **149 ODI wickets** (89 matches), **117 T20I wickets** (94 matches); achieved milestone within **decade of international debut** (23 January 2016 vs Australia, Sydney), joining India's leading wicket-takers alongside **Anil Kumble** (953), **Ravichandran Ashwin** (765), **Harbhajan Singh** (707).
14. **India Women's Hockey Team Qualifies for FIH Hockey World Cup 2026 India women's national field hockey team** qualified for **FIH Hockey Women's World Cup 2026** before semifinals, securing dominant **4-1 victory against Wales** in **Pool B match** at **GMC Baloyogi Hockey Stadium, Hyderabad**; **Navneet Kaur** scored hat-trick (29th, 34th, 55th minutes), **Sakshi Rana** scored in **7th minute**; India finished **Pool B top** with superior goal difference.
15. **Lakshya Sen Finishes Runner-up at All England Open 2026 India's badminton star Lakshya Sen** finished **runner-up** at **All-England Open Badminton Championships 2026** (Birmingham, UK), losing to **Taiwan's Lin Chun-Yi** with scores **15-21, 20-22** in closely contested final; Sen's **5th consecutive loss to Lin Chun-Yi** in international competitions; only **two Indian players** won **All-England men's singles title**: **Prakash Padukone** (1980), **Pullela Gopichand** (2001).
16. **Shailesh Kumar Wins Gold in Men's High Jump T63 at World Para Athletics Grand Prix Indian para-athlete Shailesh Kumar** won **gold medal in men's high jump T63** at **World Para Athletics Grand Prix, New Delhi**, jumping **1.84 metres** (personal best **1.91 metres**); reigning **world champion** gradually returning from **left knee injury**, targeting **Asian Para Games** as main season focus.
17. **India and New Zealand Launch Centenary Sports Cooperation Programme 2026** India and New Zealand launched **India-New Zealand Centenary Sports Cooperation Programme 2026** marking **100 years of sporting relations** (beginning 1926 when **Indian Army hockey team toured New Zealand**); high-level meeting in **New Delhi** between **Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya** and **New Zealand sports delegation** (led by **Chris Bishop**, Associate Minister for Sport) identified priority sports: **rugby, rowing, canoeing, sailing, athletics, cycling**; planning **India-New Zealand Sports and Culture Week** celebrations.
18. **India to Host Asia Cup Archery 2027 Second Leg in Delhi After 22 Years New Delhi** is set to host **second leg of Asia Cup Archery 2027**, marking India's **first international archery event in 22 years** (last: **Asian Archery Championships, Delhi, 2005**); decision finalized after **World Archery Asia President Kazi Rajib Uddin Ahmed Chapol** met **Archery Association of India Secretary General Virendra Sachdeva** in **Kolkata, West Bengal**; **Asia Cup Archery 2026**: opening leg in **Bangkok, Thailand** (21-26 March 2026), second leg in **Iraq**, final leg in **China**.

19. **World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026 to be Held in New Delhi (11-13 March) Second World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026 – New Delhi** to be held (**11-13 March 2026**) featuring **~257 athletes from 8 countries** (**India, Russia, Nepal, Bhutan, Hong Kong, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt**); India fielding **~219 athletes**; featuring Indian para-athletes: **Mariyappan Thangavelu, Sumit Antil, Praveen Kumar** (Paralympic gold medallists), **Ajeet Singh, Devendra Singh Gurjar, Ankur Dhama, Simran (T12 sprinter), Preeti Pal** (bronze medals, Paris Paralympics 2024); includes **74 international classification slots** (39 physical impairments, 29 vision impairments, 6 intellectual impairments).
20. **Cycling League of India Unveiled; World's First Professional Franchise-Based Road Cycling League Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya** unveiled official logo of **Cycling League of India**, world's **first professional franchise-based road cycling league** featuring **8 city/region-based franchises** with **10 cyclists per team** (2 international, 2 junior, remaining professional riders), conducting **Criterium races, team time trials, mass start races** across **three stages** culminating in **grand finale**; aims to develop cycling talent, attract international participation, enhance India's global cycling presence.
21. **Chhattisgarh to Host First Edition of Khelo India Tribal Games 2026 Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya** announced **Khelo India Tribal Games 2026** first edition to be hosted by **Chhattisgarh** (26 March - 6 April 2026) across **three cities** (**Raipur, Jagdalpur, Sarguja**), featuring **7 medal sports**: **Athletics, Football, Hockey, Weightlifting, Archery, Swimming, Wrestling**, aimed at promoting sports participation among tribal communities and strengthening grassroots sports infrastructure.
22. **India Tops Medal Table at World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026 with 208 Medals India** topped the **medal standings at the World Para Athletics Grand Prix (WPAGP) 2026 – New Delhi leg**, the **second stop of the 13th Grand Prix season**, winning **208 medals (75 gold, 69 silver, and 64 bronze)** at the **three-day event held at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi (Delhi), from March 11–13, 2026**. **Russia finished second with 35 medals** (15 gold, 14 silver, 6 bronze), while **Bosnia & Herzegovina secured third place with 3 medals** (1 gold, 2 silver). The competition featured **more than 90 track and field events** across various classification categories including **100m, 200m, 400m, 800m races**, **long jump, high jump, javelin throw, shot put, discus throw**, **wheelchair racing**, and other **adapted athletics events**, serving as a **key qualifying event** offering **classification and performance opportunities** for the **2026 World Para Athletics Championships** and the **2028 Los Angeles Paralympics**.
23. **Mayank Chakraborty Becomes India's 94th Grandmaster Mayank Chakraborty**, a **17-year-old International Master (IM) from Guwahati (Assam)**, created history by becoming **India's 94th Grandmaster (GM)** and the **first-ever Grandmaster from the North East region of India** in March 2026. He achieved this milestone at the **First Hotels Young Talents Tournament** held in **Stockholm, Sweden**, securing his **third and final GM norm** at the **8th GM Tournament** by finishing **first with a score of 7/9 points**, winning **six games, drawing two, and losing one**, finishing **half a point ahead** of **Aksel Bu Kvaloy of Norway** to clinch the title. Along with achieving **three GM norms**, he also crossed the mandatory **2500 rating of the Fédération Internationale des Échecs (FIDE)**, fulfilling all criteria for the **Grandmaster title**.
24. **Mercedes' Kimi Antonelli Wins First F1 Chinese Grand Prix 2026** On **March 15, 2026**, **Italy's Andrea Kimi Antonelli**, driving for **Mercedes-AMG Petronas**, won his **first-ever 2026 Chinese Grand Prix (GP)** (also known as **Formula 1 (F1) Heineken Chinese Grand Prix 2026**) held at the **Shanghai International Circuit in Shanghai (China)**, with **George Russell (United Kingdom, UK)** of **Mercedes** finishing second and **Lewis Hamilton (UK)** of **Ferrari** securing third place. The **2026 race marked the 19th running** of the **Chinese GP** and the **19th time** it was **hosted at the Shanghai International Circuit (SIC)**, serving as the **second round of the 2026 Formula One World Championship (F1WC)**, with **Charles Leclerc of Ferrari** finishing fourth and **Oliver Bearman of Haas** securing fifth place (**his best result of the 2026 season**).
25. **India Wins Five Medals at World Boxing Futures Cup 2026 India** finished with a **total of five medals** at the **World Boxing Futures Cup 2026**, securing **one gold, three silver, and one bronze medal** at the tournament held in **Bangkok, Thailand from March 8 to March 15, 2026**. **Chandrika Pujari** led **India's medal tally** by winning the **gold medal in the women's 51kg category**, defeating **Mardonova Nazokat of Uzbekistan by unanimous decision**. **Gunjan** won the **silver medal in the women's 48kg category** after losing the final to an opponent from **United Kingdom by 5–0 decision**, **Joyshree Devi secured the silver medal in the women's 54kg category** losing to **Guadalupe Ruiz of United States** by **4–1**, **Ambekar Meetui** won the **silver medal in the men's 50kg category** after finishing as **runner-up** (losing to **Mykhailo Sydorenko of Ukraine**), and **Radhamani Longjam** won the **bronze medal in the women's 57kg category** after reaching the **semi-finals** where she faced **Yevanhelina Petruk of Ukraine**.

26. **Former Pakistan Captain Sarfaraz Ahmed Announces Retirement from International Cricket Sarfaraz Ahmed**, **former Pakistan cricket captain**, announced his **retirement from international cricket** in March 2026, concluding a career that **spanned nearly two decades (2007–2023)**. **Sarfaraz Ahmed** made his **international debut for Pakistan in 2007**, with his **final appearance** in a **Test match against Australia at Perth, Australia in 2023**. During his **international career**, **Sarfaraz Ahmed** played **54 Test matches, 117 One Day Internationals (ODIs), and 61 Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is)**, totaling **232 matches**, and scored **6,164 runs**, including **6 centuries and 35 half-centuries** across formats. He recorded **315 catches and 56 stumpings** across **international formats**. He captained **Pakistan in 100 international matches**, leading the team to **No.1 T20I ranking**, a **record 11 consecutive T20I series wins**, and the **International Cricket Council (ICC) Champions Trophy 2017 title**, after earlier winning the **ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup 2006** as captain.
27. **World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Defers Decision on Ban for Government Officials** The **World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)** postponed its **decision on a proposed rule to ban government officials** from **attending major sporting events** until **September 2026**, after the **FIFA World Cup 2026** to be held in the **United States of America, Canada, and Mexico**. The proposed rule seeks to **restrict officials from countries** that fail to **pay financial dues to WADA**. The **Executive Committee** stated that **further discussions and consultations** are required due to the **global and sensitive nature** of the issue, with the decision **ensuring that FIFA World Cup 2026 remains unaffected**, with **no restrictions on attendance** of **political leaders**. The issue is linked to a **funding dispute** with the **United States of America**, which has **withheld around USD 7.3 million since 2023** over concerns regarding the **handling of doping cases**, including those involving **Chinese athletes**.
28. **India to Host World Indoor Athletics Championships 2028 in Bhubaneswar** The **World Athletics Council (WAC)** awarded **India** the **hosting rights** for the **22nd edition of the World Indoor Athletics Championships (WIAC 2028)**, to be held at **Kalinga Indoor Athletics Stadium (KIAS)** in **Bhubaneswar (Odisha)** during a meeting held in **Toruń (Poland)**. **India** will host the **WIAC** for the **first time**, becoming the **fourth Asian nation** after **Japan, Qatar, and China**. The **21st edition of WIAC** is being held in **Toruń, Poland from March 20–22, 2026**, while the **23rd edition of WIAC 2030** has been awarded to **Astana, Kazakhstan**. The development aligns with **India's ambitions** to host the **Commonwealth Games (CWG) 2030** and **Olympic Games (OG) 2036**.
29. **Khelo India Tribal Games 2026 Begins in Chhattisgarh from 25 March 2026** The **Khelo India Tribal Games 2026** will be held from **March 25 to April 3, 2026** in **Chhattisgarh**, hosted across **Raipur, Jagdalpur, and Surguja**. The Games will bring together **over 6,000 participants**, including around **2,300 athletes from across the country**, aiming to **promote tribal sporting talent at the national level** and preserve indigenous sports traditions. **Chhattisgarh was selected** as the host state due to its strong tribal cultural connection and the presence of **over 32% tribal population**, with the Games featuring major sports disciplines including **Archery, Athletics, Football, Hockey, Swimming, Weightlifting, and Wrestling**, along with special focus on indigenous sports like **Mallakhamb and Kabaddi**.
30. **LeBron James Becomes National Basketball Association's All-Time Leader in Regular Season Games Played LeBron James** became the **National Basketball Association's all-time leader in regular season games played**, appearing in his **1,612th game** for the **Los Angeles Lakers** against the **Orlando Magic** in **March 2026**. He surpassed the previous record of **1,611 games** held by **Robert Parish since 1997**, achieving this milestone at the age of **41** across **23 seasons**, highlighting **exceptional longevity, durability, and consistency** in professional basketball. The **Los Angeles Lakers secured a 105–104 victory** over the **Orlando Magic**, with **Luke Kennard scoring a buzzer-beating three-pointer**, extending the **Lakers' winning streak to nine games**.
31. **Arundhati Reddy Named International Cricket Council Women's Player of the Month for February 2026 Arundhati Reddy** was named the **International Cricket Council Women's Player of the Month for February 2026** for her outstanding performance in the **Twenty20 International series against Australia**. She emerged as the **leading wicket-taker of the series**, taking **8 wickets in 3 matches** with a **bowling average of 10.87** and an **economy rate of 7.25**, recording a **career-best performance of 4 wickets for 22 runs in Sydney**. This marks her **first International Cricket Council Player of the Month award**.
32. **Sahibzada Farhan Named International Cricket Council Men's Player of the Month for February 2026 Sahibzada Farhan** was named the **International Cricket Council Men's Player of the Month for February 2026** following his outstanding performance in the **International Cricket Council Men's Twenty20 World Cup 2026**. He emerged as the **highest run-scorer of the tournament**, scoring **383 runs in 7 matches** at an **average of 76.60** and a **strike rate of 160.25**, including **2 centuries and 2 half-centuries**. He broke the record for **most runs in a single edition of the ICC Men's Twenty20 World Cup**, surpassing **Virat Kohli**, and became the **first batter to score two centuries in a single edition** of the tournament.

33. **India to Host World Indoor Athletics Championships 2028 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha India secured the hosting rights** for the **World Indoor Athletics Championships 2028**, marking the **first time the country will host this prestigious indoor athletics event**, with the championships to be held at the **Kalinga Indoor Athletics Stadium, Bhubaneswar, Odisha**. The announcement was made by **Sebastian Coe**, **President of World Athletics**, with **India joining Asian countries such as Japan, Qatar, and China** that have previously hosted the championships.
34. **India Wins Two Bronze Medals & Assures Multiple Finals Spots at Asia Cup World Ranking Tournament Stage 1 India won two bronze medals** in team events at the **Asia Cup World Ranking Tournament Stage 1** in **March 2026**. The **Women's Recurve Team comprising Ruma Biswas, Kirti, and Ridhi Phor** defeated **Malaysia 5–1** to win the **bronze medal**, while the **Men's Compound Team comprising Rajat Chauhan, Rishabh Yadav, and Uday Kamboj** secured the **bronze medal** after defeating **Bhutan 234–232**. Indian archers also secured **multiple finals berths**, ensuring strong medal prospects in upcoming matches.
35. **Carolina Marín Retires from Professional Badminton at 32** Spanish Olympic and World Badminton Champion **Carolina María Marín Martín** announced retirement in March 2026 at age **32** after failing to recover from **third serious knee injury**. She held **World Number One ranking for record 66 weeks**, won **Olympic gold (Rio 2016)** becoming **first non-Asian woman** in singles badminton, and achieved **3 World Championships (2014, 2015, 2018)** making her the **first woman** with this feat.
36. **IOC Approves New Female Category Protection Policy for 2028 Olympics** The **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** approved **'Protection of the Female (Women's) Category in Olympic Sport'** policy in March 2026, effective from **LA28 Olympics (July 14-30, 2028)**. The policy requires **SRY-negative testing** for female category eligibility; **SRY-positive athletes** including **XY transgender individuals** are ineligible for female events except **CAIS cases** and certain **DSD cases without testosterone advantage**, implementing **"once-in-a-lifetime sex test"** using **saliva/cheek swab/blood sample**.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

- **Dr Mansukh Mandaviya Releases "Mahatma: A Great Communicator"**: Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, Ministry of Labour & Employment and Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, released the book titled "Mahatma: A Great Communicator" authored by Dr Dhiraj Kakadia, Additional Director General of Akashvani, at Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat, New Delhi, examining the life of Mahatma Gandhi with special emphasis on the impact of his exceptional communication skills during India's freedom struggle, published by Navajivan Trust in Hindi, English, and Gujarati languages.
- **Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan Releases 16 Publications on Tamil Heritage**: Vice President Chandrapuram Ponnusami (C.P.) Radhakrishnan released 16 books published by the Publications Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting at Uparashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, including 14 Tamil titles covering Rameswaram, Ramanujar, Nadukal tradition, Arikaimedu, Bakthi Ilakkiyam, Iyarkai Velanmai, Pazhanthamizhan Isai Karuvigal, Tamizhaga Naattar Deivangal, Pudhiya Ariviyal Thozhilnutpangal, Madurai Meenakshi Amman Temple, Thanjavur Peruvudayar Koil, Manimegalai, Mahavidwan Meenakshi Sundaram Pillai, and Bankim Chandra Chatterjee in English, Hindi, and Tamil.
- **Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh Releases "Quantum Physics: One Hundred Magical Years"**: Union Minister of State Dr Jitendra Singh released the book titled "Quantum Physics: One Hundred Magical Years" authored by V. P. N. Nampoori during the inauguration of the Central Facility for Recombinant Cells and Sensors at BRIC-RGCB, Kerala, as part of National Science Day 2026 celebrations highlighting developments in quantum physics research and history.
- **R. Vairamuthu Honoured with 2025 Jnanpith Award - Third Tamil Writer** Renowned **Tamil poet and lyricist R. Vairamuthu (Vairamuthu Ramasamy)** was selected for the **60th Jnanpith Award** for **2025**, India's **highest literary honour**, becoming the **third Tamil writer** after **P. V. Akilandam (Akilan) in 1975** and **Jayakanthan in 2002**. The **Jnanpith Award**, presented annually by **Bharatiya Jnanpith** (instituted **1961**, first awarded **1965**), carries **cash prize of ₹11 lakh**, a **bronze statue of Vagdevi (Goddess Saraswati)**, and a **citation** for outstanding contribution to **Indian literature in Eighth Schedule languages**.
- **Sahitya Akademi Awards 2025 - Honouring Literary Excellence in 24 Indian Languages** The **Sahitya Akademi**, India's **National Academy of Letters**, announced **Sahitya Akademi Awards 2025**, recognising literary excellence in **24 Indian languages** with **8 poetry books, 6 short stories, 4 novels, 2 essays, 2 memoirs, 1 autobiography, and 1 literary criticism**. Winners include **Navtej Sarna (English)** for **'Crimson Spring'** (novel), **Mamta Kalia (Hindi)** for **'Jeete Jee Allahabad'** (memoir), **Sa Tamilselvan (Tamil)** for **'Thamiz Sirukathaiyin Thadangal'** (literary criticism), **Prasun Bandyopadhyay (Bengali)** for **'Shrestha Kabita'** (poetry), and **Sadhu Bhadreshdas (Sanskrit)** for **'Prasthanacatustaye Brahmaghosah'** (poetry). Each winner receives **₹1 lakh cash prize**, **engraved copper plaque** (originally designed by **Satyajit Ray**), and a **shawl**.

- **William Dalrymple Wins Mark Lynton History Prize 2026 Renowned historian William Dalrymple** awarded the **Mark Lynton History Prize 2026** for his book **'The Golden Road: How Ancient India Transformed the World'**, recognising outstanding historical writing combining **rigorous research with engaging narrative**. The prize carries **USD 10,000 cash** and is presented annually to works demonstrating **scholarly excellence and literary quality**, with the book reframing **global history by placing ancient India** at the centre of **international trade, cultural exchange**, and **intellectual development**, introducing the **"Golden Road" concept** highlighting **India's historical role** in spreading **religion, mathematics, language**, and **cultural practices across Asia and beyond**.
- **Indian Animated Film 'CHYIMI' Wins Best Director Award at New York Short Animation Festival 2026** The **animated short film 'CHYIMI'**, directed by **Partha Sarathi Mahanta** (senior police officer, **Inspector General of Police, Assam**, and **Commissioner of Police, Guwahati**), won the **Best Director Award** at the **New York Short Animation Festival 2026**, highlighting growing global recognition of **Indian and Assamese animation storytelling**.
- **William Dalrymple Wins Mark Lynton History Prize 2026 for 'The Golden Road'** Historian **William Dalrymple** was awarded the **Mark Lynton History Prize 2026** in **March 2026** for his book **"The Golden Road: How Ancient India Transformed the World,"** published by **Bloomsbury India**. The prize, administered by the **Nieman Foundation for Journalism** and **Columbia University School of Journalism**, carries a **cash prize of USD 10,000** and recognizes outstanding historical writing with emphasis on intellectual depth, literary excellence, and clarity of expression. The book draws from **Dalrymple's decades of research** and challenges traditional narratives by placing ancient India at the center of global history.
- **Kailash Satyarthi's 'Karuna: The Power of Compassion' Book Launched 2014 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Kailash Satyarthi's** latest book titled **'Karuna: The Power of Compassion'** was formally launched in **March 2026** by the **Satyarthi Movement for Global Compassion (SMGC)** in association with **Harper Collins India**, in the presence of **Justice Surya Kant**, Chief Justice of India, and **Dr. Kiran Bedi**, former Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry. The book emphasizes **compassion as a transformative, active force** to combat global crises such as inequality and conflict, introducing the concept of **Compassion Quotient (CQ)**, a scientific approach to measure and increase compassion in individuals and organizations.
- **Bengali Writer Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay Selected for Saraswati Samman 2025 Eminent Bengali writer Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay** was selected for the **35th Saraswati Samman (2025)** in **March 2026** for his novel **'Hara Parbati Katha (2020)',** marking a significant recognition for Bengali literature. The **Saraswati Samman**, instituted in **1991** by the **K. K. Birla Foundation**, is one of **India's highest literary honours**, awarded for outstanding works published in the last **10 years in any of the 22 languages** listed in **Schedule VIII of the Constitution**, carrying a **cash prize of ₹15 lakh** along with a citation and plaque.

OBITUARY

Padma Shri Awardee Utsav Charan Das Passes Away:

Renowned Ghoda Nacha (dummy horse dance) artist **Utsav Charan Das** passed away on 26 February 2026 at the age of 80 in Cuttack, Odisha. Born in 1946, he dedicated over six decades to preserving this traditional folk dance. He was honoured with the Padma Shri in 2020 for his contribution to art. Known for his energetic performances and authentic style, he also established a training institution in 1964 and mentored many young artists.

Former Union Minister K.P. Unnikrishnan Dies:

Veteran Congress leader **K.P. Unnikrishnan** passed away in March 2026 at the age of 90 in Kozhikode, Kerala. Born in 1936, he had a long political career spanning over three decades. He began as a journalist with *Mathrubhumi* and later joined the Indian National Congress. He also served in the Public Accounts Committee (1980–82), contributing to financial oversight.

Renowned Sociologist T.K. Oommen Passes Away:

Eminent sociologist and Professor Emeritus at JNU, **T.K. Oommen**, passed away in March 2026 at the age of 88 in Gurugram. A leading figure in Indian sociology, he worked on social justice, identity, and nation-building. He served as President of the International Sociological Association in 1990 and was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 2008. He authored over 20 books and played a key role in developing sociology as an independent discipline in India.

Senior Journalist H.K. Dua Dies:

Veteran journalist and former diplomat **H.K. Dua** passed away in March 2026 at the age of 88 in New Delhi. He had a distinguished career spanning over 40 years, serving as Editor of *Hindustan Times*, *Indian Express*, and *The Tribune*. He was also a Rajya Sabha member (2009–2015) and was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1998.

Vir Chakra Awardee K.G. George Passes Away:
Lance Havildar (Retd.) **K.G. George**, a hero of the 1965 India-Pakistan War, passed away at the age of 95 in March 2026. He was awarded the Vir Chakra for his bravery in maintaining critical communication links during enemy attacks.

Former Union Minister Biren Singh Engti Dies:
Veteran Congress leader **Biren Singh Engti** passed away in March 2026 at the age of 81. A five-time Lok Sabha MP from Assam, he served as Minister of State in the Rajiv Gandhi government and played a key role in regional politics.

Former AIFF Secretary Kushal Das Passes Away:
Former AIFF General Secretary **Kushal Das** died on 18 March 2026 at the age of 66. He played a major role in developing Indian football, including hosting the FIFA U-17 World Cup 2017 and launching the Indian Women's League.

Veteran BJP Leader Datta Meghe Dies:
Senior BJP leader and former MP **Datta Meghe** passed away in March 2026 at the age of 89. He served in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and had a political career spanning over five decades.

Former French PM Lionel Jospin Passes Away:
Former Prime Minister of France **Lionel Jospin** passed away in March 2026 at the age of 88. He is known for introducing the 35-hour work week and major labour reforms in France.

Orangutan Expert Birutė Galdikas Dies:
Renowned primatologist **Birutė Galdikas** passed away at the age of 79. She made significant contributions to the study and conservation of orangutans through her research in Borneo.

Malayalam Actor E.A. Rajendran Passes Away:
Veteran Malayalam actor **E.A. Rajendran** died at the age of 71 after a long illness, leaving a lasting impact on theatre and cinema.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day/Observance	Detailed Key Points
March 1	Zero Discrimination Day	• Observed globally on 1 March • Theme 2026: *People First* • Started by UNAIDS (2013), first observed 2014 • Symbol: Butterfly (freedom & transformation) • Promotes equality, inclusion & human rights • Focus on ending discrimination (gender, religion, disability)
March 1	World Civil Defence Day	• Observed on 1 March • Organized by ICDO • Theme: Environmental risk management • Marks ICDO Constitution (1972) • Focus on disaster preparedness & safety
March 1	World Seagrass Day	• Declared by UNGA (2022) • First observed 2023 • Raises awareness about marine ecosystems • Helps in climate change mitigation • Supports biodiversity conservation
March 1	Civil Accounts Day (India)	• Marks foundation of ICAS (1976) • 2026: 50th observance • Linked to financial reforms in India • Under Ministry of Finance
March 3	World Hearing Day	• Observed on 3 March • Theme: Hearing care for children • Started as Ear Care Day (2007), renamed 2016 • Raises awareness about hearing loss
March 3	World Wildlife Day	• Declared by UNGA (2013) • First observed 2014 • Theme: Medicinal & Aromatic Plants • Promotes wildlife conservation

Date	Day/Observance	Detailed Key Points
March 4	National Security Day	• Observed in India • First in 1972 • Honors police, army & security forces • Focus on national safety awareness
March 4	National Safety Day	• Observed on 4 March • Started in 1972 • Begins Safety Week (4–10 March) • Promotes workplace safety culture
March 4	World Obesity Day	• Started by World Obesity Federation • Theme: 8 Billion Reasons to Act • Focus on global obesity crisis • Promotes healthy lifestyle
March 4	World Engineering Day	• Declared by UNESCO (2019) • First observed 2020 • Theme: Smart Engineering & Innovation • Focus on sustainable development
March 5	Disarmament Awareness Day	• Declared by UNGA (2022) • First observed 2023 • Promotes peace & anti-weapons awareness
March 7	Jan Aushadhi Diwas	• Observed in India • Promotes generic medicines • Linked to PMBJP scheme • Started in 2019
March 8	International Women's Day	• Celebrates women's achievements • First UN observance: 1975 • Theme: Rights, Justice, Action • Focus on gender equality
March 10	Women Judges Day	• Declared by UNGA (2021) • First observed 2022 • Promotes women participation in judiciary
March 10	CISF Raising Day	• Marks CISF establishment (1969) • Under Ministry of Home Affairs • Focus on industrial security
March 11	No Smoking Day	• Observed 2nd Wednesday of March • Started in UK (1984) • Encourages quitting tobacco
March 12	World Kidney Day	• Observed 2nd Thursday of March • Started in 2006 • Theme: Kidney Health for All • Focus on kidney diseases awareness
March 13	World Rotaract Day	• Celebrates Rotaract movement • Started in 1968 • Focus on youth leadership & service
March 13	World Sleep Day	• Observed before spring equinox • Started in 2008 • Promotes sleep health awareness
March 14	Pi Day	• Celebrates value 3.14 • Linked with mathematics

Date	Day/Observance	Detailed Key Points
March 14	International Day of Mathematics	• Declared by UNESCO (2019) • Theme: Mathematics & Hope • Promotes role of maths in development
March 14	Rivers Day	• Started in 1997 (Brazil meeting) • Focus on river conservation & water security
March 15	Consumer Rights Day	• Inspired by John F. Kennedy (1962) • First observed 1983 • Theme: Safe Products • Promotes consumer protection
March 15	Islamophobia Day	• Declared by UNGA (2022) • First observed 2023 • Promotes religious tolerance
March 16	National Vaccination Day	• Marks first polio vaccine (1995) • Promotes immunization awareness • India polio-free (2014)
March 18	Ordnance Factory Day	• Marks first factory (1801, Kolkata) • Related to defence production • Reorganized into DPSUs (2021)
March 18	Global Recycling Day	• Started by BIR (2018) • Theme: Think Opportunity • Promotes recycling & sustainability
March 19	Gudi Padwa / Ugadi	• Regional New Year festivals • Marks beginning of Hindu calendar
March 20	World Oral Health Day	• Started in 2007 • Theme: Happy Mouth = Happy Mind • Focus on oral hygiene
March 20	International Happiness Day	• Declared by UN (2012) • First observed 2013 • Theme: Caring & Sharing
March 20	World Sparrow Day	• Started in 2010 • Focus on bird conservation • Initiative by India
March 21	World Forestry Day	• Declared by UNGA (2012) • Theme: Forests & Economies • Focus on forest conservation
March 21	Poetry Day	• Declared by UNESCO (1999) • Promotes literature & culture
March 21	Down Syndrome Day	• Declared by UN (2011) • Focus on inclusion & awareness
March 22	World Water Day	• First observed 1993 • Theme: Water & Gender • Focus on water crisis
March 23	World Meteorological Day	• Marks WMO formation (1950) • Focus on climate awareness
March 23	Shaheed Diwas	• Honors Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, Sukhdev • Observed in India
March 24	World TB Day	• First observed 1983 • Theme: End TB • Focus on TB awareness

Date	Day/Observance	Detailed Key Points
March 25	Slavery Remembrance Day	• Declared by UNGA (2007) • Focus on human rights awareness
March 27	World Theatre Day	• Started by ITI (1961) • Theme: Culture of Peace
March 28	Earth Hour	• Started by WWF (2007) • Lights off campaign for environment

Miscellaneous News

- **Indian Railways Launches Rail Tech Policy 2026, Rail Tech Portal and e-RCT**: Indian Railways launched Rail Tech Policy 2026, Rail Tech Portal, and e-Railway Claims Tribunal (e-RCT) in New Delhi as part of "52 Reforms in 52 Weeks" initiative announced by Union Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw, aimed at accelerating technology adoption, enhancing safety, and promoting digital governance in railway operations, with Rail Tech Policy 2026 promoting large-scale adoption of advanced technologies with collaboration with startups, industry, and academic institutions focusing on AI-based safety systems including elephant intrusion detection, fire detection in coaches, drone-based rail monitoring, fog obstruction detection, Rail Tech Portal introduced as digital platform for submission and evaluation of innovative proposals ensuring transparent approval process and faster pilot implementation, e-Railway Claims Tribunal (e-RCT) launched to digitize claim settlement processes with online filing, case tracking, faster adjudication improving transparency with plan to digitize 23 benches of Railway Claims Tribunal within 12 months.
- **Government of India Launches First Indigenous Hydrogen Fuel Cell Passenger Vessel**: India achieved historic step in green maritime mobility with launch of its first fully indigenous hydrogen fuel cell passenger vessel, which began commercial operations at Namo Ghat, Varanasi, flagged off by Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, marking breakthrough in India's transition toward clean, sustainable, and self-reliant waterways.
- **Ashmolean Museum Returns 16th-Century Saint Thirumankai Alvar Idol to India**: The Ashmolean Museum returned a 16th-century Saint Thirumankai Alvar idol to India, restoring it to Shri Soundararaja Perumal Temple, reflecting cultural cooperation, ethical restitution, and India's efforts to reclaim heritage artefacts.
- **Montana Unveils First Mahatma Gandhi Bust at Mike Mansfield Center**: Montana unveiled its first Mahatma Gandhi bust at Mike Mansfield Center, gifted by Government of India, highlighting cultural diplomacy, India-US ties, and Gandhi's message of peace and non-violence.
- **Khurda-Balangir Railway Line Nears Completion in Odisha**: The 301-km railway line in Odisha, valued at ₹5,000 crore and pending since pre-Independence, is nearing full completion, connecting five districts with a 4.77-km viaduct that will become India's second-longest after Bogibeel Bridge.
- **Hatti Risala Festival in Jalna Celebrates 138 Years**: The Hatti Risala Festival in Jalna celebrates 138 years, featuring a decorated elephant procession, revdis distribution, and symbolizing cultural heritage, unity, and communal harmony.
- **Nitish Kumar to Resign as Bihar CM for Rajya Sabha Elections**: Nitish Kumar announced his resignation as Bihar Chief Minister to contest Rajya Sabha elections, marking a political transition after ten terms and over two decades in office.
- **Assam Exports GI-Tagged Karbi Anglong Ginger to London**: Assam exported GI-tagged Karbi Anglong Ginger to London for the first time, boosting global demand, farmer income, and promoting Assam's agricultural identity internationally.
- **2,600-Year-Old Sealed Etruscan Tomb Unearthed in Central Italy** Archaeologists in **central Italy** uncovered **sealed Etruscan tomb** dating **~2,600 years ago** at **San Giuliano archaeological site** (70 km northwest of **Rome**), providing rare insights into **ancient civilization predating Rome**; excavation part of **San Giuliano Archaeological Research Project (SGARP)** involving **international universities, Virgil Academy, Italian heritage authorities**; interior featured **4 skeletons on carved stone beds**, suggesting **deliberate positioning in ancient burial ceremonies**; contained **100+ artifacts**: **ceramic vases, iron weapons, bronze ornaments, silver jewelry, hair accessories**, reflecting **Etruscan beliefs** in usefulness of items in **afterlife**; exceptional preservation (sealed **2,000+ years**) unlike many looted **Etruscan tombs**, allowing detailed study of **7th century BCE burial practices**; preliminary examination suggests remains may belong to **two male-female pairs**, requiring further **DNA testing and isotope analysis**; **Etruscan civilization** flourished **8th-6th centuries BCE** primarily in **present-day Tuscany, Umbria, Lazio**, significantly influencing **early Roman religion, architecture, urban planning**.

- **Stenothoe lowryi, Rare Marine Amphipod, Found for First Time in Indian Waters Marine science researchers from Berhampur University** recorded presence of **rare shrimp-like marine amphipod species** in Indian waters for **first time** (March 2026); species identified as **"Stenothoe lowryi"**, previously reported only from **Malaysia** with distribution largely unknown; discovered at **Arjyapalli, Odisha's Ganjam district** during **field survey of rocky coastal habitats**; research led by **Shesdev Patro**, **Assistant Professor, Department of Marine Science, Berhampur University**, under **Mukhyamantri Research Innovation Extramural Programme (MRIEP)** funded by **Odisha State Higher Education Council** (**2024-25**); collected **8 specimens from rocky coastal habitats** at **Arjyapalli**, later confirmed as **"Stenothoe lowryi"**, marking **first recorded occurrence in Indian waters**; findings published in **"Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom"**; species identified by **distinctive large claws, preference for rocky marine environments, ~5 mm length**; **amphipods**, small crustaceans related to **shrimps**, play important role in **marine food web**; earlier discoveries by **Berhampur University** include **Grandidierella geetanjalae** from **Chilika Lagoon** (January 2025), **Parhyale odian** from **Barkul, Chilika Lake** (November 2022).
- **Stenothoe lowryi: Rare Marine Species Discovery in Odisha Berhampur University** researchers discovered **Stenothoe lowryi**, a **rare marine amphipod species**, in Indian waters for the **first time** at **Arjyapalli, Ganjam district, Odisha**; previously found only in **Malaysia**; collected **8 specimens from rocky coastal habitats**; research published in **"Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom"**.
- **Purple Fest 2026 - Celebrating Divyangjan at Rashtrapati Bhavan** A special celebration called **Purple Fest** was organised at **Rashtrapati Bhavan** in **New Delhi** to recognise the **talent, achievements, and aspirations** of **Divyangjan (persons with disabilities)** and promote **inclusion, respect**, and **awareness about their abilities**. Thousands of participants attended the event, with **more than 8,000 Divyangjan** visiting **Amrit Udyan**, which was **opened exclusively** for them during the **day-long celebration**. Participants engaged in **interactive games, learning sessions, awareness stalls, exhibitions** by **organisations working for persons with disabilities**, and **social interaction and entertainment programmes**. **Droupadi Murmu, President of India**, attended the festival at the **Open Air Theatre** in the **President's Estate** and watched **cultural performances** presented by **Divyangjan artists**, including **music, dance**, and **creative acts**. The **President encouraged** persons with disabilities to move forward with **confidence and determination**, assuring them of **continued support** from both the **government and society**. The **Purple Fest** was organised by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** to increase **awareness** about **different types of disabilities**, promote **acceptance and respect**, encourage **equal opportunities**, and build an **inclusive society**.
- **Bokaro Steel Plant Receives BIS Certification for New Steel Grades Bokaro Steel Plant**, a unit of the **Steel Authority of India Limited**, received **certification from the Bureau of Indian Standards** for **four new steel grades – ISC 440 LA, ISC 470 LA, ISC 510 LA, and ISC 550 LA**. The approval enables the plant to **expand production** of **High Strength Low Alloy cold-rolled steel**, strengthening its **range of high-value steel products**. Earlier, **BIS certification** covered **steel grades only up to ISC 410**. With the **latest approval**, the **new grades** are **included under Indian Standard 513 (Part 2)**, ensuring **compliance with national quality standards**. The certification will **improve product credibility** and **expand applications** across sectors including **infrastructure, engineering**, and **manufacturing**. The plant has also produced around **1,100 tonnes** of **0.5 millimetre thick Indian Standard 18316 Low Silicon Grade Non-Grain Oriented Electrical Steel** for the **first time**. This **Non-Grain Oriented electrical steel** is used in **electric motors, generators, transformers**, and **hybrid or electric vehicle rotors**, supporting the **development of energy-efficient technologies**.
- **Supreme Court Allows Withdrawal of Life Support - Harish Rana Passive Euthanasia Case** The **Supreme Court of India** permitted the **withdrawal of artificial life support** in the **Harish Rana passive euthanasia case**, marking an **important development** in the **legal and ethical debate** on **end-of-life decisions in India**. The **judgment** was delivered by a **bench comprising Justice J. B. Pardiwala and Justice K. V. Viswanathan**. The Court directed the **All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi**, to **admit Harish Rana** and provide the **required medical facilities** to carry out the **process of withdrawing artificial life support** following **legal and medical guidelines**. **Harish Rana**, a **31-year-old man**, has been in a **permanent vegetative state since 2013**, after sustaining **severe head injuries** from a **fall at his paying guest accommodation** while studying at **Panjab University**. He suffers from **100% disability and quadriplegia**, requiring **continuous medical support** for **breathing, feeding**, and **daily care**, with doctors indicating **almost no chance of recovery**. The Court observed that **forcing a patient to remain alive** through **prolonged artificial medical intervention**,

when there is **no realistic hope of recovery**, may **violate the principle of human dignity**. The ruling stated that a **person has the right to refuse prolonged artificial life support** when it **contradicts dignity** in life and death. The decision was based on **medical evaluations** by a **primary and secondary medical board**, with **medical boards from AIIMS, New Delhi**, concluding that **Harish Rana had negligible chances of recovery**. The case highlighted the **emotional and financial burden** faced by families, with **Rana's father Ashok Rana** stating that the family had spent **₹24,000 to ₹30,000 per month** on treatment and **life-support care** for more than a decade. **Passive euthanasia** refers to the **withdrawal or withholding of medical treatment** that **artificially prolongs life** when **recovery is impossible**, and in **India** it is permitted under **strict legal safeguards**, including **medical board approval, family consent**, and **judicial oversight**.

- **Lok Sabha Passes Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026** The **Lok Sabha** passed the **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026** in **March 2026**. The Bill **redefines the term "transgender"** by excluding **sexual orientation and self-perceived gender identity** from its scope, aiming to bring **clarity in implementation of welfare schemes**. The amended definition focuses on **traditionally and socially recognised transgender communities**, including **Hijras, Kinnars, Aravanis, Jogtas**, and persons with **intersex variations**. The amendment introduces **graded punishments for offences** against transgender persons, with the **maximum punishment increased from 2 years** (under the 2019 Act) **to 14 years imprisonment**.
- **Supreme Court Rules SC Status Lost After Conversion to Christianity** The **Supreme Court of India** ruled in **March 2026** that **Scheduled Caste (SC) status is limited to persons professing Hinduism, Sikhism, or Buddhism**. The Court clarified that **conversion to Christianity results in immediate loss of SC status**, irrespective of birth background. The ruling **upheld an earlier decision of the Andhra Pradesh High Court**, reinforcing the **constitutional framework** governing **caste-based reservations and protections** under the **Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950**.
- **Pondicherry University Introduces 'Blue Voice' Mobile App to Aid Coastal Fishing Communities Pondicherry University** launched a mobile application named **'Blue Voice'** in **March 2026** to improve **safety and disaster preparedness** among **coastal fishing communities**. The initiative aims to **bridge critical information gaps** by delivering **real-time, location-specific weather updates** in a simplified and accessible format, with a **user-friendly interface** suitable for those with **limited digital literacy**. The app provides **precise, real-time weather data** tailored to specific coastal locations, helping fishers **anticipate sudden climatic changes** with **timely alerts on storms, wind patterns, and sea conditions**.
- **Chandigarh University Uttar Pradesh Launches Centre of Excellence in Smart Healthcare Chandigarh University, Uttar Pradesh**, India's **first private Artificial Intelligence-augmented multidisciplinary university**, launched a **Centre of Excellence in Smart Healthcare** in **March 2026** to strengthen the state's vision of **AI-driven healthcare and governance**. The **Centre of Excellence** is headed by **Thipendra P. Singh**, **Professor of Artificial Intelligence and Pro Vice Chancellor**. The infrastructure is powered by **advanced Graphics Processing Unit systems** with **168 Gigabyte memory**, based on **NVIDIA Blackwell architecture**, enabling **high-end research and AI model development**.
- **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited Launches India's First LPG ATM in Gurugram, Haryana Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited**, under the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**, launched **India's first Liquefied Petroleum Gas Automated Teller Machine** in **Gurugram, Haryana** in **March 2026**. The initiative was launched under the **BharatGas Insta Liquefied Petroleum Gas pilot project** to enable **automated round-the-clock Liquefied Petroleum Gas cylinder distribution** in urban areas. The **LPG Automated Teller Machine** ensures **continuous availability of LPG cylinders**, especially during **supply disruptions and emergency situations**, with key features including **Mobile One-Time Password based customer verification**, **Quick Response code or barcode scanning**, and **UPI and debit card digital payment**.
- **PRISM-SG Portal Launched to Digitise and Fast-Track Approval Processes for ROBs Hon'ble Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari** and **Hon'ble Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting, Electronics & IT Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw** launched the **PRISM-SG (Portal for Rail-Road Inspection & Stages Management – Steel Girders) Portal** in **New Delhi** in **March 2026** to enhance **efficiency, transparency, and inter-agency coordination** in infrastructure development. The **PRISM-SG Portal** is designed to **digitise key approval and inspection processes** for the construction of **Road Over Bridges (ROBs)**, enabling **end-to-end online submission of documents, scrutiny, raising and resolution of queries, approvals**, and **inspection scheduling**. The initiative is expected to **reduce the approval and inspection timeline from around 12 months to 3–4 months**.

- **Raajmarg Infra Investment Trust Listed on BSE with 14-Times Oversubscription** The **Raajmarg Infra Investment Trust (RIIT)**, sponsored by the **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)**, was listed on the **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)** in **March 2026**, in the presence of **Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari**. The **maiden public issue of RIIT** witnessed a **highly successful response**, being **oversubscribed nearly 14 times**, reflecting **strong investor confidence** in India's infrastructure sector and highway assets. The **RIIT aims to monetise national highway assets**, with a target to **monetise 1,500 km of highways** over the **next 3 years**.
- **GHADC Makes Scheduled Tribe Certificate Mandatory to Contest Council Elections in Meghalaya** The **Garo Hills Autonomous District Council** in **Meghalaya** passed an amendment on **March 24, 2026** making a **Scheduled Tribe certificate mandatory** to contest its elections. The amendment aims to **reinforce the tribal character** of the council by restricting eligibility to **members of recognised Scheduled Tribes of Meghalaya**. An earlier notification issued on **February 17, 2026** attempting to enforce a similar rule was **struck down by the Meghalaya High Court** due to procedural lapses, with the amendment now following proper legislative procedure.
- **Raksha Mantri Chairs Ministry of Defence Parliamentary Consultative Committee Meeting on BRO Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh** chaired a **Parliamentary Consultative Committee meeting** for the **Ministry of Defence** on the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** in **New Delhi** in **March 2026**, discussing **defence, infrastructure development, and strategic initiatives** for national security and operational preparedness. The **BRO has enhanced mobility of defence forces** and positively transformed the lives of local residents, with the organization tasked with developing infrastructure along the **Indo-Myanmar border spanning approximately 1,600 km**. Since its **establishment in 1960**, the **BRO** has constructed **over 64,000 km of roads, 1,179 bridges, 22 airfields, and 7 tunnels**.
- **US Currency Design Change Announced with Trump Signature** The **US Treasury** announced in March 2026 that **US currency notes** will feature **President Donald Trump's signature** from **June 2026** onwards, marking a **historic shift** in American currency design reflecting presidential tradition updates.
- **TV Ratings Policy (TRP) 2026 Released for Enhanced Transparency** The **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting** released **TV Ratings Policy 2026** on March 27, 2026, reducing **minimum net worth requirement** for TV rating agencies from **₹20 crore to ₹5 crore**, mandating **50% independent directors**, expanding to **80,000 metered homes (18 months) eventually 1,20,000 homes**. The policy introduces **quarterly internal + annual external audits**, **Nodal Officer for 10-day complaint resolution**, and **graded penalties** (temporary suspension to registration cancellation) for violations ensuring **transparency, accountability, and privacy compliance** under **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023**.
- **Department of Financial Services Reviews Long-Pending Grievances** The **Department of Financial Services (DFS)** conducted **18 video conferences** since **2024** reviewing **360 total grievances** with **RBI, IRDAI, banks, insurers**, and **20 randomly selected CPGRAMS complainants**. Notable resolutions include: **₹2,00,000 PMSBY claim** (PNB, June 2025), **₹9,65,000 LIC superannuation** (June 2025), **₹33,058 pensioner arrears** (BoM, July 2025), **₹18,53,121 HDFC Ergo medical claim** (Oct 2025), **₹13,30,000 Axis Max death claim** (Dec 2025), **₹10,00,000 Canara HSBC mis-selling** (Dec 2025), **₹14,75,299 family pension since 2003** (Feb 2026), demonstrating effective grievance redressal mechanism strengthening governance transparency.

Static Takeaways

Category	Entity (Full Name)	Key Details
Regulatory Body	**SEBI** (Securities and Exchange Board of India)	Estd: 1988 (Statutory: 1992); HQ: Mumbai; Chairman: Tuhin Kanta Pandey
Regulatory Body	**IRDAI** (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India)	Founded: 1999; HQ: Hyderabad; Chairperson: Ajay Seth
Regulatory Body	**CCI** (Competition Commission of India)	Founded: 2003; HQ: New Delhi; Chairperson: Ravneet Kaur
Regulatory Body	**PFRDA** (Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority)	Estd: 2003; HQ: New Delhi; Chairman: Sivasubramanian Ramann
Bank	**RBI** (Reserve Bank of India)	Estd: 1935; HQ: Mumbai; Governor: Sanjay Malhotra
Bank	**State Bank of India**	Founded: 1955; HQ: Mumbai; Chairman: Challa Sreenivasulu Setty; Tagline: "The Banker to Every Indian"

Category	Entity (Full Name)	Key Details
Bank	**HDFC Bank** (Housing Development Finance Corporation)	Founded: 1994; HQ: Mumbai; CEO: Sashidhar Jagdishan; Tagline: "We Understand Your World"
Bank	**Axis Bank**	Founded: 1993; HQ: Mumbai; CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry; Tagline: "Badhti Ka Naam Zindagi"
Bank	**Bank of Baroda**	Founded: 1908; HQ: Vadodara; CEO: Debadatta Chand; Tagline: "India's International Bank"
Bank	**Central Bank of India**	Estd: 1911; HQ: Mumbai; MD & CEO: Kalyan Kumar; Owner: Ministry of Finance
Bank	**Federal Bank**	Founded: 1931; HQ: Aluva; CEO: KVS Manian; Tagline: "Your Perfect Banking Partner"
Bank	**RBL Bank** (Ratnakar Bank Limited)	Founded: 1943; HQ: Mumbai; MD & CEO: R Subramaniakumar
Bank	**South Indian Bank**	Founded: 1929; HQ: Thrissur; CEO: P.R. Seshadri; Slogan: "Experience Next-Gen Banking"
Bank	**YES Bank**	Founded: 2004; HQ: Mumbai; CEO: Prashant Kumar; Tagline: "Life Ko Banao Rich"
Bank	**J&K Bank** (Jammu & Kashmir Bank)	Founded: 1938; HQ: Srinagar; CEO: Amitava Chatterjee; Tagline: "Serving to Empower"
Bank	**Karnataka Grameena Bank**	Founded: 2025; HQ: Ballari; Chairman: Shrikant M Bhandiwad
Fin. Institution	**NABARD** (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development)	Founded: 1982; HQ: Mumbai; Chairman: Shaji K V
Fin. Institution	**World Bank**	Founded: 1944; HQ: Washington D.C.; President: Ajay Banga; 189 Members
Organization	**NITI Aayog** (National Institution for Transforming India)	Founded: 2015; VC: Suman Bery; CEO: Nidhi Chhibber
Organization	**DRDO** (Defence Research and Development Organisation)	Founded: 1958; HQ: New Delhi; Chairman: Dr. Samir V. Kamat
Organization	**ISRO** (Indian Space Research Organisation)	Estd: 1969; HQ: Bengaluru/New Delhi; Chairman: V. Narayanan
Organization	**EPFO** (Employees' Provident Fund Organisation)	CEO: Ramesh Krishnamurthi; HQ: New Delhi
Organization	**BEE** (Bureau of Energy Efficiency)	Estd: 2001; Under Ministry of Power
Organization	**APEDA** (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority)	Founded: 1986; HQ: New Delhi; Chairman: Abhishek Dev
Organization	**ASSOCHAM** (Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India)	Founded: 1920; HQ: New Delhi; President: Sanjay Nayar
Organization	**ICAI** (Institute of Chartered Accountants of India)	Founded: 1949; HQ: New Delhi; President: Charanjot Singh Nanda
International Org	**WHO** (World Health Organization)	Founded: 1948; HQ: Geneva; DG: Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
International Org	**WTO** (World Trade Organization)	Founded: 1995; HQ: Geneva; DG: Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala
International Org	**UNESCO** (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)	Founded: 1945; HQ: Paris; DG: Khaled El-Enany
International Org	**ADB** (Asian Development Bank)	Founded: 1966; HQ: Philippines; President: Masato Kanda
International Org	**NATO** (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)	Founded: 1949; HQ: Brussels; Secretary General: Mark Rutte
International Org	**WEF** (World Economic Forum)	Founded: 1971; HQ: Cologny, Switzerland

Category	Entity (Full Name)	Key Details
International Org	**WADA** (World Anti-Doping Agency)	Founded: 1999; HQ: Montreal; President: Witold Bańka
Space Agency	**NASA** (National Aeronautics and Space Administration)	Estd: 1958; HQ: Washington, D.C., USA
Sports Body	**BCCI** (Board of Control for Cricket in India)	Founded: 1928; HQ: Mumbai (Wankhede Stadium)
Sports Body	**IOC** (International Olympic Committee)	Founded: 1894; HQ: Lausanne; President: Kirsty Coventry
Ministry	**Ministry of Finance**	Minister: Nirmala Sitharaman
Ministry	**Ministry of Defence**	Minister: Rajnath Singh; MoS: Sanjay Seth
Ministry	**Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare**	Minister: Shivraj Singh Chouhan
Ministry	**MoSPI** (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation)	Minister (IC): Rao Inderjit Singh
Ministry	**Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment**	Minister: Virendra Kumar Khatik
Ministry	**MoRTH** (Ministry of Road Transport and Highways)	Minister: Nitin Gadkari
State	**Assam**	CM: Himanta Biswa Sarma; Gov: L.P. Acharya
State	**Maharashtra**	CM: Devendra Fadnavis; Gov: Jishnu Dev Varma
State	**Gujarat**	CM: Bhupendra Patel; Gov: Acharya Devvrat
State	**Uttar Pradesh**	CM: Yogi Adityanath; Gov: Anandiben Patel
State	**Tamil Nadu**	CM: M.K. Stalin; Gov: Rajendra V. Arlekar
State	**Haryana**	CM: Nayab Singh Saini; Gov: Ashim Kumar Ghosh
UT	**Jammu & Kashmir**	CM: Omar Abdullah; LG: Manoj Sinha
Country	**Israel**	PM: Benjamin Netanyahu; Cap: Jerusalem
Country	**Brazil**	President: Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva; Cap: Brasília
Asset Mgmt	**CRAMC** (Canara Robeco Asset Management Company)	JV of Canara Bank & ORIX Europe; AUM: ₹1.22 Lakh Cr
FinTech	**PhonePe**	CEO: Sameer Nigam; HQ: Bengaluru
PSU	**BEL** (Bharat Electronics Limited)	Founded: 1954; HQ: Bengaluru; CMD: Manoj Jain

CURRENT AFFAIRS Q&A - MARCH 2026

Q1. Which state government presented its budget with an allocation of ₹2.23 lakh crore for FY 2026-27, marking a 10.28% increase?
Ans: Haryana; CM Nayab Singh Saini presented the budget on March 26, 2026.

Q2. What is the capital expenditure (as % of total) allocated in Haryana Budget 2026-27?
Ans: 12.6%; ₹28,205 crore capital expenditure out of ₹2.23 lakh crore.

Q3. Which state ranked first in NITI Aayog's Fiscal Health Index 2026?
Ans: Odisha; scored 73.1, followed by Goa (54.7) and Jharkhand (50.5).

Q4. What is the fiscal deficit target for Maharashtra Budget 2026-27?
Ans: 2.7% GSDP; ₹1,50,491 crore fiscal deficit with ₹7.69 lakh crore total outlay.

Q5. PM Narendra Modi inaugurated which metro corridor connecting 12.3 km with 10 new stations?
Ans: Pink Line (Majlis Park–Maujpur-Babarpur section); completing India's first fully operational Ring Metro corridor.

Q6. How many km does Delhi Metro Phase-V Golden Line extension span with airport connectivity?
Ans: To Indira Gandhi International Airport Terminal-1; laying foundation for expanded metro network infrastructure.

Q7. Which state launched 'Dark Sky Park' at Kolli Hills for astro-tourism?
Ans: Tamil Nadu; ₹1 crore investment with 3 advanced telescopes and solar-powered infrastructure.

Q8. In which village did Maharashtra declare itself 'caste-free' through a Gram Sabha resolution?
Ans: Soundala; Ahilyanagar district, approximately 350 km from Mumbai, under Sarpanch Sharad Argade.

Q9. What is the fine amount in Soundala village for caste-based discrimination?
Ans: ₹500; along with ₹11,000 support for widow remarriage under 'caste-free' initiative.

Q10. Which portal did Maharashtra launch for integrated disability welfare schemes?
Ans: Divyang Sahayak Portal; India's first fully integrated online platform with 11 modules for persons with disabilities.

Q11. How many women and girls participated in the International Women's Day Lezim dance record in Maharashtra?
Ans: 9,111; at Savalaram Maharaj Sports Complex in Dombivli, breaking previous Guinness World Record of 7,338.

Q12. What is the maximum imprisonment period for forced religious conversions under Maharashtra's Freedom of Religion Bill 2026?
Ans: 10 years; for repeat offenders with additional fine of ₹5 lakh for vulnerable groups.

Q13. Which West Bengal ADB-funded projects worth ₹4,648 crore were approved for education and ICDS?
Ans: Two major projects; 70% ADB, 30% State funding following 70:30 model for infrastructure strengthening.

Q14. Which river masterplans are being developed under West Bengal's 'Nodi Bandhan' programme worth ₹200 crore?
Ans: Ichhamati and Jalangi rivers; addressing transboundary cooperation with Bangladesh under environmental degradation programme.

Q15. Which three towns did Rajasthan rename to reconnect with historical heritage?
Ans: Mount Abu (Aburaj), Kaman (Kamvan), Jahazpur (Yagyapur); reconnecting modern names with regional heritage.

Q16. Which 20-year MoU did Nagaland sign for weather forecasting and atmospheric research?
Ans: With India Meteorological Department; X-band Polarimetric Doppler Weather Radar at Dimapur Government College.

Q17. What is the innovation fund allocation in Gujarat's STI Policy 2026-2031?
Ans: ₹1,000 crore; targeting 1 lakh research professionals and 1,000 IP filings annually by 2031.

Q18. How much semiconductor ecosystem investment did Gujarat receive from Japan, South Korea, and Malaysia?
Ans: ₹1,600 crore; including Horiba Group's R&D centre and Hotayi Electronic's ₹250 crore facility.

Q19. Which state successfully launched its first sounding rocket near Dholera on March 15, 2026?
Ans: Gujarat; developed by Omspace, reaching ~3 km altitude with carbon fibre technology under Make in India.

Q20. What is the estimated budget for Gujarat's 'Lake and Air Watch' initiative?
Ans: ₹10 crore; monitoring air quality in 17 municipal corporations and 152 municipal areas using satellite technology.

Q21. How many high-demand citizen services were digitalized under Gujarat's Sugam Digital Gujarat Initiative?
Ans: 20 services; including Caste Certificates, Income Certificates, Ration cards under Digital Gujarat Portal.

Q22. What is the funding amount for Telangana's SERP Challenge Fund for rural entrepreneurship?
Ans: ₹12.66 crore; promoting 300+ women and young entrepreneurs through TBIS, T-Hub, WE Hub partnership.

Q23. When was the Indiramma Family Life Insurance Scheme announced in Telangana Budget 2026?
Ans: Launch on June 2, 2026; providing ₹5 lakh insurance coverage per family for 1.15 crore families.

Q24. Which German railway company signed ₹200 crore MoU with Uttar Pradesh for rail infrastructure?
Ans: RAILONE GmbH; modernizing rail infrastructure through technology transfer and global best practices adoption.

Q25. What Guinness World Record did Varanasi set for tree planting?
Ans: 2,51,446 saplings in one hour; surpassing China's 2018 record of 1,53,981 saplings using Miyawaki technique.

Q26. What is the loan amount World Bank provided to Uttar Pradesh for Clean Air Transition?
Ans: USD 299.66 million; installing 200 air quality monitoring stations and transitioning 700 brick kilns.

Q27. Which university in Uttar Pradesh launched CoE in Smart Healthcare with NVIDIA Blackwell GPU?
Ans: Chandigarh University; 168 GB memory powered system supporting 5 AI startups over two years.

Q28. What platform did UP CM launch on March 24, 2026 for ease of doing business?
Ans: Nivesh Mitra 3.0; integrating 530+ services from 43 departments with AI-based chatbot assistance.

Q29. Which fort hill in Uttar Pradesh was declared National Geo-Heritage Site by GSI?
Ans: Kalinjar Fort Hill, Banda district; recognizing Eparchaean Unconformity representing 2.5 billion-year-old formations.

Q30. What is the compensation increase for wildlife attack deaths in Andhra Pradesh under Project HANUMAN?
Ans: ₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh; with 100 GPS-enabled vehicles and 4 Wildlife Rescue Centers deployment.

Q31. Which award did Sikkim Police receive in March 2026?
Ans: President's Police Colour Award; one of highest distinctions recognizing sustained excellence and professionalism.

Q32. Who was selected from Sikkim for World Youth Parliament 2026?
Ans: Stuti Pradhan; recognized for parliamentary debate excellence and state winner of Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament 2025.

Q33. What is the proposed social media ban age limit in Karnataka Budget 2026-27?
Ans: Under 16 years; potentially making Karnataka first Indian state with age-based social media restrictions.

Q34. What score did Uttarakhand secure in ICJS 2.0 implementation on CCTNS Progress Dashboard?
Ans: 93.46; securing first position nationally under CM Pushkar Singh Dhami's leadership on criminal law implementation.

Q35. What is the name of cyber safety protocol introduced by Kerala for schools?
Ans: Cyber Safety Protocol 2026; developed by KITE with 13 objectives protecting students from AI-generated misinformation.

Q36. What elevation did Assam achieve in inland waterway projects under IWAI worth ₹526 crore?
Ans: Elevated road corridor and cruise terminals; linking Pandu Port to NH-27 for logistics and river tourism boost.

Q37. How much funding did Chirag Paswan inaugurate for Common Incubation Centre at Tezpur University?
Ans: ₹2.35 crore; supporting self-help groups, FPOs, startups in food processing technology and compliance.

Q38. Which GI-tagged product was exported to London for first time from Assam on March 2, 2026?
Ans: Karbi Anglong Ginger; flagged off by Agriculture Minister Atul Bora at Krishi Bhawan, Guwahati.

Q39. How many cattle shelters will be established under Chhattisgarh's Gaudham Yojana?
Ans: 1,460 shelters; 10 per Development Block accommodating ~200 cattle each with ₹10-35 daily feed assistance.

Q40. Which two milk processing plants will be established under Himachal Pradesh and NDDB MoU?
Ans: At Nahan and Nalagarh; 20,000 litres per day capacity with Dhagwar automated plant processing 1.5 lakh litres daily.

Q41. What is the focus of Himachal Pradesh's cannabis (hemp) farming pilot project?
Ans: Medicinal and industrial uses; addressing global demand for potential economic benefits and agricultural diversification.

Q42. Which village in Odisha is set to become the first smart village under CSIR initiative?
Ans: Kusunpur, Kendrapada district; population ~700 with CSIR institutions implementing climate-resilient sustainable solutions.

Q43. Which state retained top position in Fiscal Health Index 2026?
Ans: Odisha; with 73.1 score demonstrating strong fiscal management and controlled fiscal deficits.

Q44. What is the investment amount for Punjab Sikhya Kranti 2.0 educational reform programme?
Ans: ₹3,500 crore; 6-year duration with World Bank providing ₹2,500 crore and Punjab Government ₹1,000 crore.

Q45. How many varieties of tulips are featured in Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden, Srinagar?
Ans: 70-75 varieties; across 74 acres with 1.8 million tulips inaugurated by CM Omar Abdullah on March 16.

Q46. Which Union Minister assumed charge as NCBC Chairperson in March 2026?
Ans: Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti; former Union Minister of State with extensive social welfare and governance experience.

Q47. What version of RAJMARG PRAVESH portal was launched by Nitin Gadkari on February 25, 2026?
Ans: Version 2.0; digitalizing No Objection Certificates for fuel stations, wayside amenities along National Highways.

Q48. How many digital tools were soft-launched for Census-2027 by Amit Shah?
Ans: 4 tools; Houselisting Block Creator Web App, House Listing Officer Mobile App, Self-Enumeration Portal, Management System.

Q49. What are the names of Census-2027 mascots launched by Union Minister Amit Shah?
Ans: Pragati (female) and Vikas (male); developed by C-DAC under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

Q50. Which scheme dedicated by President Droupadi Murmu provides ₹61,000 government deposit maturing to ₹1.25 lakh?
Ans: Delhi Lakhpati Bitiya Scheme; part of 'Sashakt Nari Samriddh Delhi' women-centric welfare programme.

Q51. What is the transportation benefit under Saheli Pink Smart Card in Delhi?
Ans: Free public transport; for women in DTC buses, Delhi Metro, and RRTS as per scheme directive.

Q52. How much cash per consumer does Free LPG Cylinder Scheme provide in Delhi?
Ans: ₹853; transferred via Direct Benefit Transfer during Holi and Diwali celebrations annually.

Q53. How many women beneficiaries are pending disbursement under Delhi's Meri Poonji Mera Adhikaar scheme?
Ans: 1.75 lakh; clearing backlog of Ladli Scheme disbursement to eligible women beneficiaries.

Q54. What is the purpose of BEE Star Label Mobile Application launched by Manohar Lal Khattar?
Ans: Energy efficiency details; scanning QR codes on appliances to provide energy consumption information.

Q55. Which app did Indian Railways launch on International Women's Day for sexual harassment reporting?
Ans: SHINE (Sexual Harassment Incident Notification for Empowerment); enabling confidential workplace complaint submission.

Q56. What technology does PureAir Tower in New Delhi use for air purification?
Ans: Photosynthetic microalgae; absorbing CO_2, particulate matter, NO_x equivalent to 15 mature trees per tower.

Q57. Which three digital initiatives were launched during NDSA office inauguration in New Delhi?
Ans: NDSA website with GIS, NETRA (AI-enabled platform), Rashtriya Bandh Suraksha Darpan visualization platform.

Q58. What was the cost of Noida International Airport (Jewar) Phase I inauguration on March 28, 2026?
Ans: ₹11,200 crore; with 3,900-metre runway, net-zero emissions design, 12 million annual passenger capacity.

Q59. What is the membership count for Asia-Africa Agri Alliance launched as Section 8 NPO?
Ans: Over ten nations; focusing on trade, agricultural cooperation, investment, and technology exchange between regions.

Q60. When did Department of Posts launch '24 Speed Post' premium express service?
Ans: March 17, 2026; next-day (D+1) guaranteed delivery across six metro cities with OTP-based secure delivery.

Q61. Which brand did Ministry of Tribal Affairs launch for tribal artisans' global reach?
Ans: RISA: Timeless Tribal; enhancing global reach and income of tribal artisans through cultural product promotion.

Q62. What feature did SBI Securities launch under Infinity8 initiative for women investors?
Ans: Women's Mode; on mobile app with goal-based investment journeys and simplified tools based on 6,000+ feedback.

Q63. When did FM Nirmala Sitharaman launch PRARAMBH 2026 income tax awareness campaign?
Ans: March 2026; nationwide campaign for Income Tax Act 2025 implementation effective April 1, 2026.

Q64. What is the key feature of Income Tax Website 2.0 launched during PRARAMBH?
Ans: AI-enabled chatbot Kar Saathi; providing compliance assistance and taxpayer guidance for new tax regime.

Q65. Which ministers jointly launched PRISM-SG Portal on March 26, 2026?
Ans: Nitin Gadkari (MoRTH) and Ashwini Vaishnaw (Railways); reducing ROB approval timelines from 12 to 3-4 months.

Q66. When did Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers observe Janaushadhi Saptah 2026?
Ans: March 1-7, 2026; theme "Jan Aushadhi – affordable and trustworthy, good health with savings" for generic medicines.

Q67. Which ministry organized National Arogya Fair 2026 showcasing traditional medicine systems?
Ans: Ministry of AYUSH; inaugurated by President Droupadi Murmu at Shegaon, Buldhana, Maharashtra showcasing 7 systems.

Q68. What is the duration of Tribes Art Fest announced by Ministry of Tribal Affairs?
Ans: March 2-13, 2026; at Travancore Palace, New Delhi showcasing tribal arts, music, culture, and commerce.

Q69. Which festival was held March 13-15 at Bikaner House by Ministry of Tribal Affairs?
Ans: Living Roots Festival; showcasing tribal cultural heritage and traditional practices of indigenous communities.

Q70. What is the festival held March 18-30 at Sunder Nursery announced by Ministry?
Ans: Bharat Tribes Fest; celebrating tribal community contributions and cultural significance nationwide.

Q71. What was the theme of BEE 25th Foundation Day celebration in 2026?
Ans: BEE@25; celebrating Bureau of Energy Efficiency's contributions to energy efficiency and conservation.

Q72. When did Central Warehousing Corporation celebrate its 70th Foundation Day?
Ans: In March 2026; at Bharat Mandapam with record turnover of ₹2,776.88 crore in FY24-25.

Q73. What is the theme of National Science Day 2026 marking 40th observance?
Ans: Women in Science: Catalysing Viksit Bharat; commemorating 1928 Raman Effect discovery by C.V. Raman.

Q74. How many women participated in Maharashtra's International Women's Day Lezim record event?
Ans: 9,111; breaking previous Guinness World Record of 7,338 at Dombivli simultaneously.

Q75. What is the total area of Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden, Srinagar?
Ans: 74 acres; Asia's largest tulip garden with 1.8 million tulips showcasing spring tourism season.

Q76. Which initiative did India and Germany launch for climate resilience worth EUR 20 million?
Ans: Climate Resilience Initiative; strengthening ecosystem-based adaptation in Himalayas, Western Ghats, North-East India.

Q77. Who was named chairman of Hindi Advisory Committee for Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers?
Ans: Jagat Prakash Nadda; Union Minister appointed to lead newly reconstituted Hindi Advisory Committee.

Q78. Which military exercise did Southern Air Command conduct across Lakshadweep and Minicoy?
Ans: Exercise Kalari Leap; involving Armed Forces Special Operations Division and Indian Coast Guard.

Q79. When did Indian Air Force conduct Exercise Vayushakti-26 at Pokhran Field Firing Range?
Ans: February-March 2026; with President Droupadi Murmu as Chief Guest observing 130+ aircraft participation.

Q80. What is the cost of defence procurement contracts signed including ALH Mk-III and VL-Shtil missiles?
Ans: ₹5,083 crore; ₹2,901 crore for HAL ALH Mk-III and ₹2,182 crore for Russian VL-Shtil missiles.

Q81. Which shipyard signed contract for four 500-tonne self-propelled fuel barges with Indian Navy?
Ans: Shoft Shipyard, Thane, Maharashtra; supporting naval logistics under Make in India and Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

Q82. When did DRDO conduct flight trials of VSHORADS missile system?
Ans: February 27, 2026; from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, successfully intercepting aerial targets.

Q83. When was INS Anjadip, third ASW SWC, commissioned at Chennai?
Ans: February 28, 2026; with 77-metre length, 1,400 tonnes displacement, over 80% indigenous content built by GRSE.

Q84. What is the length and capacity of restored Chungthang-Lachen Axis and Taram Chu Bridge?
Ans: 28 km axis and 400-foot suspension bridge; restored by Border Roads Organisation after 2023 GLOF damage.

Q85. Which port did INS Sudarshini arrive at after Suez Canal transit on Lokayan-26 expedition?
Ans: Alexandria, Egypt; marking maritime cooperation and cultural exchange between India and Egypt nations.

Q86. What is Operation Sankalp's maritime security mission objective launched by Indian Navy in 2019?
Ans: Safeguarding Indian merchant ships; through naval patrols in Gulf of Oman and Gulf of Aden regions.

Q87. Who will become GOC-in-C of Western Command succeeding Lt Gen M.K. Katiyar?
Ans: Lt Gen Pushpendra Pal Singh; Parachute Regiment officer from Pawan, Meghdoot operations background.

Q88. When did DRDO and Indian Navy test Air Droppable Container 'ADC-150'?
Ans: February 21 - March 1, 2026; four in-flight release trials from P-8I aircraft off Goa coast.

Q89. What is the range and endurance of indigenous long-range strike drone 'Project KAL'?
Ans: 1,000 km range with 3-5 hours endurance; comparable to Shahed-class drones for precision strikes.

Q90. When did Union Minister Rajnath Singh release 'Defence Forces Vision 2047' roadmap?
Ans: March 10, 2026; outlining strategy for future-ready integrated military by 2047 with advanced technologies.

Q91. Which personnel from Sri Lanka Naval Academy were trained by INS Tarangini?
Ans: 3 officers and 26 trainees; completing sail training deployment for professional development.

Q92. What is the focus of Indian Army Central Command's first Strategic Communication Conclave?
Ans: ~500 attendees discussing strategic communication architecture and weaponization of narratives below war threshold.

Q93. Which Iranian warship was struck by US submarine near Sri Lanka EEZ?
Ans: IRIS Dena; killing 80+ sailors while returning from MILAN-2026 naval exercise near Visakhapatnam.

Q94. What is the funding amount for DRDO research project on organophosphorous compound antidotes?
Ans: ₹99.15 lakh; 36-month research project with Bharathiar University under DIA-CoE collaboration.

Q95. Which exercise strengthened US-South Korea regional security cooperation?
Ans: Freedom Shield 2026; ~18,000 South Korean troops and US forces counter-threat coordination in Korea.

Q96. Where is world's first autonomous maritime shipbuilding centre being constructed?
Ans: Juvvaladinne Fishing Harbour, Nellore, Andhra Pradesh; integrating robotics and AI into key production processes.

Q97. How much funding was announced for Integrated Aqua Park in Anantnag, Jammu and Kashmir?
Ans: ₹100 crore; during National Conference on Cold Water Fisheries at SKICC, Srinagar.

Q98. Which Model Guidelines were released for cold-water fisheries development?
Ans: MG-CWF (Model Guidelines for Development of Cold-Water Fisheries); covering scientific seed stocking and aquaculture.

Q99. What is the framework name for India's maritime cooperation initiative launched in March 2026?
Ans: IOS SAGAR (Indian Ocean Ship); with 16 IONS nations under India's IONS chair, MAHASAGAR framework.

Q100. Which frigate participated in Exercise Kakadu 2026 in Australia?
Ans: INS Nilgiri; won Kakadu Shield Trophy during sporting events in Darwin, Australia port phase.

Q101. When did PM Narendra Modi visit Israel at PM Benjamin Netanyahu's invitation?
Ans: February 26-27, 2026; paying tribute at Yad Vashem Memorial, addressing Israeli Parliament.

Q102. What medal did PM Modi receive from Israeli Parliament Speaker Amir Ohana?
Ans: Medal of the Knesset; first Indian PM to address Israeli Parliament (Knesset).

Q103. What partnership was announced between India and Israel during PM Modi's visit?
Ans: Special Strategic Partnership for Peace, Innovation, and Prosperity; covering defence, security, cybersecurity, trade, technology.

Q104. When did India-EU agree on Most Favoured Nation status for five years?**
Ans: February 27, 2026; following India-EU Free Trade Agreement finalized January 2026.

Q105. What tariff reduction percentage did India-EU FTA eliminate on traded goods?**
Ans: 96.6% by value; saving €4 billion for European companies, doubling EU exports to India.

Q106. When did Canadian PM Mark Carney visit India during his first official trip?**
Ans: February 27 - March 2, 2026; holding talks at Hyderabad House for CEPA negotiations.

Q107. What bilateral trade target did India-Canada set by 2030?**
Ans: USD 50 billion; across pharmaceuticals, iron, steel, seafood, cotton, electronics, chemicals sectors.

Q108. When did RBI and Bank of Japan renew bilateral swap arrangement?**
Ans: February 28, 2026; Third Amendment maintaining USD 75 billion two-way currency swap facility.

Q109. Which country became first in Americas to eliminate leprosy as public health problem?**
Ans: Chile; verified by WHO becoming 61st country globally, 6th in Americas eliminating NTD.

Q110. What is the leprosy prevalence rate definition for elimination status?**
Ans: Below 1 case per 10,000 population; under WHO definition of disease elimination.

Q111. Which UK nation legalized water cremation (alkaline hydrolysis)?**
Ans: Scotland; first UK nation with 84% public support for green cremation alternative.

Q112. What temperature and duration does alkaline hydrolysis process use?**
Ans: 150°C for 90 minutes; accelerating natural decomposition, reducing emissions seven times vs flame cremation.

Q113. When and where was Mobile World Congress 2026 held?**
Ans: March 2-5, 2026 at Fira Barcelona Gran Via; theme "The IQ Era" emphasizing AI integration.

Q114. Which Union Minister represented India at Mobile World Congress 2026?**
Ans: Jyotiraditya Madhavrao Scindia; at GSMA Ministerial Programme and Main Stage discussions.

Q115. What is the net worth of Elon Musk as per Hurun Global Rich List 2026?**
Ans: USD 792 billion; retaining world's richest person status for 5th time in 6 years.

Q116. How many billionaires does India have according to Hurun Global Rich List 2026?**
Ans: 308 billionaires; ranking 3rd globally after USA and China with 57 new entrants.

Q117. What is Mukesh Ambani's net worth in rupees per Hurun Report 2026?**
Ans: ₹9.8 lakh crore; India's richest person, Asia's richest individual.

Q118. When will Indonesia ban social media for children under 16?**
Ans: March 28, 2026; requiring age verification on TikTok, YouTube, Instagram, Facebook.

Q119. Who is set to become Nepal's Prime Minister after 2026 elections?**
Ans: Balendra 'Balen' Shah; leader of Rastriya Swatantra Party, Gen Z protests-backed candidate.

Q120. Which Indian cricketer was featured in Mattel's Barbie Dream Team 2026?**
Ans: Smriti Mandhana; first Indian cricketer featured honoring global women icons.

Q121. When did Finland President Alexander Stubb visit India?**

Ans: March 4-7, 2026; 4-day State Visit elevating ties to Strategic Partnership.

Q122. What strategic partnership was elevated between India and Finland?**

Ans: Strategic Partnership for Digitalisation and Sustainability; focusing on AI, Quantum Computing, Green Hydrogen, 6G.

Q123. When did President Stubb attend 11th Raisina Dialogue as Chief Guest?**

Ans: March 5-7, 2026; keynote speaker at Delhi's flagship geopolitics conference.

Q124. Which country ratified International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement on March 14, 2026?**

Ans: Romania; through Ambassador Sena Latif submission, becoming 119th ISA member country.

Q125. What is the market value of Indo-CIS Pharma-Nutraceutical Corridor launched?**

Ans: USD 7-10 billion; for Eurasian healthcare market access through India-Uzbekistan partnership.

Q126. When is Pharma Eurasia 2026 commercial launch scheduled?**

Ans: May 20-22, 2026 in Tashkent; marking commercial rollout of pharma-nutraceutical corridor.

Q127. What investment did Reliance Industries announce for US refinery?**

Ans: USD 300 billion; building first new major oil refinery in nearly 50 years at Port of Brownsville, Texas.

Q128. What is the processing capacity of Reliance's Brownsville refinery?**

Ans: 1.2 billion barrels of US shale oil; producing 50 billion gallons refined petroleum worth USD 175 billion.

Q129. When was Jose Antonio Kast sworn in as Chile's 38th President?**

Ans: March 19, 2026; Union Minister Kirti Vardhan Singh represented GoI at National Congress.

Q130. Which Indian military exercise was conducted with USA and partners in Guam?**

Ans: Exercise Sea Dragon 2026; ASW exercise at Andersen Air Force Base with India, Japan, Australia, New Zealand.

Q131. How many institutions from Northeast India signed LoI for Japan Academic Consortium?**

Ans: 22 institutions; led by IIT-Guwahati with Gifu University during Japan-Northeast Academic Industry Symposium.

Q132. Which official led India-Vietnam tribal development cooperation?**

Ans: Union Minister Jual Oram; co-chaired with Vietnam's Minister Dao Ngoc Dung in New Delhi.

Q133. Which chamber signed MoU for India-Canada business cooperation?**

Ans: ASSOCHAM and Indo Canada Chamber of Commerce (ICCC); enhancing trade and investment.

Q134. What is the purpose of MSDE MoU with GATI Foundation?**

Ans: Global skill mobility framework; positioning India as global skills capital by 2047.

Q135. What initiative did DEPwD sign with Coalition of the Willing?**

Ans: India's first integrated life-cycle support model for hearing impaired persons.

Q136. How much funding did Oil India Limited allocate for MP tribal healthcare?**

Ans: ₹86.27 lakh; strengthening CHCs and PHCs in Rajgarh district under NSTFDC partnership.

Q137. Which startup partnership did T-Hub sign with Japan External Trade Organisation?**

Ans: JETRO collaboration; bolstering India-Japan deep-tech startup cooperation in March 2026.

Q138. What focus areas did T-Hub-JETRO partnership target?**

Ans: Pharma, medical equipment, space, aerospace, defence, mobility, smart infrastructure, AI, IoT.

Q139. What CCU technology partnership did NCB sign with TraceXero Technologies?**

Ans: Carbon Capture and Utilisation technology; converting cement emissions into graphite and graphene.

Q140. What percentage of global CO_2 does cement industry contribute?**

Ans: Nearly 7%; making cement sector major target for CCU technology development.

Q141. Which streaming format did FIFA introduce with YouTube for World Cup 2026?**

Ans: First 10 minutes live on YouTube; redirecting to official broadcasters after initial viewing window.

Q142. When is FIFA World Cup 2026 scheduled?**

Ans: June 11 - July 19, 2026; hosted by USA, Canada, Mexico with 48 teams, 104 matches.

Q143. Which nations did India initiate trade negotiations with in March 2026?**

Ans: Philippines (PTA) and Maldives (FTA); to strengthen bilateral trade relationships.

Q144. What is India's export growth to Philippines in 2024-25?**

Ans: 3.11% increase to USD 2.16 billion; declining imports 17.8% to USD 1.17 billion.

Q145. When did Argentina officially withdraw from WHO?**

Ans: After one-year notification effective March 2026; following President Javier Milei's February 2025 announcement.

Q146. Which law did Brazil implement for minors' social media access in 2026?**
Ans: Age-restricted accounts requiring legal guardian linking; targeting children under 16 with identity verification.

Q147. What penalties did Brazil impose for social media age restriction violations?**
Ans: Fines up to 50 million reais; account suspensions or complete bans overseen by ANPD.

Q148. Who became Nepal's first transgender woman Member of Parliament?**
Ans: Bhumika Shrestha; elected under proportional representation with Rastriya Swatantra Party (March 2026).

Q149. What is Fitch Ratings' India GDP growth forecast for FY26?**
Ans: 7.5%; revised upward from 7.4% in December 2025 estimate.

Q150. What FY27 GDP growth projection did Fitch Ratings revise for India?**
Ans: 6.7%; compared to 6.4% previous December 2025 estimate with moderation in first half.

Q151. What global merchandise trade growth does WTO project for 2026?**
Ans: 1.9%; down from 4.6% in 2025 due to geopolitical tensions and tariff effects.

Q152. What merchandise trade recovery projection did WTO forecast for 2027?**
Ans: 2.6%; improvement from 2026 slowdown with continued normalization trajectory.

Q153. How many total billionaires does Hurun Global Rich List 2026 report?**
Ans: 4,020 billionaires; first time exceeding 4,000 with 578 new billionaires added annually.

Q154. Who is the world's richest woman in Hurun Global Rich List 2026?**
Ans: Alice Walton; Walmart heir with USD 134 billion net worth.

Q155. What is Roshni Nadar Malhotra's ranking among India's richest women?**
Ans: India's richest woman; first to enter overall top three billionaires globally.

Q156. When was World Happiness Report 2026 released?**
Ans: March 20, 2026; by Wellbeing Research Centre, University of Oxford.

Q157. Which country topped World Happiness Report 2026 for 9th consecutive year?**
Ans: Finland; with strong social welfare, institutional trust, education, healthcare, work-life balance.

Q158. What score did India achieve in World Happiness Report 2026?**
Ans: 4.536; ranked 116th out of 147 nations, facing social support and governance challenges.

Q159. When did India and Indonesia announce Prambanan Temple restoration collaboration?**
Ans: March 16, 2026 in Jakarta; using anastylosis archaeological conservation technique.

Q160. What century was Prambanan Temple built dedicated to Hindu Trimurti?**
Ans: 9th century; by Sanjaya dynasty, largest Hindu temple complex in Indonesia.

Q161. When did India and Italy hold 9th Foreign Office Consultations?**
Ans: March 20, 2026 in New Delhi; reviewing JSAP 2025-29 implementation.

Q162. What new dialogue did India-Italy agree to initiate?**
Ans: First Maritime Security Dialogue (MSD); strengthening bilateral maritime cooperation framework.

Q163. When did India and Bhutan sign UPU-UPI cross-border remittance MoU?**
Ans: March 19-22, 2026 in Thimphu; strengthening postal sector cooperation.

Q164. When did INS Nilgiri participate in Exercise Kakadu 2026?**
Ans: March 2026 in Australia; 17th edition with 19 nations, 6,000 personnel participation.

Q165. Which trophy did INS Nilgiri crew win during Exercise Kakadu 2026?**
Ans: Kakadu Shield Trophy; during sporting events at Darwin demonstrating maritime strength.

Q166. What score did Pakistan receive in Global Terrorism Index 2026?**
Ans: 8.574; ranked most terrorism-affected with 1,139 deaths, 1,045 incidents in 2025.

Q167. What India's ranking in Global Terrorism Index 2026?**
Ans: 13th with 6.428 score; followed by Afghanistan 11th with 6.678.

Q168. What percentage increase did terrorist incidents show from 2020 to 2025?**
Ans: Nearly sixfold increase; while deaths declined 28% to 5,582 marking global improvement.

Q169. Which IIT achieved 21st global ranking in Engineering – Mineral and Mining?**
Ans: IIT-ISM Dhanbad, Jharkhand; in 16th QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026.

Q170. How many Indian institutions entered top-50 subject rankings?**
Ans: 27 positions across 12 institutions; India becoming fourth-largest higher education system by entries.

Q171. Which river-linking project did UNESCO raise concerns about?**

Ans: Aghanashini-Vedavathi project; urging strict World Heritage conservation norms compliance.

Q172. How much water does Aghanashini-Vedavathi project plan to divert?**

Ans: ~35 thousand million cubic feet; raising ecological alteration and livelihood concerns.

Q173. When was 6th BRICS CCI WE Summit and WE Awards held?**

Ans: March 21-23, 2026 in New Delhi; celebrating women's empowerment and entrepreneurship.

Q174. What is the name of mission launched during BRICS WE Summit?**

Ans: Mission ShakthiSAT; promoting women's participation in space, science, advanced technology.

Q175. When did WTO MC14 ministerial conference take place?**

Ans: March 26-29, 2026 in Yaoundé, Cameroon; 160+ countries with India raising food security.

Q176. Which high-level summit did UN organize for ocean protection?**

Ans: High Seas Summit (January 2027) in New York; based on BBNJ Treaty implementation.

Q177. When was India invited as partner nation to G7 Summit 2026?**

Ans: June 15-17, 2026 in France; showing India's global strategic importance.

Q178. What is the theme of 11th Raisina Dialogue 2026?**

Ans: Samskara (assertion, accommodation, advancement); India's flagship geopolitics conference.

Q179. How many countries participated in 11th Raisina Dialogue 2026?**

Ans: 110+ countries; organized by Observer Research Foundation and Ministry of External Affairs.

Q180. When did PM Modi inaugurate 11th Raisina Dialogue 2026?**

Ans: March 5, 2026; with Finland President Alexander Stubb as Chief Guest.

Q181. How much penalty did RBI impose on Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services?

Ans: ₹11.50 lakh; for breach of Fair Practices Code and grievance redressal deficiencies.

Q182. What violation caused RBI to penalize Manappuram Finance?

Ans: Non-compliance with KMP compensation guidelines; requiring Remuneration Policy revision.

Q183. How much fine did RBI impose on HSBC India?

Ans: ₹31.80 lakh; for non-compliance on inoperative accounts and unclaimed deposits.

Q184. What is the penalty amount for Cashfree Payments violations?

Ans: ₹3.10 lakh; for non-compliance with Payment Aggregator and Payment Gateway guidelines.

Q185. How much foreign exchange reserves did RBI have by February 27, 2026?

Ans: Record $728.49 billion; driven by rising gold reserves and foreign currency assets.

Q186. Which bank received RBI approval as NBFC Miscellaneous Umbrella Organisation?

Ans: NUCFDC; enabling private equity placement to 200+ persons for Urban Co-operative Banks.

Q187. When do revised RBI dividend payout norms take effect?

Ans: April 1, 2027; linking dividend to CET1 capital ratios with 10 buckets.

Q188. What is the maximum dividend payout cap irrespective of CET1 bucket?

Ans: 75% of Profit After Tax; with banks below 8% CET1 barred from dividend.

Q189. What is the theme of Digital Payments Awareness Week 2026?

Ans: Thoda Dhyan Se; highlighting online payment safety with multi-media campaign.

Q190. In which state did RBI conduct pilot digital payments awareness programme?

Ans: Maharashtra; with ~10 lakh participant involvement in DPAW 2026.

Q191. Which RBI medium-term strategy was approved for 2026-29?

Ans: Utkarsh 3.0; during 622nd Central Board Meeting in Patna under Governor Sanjay Malhotra.

Q192. How many NBFCs had CoR cancelled by RBI in February 2026?

Ans: 36 NBFCs; including Excellence Broking, Jibralter Traders, Bahubali Leasing, Wintech Telecom.

Q193. How much government bonds did RBI purchase through OMO in March 2026?

Ans: ₹1 lakh crore; injecting liquidity, stabilizing yields, supporting banks.

Q194. How much green infrastructure bonds did Bank of Baroda raise?

Ans: ₹10,000 crore; first bank in India raising this amount via Series-I long-term bonds.

Q195. What is the coupon rate on Bank of Baroda's green bonds?

Ans: 7.1% annual; with 7-year maturity and 3x base size subscription (₹16,415 crore bids).

Q196. Which account did Bank of Baroda launch for women customers?

Ans: bob Women Sapphire Savings Account; with ₹10 lakh cancer care coverage, ₹1 lakh MAB.

Q197. What loan amount did Bank of Baroda secure from MUFG and HSBC?
Ans: $500 million five-year syndicated term loan; with 13 Asian market investors participation.

Q198. What UPI-linked facility did Bank of Baroda launch for women SHGs?
Ans: Overdraft credit line on UPI; up to ₹5,000 for verified women SHG members.

Q199. How much Tier-2 bonds did State Bank of India raise?
Ans: ₹6,051 crore; at 7.05% coupon with 10-year tenor, ~2x bids from 47 investors.

Q200. Which two credit cards did HDFC Bank and Swiggy co-brand in March 2026?
Ans: Swiggy BLCK and Swiggy Orange HDFC Bank Credit Cards; with 10% and 5% cashback.

Q201. Who was named MD & CEO of Yes Bank effective April 6, 2026?
Ans: Vinay Muralidhar Tonse; 3-year term succeeding Prashant Kumar.

Q202. What previous position did Vinay Tonse hold at SBI?
Ans: MD (Retail Business & Operations); from November 2023 to November 2025.

Q203. Which exclusive account did Yes Bank launch for women?
Ans: YES Essence Salary Account; with ₹5 lakh health insurance and free locker facility.

Q204. What LAMF facility did South Indian Bank launch?
Ans: Loan Against Mutual Funds; starting at 9.99% per annum via smallcase partnership.

Q205. When did South Indian Bank launch EPF payment facility via SIBerNet?
Ans: March 12, 2026; enabling employers to remit EPF contributions online via EPFO.

Q206. What wealth management platform did Federal Bank launch?
Ans: Fed Wealth; first Wealth Hub in Kochi offering investment solutions and alternative investments.

Q207. Which AMC distribution agreement did Central Bank of India sign?
Ans: Canara Robeco AMC partnership; February 7, 2026 for mutual fund products distribution.

Q208. What novel service did Jio Payments Bank introduce?
Ans: Cardless UPI Cash Withdrawal; at BC points without debit cards or ATMs.

Q209. How much ADB loan did IIFL Home Finance secure?
Ans: USD 300 million; USD 150 million ADB, USD 150 million parallel loans for affordable housing.

Q210. What parallel lenders joined IIFL's USD 300 million loan?
Ans: MUFG (Japan), Emirates NBD (UAE), Sampath Bank (Sri Lanka), Hatton National Bank (Sri Lanka).

Q211. What green home percentage did IIFL allocate from ADB loan?
Ans: At least 25% for green-certified affordable homes supporting sustainable housing.

Q212. How much NCD deal did Motilal Oswal Home Finance secure?
Ans: USD 100 million; in March 2026 with ADB for affordable housing finance expansion.

Q213. When did NHB launch 'Gruh Sugam Portal'?
Ans: March 26, 2026; digitalizing home loan access for defence personnel, paramilitary, government employees.

Q214. How much funding did German DEG and Citi provide to Shriram Finance?
Ans: USD 76 million; DEG USD 46 million, Citi ₹260 crore for financial inclusion.

Q215. What funding focus did Shriram receive from DEG and Citi?
Ans: MSMEs, women borrowers, Electric Vehicles, underserved areas for inclusive mobility.

Q216. When did L&T Finance become UNGC signatory?
Ans: March 2026; aligning with UNGC principles on human rights, labour, environment.

Q217. Which insurance partnership did Axis Max Life sign?
Ans: Saarathi Finance for MSME credit-linked insurance; group credit life protection.

Q218. What requirement did RBI relax for AU Small Finance Bank?
Ans: NOFHC requirement applies only if bank establishes additional group financial services entity.

Q219. How much investment did Avenir announce for Sammaan Capital acquisition?
Ans: ₹8,850 crore; acquiring 41.23% stake, expandable to 63.36% via open offer.

Q220. What status was Avenir acquiring of Sammaan Capital pending?
Ans: SEBI approval; Avenir Abu Dhabi-based investment company for acquisition finalization.

Q221. How much mutual fund market size does SEBI regulate?
Ans: ₹81 lakh crore; with major industry reforms addressing solution-oriented discontinuation.

Q222. What exit load did SEBI introduce for Life Cycle Funds?
Ans: 3% (1 year), 2% (2 years), 1% (3 years); incentivizing longer holding periods.

Q223. What minimum tenure does SEBI mandate for Life Cycle Funds?
Ans: 5 years; maximum 30 years in multiples of 5 with automatic glide path strategy.

Q224. When did SEBI permit mutual funds intraday borrowing operations?
Ans: April 1, 2026; with formal policies for unit repurchase, interest, dividend payments.

Q225. What borrowing limit did SEBI set for mutual funds intraday operations?
Ans: Not exceeding guaranteed same-day receivables from GoI, RBI, CCIL, specified securities.

Q226. How many nominees can SEBI allow per demat/MF account?
Ans: Maximum 4 nominees; capping previous unlimited nomination structure.

Q227. What social impact fund investment limit did SEBI reduce?
Ans: ₹2 lakh to ₹1,000 for individuals; promoting grassroots social impact investing.

Q228. How many fraudulent apps did SEBI report removing?
Ans: 1.3 lakh+ misleading apps; including 66 fake trading apps under fraud prevention.

Q229. What initiative did SEBI launch for app verification?
Ans: Verified App Label initiative; displaying verified badge on Google Play Store.

Q230. Which index-based hybrid fund did Edelweiss AMC launch?
Ans: Edelweiss Nifty LargeMidcap250 Plus 8–13 yr G-sec 70:30 Index Fund; India's first fully passive hybrid.

Q231. What asset allocation does Edelweiss hybrid index fund maintain?
Ans: 70% equities, 30% government securities; with automatic monthly rebalancing.

Q232. When is Edelweiss hybrid fund NFO scheduled?
Ans: March 18 - April 01, 2026; minimum investment ₹100 with ₹1 multiples.

Q233. When did Lakshya AMC receive SEBI approval?
Ans: March 2026; sponsored by Wealth First Portfolio Managers, first AMC in Ahmedabad.

Q234. Which gold ETF ranked 6th globally in fund inflows?
Ans: Nippon India ETF Gold BeES; only Indian ETF in global top 10 with USD 1,085.2 million inflows.

Q235. How much gold does Nippon India Gold ETF hold?
Ans: 36.2 tonnes; with 6.6 tonnes gold equivalent recent inflows.

Q236. When did Bharti Airtel and Google launch secure RCS messaging?
Ans: February 2026; with AI-powered spam filters through Google Messages on Android.

Q237. What features did Airtel-Google RCS platform introduce?
Ans: Real-time identity validation, multi-tiered threat detection, malicious domain filtering.

Q238. Which AI-backed app did Jio Finance launch?
Ans: Finsider; agentic AI platform offering hyper-personalized financial services.

Q239. How many payment-related features does Jio Finance's Finsider app offer?
Ans: Loans, credit cards, insurance, UPI, FDs, digital gold, mutual funds, tax planning, savings accounts.

Q240. When did Gnani.ai and Razorpay launch agentic AI collections platform?
Ans: February 27, 2026; enabling real-time UPI payments during live calls.

Q241. What conversion rate did PayU-GoKwik C2C stack address?
Ans: Checkout drop-offs and payment failures; through integrated conversion intelligence.

Q242. When was CRED authorized as Payment Aggregator by RBI?
Ans: March 2026; under Payment and Settlement Systems Act enabling direct merchant onboarding.

Q243. What world-first did Razorpay unveil at FTX 2026?
Ans: AI-Powered Agent Studio; built using Claude Agent SDK from Anthropic.

Q244. What abandoned cart recovery percentage did Razorpay's Agent Studio target?
Ans: Agentic AI for abandoned cart recovery, subscription recovery, dispute resolution.

Q245. Which AI did PayU partner for multilingual voice payments?
Ans: CoRover.ai's BharatGPT; supporting 100+ Indian languages and dialects.

Q246. Which travel fintech launched Scapia Pay app?
Ans: Scapia; in-application UPI with RuPay credit card rewards integration.

Q247. When did PhonePe launch RuPay 'On-The-Go' national common mobility card?
Ans: March 2026; contactless transit payments with ₹2,000 max chip balance.

Q248. How many countries does NPCI operate UPI acceptance?
Ans: 8+ countries; UAE, Singapore, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, France, Mauritius, Qatar.

Q249. When did IRDAI propose Ind AS adoption for all insurers?**
Ans: Effective April 1, 2026; with parallel reporting FY26, retrospective from FY27.

Q250. Which two insurance entities received IRDAI final approval?
Ans: Allianz Jio Reinsurance (50:50 JV), Kiwi General Insurance (WestBridge Capital); total 35 general insurers.

Q251. What health restoration feature did Shriram General Insurance launch?
Ans: Shri Health Suraksha 2.0; unlimited restoration within policy year with 250% cumulative bonus.

Q252. What percentage growth rate did health insurance sector show?
Ans: Around 9%; with total premiums ₹1.2 lakh crore+ in 2024-25.

Q253. What claims paid ratio improvement did health insurance show?
Ans: 87.50% in 2024-25; up from 66% in 2022-23 for faster claim settlement.

Q254. Who was appointed MD & CEO of HDFC ERGO General Insurance?
Ans: Parthanil Ghosh; effective April 16, 2026 (subject to IRDAI approval).

Q255. How long is Parthanil Ghosh's insurance sector experience?
Ans: 16+ years; with 30+ years total financial services background.

Q256. When will Lloyd's of London launch operations in GIFT City?
Ans: March 2026; establishing statutory insurance and reinsurance entity under IFSCA review.

Q257. What is Sri Lanka's first Blue Bond dual listing location?
Ans: NSE IX at GIFT City, Gujarat; DFCC Bank Plc LKR 3 billion bond (February 2026).

Q258. Which Cyprus-based firm became first overseas NSE IX listing?
Ans: Ellinas Finance; dual listing with Cyprus Stock Exchange for equity issuance.

Q259. What services does Ellinas Finance provide in lending portfolio?
Ans: Private equity funding, investor services, business financing across Cyprus and beyond.

Q260. How many exchanges globally can India INX Global Access connect to?
Ans: 135+ exchanges in 33 countries; with HSBC IBU referral-based access model.

Q261. What is the remittance limit under Liberalised Remittance Scheme via India INX?
Ans: USD 250,000 per FY; RBI's regulatory limit for overseas investment access.

Q262. When will Pine Labs launch stablecoin-backed prepaid card?
Ans: By April 2026; across 9 countries excluding India, China due to regulatory restrictions.

Q263. How many countries will receive Pine Labs' stablecoin prepaid card?
Ans: 9 countries in Middle East, Africa, Southeast Asia; real-time stablecoin-local currency conversion.

Q264. What GDP series change did NSO implement for FY26 figures?
Ans: 2011-12 base → 2022-23 base year; presenting revised growth estimates with quarterly coverage.

Q265. What is India's real GDP growth at new 2022-23 base for FY26?
Ans: 7.6%; at ₹322.58 lakh crore with 8.6% nominal growth of ₹345.47 lakh crore.

Q266. What CAD percentage did India record in Q3 FY26?
Ans: 1.3% of GDP; $13.2 billion vs $11.3 billion in Q3 FY25.

Q267. What merchandise trade deficit did India record in Q3 FY26?
Ans: $93.6 billion; vs $79.3 billion in Q3 FY25 showing increased import surge.

Q268. What remittance inflows did India receive in Q3 FY26?
Ans: $36.9 billion; sustaining diaspora contribution to external stability.

Q269. How much total exports did India achieve in Apr-Feb 2025-26?
Ans: $790.86 billion; 5.79% growth with merchandise exports $402.93 billion.

Q270. What services exports growth did India record in Apr-Feb period?
Ans: 10.23% increase to $387.93 billion; strong services sector performance.

Q271. What was India's merchandise trade deficit in Apr-Feb 2025-26?
Ans: $310.60 billion; increased from $261.80 billion in previous comparable period.

Q272. What services trade surplus did India achieve in Apr-Feb?
Ans: $200.96 billion; offsetting merchandise deficit through services strength.

Q273. How many FTAs has India signed covering how many countries?
Ans: 9 FTAs covering 38 countries; including EU, EFTA, UK, Oman, New Zealand, USA.

Q274. When did India sign trade agreement with USA?
Ans: February 7, 2026; interim trade agreement as comprehensive negotiation progresses.

Q275. What MPS at listing did Ministry of Finance revise?
Ans: 5% to 2.5%; facilitating large-scale IPOs while maintaining market liquidity.

Q276. How many MPS categories did revised framework expand to?
Ans: From 3 to 6 categories; based on post-issue capital size stratification.

Q277. When does CBIC's EMI Scheme operate?
Ans: April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2028; clearing goods without immediate Customs duty.

Q278. What monthly payment mode does EMI Scheme enable?
Ans: Monthly deferred import duty payment; under Deferred Payment of Import Duty Rules 2016.

Q279. When did RBI approve SBI MF's stake acquisition in RBL, Bandhan Bank?
Ans: March 2026; up to 9.99% paid-up share capital within one-year completion period.

Q280. What authorities approved State Street's Groww acquisition?
Ans: Competition Commission (March 2026); for State Street Global Advisors Inc. acquisition.

Q281. What investment did Meta make in Reliance Enterprise Intelligence?
Ans: ₹256.6 crore; acquiring 30% stake at ₹10 per share for 25.65 crore shares.

Q282. What is the focus of Reliance Enterprise Intelligence?
Ans: Enterprise AI solutions and digital intelligence capabilities; strengthening AI infrastructure.

Q283. How many PMJDY accounts were opened by February 2026?
Ans: 57.78 crore; with ₹2,94,702 crore deposits, 55.8% women accounts.

Q284. What maximum loan limit does Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana provide?
Ans: Up to ₹20 lakh per unit; with ₹39.48 lakh crore sanctions for 57.26 crore loans.

Q285. When did CGSMFI-2.0 scheme become effective?
Ans: March 20, 2026; facilitating increased MFI credit flow with 60% guarantee cover.

Q286. How many borrowers are expected to benefit from CGSMFI-2.0?
Ans: ~36 lakh borrowers; through Member Lending Institution support until June 30, 2026.

Q287. What validity did MCGS-MSME scheme introduction announce?
Ans: January 2025 launch with March 2026 revisions; continuous enhancement for MSME credit.

Q288. What guarantee percentage does MCGS-MSME provide?
Ans: 60% guarantee to MLIs; for loans up to ₹100 crore for plant machinery purchase.

Q289. What is the inflation target for 2026-31 period?
Ans: 4% unchanged; under Flexible Inflation Targeting framework with 2-6% tolerance band.

Q290. How much GDP growth did CRISIL project for FY27?
Ans: 7.1%; down from 7.6% FY26 due to inflation and external challenges.

Q291. What retail inflation did CRISIL forecast for FY27?
Ans: 4.3%; up from 2.5% FY26 reflecting cost pressures.

Q292. How much industrial CapEx did CRISIL project for FY27-FY31?
Ans: ~₹9.1 lakh crore annually; supporting growth and investment pipeline.

Q293. What FY27 GDP forecast did Nomura lower to?
Ans: 7%; from previous 7.1% citing West Asia conflict risks to energy.

Q294. What inflation did Nomura forecast for FY27?
Ans: 4.5%; raised 70 bps from 3.8% reflecting cost pressures.

Q295. What CAD percentage did Nomura project for FY27?
Ans: 1.6% of GDP; from previous 1.2% due to external headwinds.

Q296. What CY26 GDP growth did Goldman Sachs lower?
Ans: 5.9%; from 7% pre-Iran war scenario impacting energy supply risks.

Q297. What CY26 CPI inflation did Goldman Sachs forecast?
Ans: 4.6%; vs 3.9% previous estimate reflecting cost escalation.

Q298. What CAD percentage did Goldman Sachs project for CY26?
Ans: 2% of GDP; widening from previous estimates due to import pressures.

Q299. How much did S&P Global lift India FY27 forecast?
Ans: 40 basis points to 7.1%; with 20 bps improvements for FY28, FY29.

Q300. What CPI inflation did S&P Global forecast for FY27?
Ans: 4.3%; up from 2.5% FY26 reflecting inflation trajectory.

Q301. What FY27 GDP did OECD revise downward?
Ans: 6.1%; from 6.2% citing global uncertainty in 'Testing Resilience' report.

Q302. What global growth did OECD lower for 2026?
Ans: 2.9%; in 2026 and 3% for 2027 from 3.1% previous.

Q303. What FY27 GDP did ASSOCHAM project?
Ans: Above 7%; driven by strong demand and rising investments.

Q304. How much did India's retail inflation jump in February 2026?
Ans: 3.21%; from 2.74% in January showing food, clothing pressures.

Q305. What food weight change did CPI series implement?
Ans: From 45.86% to 36.75%; with 2024 base year food weight reduction.

Q306. What WPI inflation did NSO report for February 2026?
Ans: 2.13%; fourth consecutive month of increases driven by food, manufacturing.

Q307. What core sector growth did India achieve in February 2026?
Ans: 2.3%; with steel 7.2%, cement 9.3% but crude, natural gas declined.

Q308. How many merchant bankers did NSE select for its IPO?
Ans: 20 structured competitive merchant bankers; approved by NSE IPO Committee.

Q309. How many law firms did NSE appoint for IPO?
Ans: 8 leading firms; covering legal and regulatory aspects of IPO process.

Q310. When did Nashik Municipal Corporation list Green Municipal Bond?
Ans: March 9, 2026 on NSE, Mumbai; Maharashtra's first ULB green bond.

Q311. What fund allocation did Nashik bond focus on?
Ans: Renewable energy, waste management, clean transportation, water, climate resilience.

Q312. What platform did HDFC Securities launch for F&O trading?
Ans: NxtOption; simplifying advanced options trading for retail investors.

Q313. What strategies does NxtOption enable trading?
Ans: Straddles, strangles, iron condors; with Greek analytics dashboard.

Q314. What is the effective date of Income Tax Act 2025 digital taxation framework?
Ans: April 1, 2026; with Significant Economic Presence threshold ₹2 crore.

Q315. What SEP user threshold did Income Tax Act 2025 define?
Ans: 3 lakh users; as alternative SEP definition alongside ₹2 crore threshold.

Q316. How much World Bank loan did Uttar Pradesh secure?
Ans: USD 299.66 million; for Clean Air Transition Programme with 10-year maturity.

Q317. How many air quality monitoring stations will World Bank-funded UP project install?
Ans: 200 new air quality monitoring stations; across UP urban areas.

Q318. How many JICA ODA loan agreements were signed?
Ans: Four agreements worth ₹16,420 crore; for healthcare, agriculture, metro projects.

Q319. How much did JICA allocate for Bengaluru Metro Rail Phase 3?
Ans: 102,480 million JPY; covering 44.65 km elevated metro extension.

Q320. How much did IFC provide to DCM Shriram via sustainability-linked NCDs?
Ans: USD 90 million; for downstream chemicals expansion and agri-business capex.

Q321. How much did public sector banks earn from third-party financial products?
Ans: Over ₹28,000 crore in last 5 years; from insurance, MF, credit cards, demat.

Q322. Which public bank earned highest from third-party product sales?
Ans: SBI with ₹17,043.49 crore; significantly ahead of Punjab National Bank.

Q323. How much have private banks earned from minimum balance penalties?
Ans: Over ₹11,000 crore in FY2022-23 to FY2024-25; HDFC Bank ₹3,800 crore+.

Q324. Which bank did not charge minimum balance penalties?
Ans: SBI; waived penalties since March 2020 for all account categories.

Q325. How much did Mahindra & Mahindra Financial face as RBI penalty?
Ans: ₹11.50 lakh; under RBI Act Section 58G for Fair Practices Code violations.

Q326. What compliance requirement did Manappuram Finance need?
Ans: KMP compensation guidelines compliance with Remuneration Policy mandatory deferral.

Q327. How much forex reserves has India accumulated by Feb 27, 2026?
Ans: Record $728.49 billion; driven by gold and foreign currency asset growth.

Q328. How many digital lending apps has MeitY blocked for fraud?
Ans: RBI launched DLA directory July 1, 2025; MeitY can block fraudulent apps.

Q329. How much open market operations did RBI conduct?
Ans: ₹1 lakh crore government bonds purchase in March 2026; injecting liquidity.

Q330. What is the new MPS at listing in revised framework?
Ans: 2.5%; down from 5%, facilitating large IPOs while maintaining liquidity.

Q331. How many merchant bankers did NSE select for IPO process?
Ans: 20 competitive merchant bankers; approved for structured selection.

Q332. What is bank dividend payout cap under revised RBI norms?
Ans: 75% irrespective of CET1 bucket; with tiered payout structure.

Q333. When do revised dividend norms become effective?
Ans: April 1, 2027; with immediate implementation for new dividend policies.

Q334. How many NBFC licenses did RBI cancel?
Ans: 36 NBFCs; 16-24 February 2026 with 9 voluntary surrenders.

Q335. What is the maximum dividend payout for banks above 20% CET1?
Ans: Up to 100% of adjusted PAT; subject to overall 75% cap.

Q336. What borrowing limit percentage does SEBI allow for mutual funds?
Ans: Not exceeding guaranteed same-day receivables; from GoI, RBI, CCIL, specified securities.

Q337. What is the nomination capping under SEBI streamlined norms?
Ans: Maximum 4 nominees per demat/MF account; down from unlimited structure.

Q338. How many SEBI board members sit as Whole-Time Members?
Ans: 4 WTMs post-KV Ramana Murty appointment; alongside chairperson and 4 part-time members.

Q339. What is the minimum MAB for bob Women Sapphire Savings Account?
Ans: ₹1 lakh; exclusive women-only account with comprehensive health benefits.

Q340. How much health insurance does bob Women Sapphire offer?
Ans: ₹10 lakh cancer care coverage for ages 18-60; free doctor consultations for 6 family members.

Q341. What syndicated loan did Bank of Baroda secure?
Ans: $500 million five-year term loan; via IFSC Banking Unit in GIFT City.

Q342. How many institutional investors participated in BoB syndicated loan?
Ans: 13 investors across Asian markets; Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, Singapore.

Q343. What is the maximum OD limit under BoB UPI credit line for women SHGs?
Ans: ₹5,000; accessible via UPI for verified women SHG members with PMJDY accounts.

Q344. When did SBI raise Tier-2 Basel III bonds?
Ans: March 2026; ₹6,051 crore at 7.05% coupon 10-year tenor with 5-year call.

Q345. How many qualified institutional investors bid for SBI bonds?
Ans: 47 qualified institutional investors; pension, provident funds, mutual funds, banks.

Q346. What cashback does Swiggy BLCK HDFC Card offer?
Ans: 10% on Swiggy, max 5% on entertainment/travel/e-commerce; ₹48,000 annual savings.

Q347. What membership benefit does Swiggy Orange HDFC Card include?
Ans: 12-month Swiggy One BLCK membership; with 5% Swiggy cashback.

Q348. When does Yes Bank appoint Vinay Tonse as MD & CEO?
Ans: April 6, 2026; 3-year term succeeding Prashant Kumar.

Q349. Which RCS spam feature did Airtel-Google introduce?
Ans: AI-powered spam filters, real-time identity validation, multi-tiered threat detection.

Q350. What payment methods does Razorpay Agent Studio automate?
Ans: Abandoned cart recovery, subscription recovery, settlement reconciliation, dispute resolution.

Q351. How many Indian languages does BHASHINI support?
Ans: 36 Indian languages; with 23 voices and 35 international languages support.

Q352. What governance assurance did Reliance provide on green ammonia supply?
Ans: Samsung C&T long-term SPA USD 3 billion; 15-year supply from FY2028-29.

Q353. How many GPUs did Chandigarh University CoE obtain?
Ans: 168 GB memory NVIDIA Blackwell architecture; enabling high-end AI research.

Q354. What is Bharat Petroleum's LPG ATM innovation?
Ans: India's first LPG ATM; round-the-clock automated cylinder distribution in Gurugram.

Q355. What payment methods does LPG ATM enable?
Ans: UPI and debit card digital payments; with Mobile OTP customer verification.

Q356. What approval timeline reduction does PRISM-SG Portal achieve?
Ans: From ~12 months to 3-4 months; for Road Over Bridge approvals and inspections.

Q357. Who was appointed as Iran's interim Supreme Leader on March 1, 2026?
Ans: Ayatollah Alireza Arafi; Deputy AoE Chairman serving until Assembly appoints successor.

Q358. What interim leadership structure did Iran implement?
Ans: Three-member Interim Leadership Council; President Pezeshkian, Chief Justice Mohseni-Ejei, Ayatollah Arafi.

Q359. Who was appointed President of Jio Platforms International Business?
Ans: Dan Bailey; 35+ years experience from Schroders, Citi, Morgan Stanley, Deutsche Bank TMT.

Q360. When did ACC reappoint Dr Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi as DCGI?
Ans: March 2026 for second tenure extension; 1-year contract from February 1, 2026.

Q361. How many governors were appointed by President Murmu on March 6, 2026?
Ans: 9 governors/LGs across states and UTs; including Bihar, Maharashtra, Telangana reshuffles.

Q362. Who became Governor of Bihar replacing Arif Mohammed Khan?
Ans: Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain; as per President's appointment directive.

Q363. Which state got new Governor Jishnu Dev Varma?
Ans: Maharashtra; transferred from Telangana, replacing departing incumbent.

Q364. Who assumed charge as Director General of Naval Armament?
Ans: B.P. Singh; 1994 batch INAS officer with 30+ years experience.

Q365. When did Børge Brende step down as WEF President and CEO?
Ans: March 1, 2026; Alois Zwinggi appointed interim successor.

Q366. What was Børge Brende's previous international role?
Ans: Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs (2013-2017); Minister Trade, Industry (2004-2005).

Q367. Who was appointed Chief Justice of Madras High Court?
Ans: Justice Sushrut Arvind Dharmadhikari; under Article 217(1) Constitution.

Q368. How many Chief Justices has Madras HC had including Dharmadhikari?
Ans: 55th Chief Justice; established August 1862.

Q369. What background does Justice Dharmadhikari have?
Ans: Standing Counsel for GoI, IT Department, RBI (2000-2015); Judge Kerala, Madhya Pradesh HCs.

Q370. When did RBI approve Ketan Merchant as interim CEO of Fino Payments Bank?
Ans: March 2026; succeeding arrested Rishi Gupta for up to 4 months.

Q371. Who was appointed interim CFO of Fino Payments Bank?
Ans: Anup Agarwal; effective March 6, 2026 for up to 4 months.

Q372. When did Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth assume Vice Chief of Army Staff?
Ans: April 1, 2026; as GOC-in-C Southern Command, replacing Lt Gen P.P. Singh.

Q373. What is Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth's commission year?
Ans: December 1986; Armoured Corps officer with Mathura XXI Strike Corps command.

Q374. When did Phanindranath Kakarla assume CEO & MD of ARCIL?
Ans: March 8, 2026; following board-approved succession plan from Pallav Mohapatra.

Q375. What previous role did Kakarla hold at ARCIL?
Ans: President (joined April 2, 2025); transitioning to CEO & MD position.

Q376. When did Rahul Bhatia become interim CEO of IndiGo?
Ans: March 2026; following Pieter Elbers resignation as airline faces operational challenges.

Q377. Who became first woman Chief of functional nuclear power plant in India?
Ans: RM Nachammai; Chief Superintendent Kaiga Generating Station Units 3&4 March 15, 2026.

Q378. How many years of nuclear experience does RM Nachammai have?
Ans: 35+ years; in nuclear plant operations, Electrical & Electronics Engineer background.

Q379. Which cricketer was appointed Uniqlo brand ambassador in India?
Ans: Jasprit Bumrah; Indian fast bowler with LifeWear philosophy campaign focus.

Q380. When was KV Ramana Murty appointed SEBI Whole-Time Member?
Ans: March 2026; 3-year tenure from assumption date, 1991-batch IDAS officer.

Q381. What was KV Ramana Murty's previous finance role?
Ans: Additional Controller General of Defence Accounts in MoD; part-time SEBI board member.

Q382. Who was appointed Co-opted Member of ICAI's SRSB?
Ans: CA P.V. Narayana Rao; March 23, 2026 for term 2026-27.

Q383. Which state appointed Manjeet Singh as Special Observer for Assembly elections?
Ans: Assam; 1988-batch IAS officer (Rajasthan cadre) for April 9, 2026 elections.

Q384. When are Assam Assembly elections and vote counting scheduled?
Ans: April 9, 2026 elections; May 4, 2026 vote counting date.

Q385. Who was appointed Chairman of reconstituted Hindi Advisory Committee?
Ans: Jagat Prakash Nadda; Union Minister with Vice-Chairperson Anupriya Patel.

Q386. When did Atanu Chakraborty resign from HDFC Bank as Part-Time Chairman?
Ans: March 19, 2026; citing ethical concerns and differences over bank practices.

Q387. Who was appointed interim Part-Time Chairman of HDFC Bank?
Ans: Keki Mistry; for 3-month duration, current Kedaara Capital Operating Advisor.

Q388. What is Keki Mistry's experience background?
Ans: Four decades in housing finance, banking, financial services; HDFC Life Chairman.

Q389. When was Vikram Doraiswami appointed as India's Ambassador to China?
Ans: March 2026; 1992-batch IFS officer strengthening India-China diplomatic ties.

Q390. Which state did City Union Bank appoint Ravindra Jadeja as brand ambassador?
Ans: Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu-headquartered bank; 2-year agreement March 16, 2026.

Q391. What is the appointment duration of Ravindra Jadeja as CUB brand ambassador?
Ans: 2-year agreement; through Baseline Ventures India Private Limited management.

Q392. When did Balendra Shah become Nepal's youngest Prime Minister?
Ans: March 27, 2026 at age 35; RSP party with 182/275 seats majority.

Q393. Who did Balendra Shah succeed as Nepal's Prime Minister?
Ans: Sushila Karki (Interim PM); after RSP's March 5, 2026 election victory.

Q394. Who assumed NCBC Chairperson role in March 2026?
Ans: Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti; former Union Minister of State for social welfare.

Q395. Who was appointed NCBC Member alongside Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti?
Ans: Mrs Kiran Umesh Mahalle; former Amravati Municipal Corporation Mayor.

Q396. When did T.N. Natarajan take charge as SAIL Director (Commercial)?
Ans: March 2026; with 32+ years experience transforming marketing strategy.

Q397. When did Krishna Kumar Thakur assume NMDC Director (Personnel)?
Ans: March 2026; with 20+ years HR experience in large-scale organizations.

Q398. Who took charge as NCSC Member in March 2026?
Ans: Dr Partha Biswas; Ph.D Defence & Strategic Studies, post-doctoral ICSSR fellow JNU.

Q399. Which cricketer was appointed BHIM Payments App brand ambassador?
Ans: MS Dhoni; by NPCI BHIM Services Limited for digital payments promotion.

Q400. When did Jose Joseph Kattoor assume South Indian Bank Part-Time Chairmanship?
Ans: March 23, 2026; 3-year term following RBI approval, succeeding V.J. Kurian.

Q401. What was Jose Joseph Kattoor's previous role?
Ans: RBI Executive Director (retired 2023); Enforcement, Corporate Strategy, Currency Management departments.

Q402. Which musician was appointed Yamaha Music India brand ambassador?
Ans: A.R. Rahman; March 2026 for Yamaha Corporation Japan's musical instrument promotion.

Q403. How many global leaders were featured in TIME Women of the Year 2026?
Ans: 16 global leaders; including Safeena Husain, Reshma Kewalramani, Reshma Saujani.

Q404. What is Safeena Husain's non-profit organization name?
Ans: Educate Girls; recognized for education advocacy and women empowerment.

Q405. When is TIME Women of the Year Leadership Forum scheduled?
Ans: March 10, 2026 at Los Angeles; honoring distinguished 16 global women leaders.

Q406. Which airport won 2025 Airport Service Quality Award for Best Arrivals?
Ans: Mangaluru International Airport; second consecutive year (2024, 2025) recognition.

Q407. How many airports globally were selected in best arrivals category?
Ans: Only 6 airports worldwide; based on real-time passenger feedback assessment.

Q408. When is Airport Experience Summit 2026 scheduled for award presentation?
Ans: August 31 - September 4, 2026 in Istanbul; ASQ awards ceremony.

Q409. Who became first Indian economist to win University of Chicago Alumni Award?
Ans: Dr K.V. Subramanian; since award establishment in 1941.

Q410. What positions did KV Subramanian hold in government?
Ans: Chief Economic Advisor (2018-2021); IMF Executive Director; ISB Finance Professor.

Q411. Who was appointed Laureus Ambassador after Olympic achievements?
Ans: Simone Biles; 7-time Olympic gold medallist, most decorated gymnast in history.

Q412. How many Laureus Sportswoman of the Year Awards did Simone Biles win?
Ans: Four-time winner; first woman appointed as Laureus Ambassador.

Q413. Which sport team earned first-ever Laureus World Team of the Year nomination?
Ans: India women's national cricket team; following ICC Women's World Cup 2025 victory.

Q414. What Guinness World Record achievement did Bokaro Steel Plant earn?
Ans: BIS certification for 4 new steel grades ISC 440-550 LA; expanding HSLA production.

Q415. What electrical steel type did Bokaro produce for first time?
Ans: 0.5 mm IS 18316 LS Grade NGO Electrical Steel; 1,100 tonnes for EV motors.

Q416. Which actress won Best Actress at Telangana Gaddar Film Awards?
Ans: Rashmika Mandanna; for Telugu film "The Girlfriend" (2025) role as Bhooma Devi.

Q417. What celebrates did Mattel's Barbie Dream Team 2026 honor?
Ans: International Women's Day; with global female role models' dolls in likenesses.

Q418. How many Oscar categories were honored at 98th Academy Awards 2026?
Ans: 24 categories; at Dolby Theatre Hollywood on March 15, 2026.

Q419. Which film won 6 Oscars at 98th Academy Awards?
Ans: One Battle After Another; directed by Paul Thomas Anderson, winning Best Picture.

Q420. Who became first woman to win Best Cinematography Oscar?
Ans: Autumn Durald Arkapaw; historic achievement in 98th Academy Awards 2026.

Q421. What is the new Oscar category introduced at 98th Awards?
Ans: Achievement in Casting; inaugural winner Cassandra Kulukundis for "One Battle After Another".

Q422. How many nominations did "Sinners" receive at Oscars 2026?
Ans: 16 nominations; most nominations of the ceremony (vs 6 wins for "One Battle After Another").

Q423. Who won Best Actor at 98th Academy Awards?
Ans: Michael B. Jordan; for role in "Sinners" film.

Q424. Who won Best Actress at Oscars 2026?
Ans: Jessie Buckley; for "Hamnet" becoming first Irish actress to win award.

Q425. What achievement did Jawed Ashraf receive on March 18, 2026?
Ans: France's Legion of Honour Commandeur rank; first Indian Ambassador with this honour.

Q426. Who presented France's Legion of Honour to Jawed Ashraf?
Ans: Thierry Mathou, French Ambassador; in presence of NSA Ajit Doval, New Delhi.

Q427. Who was conferred Honorary Knight Commander of Order of British Empire?
Ans: Natarajan Chandrasekaran, Tata Sons Chairman; March 2026 for India-UK business relations.

Q428. Who presented Chandrasekaran's KBE honour?
Ans: Lindy Cameron, British High Commissioner; on behalf of King Charles III.

Q429. How many previous Indian recipients have received KBE honour?
Ans: Limited recipients; including Jamshed Irani (1997), Ratan Tata (2009), Ravi Shankar (2001).

Q430. Who was named 2026 Stockholm Water Prize Laureate?
Ans: Kaveh Madani; Director UN University Institute, age 44, youngest recipient in 35-year history.

Q431. What achievement earned Kaveh Madani Stockholm Water Prize?
Ans: Water governance and crisis management contributions; first UN official, first former politician.

Q432. Which institution won 'Initiative of the Year' award at Central Banking Awards?
Ans: Reserve Bank of India; for '.bank.in' domain rollout combating cyber frauds.

Q433. When did RBI launch '.bank.in' domain?
Ans: February 2025; exclusive domain for RBI-licensed banks only.

Q434. Who was appointed IDRBT registrar for domain rollout?
Ans: Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology; sole registrar.

Q435. Which BCCI award did Roger Binny receive?
Ans: Colonel C.K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award; joint recipient with Rahul Dravid.

Q436. Who won Best International Cricketer (Men) Polly Umrigar Award?
Ans: Shubman Gill; 983 Test runs, 490 ODI runs in 2024-25 season.

Q437. How many ODI centuries did Smriti Mandhana score in 2025?
Ans: 5 centuries; winning Best International Cricketer (Women) award fifth time.

Q438. Who won Best International Debut award in BCCI Naman Awards 2026?
Ans: Harshit Rana (Men) and N Sree Charani (Women); recognizing breakthrough performances.

Q439. How many volcanic summits did Bhupathiraju Anmish Varma climb for Guinness Record?
Ans: 7 volcanic summits; in 92 days 4 hours 45 minutes (male category record).

Q440. Where did Bhupathiraju start and conclude volcanic summits expedition?
Ans: Mount Elbrus (Oct 23, 2024) to Mount Sidley, Antarctica (Jan 23, 2025).

Q441. When was Guinness World Record officially recognized for Bhupathiraju?
Ans: February 6, 2026; certificate presentation March 17, 2026 in Delhi.

Q442. Which Indian actress received Women Empowerment Award at House of Commons UK?
Ans: Rituparna Sengupta; National Film Awardee honored during International Women's Day event.

Q443. What National Film Award did Rituparna Sengupta win?
Ans: Best Actress for "Dahan" (1998) directed by Rituparno Ghosh.

Q444. When did Kalpana Soren receive Women Empowerment Trailblazer Award?
Ans: March 2026 at BRICS CCI WE Summit; for grassroots empowerment contributions.

Q445. What is Kalpana Soren's political position?
Ans: Member of Legislative Assembly from Gandey, Jharkhand; recognized for women-led development.

Q446. Which bank received National Award for SHG-Bank Linkage 2024-25?
Ans: Karnataka Grameena Bank (KGB); extended ₹2,835 crore to 80,904 SHGs.

Q447. Who presented the SHG-Bank Linkage award?
Ans: Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union Minister; at National Conference in Hyderabad, Telangana.

Q448. How much did SBI earn from third-party financial products in 5 years?
Ans: ₹17,043.49 crore; highest among public sector banks.

Q449. What is Shah Rukh Khan's net worth in Hurun Rich List 2026?
Ans: USD 1.3 billion; making debut in billionaire list with self-made wealth.

Q450. What sources comprise Shah Rukh Khan's billionaire wealth?
Ans: Red Chillies Entertainment, brand endorsements, film distribution rights.

Q451. How many women billionaires globally were self-made in Hurun Report 2026?
Ans: 150 self-made women billionaires; combined wealth USD 470 billion.

Q452. In how many decades did self-made women billionaires double in count?
Ans: Last decade; from 75 (2015) to 150 (2026), reflecting entrepreneurship growth.

Q453. Who is world's richest self-made woman per Hurun Report?
Ans: Diane Hendricks, age 78 (USA); USD 24 billion net worth from ABC Supply.

Q454. Which country dominates self-made women billionaires ranking?
Ans: China with 78; accounting for more than half of global 150 count.

Q455. What did R Vairamuthu receive for literary excellence?
Ans: 60th Jnanpith Award 2025; third Tamil writer after Akilan, Jayakanthan.

Q456. What is the Jnanpith Award cash prize amount?
Ans: ₹11 lakh; including Vagdevi statue and citation for outstanding literary contribution.

Q457. When was Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 announced?
Ans: March 2026; recognizing excellence in 24 Indian languages with 24 award winners.

Q458. How much cash award does each Sahitya Akademi winner receive?
Ans: ₹1 lakh; with engraved copper plaque originally designed by Satyajit Ray.

Q459. What book earned William Dalrymple Mark Lynton History Prize 2026?
Ans: "The Golden Road: How Ancient India Transformed the World"; reframing global history.

Q460. How much prize money does Mark Lynton History Prize offer?
Ans: USD 10,000; for outstanding historical writing with scholarly excellence emphasis.

Q461. Which animated film won Best Director at New York Short Animation Festival 2026?
Ans: CHYIMI; directed by Partha Sarathi Mahanta, senior Assam police officer.

Q462. When was Kailash Satyarthi's book 'Karuna: The Power of Compassion' launched?
Ans: March 2026; by SMGC with Harper Collins India, with Justice Surya Kant present.

Q463. What concept did Satyarthi introduce in 'Karuna' book?
Ans: Compassion Quotient (CQ); scientific approach to measure and increase individual compassion.

Q464. Which Bengali writer was selected for Saraswati Samman 2025?
Ans: Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay; for novel 'Hara Parbati Katha' (2020).

Q465. When is Saraswati Samman 2025 award presented?
Ans: March 2026; 35th edition recognizing 10-year published works.

Q466. How much is Saraswati Samman cash prize?
Ans: ₹15 lakh; with citation and plaque for outstanding literary contributions.

Q467. How many languages are covered by Sahitya Akademi Awards?
Ans: 24 Indian languages; representing Constitution Schedule VIII linguistic diversity.

Q468. What award distribution showed for Sahitya Akademi 2025?
Ans: 8 poetry, 4 novels, 6 short stories, 2 essays, 2 memoirs, 1 autobiography, 1 criticism.

Q469. Which cricket match did India win with 96-run victory margin?
Ans: T20 World Cup final 2026; defeated New Zealand 255/5 to 159 at Ahmedabad.

Q470. Who was named Player of the T20 World Cup 2026 series?
Ans: Sanju Samson; 89-run match-winning knock in final.

Q471. How many sixes did Sanju Samson hit in T20 World Cup final?
Ans: 8 sixes; along with 5 fours in 46-ball 89-run match-winning innings.

Q472. What is India's T20 World Cup title count?
Ans: 3 titles; 2007, 2024, 2026 becoming first team to successfully defend title.

Q473. How much prize money did India win?
Ans: USD 3 million (₹27.48 crore); combined with ICC prize money.

Q474. How much BCCI cash reward did Team India receive?
Ans: ₹131 crore; distributed among players, coaching, support staff, selectors.

Q475. Which Oscars category did Priyanka Chopra present?
Ans: Best International Feature Film; alongside Spanish actor Javier Bardem.

Q476. What feature did one Oscars-winning film demonstrate?
Ans: One Battle After Another; won Best Picture with 6 Oscars total.

Q477. What is India's sports economy valuation in 2025?
Ans: $2.13 billion (₹18,864 crore); 4% YoY growth from ₹16,633 crore 2024.

Q478. What percentage of Indian sports economy does cricket contribute?
Ans: ~89% (₹16,704 crore); dominating nation's sports economy significantly.

Q479. What is India's sports economy media spending share?
Ans: 51% of total market; largest contributor to sports economy revenue.

Q480. When did China become India's third-largest export destination?
Ans: February 2026; with exports increasing 32.4% to $1.67 billion.

Q481. How many sixes did Shubman Gill score to break T20 WC record?
Ans: Multiple centuries in various formats; scoring 983 Test, 490 ODI runs in 2024-25.

Q482. How many times did Smriti Mandhana win Best International Cricketer award?
Ans: 5 times; creating record as consistent performer in Women's cricket.

Q483. What distinction did Deepti Sharma achieve?
Ans: Highest wicket-taker in Women's ODIs; recognized at BCCI Naman Awards 2026.

Q484. How much has Mumbai contributed as billionaire hub?
Ans: 95 billionaires; largest city contributor to India's 308 billionaire count.

Q485. What healthcare sector distinction did Hurun Report highlight?
Ans: 53 new billionaires from healthcare sector; highest among all sectors.

Q486. What gender representation does Hurun Report show for women billionaires?
Ans: 481 women (14%); up from 13.4% in 2025 on Forbes list.

Q487. When did Border Roads Organisation inaugurate three inland waterways projects?
Ans: February 26, 2026 at Dibrugarh, Assam; on National Waterway-2 (Brahmaputra).

Q488. What are the three inland waterway projects inaugurated?
Ans: Bogibeel Customs & Immigration Complex, Dhubri Customs & Immigration Complex, renovated IWAI Heritage Building.

Q489. When did Southern Air Command conduct Exercise Kalari Leap?
Ans: February 2026 across Lakshadweep, Minicoy archipelago in Arabian Sea.

Q490. Which military units participated in Exercise Kalari Leap?
Ans: Armed Forces Special Operations Division (AFSOD) and Indian Coast Guard (ICG).

Q491. What aircraft did IAF deploy in Exercise Kalari Leap?
Ans: AN-32 transport, Mi-17V5 helicopters, Su-30MKI fighter jets for operations.

Q492. When did Indian Air Force conduct Exercise Vayushakti-26?
Ans: February 2026 at Pokhran Field Firing Range, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.

Q493. How many aircraft participated in Exercise Vayushakti-26?
Ans: Over 130 aircraft; including Rafale, Su-30 MKI, Mirage-2000, MiG-29, Jaguar, Hawk, transport aircraft.

Q494. Who attended Exercise Vayushakti-26 as Chief Guest?
Ans: President Droupadi Murmu; accompanied by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

Q495. What unique feature marked Exercise Vayushakti-26?
Ans: First time defined operational storyline; simulated live combat theatre with day-and-night operations.

Q496. What defence contract cost did Ministry of Defence announce?
Ans: ₹5,083 crore; for ALH Mk-III and VL-Shtil missiles procurement.

Q497. How much did HAL contract for ALH Mk-III helicopters cost?
Ans: ₹2,901 crore; 6 Advanced Light Helicopters (Maritime Role) for Indian Coast Guard.

Q498. What missile contract did Russia sign with India?
Ans: ₹2,182 crore for VL-Shtil surface-to-air missiles with associated equipment.

Q499. What signature event occurred at Indian Navy contract signing?
Ans: 4 self-propelled 500-tonne fuel barge contract with Shoft Shipyard, Thane.

Q500. Which integration requirement does fuel barge support?
Ans: Indian Navy logistics operations; supplying fuel to INS and submarines in harbours.

CURRENT AFFAIRS Q&A - MARCH 2026 (CONTINUED)

Questions 501-1000

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Q501. When did Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurate Central Facility for Recombinant Cells and Sensors?
Ans: March 1, 2026 at BRIC-RGCB, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala as National Science Day event.

Q502. What is the capital outlay for Central Facility for Recombinant Cells?
Ans: ₹60 crore; supporting drug discovery, Medical Genomics, Agri-Genomics research.

Q503. What is the total outlay for cGMP facility at BRIC-RGCB?
Ans: ₹80 crore in two phases; supporting pharmaceutical and biomedical manufacturing.

Q504. Who authored "Quantum Physics: One Hundred Magical Years" released by Minister Singh?
Ans: V.P.N. Nampoori; highlighting quantum physics research and history developments.

Q505. When did Dr Jitendra Singh launch India's first State Innovation Mission?
Ans: March 2026 at Agartala, Tripura; at Hapania International Exhibition Center.

Q506. What is the focus of Tripura's State Innovation Mission?
Ans: Long-term institutional framework for inclusive, robust, region-specific innovation ecosystems.

Q507. What initiative did Tripura CM Dr Manik Saha launch?
Ans: T-NEST (Tripura: Nurturing Entrepreneurship and Startups); first premier incubation hub.

Q508. What is District Innovator Fellowship in Tripura?
Ans: One of India's first DIF programs; identifying and supporting grassroots innovators.

Q509. What policy announcement did Tripura government make?
Ans: State Artificial Intelligence Policy; promoting AI-based development and digital transformation.

Q510. When did Delhi CM Rekha Gupta launch 'CM Jan Sunwai Portal'?
Ans: March 2026; centralized grievance redressal platform with mobile application.

Q511. How many submission channels does CM Jan Sunwai Portal offer?
Ans: 4 channels; online portal, mobile app, helpline 1902, offline at CMO.

Q512. What three-tier mechanism does grievance portal implement?
Ans: Grievance Redressal Officer, Appellate Authority, Final Appellate Authority structure.

Q513. What coverage tracking feature does portal provide?
Ans: Unique reference ID for complaint tracking; SMS updates at every stage of resolution.

Q514. When did DRDO conduct VSHORADS flight trials?
Ans: February 27, 2026 from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, Odisha coast.

Q515. What is VSHORADS designed to neutralize?
Ans: Low-altitude aerial threats; fighter aircraft, helicopters, UAVs, drones.

Q516. How many flight trials did VSHORADS successfully complete?
Ans: 3 consecutive flight trials; successfully intercepting and destroying target simulations.

Q517. When was INS Anjadip commissioned?
Ans: February 28, 2026 at Chennai Port, Tamil Nadu by Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi.

Q518. What is INS Anjadip's length and displacement specifications?
Ans: 77 metres length, 1,400 tonnes displacement with water-jet propulsion reaching 25 knots.

Q519. What indigenous content percentage does INS Anjadip feature?
Ans: Over 80%; built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.

Q520. What role does INS Anjadip serve?
Ans: Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC); "Dolphin Hunter" nickname.

Q521. When did Secretary MeitY launch 30 kW integrated drive system for EVs?
Ans: March 2026 at IIT Madras, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Q522. What technology does EV drive system use?
Ans: Wide Band Gap (WBG)-based; Silicon Carbide MOSFET power modules integration.

Q523. What motor architecture does IDS employ?
Ans: Interior Permanent Magnet Synchronous Motor (IPMSM); with SiC power electronics.

Q524. What is the power density benefit of new EV drive system?
Ans: High power-density compact unit; reducing import dependency on EV powertrains.

Q525. When did Maharashtra launch Saksham Skill Census?
Ans: March 2026 at RD National College, Bandra West, Mumbai.

Q526. What is India's first Saksham Skill Census focus?
Ans: AI-powered skill evaluation for youth aged 18-40 years; improving employability.

Q527. How many youth were surveyed in initial Saksham phase?
Ans: 55,000 houses; in H-West ward of Mumbai with hyperlocal skill mapping.

Q528. What technology does Saksham Skill Census employ?
Ans: Advanced AI technology and Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping.

Q529. When did IBM launch Sangam Infrastructure Innovation Center?
Ans: March 2026 at India Systems Development Lab (ISDL), Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Q530. What is Sangam center's primary focus?
Ans: Advanced infrastructure engineering and AI development; collaborative innovation hub.

Q531. Who leads Sangam center operations?
Ans: Virendra Somwanshi; experienced wealth management professional appointed as center lead.

Q532. What partnership model does Sangam employ?
Ans: Bringing together IBM architects, ISDL specialists, partners, ISVs, GSIs ecosystem.

Q533. When did Ministry of Culture launch Indian Culture Portal Version 2.0?
Ans: March 2026 at Kartavya Bhawan, New Delhi by Secretary Vivek Aggarwal.

Q534. What is ICP 2.0's architecture improvement?
Ans: React-based frontend and Drupal backend; modern architecture improving speed, scalability.

Q535. What AI chatbot does ICP 2.0 integrate?
Ans: Bharti; connected to Bhashini platform supporting 22 Indian languages.

Q536. How many cultural categories are curated in ICP 2.0?
Ans: 46 curated cultural categories; with 3D walkthroughs and 360-degree virtual tours.

Q537. Which two new earthworm species were discovered in Silent Valley National Park?
Ans: Moniligaster girishi and Drawida reynoldsi; increasing India's moniligastrid count to 95.

Q538. Where is Silent Valley National Park located?
Ans: Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (NBR) of Western Ghats, Kerala.

Q539. What journal published the earthworm species discovery?
Ans: Peer-reviewed journal Zootaxa; in March 2026.

Q540. How many Western Ghats moniligastrid earthworms exist?
Ans: 70 out of 95 total species; concentrated in Western Ghats biodiversity hotspot.

Q541. Which new blind fish species was discovered in Assam?
Ans: Gitchak nakan; aquifer-dwelling (phreatobitic) fish in hand-dug well.

Q542. Where was Gitchak nakan discovered in Assam?
Ans: Assam village hand-dug well; first aquifer-dwelling fish in Northeast India.

Q543. What is the maximum size of Gitchak nakan fish?
Ans: 2 centimetres; miniature fish with translucent body lacking skin pigment.

Q544. What unique skull feature does Gitchak nakan lack?
Ans: Skull roof covering; brain covered only by skin rather than bone.

Q545. What geological age fossils were found showing earliest animals?
Ans: 541 million-year-old Precambrian rocks; with evidence of soft-bodied sea sponges.

Q546. What chemical biomarkers indicated earliest animal presence?
Ans: Steranes; molecular biomarkers from sterols associated with demosponges.

Q547. Which journal published earliest animal discovery findings?
Ans: Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences; MIT and research collaboration.

Q548. What technology did scientists use for ancient animal detection?
Ans: Google Earth Engine data processing; Sentinel-2 optical, Sentinel-1 SAR imagery analysis.

Q549. When did ISRO and ESA sign Earth observation missions agreement?
Ans: March 2026; virtually signed ESA-ISRO arrangement for joint calibration.

Q550. What is the FLEX mission focus area?
Ans: Fluorescence Explorer satellite; measuring chlorophyll fluorescence for vegetation health.

Q551. How long does FLEX mission monitor global vegetation?
Ans: Comprehensive Earth observation; supporting climate monitoring and vegetation studies.

Q552. When did AquaAirX introduce AVATAAR amphibious drone?
Ans: March 2026; India's first amphibious drone for air-underwater ISR operations.

Q553. What acronym is AVATAAR?
Ans: Amphibious Vehicle for Autonomous Tactical Aerial & Aquatic Reconnaissance.

Q554. What sensors does AVATAAR drone carry?
Ans: Imaging sonar, Doppler Velocity Logger, acoustic communication modem, LED lights, cameras, USBL.

Q555. What Technology Readiness Level has AVATAAR achieved?
Ans: TRL-6; functional prototype tested in operational environments.

Q556. When did USA Air Force test Minuteman III ICBM?
Ans: February 2026; designated GT-255/Glory Trip 255 from Vandenberg Space Force Base.

Q557. What distance did Minuteman III missile travel in test?
Ans: ~4,200 miles; striking target zone near Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands.

Q558. What is Minuteman III's operational range?
Ans: ~6,000 miles; with travel speed exceeding Mach 23.

Q559. How many Minuteman III missiles remain on alert in USA?
Ans: ~400 missiles; deployed across Montana, North Dakota, Wyoming.

Q560. When did researchers develop sunlight-driven plastic waste conversion?
Ans: March 2026 at University of Waterloo, Canada; converting plastic to acetic acid.

Q561. What conversion technology does plastic-to-acetic method employ?
Ans: Photocatalysis system; using sunlight as primary energy source.

Q562. What conversion temperature does plastic waste method require?
Ans: Room temperature; without extreme heat or toxic chemicals.

Q563. Which plastic types were tested in conversion method?
Ans: Polyethylene (PE), PET, polypropylene (PP), polyvinyl chloride (PVC).

Q564. What is global annual acetic acid production volume?
Ans: Over 17 million tonnes; primarily using fossil fuels (natural gas, coal).

Q565. When did Union Minister review OTEC plant in Lakshadweep?
Ans: March 2026; examining seawater intake, deep-sea pipeline, turbine systems.

Q566. What technology does OTEC plant utilize?
Ans: Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion; temperature difference between warm surface and cold deep water.

Q567. What implementing ministry supports OTEC plant project?
Ans: Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT).

Q568. What depth does OTEC pipeline draw seawater from?
Ans: >1,000 metres; bringing cold seawater for desalination and power generation.

Q569. What desalination capacity does OTEC plant target?
Ans: 100 cubic metres/day; producing drinking water using deep-sea water.

Q570. What is the OTEC pipeline length in Lakshadweep?
Ans: 8 km; high-density polyethylene pipeline for seawater intake operations.

Q571. When was IISc Moonshot Project on Brain Co-Processors launched?
Ans: March 2026; funded by Pratiksha Trust under Senapathy Gopalakrishnan initiative.

Q572. What is brain co-processor's primary function?
Ans: Decode neural signals, process via AI, send feedback to brain; enhancing/restoring brain function.

Q573. What patient group is first-phase brain co-processor targeting?
Ans: Stroke survivors; developing non-invasive neural co-processor for sensorimotor feedback.

Q574. What second-phase brain co-processor focuses on?
Ans: Minimally invasive co-processor; restoring sensorimotor coordination in chronic MCA stroke.

Q575. How many IISc faculty support brain research initiatives?
Ans: 20+ faculty members; in Brain, Computation and Data Science initiative.

Q576. When did SEBI form high-level technology roadmap panel?
Ans: March 2026; chaired by Dr D B Phatak, IIT Bombay Professor Emeritus.

Q577. What panel purpose does SEBI technology roadmap serve?
Ans: Preparing short-term and long-term technology roadmaps for securities market ecosystem.

Q578. What SEBI surveillance tool was developed internally?
Ans: SEBI Sudarshan; real-time system monitoring unauthorized digital market activity.

Q579. What AI-based SEBI system reviews market advertisements?
Ans: SEBI R(AI)DAR; reviewing securities market advertisements for compliance.

Q580. When did Forest Survey of India halt Anavaran deforestation alerts?
Ans: March 2026; ending fortnightly alerts via AI-based portal system.

Q581. How long did Anavaran portal operate?
Ans: January 2024 - October 2025; providing near-real-time deforestation alerts.

Q582. What satellite imagery did Anavaran use?
Ans: Sentinel-2 optical imagery; Sentinel-1 SAR data for forest cover detection.

Q583. How many deforestation alerts did Anavaran issue total?
Ans: 12,351 alerts; averaging 561/month between January 2024-October 2025.

Q584. Which states recorded highest deforestation alerts?
Ans: Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Uttarakhand, Assam, Tripura.

Q585. When did ISRO conduct CE20 cryogenic engine hot test?
Ans: March 2026; 165-second sea-level hot test at IPRC, Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu.

Q586. What thrust did CE20 engine test achieve?
Ans: 22 tonne thrust; enhanced from previous 19-tonne operations.

Q587. What protection system was used in CE20 test?
Ans: Nozzle Protection System (NPS); controlling flow separation effects.

Q588. What LVM3 stage will uprated CE20 support?
Ans: Cryogenic Stage C32 development; enhancing LVM3 payload capability.

Q589. How many hot tests has tested CE20 completed?
Ans: 20 hot tests record; enabling multiple technology qualifications on single engine.

Q590. When did Gujarat launch its first sounding rocket?
Ans: March 15, 2026 at Bavaliyari village near Dholera.

Q591. Which company developed Gujarat's sounding rocket?
Ans: Omspace Rocket and Exploration Private Limited (OSRE); Ahmedabad-based.

Q592. What altitude did Gujarat sounding rocket reach?
Ans: Nearly 3 kilometres; single-stage sub-orbital rocket achievement.

Q593. What payload did Gujarat sounding rocket carry?
Ans: Mini-satellite for weather data collection; built with carbon fibre advanced composites.

Q594. What approvals did Gujarat rocket launch receive?
Ans: Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe); supporting Gujarat Spacetech Policy.

Q595. When did IIT Guwahati develop MXene-based material?
Ans: March 2026; for hydrogen fuel production and seawater desalination.

Q596. What is MXene-based material's hydrogen evolution performance?
Ans: 12 millivolts overpotential; outperforming platinum-based catalysts.

Q597. What desalination rate did MXene-based Janus evaporator achieve?
Ans: 3.2 kilograms per square metre per hour; operating 5 days continuously.

Q598. What drinking water standards did MXene desalination meet?
Ans: International standards; demonstrating sustainable water treatment capability.

Q599. What publication featured IIT Guwahati's MXene research?
Ans: "Advanced Functional Materials" journal; demonstrating material's dual capabilities.

Q600. When did India test indigenous Floating LiDAR Buoy System?
Ans: March 2026 off Muttom, Tamil Nadu coast by National Institute of Ocean Technology.

Q601. What is Floating LiDAR Buoy's measurement altitude?
Ans: Up to 300 metres above sea level; providing comprehensive wind profile data.

Q602. What advantage does floating LiDAR provide vs traditional tools?
Ans: Measures wind profiles unlike traditional coastal towers; comprehensive real-time data.

Q603. What benefit reduces dependency on imported technology?
Ans: Indigenous development supporting India's self-reliance in scientific innovation.

Q604. What weather applications does floating LiDAR support?
Ans: Enhanced forecasting accuracy, cyclone tracking, climate change studies support.

Q605. What renewable energy applications benefit from floating LiDAR?
Ans: Offshore wind energy modeling, assessment, optimization of generation.

Q606. When did Reliance Industries sign green ammonia supply deal?
Ans: March 2026; binding SPA with Samsung C&T for 15-year supply.

Q607. What is the green ammonia supply value?
Ans: Over USD 3 billion; marking largest off-take agreement globally.

Q608. When does green ammonia supply commence?
Ans: Second half of FY2028-29; fully integrated clean energy ecosystem in India.

Q609. What mission does green ammonia supply align with?
Ans: National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM); achieving net-zero emissions by 2035.

Q610. What is the global context of green ammonia market?
Ans: First in series of global offtake agreements; supporting clean energy transition.

Q611. When did Shipping Corporation sign green vessel contract?
Ans: March 2026 with Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited.

Q612. What vessel type is SCI constructing?
Ans: Green methanol dual-fuel Platform Supply Vessel (PSV); 3,000 Deadweight Tonnage.

Q613. Why is green methanol vessel significant?
Ans: First alternative-fuel vessel in SCI fleet; India's first methanol dual-fuel PSV.

Q614. What dual-fuel technology does PSV employ?
Ans: Methanol dual-fuel capability; operating on conventional marine fuel and green methanol.

Q615. What emission reduction does methanol dual-fuel provide?
Ans: Reduced emissions through green methanol utilization; supporting net-zero goals.

Q616. When did ICAR-CMFRI initiate deep-sea survey?
Ans: March 2026 in Arabian Sea; studying seamount fisheries cephalopods.

Q617. What cephalopods is ICAR-CMFRI studying?
Ans: Squid, cuttlefish, octopus; analyzing diversity, ecology, distribution, biology.

Q618. What is the deep-sea expedition funding?
Ans: ₹4.986 crore for two-year duration; funded by Ministry of Earth Sciences.

Q619. Which institution partners in deep-sea research?
Ans: National Institute of Technology (NIT), Surathkal; developing AI-based species identification.

Q620. What does deep-sea expedition aim to develop?
Ans: AI tools for automated cephalopod species identification; conservation strategy insights.

Q621. When did Netflix launch Eyeline Studios in Hyderabad?
Ans: March 2026; global production and innovation studio network expansion.

Q622. What global network centers does Eyeline Studios include?
Ans: Los Angeles, Vancouver, Seoul, London, and newly Hyderabad studio.

Q623. What sectors does Eyeline Studios support?
Ans: Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics (AVGC) ecosystem strengthening.

Q624. What partnership focus does Eyeline Studios pursue?
Ans: Strengthening India's role in global production pipelines, talent development promotion.

Q625. When did ISRO expand student involvement in space missions?
Ans: March 2026; expanding satellite design and payload development opportunities.

Q626. What mentorship support does U R Rao Satellite Centre provide?
Ans: Technical mentorship from ISRO scientists to universities for satellite development.

Q627. How many student satellites has IN-SPACe authorized?
Ans: 17 student satellites and payloads; with 11 successfully launched.

Q628. What programs strengthen space education in India?
Ans: RESPOND Programme, Space Technology Minor Course (AICTE-approved).

Q629. How much annual allocation does India provide for space science outreach?
Ans: ~₹10 crore; for space science outreach and student programs.

Q630. What facility purpose do Space Technology Incubation Centres serve?
Ans: Collaborative research and indigenous space technology development enabling.

Q631. What governance framework did Government establish for rare earth magnets?
Ans: Pilot plant at ARCI, Hyderabad; under Department of Science and Technology.

Q632. What magnet type did GoI establish production for?
Ans: Neodymium-Iron-Boron (Nd-Fe-B) rare earth permanent magnets; end-to-end manufacturing.

Q633. What rare earth magnet applications exist?
Ans: Electric vehicles, renewable energy systems, advanced electronics manufacturing.

Q634. What manufacturing advantage does ARCI pilot plant offer?
Ans: End-to-end process from strip-cast to finished sintered magnets; self-reliant system.

Q635. What strategic benefit does rare earth magnet manufacturing provide?
Ans: Reducing import dependence, strengthening India's global rare earth supply chain position.

Q636. When was new cockroach species discovered in Maharashtra?
Ans: March 2026; Neoloboptera peninsularis in Deccan Peninsula agricultural areas.

Q637. Where was Neoloboptera peninsularis found?
Ans: Nathachiwadi, Pune, Maharashtra; agricultural area of Deccan Peninsula.

Q638. What journal published cockroach species discovery?
Ans: "Records of Zoological Survey of India" journal; using integrative taxonomy.

Q639. What methodology identified new cockroach species?
Ans: Integrative taxonomy combining morphology, genitalic study, DNA barcoding, phylogenetic analysis.

Q640. What is first DNA-based cockroach identification significance?
Ans: First in India; marking advanced species identification methodology adoption.

Q641. How many cockroach species now exist in India?
Ans: 190 species; ~3.8% of global cockroach diversity.

Q642. How many Neoloboptera species are found in India?
Ans: 3 species total; newest peninsularis species endemic to India.

Q643. When did IIT-Kharagpur and PRL study lunar titanium-rich basalts?
Ans: March 2026; published in Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta.

Q644. What TiO_2 percentage do lunar basalts contain?
Ans: Up to 18% TiO_2; compared to <2% in Earth volcanic rocks.

Q645. What experimental conditions did researchers simulate?
Ans: Lunar interior conditions; up to 700 km depth inside Moon.

Q646. What mission planning benefit does lunar basalt research provide?
Ans: Supporting future lunar missions planning; including India's Chandrayaan-4 (2028).

Q647. When did Agnikul test 3D-printed booster engine 'Agnite'?
Ans: March 2026 at Agnikul Launchpad (ALP-01), Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Q648. What is Agnite engine's unique manufacturing feature?
Ans: Fully 3D printed rocket engine; reducing manufacturing time from 7 months to 7 days.

Q649. What cost reduction does 3D printing provide?
Ans: One-tenth of traditional manufacturing costs; improving production efficiency significantly.

Q650. What manufacturing scale did Agnikul achieve?
Ans: Full metre-long rocket engine; large-scale 3D printing capability demonstration.

Q651. When did National Biodiversity Authority constitute Expert Committee?
Ans: March 2026; on Invasive Alien Species under Biological Diversity Act 2002.

Q652. Who chairs Invasive Alien Species Expert Committee?
Ans: Dhananjai Mohan, former Uttarakhand Principal Chief Conservator of Forests.

Q653. Who is Expert Committee Co-Chair?
Ans: A. Biju Kumar, Vice Chancellor Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies.

Q654. What is committee tenure duration?
Ans: Two-year tenure; focusing on invasive species threat assessment.

Q655. What will committee prepare?
Ans: Consolidated national invasive alien species list; prioritizing high-risk species.

Q656. What strategies will committee recommend?
Ans: Prevention, control, eradication, ecological restoration science-based strategies.

Q657. When did Central Electricity Authority release National Generation Adequacy Plan?
Ans: March 2026 during Bharat Electricity Summit; covering 2026-27 to 2035-36.

Q658. What installed capacity increase does CEA project?
Ans: 520 GW to 1,121 GW by 2035-36; nearly doubling capacity.

Q659. What will be solar capacity by 2035-36?
Ans: 509 GW (45% share); leading renewable energy capacity expansion.

Q660. What coal-based capacity is projected?
Ans: 315 GW (28% share); maintaining significant thermal generation base.

Q661. What wind power capacity is forecasted?
Ans: 155 GW (14% share); supporting renewable energy transition.

Q662. When did Elon Musk unveil Terafab semiconductor project?
Ans: March 2026; jointly operated by Tesla and SpaceX with xAI involvement.

Q663. Where will Terafab manufacturing facility be located?
Ans: Austin, Texas; manufacturing in-house AI chips for robotics, AI, space technologies.

Q664. What technology node will Terafab initially produce?
Ans: Advanced 2-nanometre chips; initial technology process entry point.

Q665. What is Terafab project investment estimate?
Ans: USD 20-25 billion; massive semiconductor manufacturing infrastructure investment.

Q666. What monthly wafer production does Terafab target?
Ans: 1 million chip wafers per month; vs TSMC's 140,000 2-nm monthly capacity.

Q667. What annual computing power will Terafab support?
Ans: 100-200 GW annual computing power; substantial AI infrastructure deployment.

Q668. When was wild kiwi species "Actinidia indica" discovered?
Ans: March 2026 in Arunachal Pradesh; near Ziro Valley at 1,725 metres elevation.

Q669. What elevation zone does Actinidia indica grow?
Ans: 1,725 metres; transition zone between temperate and subtropical forests.

Q670. What global Actinidia species count did discovery increase?
Ans: To 56 species globally; with few found in India previously.

Q671. What biodiversity characteristic zone does discovery highlight?
Ans: Eastern Himalayas high biodiversity zone; with favourable climatic conditions.

Q672. When was desert moss Syntrichia caninervis identified for Mars?
Ans: March 2026; published in The Innovation journal.

Q673. What extreme conditions can Syntrichia caninervis survive?
Ans: Extreme dehydration, freezing temperatures, intense radiation; highly adaptable.

Q674. What cellular water loss can desert moss sustain?
Ans: Over 98% water loss; entering dormant state resuming photosynthesis with moisture.

Q675. How was desert moss tested in Martian conditions?
Ans: High CO_2, low pressure, UV radiation; survived several days with regeneration.

Q676. What cellular repair systems enable moss resilience?
Ans: Efficient cellular repair systems recovering damage lethal to other organisms.

Q677. When was BHASHINI's multilingual governance initiative launched?
Ans: March 2026; BHASHINI-PFRDA for pension services multilingual accessibility.

Q678. How many Eighth Schedule languages does BHASHINI support?
Ans: All 22 languages; including Hindi, Bengali, Telugu, Marathi, Tamil, Urdu, Sanskrit.

Q679. What infrastructure does BHASHINI provide?
Ans: Digital Public Infrastructure; with AI models for real-time translation.

Q680. What interfaces does BHASHINI support?
Ans: Voice-enabled interfaces; speech-to-text and text-to-speech technologies.

Q681. When did Indian Air Force initiate 'Vayu Baan' project?
Ans: March 2026; issuing Request for Proposal for autonomous helicopter-launched drone.

Q682. What stand-off distance does 'Vayu Baan' drone provide?
Ans: 50+ km stand-off engagement distance; protecting aircrew from MANPADS range.

Q683. What is 'Vayu Baan' drone deployment mechanism?
Ans: Mid-flight release from moving helicopter; unfolding wings, activating propulsion.

Q684. How many countries have this helicopter-drone capability?
Ans: 3 countries; USA, China, and newly India with Vayu Baan development.

Q685. When did IIT Ropar's ANNAM.AI deploy weather stations?
Ans: By March 30, 2026; 100 AI-based weather stations across Punjab.

Q686. What weather information do ANNAM stations provide?
Ans: Hyperlocal real-time weather data; improving sowing, irrigation, crop protection decisions.

Q687. Who funds ANNAM.AI Centre of Excellence?
Ans: Ministry of Education support; digital public good farmer assistance.

Q688. What states plan ANNAM.AI expansion?
Ans: Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Odisha, Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra.

Q689. When did NCW partner Truecaller for digital safety?
Ans: March 2026; launching "TrueCyberSakhi" digital safety toolkit.

Q690. What cyber threats does TrueCyberSakhi address?
Ans: Spam, phishing, impersonation, harassment, financial fraud coverage.

Q691. What educational features does toolkit include?
Ans: Interactive modules, quizzes, self-assessment tools for cyber threat awareness.

Q692. What special service did NCW establish?
Ans: 24x7 helpline guidance; with Truecaller's Government Directory Service verification.

Q693. When did NASA announce Artemis Program Lunar Gateway cancellation?
Ans: March 2026; shifting focus to $20 billion lunar surface base.

Q694. What cost and timeline did NASA announce for lunar base?
Ans: $20 billion investment; step-by-step approach similar to Apollo Program.

Q695. What nuclear spacecraft did NASA announce?
Ans: Space Reactor 1 Freedom; nuclear electric propulsion for Mars missions.

Q696. When will Space Reactor 1 Freedom launch?
Ans: Before 2028; nuclear-powered Mars mission with helicopter deployment.

Q697. What Mars landing timeline did NASA target?
Ans: By 2028; ambitious moon astronaut landing under revised Artemis approach.

Q698. When did Jammu & Kashmir clinch first-ever Ranji Trophy title?
Ans: February 28, 2026 vs Karnataka at Hubballi, KSCA Rajnagar Stadium.

Q699. What was Jammu & Kashmir's championship margin?
Ans: 291-run first-innings lead in five-day drawn final determining victory.

Q700. How many Ranji Trophy teams have won since inception?
Ans: 19th team; debut 1959-60 Ranji Trophy inception.

Q701. Who was Player of Tournament in Ranji Trophy 2025-26?
Ans: Auqib Nabi; taking 62 wickets for J&K.

Q702. How many wickets did Auqib Nabi take in final?
Ans: 5/54; dismantling Karnataka's middle order.

Q703. Who was highest scorer in Ranji Trophy 2025-26?
Ans: Abdul Samad (J&K); 748 runs at 57 average.

Q704. What centuries did J&K batsmen score in second innings?
Ans: Qamran Iqbal 160*, Sahil Lotra 101; extending championship lead to 633.

Q705. When did Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya unveil Cycling League logo?
Ans: March 2026; world's first franchise-based road cycling league.

Q706. How many franchises does Cycling League feature?
Ans: 8 city or region-based franchises; 10 cyclists per team composition.

Q707. What team composition does Cycling League mandate?
Ans: 2 international riders, 2 junior cyclists, remaining professional riders.

Q708. What race formats does Cycling League conduct?
Ans: Criterium races, team time trials, mass start events across three stages.

Q709. When did Alyssa Healy retire from international cricket?
Ans: February 2026; after memorable final ODI in Hobart.

Q710. What score did Healy achieve in final ODI?
Ans: 158 runs off 98 balls; leading Australia to 409/7 victory.

Q711. How many centuries did Healy hit in final ODI?
Ans: 3 fifties within single innings; 49, 30, 16-ball milestones.

Q712. How many runs did Healy score in last over?
Ans: 23 runs in single over; vs spinner Sree Charani in highest chase.

Q713. What is Alyssa Healy's ODI career statistics?
Ans: 125 ODIs, 3,619 runs at 83 average; 8 centuries, 19 half-centuries.

Q714. What unique strike rate did Alyssa Healy achieve?
Ans: 100.69 strike rate; demonstrating aggressive batting approach.

Q715. When did MCA name Wankhede Stadium stand after Ravi Shastri?
Ans: March 2026; Level 1 Stand below Press Box named recognition.

Q716. What career span did Ravi Shastri achieve?
Ans: All-rounder, former captain, head coach, commentator; long-standing Mumbai association.

Q717. Which gates were named after cricket legends?
Ans: Gate 3 (Dilip Sardesai), Gate 5 (Diana Edulji), Gate 6 (Eknath Solkar).

Q718. What playing records did Dilip Sardesai achieve?
Ans: 30 Tests, 179 First-Class matches; opening/middle-order batting.

Q719. Who was Diana Edulji in cricket history?
Ans: Former India women's team captain; pioneering female cricket leadership.

Q720. What fielding expertise did Eknath Solkar demonstrate?
Ans: Exceptional close-in fielding specialist; defensive prowess recognition.

Q721. When did Indian Army retain Khelo India Winter Games team championship?
Ans: March 2026; defending title successfully at Winter Games 2026.

Q722. How many total medals did Indian Army win?
Ans: 23 medals; 9 gold (8 golds in Gulmarg leg).

Q723. Who finished as Winter Games runners-up?
Ans: Himachal Pradesh; 14 total medals (6 gold, 7 silver, 1 bronze).

Q724. What third position did team achieve?
Ans: Haryana; 7 total medals (4 gold, 1 silver, 2 bronze).

Q725. What mascot represents Khelo India Winter Games?
Ans: Sheen-E-She (Snow Leopard); symbolizing resilience and adaptability.

Q726. Which authority manages Khelo India Winter Games?
Ans: Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council and Sports Authority of India.

Q727. When did Khelo India Winter Games first leg conclude?
Ans: January 20-26, 2026 in Ladakh; inaugural leg location.

Q728. When did Sanju Samson score match-winning T20 World Cup chasing innings?
Ans: During T20 World Cup 2026; 89-run match-winning knock in final.

Q729. What chase total did India pursue successfully?
Ans: 256 runs target vs New Zealand; scoring 255/5.

Q730. What position did India's chase occupy in T20 WC history?
Ans: Third-highest successful chase in T20 World Cup history.

Q731. When did Lakshya Sen reach All England Open 2026 semi-finals?
Ans: March 2026 at Utilita Arena Birmingham; defeating Li Shi Feng.

Q732. How did Lakshya defeat Li Shi Feng?
Ans: In straight games; demonstrating dominant badminton performance.

Q733. What status does Lakshya hold in All England tournament?
Ans: India's only contender in prestigious BWF Super 1000 tournament.

Q734. When did India win T20 World Cup title 2026?
Ans: March 8, 2026 at Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad.

Q735. How many T20 World Cup titles has India won total?
Ans: 3 titles; 2007, 2024, 2026 becoming first team to defend.

Q736. What prize pool did ICC announce for tournament?
Ans: USD 13.5 million; India won USD 3 million (₹27.48 crore).

Q737. When was tournament held?
Ans: February 7 - March 8, 2026; hosted by BCCI and Sri Lanka Cricket.

Q738. How much BCCI cash reward did India team receive?
Ans: ₹131 crore; distributed among players, coaching, support staff, selectors.

Q739. How much was BCCI reward compared to 2024 T20 World Cup?
Ans: ₹6 crore higher than ₹125 crore previous reward.

Q740. When did George Russell win 2026 Australian Grand Prix?
Ans: March 8, 2026 at Albert Park Circuit, Melbourne.

Q741. What team did George Russell drive for?
Ans: Mercedes-AMG Petronas Formula One Team; 1-2 finish with teammate.

Q742. Who finished second with George Russell?
Ans: Kimi Antonelli; Mercedes teammate in full-season F1 debut.

Q743. Who finished third at Australian Grand Prix?
Ans: Charles Leclerc; Ferrari completing podium positions.

Q744. What Formula 1 regulation era began with F1 2026?
Ans: New technical regulation era; featuring power unit changes.

Q745. What power balance did F1 2026 regulations implement?
Ans: 50:50 split between Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) and Electric Power Unit (EPU).

Q746. What is George Russell's F1 Grand Prix win count?
Ans: 6 wins; with 2026 Australian Grand Prix victory.

Q747. What is Mercedes Grand Prix victory count?
Ans: 132 victories; with 61st one-two finish at Australian GP.

Q748. When did Jasprit Bumrah complete 500 international cricket wickets?
Ans: During T20 World Cup 2026 semifinal vs England at Wankhede.

Q749. What dismissal achieved Jasprit Bumrah's 500-wicket milestone?
Ans: Dismissing Harry Brook; T20 World Cup semifinal target.

Q750. How many Test wickets does Jasprit Bumrah have?
Ans: 234 wickets; in 52 matches achieving milestone.

Q751. How many ODI wickets did Bumrah take?
Ans: 149 wickets; in 89 matches international cricket.

Q752. What T20I wicket count does Bumrah possess?
Ans: 117 wickets; in 94 matches T20 international play.

Q753. When did Bumrah debut in international cricket?
Ans: January 23, 2016 vs Australia, Sydney; starting two-decade journey.

Q754. Which Indian legends join Bumrah in leading wicket-taker category?
Ans: Anil Kumble (953), Ravichandran Ashwin (765), Harbhajan Singh (707).

Q755. When did India women's hockey team qualify for World Cup 2026?
Ans: Before semifinals; securing dominant qualification position.

Q756. What victory margin did India achieve in qualifying match?
Ans: 4-1 vs Wales in Pool B; Navneet Kaur hat-trick scorer.

Q757. Who scored multiple goals in India's qualification match?
Ans: Navneet Kaur; 3 goals at 29th, 34th, 55th minutes.

Q758. Who else scored in women's hockey qualification match?
Ans: Sakshi Rana; 7th minute goal.

Q759. What pool position did India finish?
Ans: Top of Pool B; with superior goal difference advantage.

Q760. When did Lakshya Sen finish runner-up at All England 2026?
Ans: March 2026; losing to Taiwan's Lin Chun-Yi in closely contested final.

Q761. What was Lakshya Sen's final match score?
Ans: 15-21, 20-22; narrow losses to Lin Chun-Yi in consecutive games.

Q762. What is Lakshya's head-to-head record vs Lin Chun-Yi?
Ans: 5 consecutive losses; across international competitions.

Q763. Which Indian players won All England men's singles titles?
Ans: Prakash Padukone (1980), Pullela Gopichand (2001); only two winners.

Q764. When did Shailesh Kumar win gold in men's high jump T63?
Ans: World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026; New Delhi event.

Q765. What height did Shailesh Kumar jump?
Ans: 1.84 metres; personal best 1.91 metres capability.

Q766. What status does Shailesh Kumar hold?
Ans: Reigning world champion; gradually recovering from left knee injury.

Q767. What major competition is Shailesh Kumar targeting?
Ans: Asian Para Games; as main season competition focus.

Q768. When did India and New Zealand launch centenary sports cooperation?
Ans: March 2026; marking 100 years of sporting relations.

Q769. When did India-New Zealand sports relations begin?
Ans: 1926; Indian Army hockey team touring New Zealand.

Q770. Which sports were prioritized in cooperation programme?
Ans: Rugby, rowing, canoeing, sailing, athletics, cycling.

Q771. What high-level meeting finalized sports cooperation?
Ans: New Delhi meeting; Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya with New Zealand delegation.

Q772. Who led New Zealand sports delegation?
Ans: Chris Bishop, Associate Minister for Sport; finalizing cooperation details.

Q773. When will India host Asia Cup Archery 2027 second leg?
Ans: March 2027; marking India's first international archery event in 22 years.

Q774. When did India last host major archery championship?
Ans: 2005; Asian Archery Championships in Delhi.

Q775. What was decision process for Asia Cup hosting?
Ans: Archery Association of India Secretary General meeting with World Archery Asia President.

Q776. What is Asia Cup Archery 2026 schedule?
Ans: Opening leg Bangkok (21-26 March 2026), second leg Delhi, final leg China.

Q777. When will World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026 – New Delhi be held?
Ans: March 11-13, 2026 at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi.

Q778. How many athletes participated in World Para Athletics?
Ans: ~257 athletes from 8 countries; India fielding ~219 athletes.

Q779. How many international classification slots were available?
Ans: 74 international classification slots; 39 physical impairments, 29 vision, 6 intellectual.

Q780. What is World Para Athletics Grand Prix purpose?
Ans: Key qualifying event; offering classification and performance opportunities.

Q781. What Paralympic preparation does Grand Prix serve?
Ans: Qualifying for 2026 World Championships and 2028 LA Paralympics.

Q782. When was Cycling League of India unveiled?
Ans: March 2026; world's first franchise-based professional road cycling league.

Q783. How many cycling teams comprise Cycling League?
Ans: 8 city/region-based franchises; 10 cyclists per team structure.

Q784. What race formats does Cycling League feature?
Ans: Criterium races, team time trials, mass start races.

Q785. What 3-stage competition structure does Cycling League employ?
Ans: Three stages culminating in grand finale; featuring diverse race formats.

Q786. What development goals does Cycling League support?
Ans: Developing cycling talent, attracting international participation, enhancing global presence.

Q787. When was first Khelo India Tribal Games announced?
Ans: March 2026; by Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.

Q788. Which state hosts first Khelo India Tribal Games 2026?
Ans: Chhattisgarh; from March 25 - April 6, 2026.

Q789. Which cities host Khelo India Tribal Games?
Ans: Raipur, Jagdalpur, Sarguja; across three Chhattisgarh locations.

Q790. How many medal sports feature in Tribal Games?
Ans: 7 medal sports; Athletics, Football, Hockey, Weightlifting, Archery, Swimming, Wrestling.

Q791. What percentage tribal population justifies Chhattisgarh selection?
Ans: Over 32% tribal population; strong tribal cultural connection.

Q792. How many participants are expected at Tribal Games?
Ans: Over 6,000 participants; including ~2,300 athletes from across India.

Q793. What tribal sports preservation emphasis exists?
Ans: Special focus on indigenous sports like Mallakhamb and Kabaddi.

Q794. When did LeBron James break NBA games-played record?
Ans: March 2026; appearing in 1,612th regular season game vs Orlando Magic.

Q795. What previous games-played record did LeBron break?
Ans: Robert Parish's 1,611 games (held since 1997).

Q796. What is LeBron James' age and career span?
Ans: Age 41 across 23 seasons; demonstrating exceptional longevity.

Q797. How did Lakers perform in LeBron's record game?
Ans: 105-104 victory vs Orlando Magic; Luke Kennard buzzer-beater.

Q798. What winning streak did Lakers extend?
Ans: 9-game winning streak continuation; demonstrating team momentum.

Q799. When was Arundhati Reddy named ICC Women's Player of Month?
Ans: March 2026; for February 2026 performance period.

Q800. What achievement earned Arundhati ICC Player of Month?
Ans: Leading wicket-taker in T20I series vs Australia; 8 wickets in 3 matches.

Q801. What was Arundhati's bowling average in Australia series?
Ans: 10.87 bowling average; demonstrating exceptional performance consistency.

Q802. What was Arundhati's economy rate?
Ans: 7.25 runs per over; controlling bowling performance.

Q803. What career-best performance did Arundhati achieve?
Ans: 4 wickets for 22 runs in Sydney; setting personal milestone.

Q804. Who was ICC Men's Player of Month for February 2026?
Ans: Sahibzada Farhan; following ICC T20 World Cup 2026 performance.

Q805. How many runs did Sahibzada Farhan score in tournament?
Ans: 383 runs in 7 matches; averaging 76.60.

Q806. What strike rate did Farhan maintain?
Ans: 160.25 strike rate; demonstrating aggressive batting approach.

Q807. How many centuries did Farhan score?
Ans: 2 centuries; breaking Virat Kohli's T20 WC single-edition record.

Q808. How many half-centuries did Farhan record?
Ans: 2 half-centuries; alongside 2 century achievements.

Q809. What record did Farhan become first to achieve?
Ans: First batter scoring two centuries in single T20 WC edition.

Q810. When was India's World Indoor Athletics Championships hosting finalized?
Ans: March 2026 during Toruń, Poland meeting.

Q811. Which venue will host WIAC 2028?
Ans: Kalinga Indoor Athletics Stadium (KIAS), Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Q812. What edition number is WIAC 2028?
Ans: 22nd edition; first time India hosting World Indoor Athletics.

Q813. What Asian milestone does India hosting represent?
Ans: 4th Asian nation hosting WIAC; after Japan, Qatar, China.

Q814. When and where is WIAC 2026 being held?
Ans: March 20-22, 2026 in Toruń, Poland; 21st edition.

Q815. What location is WIAC 2030 awarded?
Ans: Astana, Kazakhstan; 23rd edition location.

Q816. What broader competitions is India preparing to host?
Ans: Commonwealth Games 2030 and Olympic Games 2036.

Q817. When is Zero Discrimination Day observed?
Ans: March 1st globally; theme 2026 "People First".

Q818. What symbol represents Zero Discrimination Day?
Ans: Butterfly; symbolizing freedom and transformation.

Q819. When did Zero Discrimination Day observance start?
Ans: First observed 2014; initiated by UNAIDS 2013.

Q820. What focus areas does Zero Discrimination Day emphasize?
Ans: Equality, inclusion, human rights promotion advocacy.

Q821. What discrimination types does the observance address?
Ans: Gender, religion, disability, and multiple intersecting discriminations.

Q822. When is World Civil Defence Day observed?
Ans: March 1st; organized by International Civil Defence Organisation (ICDO).

Q823. What is 2026 World Civil Defence Day theme?
Ans: Environmental risk management; addressing climate-related disaster preparedness.

Q824. What historical significance marks March 1?
Ans: ICDO Constitution adoption date March 1, 1972.

Q825. When is World Seagrass Day observed?
Ans: March 1st annually; declared by UNGA 2022.

Q826. When was World Seagrass Day first observed?
Ans: First observed 2023; raising marine ecosystem awareness.

Q827. What ecosystem importance does Seagrass Day address?
Ans: Marine biodiversity support and climate change mitigation.

Q828. When is Civil Accounts Day observed in India?
Ans: March 1st; marking ICAS foundation 1976.

Q829. What observance significance does Civil Accounts Day mark?
Ans: 50th observance in 2026; linked to India's financial reforms.

Q830. Which ministry oversees Civil Accounts Day?
Ans: Ministry of Finance; celebrating Indian Civil Accounts Service.

Q831. When is World Hearing Day observed?
Ans: March 3rd annually; marking ear care awareness.

Q832. What is 2026 World Hearing Day theme?
Ans: Hearing care for children; addressing youth hearing health.

Q833. When did World Hearing Day start as observation?
Ans: Renamed 2016; previously Ear Care Day (2007).

Q834. What health focus does World Hearing Day promote?
Ans: Hearing loss awareness and hearing health advocacy.

Q835. When is World Wildlife Day observed?
Ans: March 3rd annually; declared UNGA 2013.

Q836. When was first World Wildlife Day observed?
Ans: 2014; first international wildlife day observance.

Q837. What is 2026 World Wildlife Day theme?
Ans: Medicinal & Aromatic Plants; addressing conservation importance.

Q838. What focus area does Wildlife Day promote?
Ans: Biodiversity conservation and wildlife protection advocacy.

Q839. When is National Security Day observed in India?
Ans: March 4th annually; honoring security forces.

Q840. What first occurrence marks National Security Day?
Ans: First observed 1972; recognizing police, army, security personnel.

Q841. When is National Safety Day observed?
Ans: March 4th; marking official establishment 1972.

Q842. What period does Safety Week cover?
Ans: March 4-10; starting with National Safety Day.

Q843. What sector focus does Safety Day promote?
Ans: Workplace safety culture and accident prevention.

Q844. When is World Obesity Day observed?
Ans: March 4th annually; addressing global obesity crisis.

Q845. What is World Obesity Day 2026 theme?
Ans: "8 Billion Reasons to Act"; mobilizing action emphasis.

Q846. What organization established World Obesity Day?
Ans: World Obesity Federation; promoting healthy lifestyle.

Q847. When is World Engineering Day observed?
Ans: March 4th; declared UNESCO 2019.

Q848. When was World Engineering Day first observed?
Ans: 2020 first observance; supporting engineering advancement.

Q849. What is World Engineering Day theme?
Ans: Smart Engineering & Innovation; sustainable development focus.

Q850. When is Disarmament Awareness Day observed?
Ans: March 5th; declared by UNGA 2022.

Q851. When was Disarmament Awareness Day first observed?
Ans: 2023 first observance; promoting peace advocacy.

Q852. What focus does Disarmament Day promote?
Ans: Peace and anti-weapons awareness globally.

Q853. When is Jan Aushadhi Diwas observed in India?
Ans: March 7th; promoting generic medicines access.

Q854. What scheme does Jan Aushadhi Diwas support?
Ans: PMBJP (Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana).

Q855. When did Jan Aushadhi observance begin?
Ans: 2019; annual healthcare affordability awareness campaign.

Q856. When is International Women's Day observed?
Ans: March 8th; celebrating women's achievements globally.

Q857. What is International Women's Day theme 2026?
Ans: Rights, Justice, Action; gender equality focus.

Q858. When was first UN observation of Women's Day?
Ans: 1975; marking international observance beginning.

Q859. When is Women Judges Day observed?
Ans: March 10th; declared by UNGA 2021.

Q860. When was Women Judges Day first observed?
Ans: 2022 first observance; promoting women judicial participation.

Q861. When is CISF Raising Day observed?
Ans: March 10th; marking CISF establishment 1969.

Q862. What does CISF stand for?
Ans: Central Industrial Security Force; under Ministry of Home Affairs.

Q863. What is CISF Raising Day focus?
Ans: Industrial security and organizational accomplishments recognition.

Q864. When is No Smoking Day observed?
Ans: Second Wednesday of March; started UK 1984.

Q865. What does No Smoking Day promote?
Ans: Tobacco cessation and quit smoking encouragement.

Q866. When is World Kidney Day observed?
Ans: Second Thursday of March; highlighting kidney health.

Q867. What is World Kidney Day 2026 theme?
Ans: Kidney Health for All; kidney disease awareness.

Q868. When did World Kidney Day observance begin?
Ans: 2006 first observance; global kidney health initiative.

Q869. When is World Rotaract Day observed?
Ans: March 13th; celebrating Rotaract movement.

Q870. When was Rotaract movement established?
Ans: 1968 establishment; youth service organization.

Q871. What does Rotaract Day emphasize?
Ans: Youth leadership and community service.

Q872. When is World Sleep Day observed?
Ans: Before spring equinox (March 21); sleep health awareness.

Q873. When did World Sleep Day begin?
Ans: 2008 first observance; promoting sleep awareness.

Q874. When is Pi Day observed?
Ans: March 14th; celebrating 3.14 mathematical constant.

Q875. When is International Day of Mathematics observed?
Ans: March 14th; declared UNESCO 2019.

Q876. What is International Day of Mathematics theme?
Ans: Mathematics & Hope; development role emphasis.

Q877. When is Rivers Day observed?
Ans: March 14th; started 1997 (Brazil meeting).

Q878. What does Rivers Day focus on?
Ans: River conservation and water security.

Q879. When is Consumer Rights Day observed?
Ans: March 15th; inspired by John F. Kennedy 1962 speech.

Q880. When was first Consumer Rights Day observed?
Ans: 1983 first observance; consumer protection advocacy.

Q881. What is Consumer Rights Day 2026 theme?
Ans: Safe Products; consumer protection emphasis.

Q882. When is Islamophobia Day observed?
Ans: March 15th; declared by UNGA 2022.

Q883. When was Islamophobia Day first observed?
Ans: 2023 first observance; religious tolerance promotion.

Q884. When is National Vaccination Day observed?
Ans: March 16th; marking first polio vaccine 1995.

Q885. When did India achieve polio-free status?
Ans: 2014; through vaccination programme success.

Q886. What does Vaccination Day promote?
Ans: Immunization awareness and disease prevention.

Q887. When is Ordnance Factory Day observed?
Ans: March 18th; marking first factory 1801 Kolkata.

Q888. What is Ordnance Factory Day significance?
Ans: Defence production and DPSU organization focus.

Q889. When were ordnance factories reorganized?
Ans: 2021; into DPSU entities.

Q890. When is Global Recycling Day observed?
Ans: March 18th; started by BIR 2018.

Q891. What is Global Recycling Day theme?
Ans: Think Opportunity; recycling and sustainability promotion.

Q892. When is World Oral Health Day observed?
Ans: March 20th; dental health awareness.

Q893. When did World Oral Health Day start?
Ans: 2007 first observance; oral health promotion.

Q894. What is World Oral Health Day theme?
Ans: Happy Mouth = Happy Mind; mental-oral health connection.

Q895. When is International Happiness Day observed?
Ans: March 20th; declared UN 2012.

Q896. When was International Happiness Day first observed?
Ans: 2013 first observance; well-being awareness.

Q897. When is World Sparrow Day observed?
Ans: March 20th; started 2010 bird conservation.

Q898. What does World Sparrow Day focus on?
Ans: Bird conservation and sparrow species protection.

Q899. Which country leads World Sparrow Day initiative?
Ans: India; bird conservation movement leadership.

Q900. When is World Forestry Day observed?
Ans: March 21st; declared UNGA 2012.

Q901. What is World Forestry Day theme?
Ans: Forests & Economies; forest conservation emphasis.

Q902. When is Poetry Day observed?
Ans: March 21st; declared UNESCO 1999.

Q903. What does Poetry Day promote?
Ans: Literature and culture celebration.

Q904. When is Down Syndrome Day observed?
Ans: March 21st; declared UN 2011.

Q905. What does Down Syndrome Day address?
Ans: Inclusion and disability awareness.

Q906. When is World Water Day observed?
Ans: March 22nd; first observed 1993.

Q907. What is World Water Day theme?
Ans: Water & Gender; water crisis emphasis.

Q908. When is World Meteorological Day observed?
Ans: March 23rd; marking WMO formation 1950.

Q909. What does Meteorological Day focus on?
Ans: Climate awareness and weather science.

Q910. When is Shaheed Diwas observed?
Ans: March 23rd; honoring freedom fighters.

Q911. Who are honored on Shaheed Diwas?
Ans: Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, Sukhdev; independence struggle.

Q912. When is World TB Day observed?
Ans: March 24th; first observed 1983.

Q913. What is World TB Day theme?
Ans: End TB; tuberculosis awareness.

Q914. When is Slavery Remembrance Day observed?
Ans: March 25th; declared UNGA 2007.

Q915. What does Slavery Remembrance Day focus on?
Ans: Human rights awareness and dignity.

Q916. When is World Theatre Day observed?
Ans: March 27th; started by ITI 1961.

Q917. What is World Theatre Day theme?
Ans: Culture of Peace; peace promotion.

Q918. When is Earth Hour observed?
Ans: March 28th; started by WWF 2007.

Q919. What is Earth Hour focus?
Ans: Lights off campaign; environmental awareness.

Q920. When did Mansukh Mandaviya release "Mahatma: A Great Communicator"?
Ans: March 2026 at Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat, New Delhi.

Q921. Who authored "Mahatma: A Great Communicator" book?
Ans: Dr Dhiraj Kakadia, Additional Director General of Akashvani.

Q922. What is book's primary focus area?
Ans: Mahatma Gandhi's life with communication skills emphasis during freedom struggle.

Q923. In which languages was the book published?
Ans: Hindi, English, and Gujarati; by Navajivan Trust.

Q924. When did Vice President release Tamil heritage publications?
Ans: March 2026 at Uparashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.

Q925. How many Tamil publications were released?
Ans: 16 books published by Publications Division.

Q926. How many Tamil titles were included?
Ans: 14 Tamil titles; covering regional heritage topics.

Q927. What topics do released Tamil publications cover?
Ans: Rameswaram, Ramanujar, Nadukal tradition, Arikaimedu, Bakthi literature.

Q928. In which languages are publications available?
Ans: English, Hindi, and Tamil language editions.

Q929. When was R Vairamuthu selected for Jnanpith Award?
Ans: March 2026; selected for 60th Jnanpith Award 2025.

Q930. What is R Vairamuthu's profession?
Ans: Renowned Tamil poet and lyricist.

Q931. How many Tamil writers have won Jnanpith Award previously?
Ans: 2 writers; P.V. Akilan (1975), Jayakanthan (2002).

Q932. What is Jnanpith Award cash prize?
Ans: ₹11 lakh; with Vagdevi bronze statue and citation.

Q933. What does Vagdevi statue represent?
Ans: Goddess Saraswati; symbolizing literary and cultural excellence.

Q934. When do Sahitya Akademi Awards 2025 announcement occur?
Ans: March 2026; recognizing 24 Indian language literature.

Q935. How many award categories exist in Sahitya Akademi?
Ans: 8 categories; poetry, short stories, novels, essays, memoirs, autobiography, criticism.

Q936. Which novelist won English category award?
Ans: Navtej Sarna; for "Crimson Spring" novel.

Q937. Which memoirist won Hindi category award?
Ans: Mamta Kalia; for "Jeete Jee Allahabad" memoir.

Q938. Which critic won Tamil category award?
Ans: Sa Tamilselvan; for "Thamiz Sirukathaiyin Thadangal" criticism.

Q939. Which poet won Bengali category award?
Ans: Prasun Bandyopadhyay; for "Shrestha Kabita" poetry.

Q940. Which poet won Sanskrit category award?
Ans: Sadhu Bhadreshdas; for "Prasthanacatustaye Brahmaghosah" poetry.

Q941. When was William Dalrymple awarded Mark Lynton History Prize?
Ans: March 2026; for "The Golden Road" historical work.

Q942. What book title earned William Dalrymple the award?
Ans: "The Golden Road: How Ancient India Transformed the World".

Q943. What prize money does Mark Lynton award offer?
Ans: USD 10,000; recognizing historical writing excellence.

Q944. Who administers Mark Lynton History Prize?
Ans: Nieman Foundation for Journalism and Columbia University.

Q945. What approach does Dalrymple's book employ?
Ans: Placing ancient India at centre of global history with scholarship.

Q946. What concept does "The Golden Road" introduce?
Ans: Golden Road concept; India's historical global trade role.

Q947. When was animated film 'CHYIMI' honored at New York Festival?
Ans: March 2026; at New York Short Animation Festival.

Q948. What award did CHYIMI film receive?
Ans: Best Director Award; recognizing direction excellence.

Q949. Who directed CHYIMI animated film?
Ans: Partha Sarathi Mahanta; senior police officer, Inspector General Assam.

Q950. What does CHYIMI film represent?
Ans: Indian and Assamese animation storytelling global recognition.

Q951. When did Indian Railways launch Rail Tech Policy 2026?
Ans: March 2026; as part "52 Reforms in 52 Weeks" initiative.

Q952. What technology focus does Rail Tech Policy emphasize?
Ans: Advanced technology adoption with startups, industry, academic institutions collaboration.

Q953. What initiatives does Rail Tech Policy promote?
Ans: AI-based safety systems (elephant detection, fire detection, fog obstruction).

Q954. What is Rail Tech Portal purpose?
Ans: Digital platform for innovative proposal submission and transparent approval.

Q955. What is e-Railway Claims Tribunal (e-RCT)?
Ans: Digitized claim settlement process; online filing, tracking, faster adjudication.

Q956. What e-RCT digitization timeline is planned?
Ans: 23 benches digitization within 12 months.

Q957. When did India launch first hydrogen fuel cell passenger vessel?
Ans: March 2026 at Namo Ghat, Varanasi.

Q958. Who flagged off hydrogen fuel cell vessel?
Ans: Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal; marking green maritime achievement.

Q959. What is hydrogen vessel significance?
Ans: First fully indigenous hydrogen fuel cell vessel; green maritime transition milestone.

Q960. When did Ashmolean Museum return Thirumankai Alvar idol?
Ans: March 2026; to Shri Soundararaja Perumal Temple restoration.

Q961. What period is Thirumankai Alvar idol from?
Ans: 16th century; important Hindu religious artifact.

Q962. What does idol return represent?
Ans: Cultural cooperation, ethical restitution, India's heritage artifact reclamation efforts.

Q963. When was Gandhi bust unveiled in Montana?
Ans: March 2026 at Mike Mansfield Center.

Q964. Who gifted Gandhi bust to Montana?
Ans: Government of India; reflecting cultural diplomacy.

Q965. What does Gandhi bust symbolize?
Ans: Peace and non-violence message; India-US cultural ties strengthening.

Q966. When will Khurda-Balangir Railway Line completion occur?
Ans: Nearing completion; pending since pre-Independence period.

Q967. What is Khurda-Balangir line project cost?
Ans: ₹5,000 crore investment; connecting five Odisha districts.

Q968. What viaduct record will railway achieve?
Ans: 4.77-km viaduct; India's second-longest after Bogibeel Bridge.

Q969. When was Hatti Risala Festival observed?
Ans: March 2026; celebrating 138 years of tradition.

Q970. What does Hatti Risala Festival feature?
Ans: Decorated elephant procession, revdis distribution, cultural heritage celebration.

Q971. When will Nitish Kumar resign as Bihar CM?
Ans: March 2026; to contest Rajya Sabha elections.

Q972. How many terms did Nitish Kumar serve as CM?
Ans: Over ten terms; more than two decades governance.

Q973. When did Assam export Karbi Anglong Ginger to London?
Ans: March 2, 2026; GI-tagged product first export.

Q974. Who flagged off ginger export?
Ans: Assam Agriculture Minister Atul Bora; at Krishi Bhawan Guwahati.

Q975. What is ginger export significance?
Ans: Boosting farmer income, promoting Assam's agricultural identity globally.

Q976. When was 2,600-year-old Etruscan tomb discovered?
Ans: March 2026 in central Italy; San Giuliano archaeological site.

Q977. What location is Italian archaeological site?
Ans: 70 km northwest of Rome; 2,600-year-old tomb.

Q978. How many skeletons were found in tomb?
Ans: 4 skeletons on carved stone beds; deliberate burial positioning.

Q979. How many artifacts were discovered?
Ans: 100+ artifacts; ceramic vases, iron weapons, bronze, silver jewelry.

Q980. What preservation condition exists in tomb?
Ans: Exceptional preservation (sealed 2,000+ years); unlike many looted tombs.

Q981. What dating indicates Etruscan tomb period?
Ans: 7th century BCE; preliminary examination requiring DNA testing confirmation.

Q982. When was Stenothoe lowryi marine amphipod discovered?
Ans: March 2026 at Arjyapalli, Odisha Ganjam district.

Q983. Who led Stenothoe lowryi discovery research?
Ans: Shesdev Patro, Berhampur University Assistant Professor.

Q984. What is Stenothoe lowryi's previous geographic distribution?
Ans: Previously reported only from Malaysia; distribution largely unknown.

Q985. What journal published amphipod species discovery?
Ans: "Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the UK".

Q986. What is Stenothoe lowryi's size?
Ans: ~5 mm length; small crustacean species.

Q987. What ecological role do amphipods serve?
Ans: Important marine food web component; small crustacean species.

Q988. What earlier discovery did Berhampur University make?
Ans: Grandidierella geetanjalae from Chilika Lagoon (January 2025).

Q989. When was Purple Fest observed at Rashtrapati Bhavan?
Ans: March 2026; celebrating Divyangjan talents and achievements.

Q990. How many Divyangjan visited Amrit Udyan?
Ans: 8,000+ Divyangjan; exclusive day celebration for persons with disabilities.

Q991. What programs did Purple Fest feature?
Ans: Interactive games, learning sessions, awareness stalls, entertainment programmes.

Q992. Who attended Purple Fest as Chief?
Ans: President Droupadi Murmu; at Open Air Theatre, President's Estate.

Q993. What cultural performances were presented?
Ans: Music, dance, creative acts; by Divyangjan artists.

Q994. What observance goal did President emphasize?
Ans: Encouraging persons with disabilities to move forward with confidence.

Q995. When did Bokaro Steel receive BIS certification?
Ans: March 2026; for 4 new steel grades.

Q996. What steel grades received certification?
Ans: ISC 440 LA, ISC 470 LA, ISC 510 LA, ISC 550 LA.

Q997. What production expansion does certification enable?
Ans: High Strength Low Alloy cold-rolled steel production expansion.

Q998. What electrical steel product did Bokaro produce?
Ans: 0.5 mm IS 18316 LS Grade NGO Electrical Steel; 1,100 tonnes.

Q999. What applications does electrical steel serve?
Ans: Electric motors, generators, transformers, hybrid/EV rotors.

Q1000. When did Indian Standard expand approved grades?
Ans: Previously covered up to ISC 410; now expanded with new grades.