

Weekly One Liners 24th to 30th March, 2025

Government Notifies Revisions to MSME Investment and Turnover Criteria: Effective April 1, 2025

The Government of India has announced a major revision in the investment and turnover criteria for the classification of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). The changes, which will take effect from April 1, 2025, are aimed at enhancing business opportunities and providing greater financial flexibility to MSMEs. Under the revised criteria, investment limits have been increased by 2.5 times, and turnover limits have been doubled, as per the announcement made by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during the Union Budget 2025. These revisions will allow larger businesses to qualify as MSMEs, facilitating better access to credit, government incentives, and support schemes.

Key Highlights

Revised MSME Classification

- **Effective Date:** April 1, 2025.
- **Purpose:** To facilitate greater ease of doing business, expand eligibility for MSME benefits, and enhance the growth potential of enterprises.
- **Increased Investment and Turnover Limits:** The government has raised investment and turnover limits for micro, small, and medium enterprises, allowing more businesses to qualify as MSMEs.

Revised MSME Classification Criteria

1. Micro Enterprises

- **Previous Investment Limit:** ₹1 crore → Revised Limit: ₹2.5 crore.
- **Previous Turnover Limit:** ₹5 crore → Revised Limit: ₹10 crore.

2. Small Enterprises

- **Previous Investment Limit:** ₹10 crore → Revised Limit: ₹25 crore.
- **Previous Turnover Limit:** ₹50 crore → Revised Limit: ₹100 crore.

3. Medium Enterprises

- **Previous Investment Limit:** ₹50 crore → Revised Limit: ₹125 crore.
- **Previous Turnover Limit:** ₹250 crore → Revised Limit: ₹500 crore.

Implications of the Revised Criteria

- **Broader MSME Coverage:** More businesses will qualify as MSMEs, increasing access to credit facilities and government incentives.
- **Enhanced Growth Opportunities:** Enterprises can now scale up operations without losing MSME status, promoting higher investment and innovation.
- **Increased Global Competitiveness:** Higher turnover limits allow MSMEs to expand their market reach and compete internationally.

- **Boost to Employment and Economic Growth:** The expansion of MSME criteria is expected to generate new jobs and contribute to India's GDP growth.

Delhi Budget 2025-26: Rekha Gupta Unveils Rs 1 Lakh Crore Budget with Focus on Infrastructure, Welfare & Economic Growth

Delhi Chief Minister and Finance Minister Rekha Gupta presented the Delhi Budget 2025-26, with a record allocation of Rs 1 lakh crore. The budget emphasizes infrastructure development, social welfare, healthcare, education, and economic growth. It marks a 31.5% increase from the previous year's budget and aims to bring transparency, efficiency, and rapid development to the capital.

Introduction: A Historic Budget for Delhi

Rekha Gupta described this as a "historic Budget", aiming to accelerate Delhi's transformation through increased capital expenditure and public welfare schemes. She criticized the past administration for corruption and mismanagement and vowed to implement projects with efficiency.

The budget sees a major boost in capital expenditure, with an allocation of Rs 28,000 crore, double the previous year's spending, focusing on roads, water supply, and sewer systems.

Key Focus Areas of Delhi Budget 2025-26

1. Infrastructure Development & Urban Planning

- **Rs 28,000 crore** for infrastructure projects, doubling last year's investment.
- Roads, sewer systems, and clean water supply to be prioritized.
- **Rs 500 crore** for the repair and upgradation of sewage treatment plants (STPs).
- **Rs 250 crore** for replacing old sewer lines.
- **Rs 100 crore** for a pilot project to remove overhead electrical lines and shift high-tension power lines underground.

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2. Transport Connectivity & Public Services

- Rs 12,952 crore allocated for transport development.
- Rs 1,000 crore to enhance Delhi-NCR transport connectivity.
- Replacement of pink tickets for free bus rides for women with smart cards to prevent misuse.

3. Social Welfare Initiatives

- Rs 5,100 crore allocated for monthly financial aid of Rs 2,500 to eligible women.
- Free laptops for 1,200 Class X students, with an allocation of Rs 750 crore.
- Establishment of modern cow shelters in Ghummanhera at a cost of Rs 40 crore.

4. Healthcare & Sanitation

- Rs 2,144 crore for Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) to improve medical services.
- Rs 9,000 crore for clean drinking water and sanitation services.

5. Education & Skill Development

- Launch of new CM Shri Schools with Rs 100 crore allocated.
- Free laptops for meritorious students passing Class X.

6. Economic Growth & Business Support

- Formation of a "Traders' Welfare Board" to support businesses and traders.
- 'Global Investment Summit' to be held every two years to attract investors.

7. Environmental & Pollution Control Measures

- Rs 300 crore to tackle pollution control.
- Rs 506 crore for the environment and forest department.

8. Municipal Corporation Support

- Rs 6,897 crore allocated to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) for urban development.

9. Cultural & Tourism Promotion

- Hosting of 'International Film Festival' with Rs 30 crore allocated.

RBI Revises Priority Sector Lending (PSL) Norms Effective April 1, 2025

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued revised Priority Sector Lending (PSL) guidelines, which will come into effect from April 1, 2025. The new norms aim to enhance credit accessibility to priority sectors, including agriculture, MSMEs, renewable energy, housing, education, and social infrastructure. These revisions introduce higher loan limits, expand the 'Weaker Sections' category, and revise the PSL targets for urban cooperative banks (UCBs). The changes are designed to boost financial inclusion and promote economic growth in critical areas.

Key Highlights of RBI's Revised PSL Guidelines

1. Enhancement of Loan Limits

- **Education Loans:** Increased limit to ₹25 lakh per individual (including vocational courses).
- **Social Infrastructure:** Up to ₹8 crore per borrower for setting up schools, drinking water facilities, etc.
- **Housing Loans** (Priority sector classification based on population size):
 - ₹50 lakh – Centers with a population of 50 lakh and above.
 - ₹45 lakh – Centers with a population between 10 lakh and 50 lakh.
 - ₹35 lakh – Centers with a population below 10 lakh.

2. Focus on Renewable Energy

- Loans up to ₹35 crore for renewable energy-based power generators and public utilities (e.g., street lighting systems, remote village electrification).
- Loan limit for individual households: ₹10 lakh per borrower.

3. Revised PSL Targets for Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs)

- **Total PSL target:** 60% of Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC) or Credit Equivalent of Off-Balance Sheet Exposures (CEOBSE).
- **Micro Enterprises:** 7.5% of ANBC.
- **Advances to Weaker Sections:** 12% of ANBC.

4. Expansion of the 'Weaker Sections' Category

- The revised definition now includes transgenders, in addition to,
- Small & Marginal Farmers.
 - Distressed farmers indebted to non-institutional lenders.
 - Artisans.
 - Individual members of SHGs (Self-Help Groups) or Joint Liability Groups (JLGs).
 - Scheduled Castes (SC) & Scheduled Tribes (ST).
 - Persons with disabilities.
 - Minority communities notified by the Government of India.
 - Individual women beneficiaries up to ₹2 lakh (The limit is not applicable to UCBs).

Lok Sabha Passes Finance Bill 2025: Key Highlights and Implications

On Tuesday, March 25, 2025, the Lok Sabha passed the Finance Bill 2025 along with 35 government amendments. One of the key amendments includes the abolition of the six per cent digital tax on online advertisements. The passage of the Finance Bill 2025 marks the completion of the Budgetary approval process in the Lower House. Now, the bill moves to the Rajya Sabha for further consideration, after which the Budget process for FY 2025-26 will be formally concluded.

Finance Bill 2025 and Budgetary Overview

The **Union Budget 2025-26** outlines a total **expenditure of ₹50.65 lakh crore**, reflecting a **7.4 per cent increase over FY 2024-25**. The government has proposed a **capital expenditure of ₹11.22 lakh crore**, with an **effective capital expenditure of ₹15.48 lakh crore**. The projected **gross tax revenue collection stands at ₹42.70 lakh crore**, while the estimated **gross borrowing is ₹14.01 lakh crore**.

Key Announcements in Finance Bill 2025

Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** highlighted that the **Finance Bill 2025** aligns with India's vision for **Viksit Bharat by 2047** and ensures **tax certainty**. She emphasized the following objectives:

- **Rationalization of tax provisions** to enhance **ease of doing business**.
- **Unprecedented tax relief** measures for individuals and businesses.
- A strong focus on **increasing tax mobilization** from individuals with **foreign assets**.

According to budget documents, the **allocation for Centrally Sponsored Schemes for FY 2025-26 is ₹5,41,850.21 crore**, a substantial increase from **₹4,15,356.25 crore in FY 2024-25**. Similarly, **Central Sector Schemes** will receive **₹16.29 lakh crore** compared to **₹15.13 lakh crore in the previous fiscal year**.

Budget Estimates for FY 2025-26

The budget estimates have been revised upwards due to several economic and strategic factors:

- **Rise in interest payments on market loans, treasury bills, external loans, and provident funds.**
- Increased **capital expenditure for the Armed Forces**.
- Provisions for **employment generation schemes**.

State Allocations and Fiscal Deficit

The **total resource transfer to states** in Budget 2025-26, including **state share devolution, grants/loans, and Centrally Sponsored Schemes**, stands at **₹25,01,284 crore**. This marks an increase of **₹4,91,668 crore compared to the actuals of 2023-24**.

The **fiscal deficit for FY 2025-26** is projected at **4.4 per cent of GDP**, down from **4.8 per cent in the current fiscal**. Additionally, the **GDP for FY 2025-26 is estimated at ₹3,56,97,923 crore**, a **10.1 per cent increase over the Revised Estimates for FY 2024-25 (₹3,24,11,406 crore)** released by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)**.

5 Years of National Technical Textiles Mission

India's textile industry plays a crucial role in the national economy and has evolved into a hub of innovation. The country ranks as the **6th largest textile exporter globally, holding a 3.9% share in world textile exports**. Contributing nearly 2% to the GDP, the sector is projected to expand to \$350 billion by 2030, generating approximately 3.5 crore jobs. While traditional textiles remain fundamental, the rise of technical textiles is transforming the industry. These specialized fabrics prioritize functionality over aesthetics and are categorized into 12 types, serving diverse industries such as agriculture, healthcare, construction, and safety.

To accelerate this sector's growth, the **National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM) was launched in 2020**, with a budget of Rs. 1,480 crore for 2020-2026. The mission aims to strengthen research, boost exports, foster skill development, and position India as a global leader in technical textiles.

Framework for the National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM)

Four key components of NTTM

Component I – Research, Innovation, and Development

- Focuses on research and innovation in technical textiles.
- Supports R&D projects to develop new materials and technologies.
- 168 research projects worth Rs. 509 crore have been approved.

Component II – Promotion and Market Development

- Encourages the adoption of technical textiles in various industries.
- Strengthens market linkages through trade shows, exhibitions, and global collaborations.

Component III – Export Promotion

- Aims to enhance India's exports of technical textiles.
- Works through a dedicated Export Promotion Council to boost international trade.

Component IV – Education, Training, and Skill Development

- Develops skill-training programs to create a skilled workforce.
- 50,000 individuals are being trained in technical textiles.
- Promotes specialized courses in technical textiles across educational institutes.
- Since its launch, Rs. 517 crore has been allocated, with Rs. 393.39 crore utilized for research, market development, exports, and skill development.

NTTM Initiatives Strengthening the Textile Industry

1. Grant for Internship Support for Technical Textiles (GIST 2.0)
 - Provides hands-on learning opportunities for students and professionals.
 - Enhances industry-academia collaboration to foster innovation.
 - Supports the 'Make in India' initiative by promoting indigenous production.
2. Grant for Research & Entrepreneurship across Aspiring Innovators in Technical Textiles (GREAT) Scheme
 - Launched in August 2023 to support commercialization of new textile technologies.
 - 8 startups have received Rs. 50 lakh each for innovations in medical, industrial, and protective textiles.
 - IIT Indore and NIT Patna have received Rs. 6.5 crore to introduce specialized courses.
3. Skill Development Programs
 - Targets training of 50,000 individuals in the field of technical textiles.
 - Offers 12 industry-focused courses in collaboration with leading textile research associations like SITRA, NITRA, and SASMIRA.

4. Technotex 2024 (Bharat Tex 2024)

- Showcased India's advancements in technical textiles.
- Featured an Innovation Zone with 71 cutting-edge projects, including 48 prototypes and 23 informative posters.

Success Stories in Technical Textiles

1. Mahina: India's First Leak-Proof Period Underwear
 - Developed by Eicher Goodearth, Mahina is a bonded, leak-proof period underwear offering 12-hour protection.
 - Made from natural materials, it provides comfort and reusability for up to 100 washes, eliminating the need for pads or tampons.
2. Tamil Nadu's Push for Technical Textiles
 - The state government has prioritized the industry through the PM MITRA Park in Virudhunagar and a new textile park in Salem.
 - Increased capital subsidies for technical textile investments to 6% from 2%, promoting modernization and machinery upgrades.

5 Years of National Technical Textiles Mission

India has taken a **historic step in its clean energy transition with the launch of an ambitious Nuclear Mission**, reinforcing its commitment to sustainable energy. The initiative, announced by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and detailed by Dr. Jitendra Singh, **aims to generate 100 GW of nuclear energy by 2047**. This move marks a major shift, as the nuclear sector—long restricted to government control—is now open to private sector participation. The mission will focus on Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) and the indigenous development of nuclear technology, making nuclear power a key component of India's journey to net-zero emissions by 2070.

Key Highlights of India's Nuclear Mission

1. Vision and Objective

- **Target:** Generate 100 GW of nuclear power by 2047, covering 10% of India's energy needs.
- Strengthen clean and stable power generation through nuclear energy.
- Establish India as a global leader in advanced nuclear technology.

2. Opening Up to Private Sector

- A historic shift allowing private sector participation in nuclear energy.
- Encourages investment and innovation in the nuclear industry.
- First major policy change to break secrecy barriers around nuclear programs.

3. Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)

- Capacity ranges from 16 MW to 300 MW.
- Designed to cater to remote areas and industrial clusters.
- SMRs provide environment-friendly, scalable, and readily available power.

4. Budgetary and Research Boost

- 170% increase in atomic energy budget since 2014.
- ₹20,000 crore allocated for developing five Bharat SMRs in 2024-25.
- National Research Foundation (funded 60-70% by non-government sources) to accelerate nuclear R&D.

5. Global and Indigenous Collaborations

- Partnerships with France and the USA for advanced nuclear technology.
- Emphasis on indigenous development, particularly in thorium-based reactors.
- Reviving delayed projects like Bhavini Reactor and Kudankulam Nuclear Plant.

6. Contribution to Climate Goals

- Nuclear energy will play a key role in achieving India's net-zero target by 2070.
- Reduces dependence on fossil fuels and promotes environment-friendly clean energy.
- Strengthens India's position in the global green energy transition.

Hurun Global Rich List 2025: Shanghai overtakes Mumbai as Asia's Billionaire Capital

The **Hurun Global Rich List 2025** has been released, revealing major shifts in billionaire rankings worldwide. Notably, **Shanghai has overtaken Mumbai** as the **billionaire capital of Asia**, and **India ranks third globally** with **284 billionaires**.

India's Position in the Hurun Global Rich List 2025

India continues its strong presence among the world's wealthiest nations, ranking **third globally** with **284 billionaires**. The cumulative wealth of Indian billionaires stands at **₹98 lakh crore**, marking a **10% increase** from last year.

Key Highlights for India

- **Mumbai loses its position as Asia's billionaire hub** to Shanghai, which has **92 billionaires** compared to Mumbai's **90**.
- **175 Indian billionaires** saw an increase in their wealth, while **109 experienced a decline or no change**.
- India is home to **seven billionaires under 40**, primarily from **Bengaluru and Mumbai**.
- **Two Indian billionaires are just 34 years old**.

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India's Richest Individuals in 2025

Mukesh Ambani Reclaims 'Richest Person in Asia' Title
Reliance Industries Chairman **Mukesh Ambani** has reclaimed his title as the **richest person in Asia** despite a **₹1 lakh crore decline** in his wealth.

Gautam Adani Becomes the Biggest Wealth Gainer

Industrialist **Gautam Adani** saw a **₹1 lakh crore** increase in wealth, marking a **13% rise** from last year. His net worth now stands at **₹8.4 lakh crore**, slightly behind **Ambani's ₹8.6 lakh crore**.

Global Billionaire Rankings

For the **first time in a decade**, the **United States leads the list** with **870 billionaires**, followed by **China with 823 billionaires**.

Top 10 Billionaires in the World (2025)

The list continues to be dominated by **Silicon Valley billionaires**, with **American business magnates holding nine out of ten spots**.

Rank	Name	Company	Net Worth (in USD)
1	Elon Musk	Tesla	\$420 billion
2	Jeff Bezos	Amazon	\$266 billion
3	Mark Zuckerberg	Meta	\$242 billion
4	Larry Ellison	Oracle	\$203 billion
5	Warren Buffett	Berkshire Hathaway	\$167 billion
6	Larry Page	Alphabet (Google)	\$164 billion
7	Bernard Arnault	LVMH	\$155 billion
8	Steve Ballmer	Microsoft	\$146 billion
9	Sergey Brin	Alphabet (Google)	\$148 billion
10	Bill Gates	Microsoft	\$143 billion

- The **North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Ltd. (NEHHDC)** has achieved a significant milestone by obtaining the **Oeko-Tex certification** for **eri silk**. This globally recognized certification ensures that **eri silk** is free from harmful substances and meets international **safety and quality standards**, boosting its **marketability and consumer confidence** in the global textile industry while supporting **eco-friendly** initiatives. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Yuge Yugeen Bharat National Museum** in **New Delhi** will be housed in the **North and South Blocks** as part of the **Central Vista Redevelopment Project**. The museum aims to showcase India's civilizational and cultural heritage, with technical cooperation from **France Museums Development**. The project offers an immersive experience into India's **past, present, and future**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Department of Financial Services** directed **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)** to redesign their e-auction platform, leading to the launch of "**e-BKray**" in 2019. On **January 3, 2025**, the **Central Government** notified a **24% salary increase** for **Members of Parliament (MPs)**, effective from **April 1, 2023**. Under the **Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act**, the monthly salary for **Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha MPs** has risen from **₹1 lakh to ₹1.24 lakh**, and the **daily allowance** has been increased from **₹2,000 to ₹2,500**. This is the first revision since **April 2018**. ([Click here to read article](#))

National Affairs

- The **Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA)** launched **Samarthya 2025** on **March 22-23, 2025**, at its **Manesar campus**. The event offers students a platform to develop **corporate rescue strategies** for distressed businesses, focusing on **financial analysis, strategy development, and industry engagement** through **case studies and expert mentorship**. Winning solutions receive **industry recognition**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Ministry of Culture**, through **Lalit Kala Akademi (LKA)** and **National Gallery of Modern Arts (NGMA)**, is preserving public art installations under the **Public Art of India (PARI)** project. LKA has implemented a **preservation strategy** to ensure the **sustainability and longevity** of these installations, transforming **Delhi's public spaces** into vibrant artistic landmarks and promoting **regional art forms** globally. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **Supreme Court** has set up a **National Task Force (NTF)** to address **student mental health** concerns in response to rising suicides in higher education, including the tragic deaths of two **IIT Delhi** students in 2023. Chaired by **Justice S. Ravindra Bhat**, the NTF will investigate the causes, analyze existing regulations, and propose solutions to combat **academic stress, caste-based discrimination**, and other institutional issues affecting students' well-being. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India has become the **world's top milk producer**, with a current production of **239 million metric tons (MMT)**. **Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh** announced in the **Lok Sabha** that India aims to increase milk production to **300 MMT** in the next five years, driven by the **Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM)** launched in 2014. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The "Baalpan ki Kavita" Initiative, launched by the Department of School Education & Literacy under the Ministry of Education, aims to preserve and promote Indian rhymes and poems for young children. Aligning with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, it focuses on early childhood education, multilingualism, and cultural relevance. The initiative encourages contributions of rhymes in various Indian languages and English, targeting children aged 3-8 years across three categories: Pre-primary, Grade 1, and Grade 2. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- The Department of Posts issued a commemorative postage stamp honoring Mata Karma, a revered saint and social reformer, on her 1009th birth anniversary in Raipur. The event, attended by Chhattisgarh CM Vishnu Deo Sai and Union Minister Tokhan Sahu, celebrates Mata Karma's legacy in Indian culture and spirituality. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- In 2024, India became the second-largest tea exporter globally, surpassing Sri Lanka with 254 million kilograms (Mkg) of tea exports, trailing only Kenya. India's exports showed a significant rise from 231 Mkg in 2023, with the industry aiming for 300 Mkg by 2030. This marks the second-highest export figure in India's history, just behind 2018's record of 256 Mkg. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare launched the Digital Crop Survey (DCS) System to collect real-time crop data through a mobile interface, improving accuracy in crop area estimation and agricultural forecasting. Integrated with Agri Stack, the system ensures data privacy through farmer consent, secure encryption, and compliance with the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023. State control, regular security audits, and restricted data sharing safeguard the information. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- On March 28, 2025, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved a 2% increase in Dearness Allowance (DA) and Dearness Relief (DR), raising it from 53% to 55% of Basic Pay/Pension, effective from January 1, 2025. This benefits 48.66 lakh employees and 66.55 lakh pensioners, aiming to mitigate inflationary pressures. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen Anil Chauhan inaugurated Techkriti 2025 at IIT Kanpur, Asia's largest tech and entrepreneurial festival, under the theme "Panta Rhei" (Everything Flows). He emphasized the modernization of the Indian Armed Forces through Cybersecurity, AI, Quantum Computing, and Cognitive Warfare, urging young innovators to contribute to national security. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)

- Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah announced the launch of 'Sahkar', a cooperative-based taxi service modeled on Ola and Uber but designed to empower drivers as stakeholders. Unlike corporate-owned ride-hailing platforms, 'Sahkar' ensures fair earnings and profit-sharing under the cooperative framework. Introduced during discussions on the Multi-State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2023. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)

States in the News

- Kerala has become the first state in India to establish a Senior Citizens Commission by passing the Kerala State Senior Citizens Commission Bill, 2025. This statutory body, focused on safeguarding the rights and welfare of elderly citizens, will also serve as an advisory body for policymaking, highlighting Kerala's commitment to the protection, rehabilitation, and empowerment of senior citizens. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama announced the development of corridors along the Ganga and Sharda rivers to boost religious tourism in the state. The initiative will enhance infrastructure and facilities for pilgrims while preserving cultural and spiritual heritage. CM Dhama also highlighted the significance of ancient Indian scriptures in shaping both scientific and spiritual thought at the 62nd All India Shastraotsav in Haridwar. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the new Pamban rail bridge connecting Ramanathapuram and Rameswaram Island on April 6, 2025, coinciding with Ram Navami. The bridge, costing ₹531 crore, aims to boost connectivity and railway infrastructure in the region. The Prime Minister will also flag off a new train service between Tambaram and Rameswaram and address a public gathering. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- The Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park in Darjeeling has become India's first zoo to preserve wildlife DNA from snowy regions. In collaboration with CCMB Hyderabad, the project aims to support conservation and genetic research. 60 DNA samples, including from red pandas and snow leopards, have been collected and cryogenically preserved. This initiative ensures long-term genetic material preservation for endangered species. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- The West Bengal Police has launched a mobile app to ensure a transparent and corruption-free transfer process for personnel, from constables to sub-inspectors. Integrated with e-HRMS software, the app aims to eliminate malpractices like bribery and favoritism. Transfer requests must be submitted digitally by April 11. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)

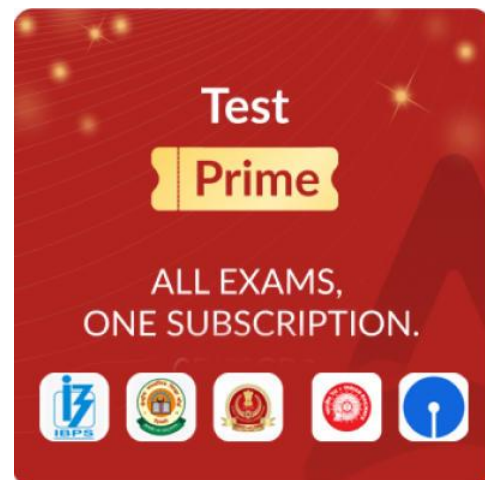
International Affairs

- **Indonesia** has announced its decision to join the **New Development Bank (NDB)**, a multilateral financial institution established by the **BRICS** nations. **President Prabowo Subianto** made the announcement during a meeting with **NDB President Dilma Rousseff**. This move is expected to enhance Indonesia's **economic transformation** by enabling financial collaborations and investment opportunities in key sectors. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah** made history as **Namibia's first female president** on **March 21, 2025**, coinciding with the country's **35th Independence Day**. A veteran of **SWAPO**, she won the **November 2024 elections** with 58% of the vote. Her administration will focus on addressing **unemployment**, especially among youth, aiming to create **500,000 jobs** through investments in **agriculture, fishing, and the creative sectors**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- President **Donald Trump** announced a **25% tariff** on imported **cars and auto components**, effective next week, impacting global markets including the **EU, Canada, India, and China**. While **Indian automakers** may not face immediate challenges, **auto component manufacturers and tyre companies** exporting to the US could be significantly affected. This move aligns with Trump's broader **trade strategy** to protect **American industries** and encourage **domestic manufacturing**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **March 28, 2025**, a **7.7-magnitude earthquake** struck near **Mandalay, Myanmar**, causing widespread damage in **Bangkok, Thailand**. The Thai government, led by **Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra**, declared a **state of emergency** as a **30-storey skyscraper** collapsed, trapping 43 workers. **Structural damage** was reported across the city, and **panic** led to evacuations, while **water overflow** was observed in pools. Rescue operations are ongoing. ([Click here to read article](#))

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- **India and Singapore** signed a **Letter of Intent (LoI)** on **Green and Digital Shipping Corridor (GDSC)** collaboration during **Singapore Maritime Week (SMW)** on **March 25, 2025**. The agreement focuses on **maritime digitalization and decarbonization**, aiming to reduce **greenhouse gas emissions** and integrate **digital solutions**. Additionally, **India and the Netherlands** discussed using Dutch expertise for **cargo movement** in rivers like the **Brahmaputra and Barak**. **Sarbananda Sonowal** highlighted the initiative's role in enhancing **sustainability, efficiency, and technological advancements** in the maritime sector. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Centrico Insurance Repository**, a subsidiary of **CDSL**, has partnered with **LIC** to provide **digital insurance repository services**, promoting **paperless policy management**. This collaboration aims to enhance **digital accessibility and efficiency** in the insurance sector. Centrico, which has partnered with 43 insurers, including 23 life insurance companies, is strengthening its network in **digital insurance services**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)** and **UNICEF YuWaah** have signed a **Statement of Intent (SOI)** to empower **rural women and youth** in India. The three-year partnership aims to **strengthen livelihood opportunities**, promote **entrepreneurship**, and improve **digital infrastructure** in rural areas. Key initiatives include supporting **Self-Help Groups (SHG)**, expanding **female labor force participation**, and enhancing **youth skilling** through platforms like **Youth Hub** and **Didi ki Dukan**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Lanka India Business Association (LIBA)** has been launched in **Sri Lanka** to strengthen **trade, investment, and business networking** between **India and Sri Lanka**. With **India** set to become the world's second-largest economy by 2075, the initiative capitalizes on the **shift towards Eastern economic power** and **Sri Lanka's strategic location** and historical **trade ties** with India. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **UIDAI**, in collaboration with **IIIT-Hyderabad**, launched a **Biometric SDK Benchmarking Challenge** to improve **fingerprint authentication** for children aged 5-10. The initiative focuses on **age invariance** in biometric systems, ensuring accuracy over time, with **global participation** open to researchers. Participants can access UIDAI's **field-collected dataset** for better real-world model performance. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)**, in collaboration with **Digital India Bhashini**, is launching an **AI-powered, multimodal, multilingual grievance redressal system** for **CPGRAMS** by **July 2025**. This initiative enables citizens to file grievances in **22 regional languages** using **voice and text input**, enhancing **accessibility, inclusivity, and efficiency**. ([Click here to read article](#))



Books and Authors

- The autobiography **Stumped**, co-authored by **Syed Kirmani, Debashish Sengupta, and Dakshesh Pathak**, offers a humorous and insightful account of Kirmani's career and **India's 1983 World Cup** victory. It highlights key moments, including **Kapil Dev's iconic 175** against Zimbabwe, a game-changing innings in Indian cricket history. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **MS Dhoni** and members of the **Chennai Super Kings (CSK)** made a surprise appearance at the book launch of '**Leo: The Untold Story of Chennai Super Kings**' by **P.S. Raman**. Their unannounced visit thrilled fans and added excitement to the event, attended by notable figures from **cricket** and **entertainment** industries, making it a memorable occasion. ([Click here to read article](#))

Banking/Economy/Business News

- **SBI Mutual Fund** launched two new schemes—the **SBI BSE PSU Bank Index Fund** and the **SBI BSE PSU Bank ETF**—to provide exposure to India's public sector banking sector. Both will track the **BSE PSU Bank Index** with **95% of assets** allocated to its securities. The **NFO** opens on **March 17, 2025**, and closes on **March 20, 2025**, with a minimum investment of ₹5,000. The funds are managed by **Viral Chhadva**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has extended the **amortization period** for **Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)** by an additional **five years** from **FY25** to manage increased pension liabilities. Initially allowed to amortize under the **Employee Pension Scheme 2018** over five years from **FY19**, RRBs must now implement the pension scheme retroactively from **November 1, 1993**. They are also required to allocate at least **20%** of the total pension liability annually. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a significant milestone for India's **floriculture sector**, the **APEDA** facilitated the first-ever export of **Anthurium flowers** from **Mizoram** to **Singapore**, consisting of **1,024 cut flowers** (70 kg) in 50 boxes. This initiative, in collaboration with the **Department of Horticulture, Government of Mizoram**, highlights **Mizoram's floriculture potential** and boosts **India's agricultural exports**, benefiting **local farmers**, including **women**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)** in India reported significant financial improvement in **FY24**, with net profits reaching their highest-ever levels and a **33% increase in dividend payouts** to **Rs 27,830 crore**, up from **Rs 20,964 crore** in FY23. This growth highlights the banks' strengthened financial position and their ability to return value to **shareholders**, including the **Indian government**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- India has imposed **anti-dumping duties** on five **Chinese products**—**Soft Ferrite Cores, vacuum insulated flasks, aluminium foil, Trichloro Isocyanuric Acid, and PVC Paste Resin**—to protect domestic industries from unfairly priced imports. The duties, recommended by the **DGTR** under the **Ministry of Commerce**, will last up to five years to ensure **fair trade practices**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** reports a significant shift in **inward remittances**, with the **U.S.** and **U.K.** surpassing **Gulf countries** as top contributors. According to the RBI's paper on **India's Remittances Survey**, remittances from the U.S. and U.K. nearly **doubled**, accounting for **40%** of total inflows in **FY24**, up from **26%** in **FY17**. This rise is linked to the increasing presence of **Indian professionals** and **students** in these countries, while contributions from traditional sources like the **UAE** and **Saudi Arabia** have declined. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has set the interest rate for the **Government of India Floating Rate Bond 2033 (GOI FRB 2033)** at **8.34%** per annum for the period from **March 22, 2024, to September 21, 2024**. The bond's **floating interest rate** is determined based on the **Weighted Average Yield (WAY)** of the last three **182-Day Treasury Bill auctions**, plus a fixed spread of **1.22%**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Equitas Small Finance Bank** has renewed its partnership as the **Official Banking Partner** with **Chennai Super Kings (CSK)** for six years and **Gujarat Titans (GT)** for three years. This collaboration highlights Equitas' commitment to **excellence** and **community engagement** through its '**Bank Behind Champions**' campaign. The **Equitas brand** will be featured on the **lead helmet** of CSK and the **back of the helmet** of GT throughout the season. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Finance Ministry** informed the **Lok Sabha** that **public sector banks (PSBs)** have transferred over ₹45,000 crore of **unclaimed deposits** to the **Depositor Education and Awareness (DEA) Fund** between 2019-20 and 2024-25 (up to December 31, 2024). The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** manages this fund under the **Depositor Education and Awareness Fund Scheme, 2014**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India has achieved a historic economic milestone by doubling its **GDP** from **\$2.1 trillion** in 2015 to **\$4.3 trillion** in 2025, marking a **105% increase** and the fastest growth among major global economies. According to the **IMF**, India's inflation-adjusted GDP growth over the decade is **77%**, positioning it as one of the world's most rapidly expanding economies. India is set to surpass **Japan** in 2025 and may overtake **Germany** by 2027. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **S&P Global** has revised India's **GDP growth forecast** for **FY26** down to **6.5%** from the earlier **6.7%**. The forecast assumes a **normal monsoon** and stable **commodity prices**, including **crude oil**. Despite global trade uncertainties, **India's services-led exports** to the **US** remain strong. Additionally, **easing food inflation, tax benefits** from the **FY26 Budget**, and **lower borrowing costs** are expected to boost domestic consumption. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL)**, led by **Mukesh Ambani**, has acquired a **100% stake** in **Nauyaan Tradings Private Limited (NTPL)** through its subsidiary **Reliance Strategic Business Ventures Limited (RSBVL)** for ₹1 lakh. Additionally, **NTPL** has signed a **share purchase agreement** with **Welspun Corp Limited (WCL)** to acquire **74% of Nauyaan Shipyard Private Limited (NSPL)** for ₹382.73 crore. This acquisition, set to complete by **March 21, 2025**, is part of Reliance's strategy to expand in the **shipyard, naval, defense, and energy sectors**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Starting **May 1, 2025**, **ATM withdrawal** costs in **India** will increase due to a rise in **interchange fees** approved by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**. The fee, applicable when using another bank's ATM, will affect customers exceeding free transaction limits. The hike responds to requests from **white-label ATM operators** facing rising operational costs, and it is expected to impact customers, particularly those from **smaller banks** reliant on larger institutions for ATM infrastructure. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **March 26, 2025**, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed penalties on **HDFC Bank, Punjab & Sind Bank, and KLM Axiva Finvest** for **regulatory non-compliance**. The penalties were related to deficiencies in areas like **Know Your Customer (KYC), financial inclusion, and banking regulations**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **8th SLCC Meeting** organized by the **RBI** in **Gangtok, Sikkim**, on **March 26, 2025**, focused on implementing the **BUDS Act**, combating **digital fraud**, and promoting **financial literacy**. Chaired by **Shri Ravindra Telang**, with key officials from **RBI, SEBI, and Sikkim's state departments**, the meeting aimed at strengthening financial governance. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Indian government** plans to raise **Rs 8 lakh crore** through **dated securities** in the first half of **FY26**, part of a total borrowing of **Rs 14.82 lakh crore** for the fiscal year. This includes **Rs 10,000 crore** in **Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs)**. The **fiscal deficit** for **FY26** is estimated at **Rs 15.68 lakh crore** (4.4% of **GDP**), with the government utilizing various securities and instruments to bridge the gap. ([Click here to read article](#))

- India's **Current Account Deficit (CAD)** widened to **\$11.5 billion (1.1% of GDP)** in **Q3 FY25**, driven by a higher **merchandise trade deficit** of **\$79.2 billion**, while **CAD moderated** from **Q2 FY25**. The **Balance of Payments (BoP)** saw a **depletion** of **\$37.7 billion**, contrasting with a surplus a year ago. **Forex reserves surged** by **\$311 billion** since **Dec 2018**, marking the largest increase under any **RBI Governor**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **India's core sector growth** slowed to **2.9% in February 2025**, the weakest in five months, compared to **7.1% in February 2024**. The decline was due to a **high base effect and weaker output** in five of the eight industries. **Cement (10.5%)** and **fertilizers (10.2%)** were the only sectors with **annual growth**, while **coal (1.7%), crude oil (-5.2%), and natural gas (-6%)** performed poorly. The slowdown may impact **Industrial Production Index (IIP) growth**, which stood at **5% in January 2025**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Appointments/Resignations

- Justice **Harish Tandon** has been appointed as the **new Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court**. His appointment comes after the retirement of **Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh** on **January 19, 2024**. Until now, **Justice Arindam Sinha** had been serving as the **acting Chief Justice**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Mythili Balasubramanian** has been appointed as the **Interim MD & CEO of Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company (EARC)**, effective immediately until **September 30, 2025**. With nearly **five years** at **EARC** and over **40 years** of experience in **banking, NPA resolution, and IBC processes**, she brings significant expertise to the role. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **IRDAI** has reconstituted the **Insurance Advisory Committee**, appointing five new members with vast experience in **banking, insurance, and finance**. Appointments, effective upon gazette publication, include **MR Kumar** (former **LIC** Chairman), **Dinesh Kumar Khara** (former **SBI** Chairman), **Visakha Mule** (CEO of **Aditya Birla Capital**), **Nilesh Shah** (MD of **Kotak Mahindra Asset Management**), and **Kotak Ellis G Vaidyan** (former **CMD** of **GIC Re**). ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Tata Motors** has appointed **Bollywood actor Vicky Kaushal** as the brand ambassador for its **Passenger and Electric Vehicle** segment, launching with the "Take the Curvv" campaign to promote the upcoming **Tata Curvv SUV** during **IPL 2025**. This partnership underscores **Tata Motors' focus on innovation, excellence, and the 'Make in India' initiative**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Parminder Chopra** has been appointed as **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** of **REC Limited** for a three-month tenure, while continuing her role as **CMD of Power Finance Corporation Ltd. (PFC)**. With over **35 years of experience** in the power and financial sectors, **Chopra** has significantly contributed to **financial restructuring and renewable energy financing**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Gopal Vittal**, Vice Chairman and Managing Director of **Bharti Airtel**, has been elected as the **Chairman** of the **Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA)**, becoming the second Indian after **Sunil Mittal** to hold this prestigious position. His tenure will last until the end of **2026**. GSMA represents over **1,100 companies** from the global telecommunications industry. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **March 24, 2025**, the **Indian government** appointed **Ajay Seth**, the current **Economic Affairs Secretary**, as the new **Finance Secretary**. With over three decades of experience, Seth has been instrumental in shaping India's **economic policies** and driving **financial reforms**, as the government seeks to balance **fiscal discipline** with **economic growth**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Ashok Singh Thakur** has been elected as the new **chairman** of the **Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH)** for a three-year term. The announcement followed INTACH's **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** on **March 22, 2025**, in **New Delhi**. Established in **1984**, INTACH is dedicated to **heritage conservation** with chapters across India. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Sanjay Singh**, president of the **Wrestling Federation of India (WFI)**, was elected as a **Bureau Member** of **United World Wrestling (UWW)-Asia** during the **UWW-Asia General Assembly** in **Amman, Jordan**, on **March 24, 2025**. He secured **22 out of 38 votes**, marking a significant milestone for **Indian wrestling** and strengthening its international presence in Asia. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Rajiv Gauba**, former **Cabinet Secretary**, has been appointed as a **Full-Time Member** of **NITI Aayog**. A **1982-batch IAS officer** of the **Jharkhand cadre**, Gauba served as India's top bureaucrat from **2019 to August 2024**. His appointment is effective immediately and will continue until further orders. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **S. K. Majumdar** has been appointed as the **Executive Director** of **Canara Bank**, effective **March 24, 2025**. Previously serving as the **CFO**, Majumdar brings over **25 years** of experience in finance and leadership, expected to enhance the bank's growth and governance. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Rahul Bhawe** has been appointed as the **MD & CEO** of **IFCI** for a **three-year** term, approved by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)**. Bhawe, previously **Deputy Managing Director**, will assume office following this decision. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Hitachi Cash Management Services (CMS)** has appointed **Yusuf Pachmariwala** as its **MD & CEO** effective **April 1, 2025**, succeeding **Anup Neogi**. This leadership change aims to enhance Hitachi CMS's position in the cash management industry, leveraging Pachmariwala's experience in **cash business operations** and **digital payments**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL)** has appointed **Sunil Kakkar** as **Director (Corporate Planning)** for a **three-year term (April 1, 2025 - March 31, 2028)**. With **35+ years of experience**, he has held key leadership roles, including **Senior Executive Officer - Corporate Planning** and **Head of Supply Chain & Gurgaon Production Operations**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Rajneet Kohli**, former **CEO of Britannia Industries**, has been appointed as **Executive Director - Foods and Refreshment** at **Hindustan Unilever (HUL)**, effective **April 7, 2025**. With **30 years of experience in consumer and retail**, he succeeds **Shiva Krishnamurthy**, reinforcing HUL's focus on **expanding its foods and beverages segment** as part of its leadership transformation. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **L&T Finance Ltd. (LTF)**, a leading **NBFC** in India, has appointed cricketer **Jasprit Bumrah** as its **brand ambassador** to enhance its **brand presence**. Known for its leadership in **Rural Business Finance, Farm Equipment Finance, and Two-wheeler Finance**, LTF serves over **2 lakh villages**, with **2,028 rural branches** and **185 urban branches**, providing accessible financial solutions through a strong **retail franchise** and **12,500 distribution touch points**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Former Australian cricket captain Steve Waugh** has been appointed to the **Centre for Australia-India Relations (CAIR) Advisory Board**, as announced by **Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong**. His appointment underscores his contributions to **Australia-India ties in sports, culture, and philanthropy**. CAIR plays a crucial role in strengthening **economic, cultural, and diplomatic relations**, acting as a bridge between **government, industry, academia, and communities**. The **Advisory Board** guides CAIR's strategic priorities to enhance bilateral cooperation. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Challa Sreenivasalu Setty**, **SBI Chairman**, has been elected as the **new Chairman** of the **Indian Banks Association (IBA)** for the upcoming fiscal year, succeeding **MV Rao** (Central Bank of India CEO). The IBA also appointed **A Manimekhalai** (**Union Bank of India**), **Swarup Kumar Saha** (**Punjab & Sind Bank**), and **Madhav Nair** (**Bank of Bahrain & Kuwait India**) as **Deputy Chairmen**, while **B Ramesh Babu** (**Karur Vysya Bank CEO**) was named **Honorary Secretary**. Setty will lead IBA in advocating for **banking sector policies and industry challenges**. ([Click here to read article](#))



Defence News

- The **Indian Navy** launched its second **Project 1135.6 follow-on frigate, 'Tavasya'**, at **Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)**. This **multi-role combat** warship is designed for **air, surface, and sub-surface** warfare, measuring **124.8m** in length and **displacing over 3,800 tonnes**. Equipped with **stealth technology**, advanced **weapons** like the **BrahMos missile**, and indigenous **sensors**, it reflects India's progress in **self-reliance** under the **Atmanirbhar Bharat** initiative. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **DRDO** and **Indian Navy** successfully tested the **Vertically-Launched Short-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (VLSRSAM)** on **March 26, 2025**, at the **Integrated Test Range (ITR)** in **Chandipur, Odisha**. The missile successfully engaged and destroyed a high-speed **aerial target** at **low altitude**, demonstrating its **Near-Boundary-Low Altitude** capability, **agility, reliability, and accuracy** in combat configuration. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi** inaugurated the **North Jetty** at the **Kochi Naval Base** on **March 27, 2025**. The **300-meter long, 18-meter wide** jetty enhances the **berthing capacity** and **logistical operations** for naval ships, strengthening **India's maritime capability** and **operational efficiency**. It will improve **turnaround times** for **naval combatants** and support **maritime security** in the southern peninsula. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **tenth ACTCM Barge, LSAM 24 (Yard 134)**, was launched on **March 26, 2025**, at **M/s Suryadipta Projects Pvt Ltd**, Thane. This vessel is part of a contract for **eleven such barges** awarded on **March 5, 2021**, to the **MSME shipyard**. The barges are indigenously designed and built, strengthening the **Indian Navy's logistics** and **operational capabilities**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Indian Army** conducted '**Prachand Pahaar**', a **Tri-Service integrated multi-domain warfare exercise**, in **Arunachal Pradesh** from **March 25-27, 2025**, under the **Eastern Command**. The exercise focused on **jointness, technological superiority, and operational preparedness**, integrating **Surveillance, Command & Control, and Precision Firepower** across the **Army, Navy, and Air Force**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **India and Russia** will conduct the **14th edition of Exercise INDRA 2025** from **March 28 to April 2, 2025**, off the **Chennai coast and in the Bay of Bengal**. This **bilateral naval exercise**, established in **2003**, aims to enhance **naval interoperability and maritime cooperation**. It will be held in two phases: the **Harbour Phase (March 28-30) in Chennai**, featuring **Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (SMEEs)** and **ship visits**, and the **Sea Phase (March 31-April 2) in the Bay of Bengal**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Awards and Recognitions

- Eminent **Hindi writer Vinod Kumar Shukla**, aged **88**, has been awarded the **59th Jnanpith Award**, India's highest literary honor, for his exceptional work in **short stories, poetry, and essays**. He is the **first from Chhattisgarh** to receive this prestigious award and the **12th Hindi writer** to be honored with it. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Violinist **R.K. Shriramkumar** has been selected for the prestigious **Sangita Kalanidhi** award for 2025 by the **Music Academy**, to be presented during its 99th annual conference from **December 15, 2025, to January 1, 2026**. This recognition, marking the **250th anniversary** of composer **Muthuswami Dikshitar**, honors his significant contributions to **Carnatic music**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Punjab & Sind Bank** has been honored with the **Top Improvers** award in the **EASE 6.0 Reforms Index** for its exceptional progress in **digital transformation, financial inclusion, and customer service excellence**. Under the leadership of **Swarup Kumar Saha (MD & CEO)**, the bank has enhanced **banking services, operational efficiency, and modernization**, reflecting its commitment to **excellence in the public banking sector**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Japanese mathematician Masaki Kashiwara** has been awarded the **2025 Abel Prize** for his groundbreaking contributions to **algebraic analysis and representation theory**. Honored by the **Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters**, Kashiwara, 78, is recognized for his pioneering work on **D-modules and crystal bases**, which have significantly influenced modern mathematics. The **Abel Prize**, established in **2002** and named after **Niels Henrik Abel**. ([Click here to read article](#))

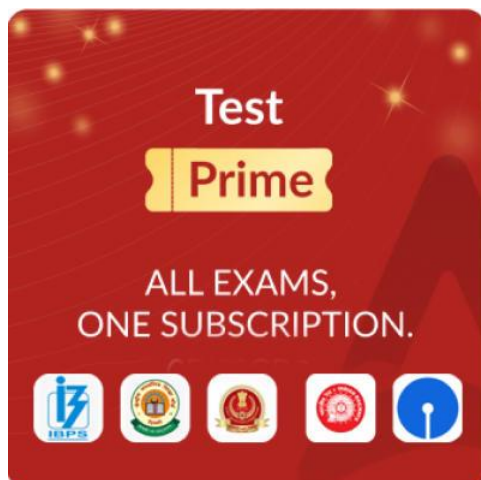
Summits and Conferences News

- **SourceX India 2025**, organized by the **Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO)** with the **Ministry of Commerce & Industry**, was inaugurated on **March 26, 2025**, at the **Yashobhoomi Convention Centre**, New Delhi. Launched by **Shri Santosh Kumar Sarangi**, Director General of Foreign Trade, the event connects **Indian exporters** with **150+ global buyers** from over **45 countries**. It supports India's initiatives like **Make in India, Startup India**, and the **PLI Scheme**, enhancing India's **manufacturing competitiveness and global trade**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's first **Nano Electronics Roadshow**, hosted by **MeitY** in collaboration with **IISc Bengaluru** and top **IITs**, showcased over **100 IPs, 50+ technologies**, and **35+ startups** on **March 27, 2025**. The event, with over **700 participants**, highlighted **semiconductor innovation** and fostered **collaboration** across academia, industry, and policy sectors. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **International Ramayana and Vedic Research Institute** organized a **Ramayana Conclave** in **Colombo**, with scholars and religious leaders from **India** and **Sri Lanka** discussing the **global impact** of **Lord Rama's personality** and the **historical significance** of **Ramayana-related sites** in Sri Lanka. The event highlighted the epic's cultural and spiritual influence, particularly in relation to **Ravana's kingdom**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Ranks and Reports

- A **UN report** on the **World Day for Glaciers** reveals that glaciers in the **Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH)** region are melting at an alarming rate, with a **65% acceleration** in glacier loss during **2011-2020** compared to the previous decade. If global temperatures rise by **1.5°C to 2°C**, HKH glaciers may lose **30-50%** of their volume by 2100, and up to **45%** if warming exceeds 2°C. The HKH spans **eight countries**: **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Roshni Nadar**, Chairperson of **HCL Technologies**, has become the first Indian woman in the **top 10 richest women** list, ranking **5th** globally with a net worth of **₹3.5 lakh crore (US\$40 billion)**, according to the **Hurun Global Rich List 2025**. This milestone follows her inheritance of a **47% stake** in HCL Technologies, making her **India's richest woman** and the **third-richest person** in the country in 2025. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **social protection coverage** has **doubled to 48.8% in 2024** from **24.4% in 2021**, as per the **ILO World Social Protection Report (WSPR) 2024-26**. Nearly **920 million people (65% of the population)** now benefit from **government welfare schemes**, contributing to a **5% rise in global social security coverage**. Key initiatives like **Ayushman Bharat - PMJAY**, which has issued **39.94 crore Ayushman Cards** and provides **₹5 lakh health coverage per family**, have significantly enhanced **financial security, healthcare, and poverty reduction**. ([Click here to read article](#))



Sports News

- In the **Chinese Grand Prix**, **Oscar Piastri** triumphed over his **McLaren teammate Lando Norris**, delivering a standout performance for the team in **Formula 1 2024**. Meanwhile, **Ferrari** faced a post-race setback as **Charles Leclerc** and **Lewis Hamilton** were **disqualified for technical infringements**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Ajinkya Rahane** made history by becoming the first **Indian player** to captain **three different IPL teams**. In **IPL 2025**, he led **Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR)** in their opening match against **Royal Challengers Bengaluru** at **Eden Gardens**, marking his 26th game as an IPL captain. Rahane previously captained **Rising Pune Supergiant** in 2017 and **Rajasthan Royals** in 2018-2019. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Indian wrestler **Sunil Kumar** won a **bronze medal** in the **87kg Greco-Roman** category at the **Asian Wrestling Championships 2025** in **Amman, Jordan**. After losing to **Iran's Yasin Yazdi** in the semifinals, Sunil bounced back to defeat **China's Jiaxin Huang** for bronze. Sunil, a former **silver medallist (2019)**, began his campaign with a dominant **10-1 victory** over **Tajikistan's Sukhrob Abdulkhayev** in the quarterfinals. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Khelo India Para Games (KIPG) 2025** concluded in **New Delhi** with nearly **1,300 para-athletes** showcasing remarkable talent. **Haryana** topped the medal tally with **34 golds**, followed by **Tamil Nadu (28)** and **Uttar Pradesh (23)**. The event set **18 national records**, highlighting the growing competitiveness and excellence of para-athletes in India. ([Click here to read article](#))

Schemes and Committees News

- As of **February 28, 2025**, a total of **15,057 Jan Aushadhi Kendras (JAKs)** have been opened across India under the **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)**, ensuring the availability of **affordable and quality generic medicines**. Launched to provide **high-quality, affordable medicines**, the scheme aims to make healthcare accessible, especially for the **economically weaker sections**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Government of India** will discontinue the **Gold Monetisation Scheme (GMS)** for **medium- and long-term deposits** from **March 26, 2025**, due to evolving market conditions, though **short-term deposits** will continue at **bank discretion**. Launched in **November 2015**, the GMS aimed to reduce **gold imports** and the **current account deficit**, allowing households and institutions to deposit **gold** with banks, with a minimum deposit requirement of **10 gm**. Existing deposits remain unaffected until maturity. ([Click here to read article](#))

Science and Technology News

- **Bellatrix Aerospace**, a Bengaluru-based space mobility company, has signed an **MoU** with **Astroscale Japan** to collaborate on **active debris removal**, **satellite servicing**, and **sustainable in-orbit mobility**. This partnership aims to improve **space sustainability** and ensure a cleaner **orbital environment**. Bellatrix is known for its innovative **propulsion technologies**, while Astroscale is a leader in **space debris mitigation**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Important Days News

- **World Tuberculosis (TB) Day** is observed annually on **March 24** to raise awareness about TB, a major global health concern. The **2025 theme** is **“Yes! We Can End TB: Commit, Invest, Deliver”**, focusing on **government commitment**, **increased investment**, and **effective delivery** of TB control strategies. The day commemorates **Dr. Robert Koch's 1882 discovery** of the TB bacteria. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **International Day for the Right to the Truth** is observed on **March 24** to honor the **right to truth** for victims of **gross human rights violations**. The day commemorates **Monsignor Óscar Arnulfo Romero**, assassinated on this day in **1980** for speaking out against human rights abuses in **El Salvador**. It emphasizes the importance of knowing the truth about crimes like **summary executions**, **enforced disappearances**, and **torture**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery** is observed annually on **March 25** to honor the millions of **men, women, and children** affected by the **transatlantic slave trade**. The day aims to educate future generations about the **atrocities of slavery** and address its **lingering effects** in modern societies. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **International Unborn Child Day** is celebrated annually on **March 25** to raise awareness about the **rights and protection** of unborn children. Established by **Pope John Paul II**, the day symbolizes hope and new beginnings, advocating for the **protection of life** from its earliest stages. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **World Theatre Day**, celebrated on **March 27th**, was initiated by the **International Theatre Institute (ITI)** in 1961 to honor the importance of theatre. The theme for **2025** is **“Theatre and a Culture of Peace,”** emphasizing theatre's role in promoting peace, understanding, and storytelling. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The UN General Assembly declared 30 March as the **International Day of Zero Waste** on 14 December 2022 to address **unsustainable production and consumption**. This year, the focus is on reducing waste in the **fashion and textile industry**, promoting **circular solutions** under the theme **“Towards Zero Waste in Fashion and Textiles.”** ([Click here to read article](#))

Obituaries News

- Tamil actor and director **Manoj Bharathiraja**, son of legendary filmmaker **Bharathiraja**, passed away at 48 due to a **heart attack** at his residence in **Chetpet, Chennai** on **March 25, 2025**. He had recently undergone **bypass surgery** before suffering a fatal cardiac arrest. Manoj is survived by his wife **Ashwathi (Nandana)** and two daughters, **Arshitha** and **Mathivathani**. Prominent figures like **Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin**, **Ilaiyaraja**, and **Sarathkumar** have expressed their condolences. ([Click here to read article](#))

Miscellaneous News

- The **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** has made significant discoveries at two locations: over **110 megalithic burial sites** near **Malampuzha Dam** in **Palakkad, Kerala**, shedding light on early **Iron Age** society, and a collection of **Buddhist antiquities** in **Ratnagiri, Odisha**, offering insights into the spread of **Vajrayana Buddhism** and its links with **Southeast Asia**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Static Takeaways

Sr. No	Static Name	Static Details
Business Organizations		
1	Bharti Airtel	Chairman - Sunil Bharti Airtel
2	Reliance Industries	Chairman - Mukesh D. Ambani
3	Maruti Suzuki India Limited	Chairman - R.C. Bhargava
4	Hindustan Unilever Limited	Chairman - Ashok Sekhar Ganguly
5	HCL Technologies	Chairman - Roshni Nadar Malhotra
6	Bellatrix Aerospace	Co-Founder - Rohan M Ganapathy

Sr. No	Static Name	Static Details
Banking Organizations		
7	Punjab & Sind Bank	MD/CEO - Swarup Kumar Saha
8	L & T Finance Ltd.	MD/CEO - Mr. Sudipta Roy
9	Equitas Small Finance Bank	MD/CEO - P. N. Vasudevan
10	RBI	Governor - Sanjay Malhotra
11	Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company	MD/CEO - Mythili Balasubramanian
12	Canara Bank	MD/CEO - K. Satyanarayana Raju
Defense		
13	DRDO	DG - Dr. Manu Korulla
14	Indian Navy	Chief of Naval Staff - Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi
Countries		
15	Indonesia	President - Prabowo Subianto Capital - Jakarta Currency - Indonesian Rupiah
16	Singapore	PM - Lawrence Wong Capital - Singapore Currency - Singapore Dollar
17	USA	President - Donald Trump Capital - Washington D.C. Currency - USD
18	Namibia	President - Netumbo Nandi Capital - Windhoek Currency - Namibian Dollar
19	Thailand	PM - Paetongtarn Shinawatra Capital - Bangkok Currency - Thai Baht
Indian States		
20	Uttarakhand	Governor - Gurmit Singh CM - Pushkar Dhami Capital - Dehradun
21	Kerala	Governor - Rajendra Arlekar CM - Pinarayi Vijayan Capital - Thiruvananthpuram
22	Tamil Nadu	Governor - R. N. Ravi CM - Stalin M. K. Capital - Chennai
23	West Bengal	Governor - Ananda Bose CM - Mamata Banerjee Capital - Kolkata
24	Delhi	L. Governor - Vinai Saxena CM - Rekha Gupta Capital - New Delhi
25	Telangana	Governor - Jishnu Dev Varma CM - Revanth Reddy Capital - Hyderabad