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SBI PO MAINS 2026

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FEBRUARY – JULY 2026



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Most Important Current Affairs

Most Important Current Affairs of August 2026

Commonwealth Games 2026 Medal Tally: India Finishes 4th with 39 Medals; Complete List of Winners and Sport-wise Breakdown

The remarkable performance of Indian Contingent with 39 medals in Glasgow, India has achieved fourth position in the overall medal table of the Commonwealth Games 2026. Even after certain figures of major medal-winning sports like wrestling, badminton, table tennis, shooting, and hockey were excluded from the Games' menu, the Indian team did quite well and collected 13 gold, 17 silver, and 9 bronze medals.

Boxing turned out to be the most successful sport for India in the Games. Besides the boxing success, weightlifting, athletics, para athletics, and judo contributed to the medal tally as well.

India Finishes Fourth in the Commonwealth Games Medal Table for 2026

With total 39 medals at the 2026 Commonwealth Games, India matched the total for the domestic team, Scotland. However, India secured fourth place because of more silver medals.

The final standings for the Olympic Games medal table for 2026 were as follows.

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Australia	70	45	56	171
2	England	29	45	36	110
3	Canada	19	20	23	62
4	India	13	17	9	39
5	Scotland	13	9	17	39
6	New Zealand	10	14	12	36
7	Nigeria	10	7	7	24
8	Jamaica	10	4	5	19
9	Wales	9	10	12	31
10	Malaysia	8	3	5	16

India's Medal Tally by Sport

Sport	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Boxing	7	3	0	10
Athletics	0	5	5	10
Weightlifting	1	6	1	8
Para Athletics	3	2	1	6
Judo	2	1	1	4
Para Powerlifting	0	0	1	1
Total	13	17	9	39

Complete List of India's Medal Winners

No.	Athlete	Sport	Event	Medal
1	Jhandu Kumar	Para Powerlifting	Men's Heavyweight	Bronze
2	Rishikanta Singh	Weightlifting	Men's 60kg	Silver
3	Mirabai Chanu	Weightlifting	Women's 48kg	Gold
4	Muthupandi Raja	Weightlifting	Men's 65kg	Silver
5	Gyaneshwari Yadav	Weightlifting	Women's 53kg	Silver
6	Bindyarani Devi	Weightlifting	Women's 58kg	Bronze
7	Sharmila Dhankar	Para Athletics	Women's Shot Put F57	Gold
8	Sarvesh Kushare	Athletics	Men's High Jump	Silver
9	Shilpa K Shyla	Para Athletics	Women's Shot Put F57	Bronze
10	Valluri Ajaya Babu	Weightlifting	Men's 79kg	Silver
11	Harjinder Kaur	Weightlifting	Women's 69kg	Silver
12	Gulveer Singh	Athletics	Men's 10,000m	Silver
13	Murali Sreeshankar	Athletics	Men's Long Jump	Silver
14	Dilip Gavitt	Para Athletics	Men's 100m T47	Gold
15	Mohammed Basil	Para Athletics	Men's 100m T47	Silver
16	Lovepreet Singh	Weightlifting	Men's +110kg	Silver
17	Seema Kaliramna	Athletics	Women's Discus Throw	Bronze
18	Asmita Dey	Judo	Women's - 48kg	Gold
19	Harsh Singh	Judo	Men's -60kg	Gold
20	Yamini Mourya	Judo	Women's - 57kg	Silver
21	Tejaswin Shankar	Athletics	Men's Decathlon	Bronze
22	Yash Vir Singh	Athletics	Men's Javelin Throw	Bronze
23	Neeraj Chopra	Athletics	Men's Javelin Throw	Silver
24	Preeti Pawar	Boxing	Women's 54kg	Gold
25	Pravreen Chithravel	Athletics	Men's Triple Jump	Silver





No.	Athlete	Sport	Event	Medal
26	Selva Prabhu	Athletics	Men's Triple Jump	Bronze
27	Jaismine Lamboria	Boxing	Women's 57kg	Gold
28	Jadumani Singh	Boxing	Men's 55kg	Silver
29	Shubham Juyal	Para Athletics	Men's Shot Put F57	Silver
30	Soman Rana	Para Athletics	Men's Shot Put F57	Gold
31	Unnati Sharma	Judo	Women's - 63kg	Bronze
32	Sakshi Chaudhary	Boxing	Women's 51kg	Gold
33	Priya Ghanghas	Boxing	Women's 60kg	Gold
34	Arundhati Choudhary	Boxing	Women's 70kg	Gold
35	Lovlina Borgohain	Boxing	Women's 75kg	Silver
36	Sachin Siwach	Boxing	Men's 60kg	Gold
37	Ankush Panghal	Boxing	Men's 80kg	Gold
38	Narender Berwal	Boxing	Men's +90kg	Silver
39	Gulveer Singh	Athletics	Men's 5,000m	Bronze

India's Major Highlights

Category	Achievement
Overall Rank	4th
Total Medals	39
Most Successful Sport	Boxing (10 medals)
Most Gold Medals	Boxing (7 Gold)
Mirabai Chanu	First Indian woman to win three consecutive CWG gold medals
Asmita Dey	India's first Commonwealth Games Judo Champion
Gulveer Singh	First Indian track & field athlete to win two individual medals at one CWG
Tejaswin Shankar	India's first Commonwealth Games Decathlon medallist
Para Campaign	Best-ever performance with 7 medals
Neeraj Chopra	Returned to CWG with Silver after missing Birmingham 2022

Hurun India Women Leaders List 2026: Meena Bindra Tops Rankings, Avani Lekhara Becomes Youngest in Top 10

The 2026 Candere Hurun India Women Leaders List recognizes some notable women achievers in multiple sectors such as business, economic entrepreneurship, and sports. The publication provides information on how women have contributed in a major way through various types of leadership and excellent innovations.

This year, the list comprises of 117 women from 12 sectors, with the owner of BIBA, Meena Bindra, coming first in the list. The youngest female Paralympic medal winner Avani Lekhara made an impression among the top ten winners of the list, which showcases the growing number of talented young personalities among the leaders of India.

What is the Candere Hurun India Women Leaders List?

The Candere Hurun India Women Leaders List serves as an annual compilation prepared by Hurun India that is meant to honour exceptional female leaders from different sectors.

In preparing the ranking, several objective criteria are used. This entails assessing the companies' performance based on the following criteria,

- Valuation of the company
- The yearly revenue of the company
- The successes of the businesswoman
- The successes in the field of sport
- The extent of influence in the digital world
- The effect on society of their work

The number of women leaders included in the list of 2026 is 117, while they cover 12 fields and the majority of them work in New Delhi or Mumbai.

Meena Bindra Secures First Place in the Rankings

Seasoned businesswoman Meena Bindra, an entrepreneur and founder of BIBA, has taken the top spot in the rankings.

She has been recognized for creating one of the most popular ethnic wear brands in the country and is a role model in women's entrepreneurship and business leadership.

Avani Lekhara the Youngest Woman in the Rankings

Young paralympic gold medalist Avani Lekhara has bagged the 6th position in the rankings, making her the youngest girl in the top 10 at the age of just 24 years.

She has been included in the rankings because this reflects the growing recognition of sporting excellence along with performances in the business arena.

Top 10 Women Leaders in the 2026 Candere Hurun India Women Leaders List

Rank	Name	Organization/Association	Age
1	Meena Bindra	BIBA	83
2	Tushara Shankar	Lupin	46
3	Rajni Bector Bectors	Food Specialities	86
4	Vaishali Nigam Sinha	ReNew Power	56





Rank	Name	Organization/Association	Age
5	Suneeta Reddy & Preetha Reddy	Apollo Hospitals Enterprise	67 & 68
6	Avani Lekhara	Paralympic Medallist	24
7	Sudha Murthy	Author	75
8	Ananya Birla	Entrepreneur & Social Media Influencer	32
9	Faye D'Souza	Journalist Independent	44
10	Kanika Gupta Shori	Square Yards	---

Youngest Women Leaders List 2026

Rank	Name	Organization/Association
1	Sheetal Devi	Paralympian
2	Noureen Aysha	Femi Safe
3	Parul Gulati	Entrepreneur & Influencer
4	Priyanka Sharma	Independent Journalist
5	Rithika Mohan	Garuda Aerospace
6	Savi Sharma	Author
7	Masaba Gupta	House of Masaba
8	Shreya Mishra	Solar Square
9	Nishtha Gupta	Suzlon
10	Roshni Nadar Malhotra	HCL Technologies

Oldest Women Leaders Across Categories

Rank	Name	Organization/Association
1	Rajni Bector Bectors	Food Specialities
2	Meena Bindra	BIBA
3	Manju D. Gupta	Lupin
4	Bina Modi Godfrey	Phillips India
5	Banu Mushtaq	Author
6	Arundhati Bhattacharya	Salesforce India
7	Madhulika Sharma	ITC
8	Vaishali Nigam Sinha	ReNew Power
9	Deepa Malik	Paralympian
10	Barkha Dutt	Mojo Story

Key Highlights in the 2026 Rankings

The Candere Hurun India Women Leaders List reveals exemplary leadership in a variety of domains like health sector, renewable energy, literature, journalism, sports, and business. Some of the major highlights are,

- Meena Bindra got top spot in the list.
- The youngest one to get a place in overall top 10 was Avani Lekhara.
- As many as 117 women leaders were awarded in 12 sectors.

- Major sectors included--business, healthcare, media, literature, sports and clean energy.
- More women honourees were from Mumbai and New Delhi as compared to other places.

Cabinet Approves GOBARDhan Scheme: India's ₹23,731 Crore Push for Compressed Biogas and Circular Bioenergy

The Cabinet of the Union Government, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the GOBARDhan (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan) – National Circular Bioenergy Scheme, with an allocation of ₹23,731 crore. This scheme was announced on 6th of August 2026 with an objective to convert the agricultural residue, cattle dung, urban organic waste, press mud, and biomass of other nature into Compressed Biogas (CBG), organic manure, and rural incomes. It is anticipated that the scheme, which will be implemented from FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36, will go a long way in enhancing India's clean energy infrastructure and reducing India's dependence on imports of fossil fuel-based energy.

What is the GOBARDhan Scheme?

The GOBARDhan Scheme is India's comprehensive national plan to boost the generation and consumption of Compressed Biogas (CBG) through a circular bioeconomy model.

The scheme aims at converting organic waste into valuable sources of energy through an ecosystem that supports CBG generation, transportation, finance, and market. Managed by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, the scheme encompasses several existing bioenergy schemes to hasten India's shift towards renewable gaseous fuels.

The vision behind the GOBARDhan Scheme is simple and revolutionary,

- Waste to wealth
- Boosts farmers income
- Improves India's energy security
- Fosters sustainable rural development.

Objectives of the GOBARDhan Scheme

The following are the strategic objectives of this scheme,

- Increase domestic production of CBG nearly ten times.
- Decrease reliance on imports of natural gas and other fossil fuels.
- Scientific management of agriculture and municipal solid waste.
- Private sector involvement in the bio-energy industry.
- Creation of jobs in rural areas.
- Achieve India's climate targets by decreasing greenhouse gases emissions.
- Enhance the circular economy through utilization of biomass.

Through creation of a stable policy regime, the government will ensure that CBG becomes a significant part of the country's energy mix in the coming future.



**Six Major Components of the GOBARdhan Scheme****1. Assured CBG Offtake**

The government will create a procurement system to guarantee a ready market for CBG producers.

CBG will be purchased by CGD operators to fulfill the blending targets as per notifications,

- 3% in FY 2026-27
- 4% in FY 2027-28
- 5% from FY 2028-29 onwards

Guaranteed offtake of CBG will enhance the project viability and will attract investment.

2. Stable Pricing System

In order to give a stable return to the investors, a price cap of ₹2,110 has been set per Metric Million British Thermal Unit (MMBTU).

This pricing structure provides the following benefits,

- Stable long-term returns.
- Investor confidence.
- Predictable project revenues.
- Affordable price for customers.

The pricing structure will be valid for at least ten years.

3. Financing of Capital

Financial assistance is provided for setting up of new CBG units. Financial support available shall include Up to ₹2 crore per TPD capacity of installed CBG unit.

Financial support includes,

- Aggregation of feedstocks.
- Processing of organic manures.
- Value addition infrastructure.

Expansion projects are also eligible for financial support under the scheme.

4. Development of Pipeline Infrastructure

In order to enhance market connectivity, the GOBARdhan scheme provides funding for development of pipeline infrastructure connecting CBG plants with,

- Trunk gas pipelines.
- City Gas Distribution (CGD) Networks.

Market connectivity shall help reduce transportation costs, improved utilization of plants and distribution of domestically produced biogas.

5. Credit Guarantee Scheme

Credit Guarantee scheme has been launched especially for MSMEs undertaking CBG projects.

The scheme seeks to,

- Enhance access to institutional financing.
- Reduce collateral requirement.

- Encourage financial institutions to lend.
- Provide finance to women entrepreneurs and first timers.

6. CBG Ecosystem Challenge Fund

Under this scheme, a special Challenge Fund shall be established for district level implementation.

The Challenge Fund shall provide support in,

- Mapping of feedstock resources.
- Infrastructure for aggregation of biomass.
- Adoption of technology.
- Capacity Building.
- Value addition of organic manure.
- Stakeholder awareness programs.

GOBARdhan Scheme as an Extension of Other Government Schemes

The GOBARdhan Scheme is an extension of many other schemes which form the bedrock of the CBG industry in India such as,

- SATAT (Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation) scheme.
- MDA (Market Development Assistance) Scheme for Organic Manure.
- Biomass Aggregation Machinery (BAM) Scheme.
- Development of Pipeline Infrastructure (DPI) Scheme.
- National Bioenergy Programme - CFA (Central Financial Assistance).

These schemes have already resulted in the setting up of more than 200 CBG plants across the country.

Impact of the Scheme Expected by the Government

As per the government, GOBARdhan Scheme will help to create multiple economic, environmental and social advantages.

Energy Security

- Ten times higher production of CBG in India.
- Dependence on natural gas imports would come down.

Rural Prosperity

- Revenue for farmers through biomass supply.
- Creation of employment for entrepreneurs and cooperatives in rural areas and MSMEs.

Environmental Benefits

- Management of agricultural residue and organic waste in scientific manner.
- Low carbon footprint.
- Reduction in stubble burning and waste dumping.

Circular Economy

- Increase in organic manure production.
- Better utilization of biomass resources.
- Encouragement of sustainable agriculture.

Investment

- Viability of projects.
- Increased participation from the private sector.
- Availability of credit due to pricing stability.



**PM Modi Independence Day Speech 2026: AI Training, Saptadhara, Free Coaching and Viksit Bharat 2047**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the nation on the occasion of 80th Independence Day of India from Red Fort on 15 August, 2026. The address, which lasted for about 75 minutes, covered a wide array of topics such as self-reliance, critical minerals and energy security, artificial intelligence, manufacturing, defence, sports, women representation and youth empowerment.

The celebrations on the 80th Independence Day of India also marked the 150th year of Vande Mataram when the national song was rendered at the Red Fort on the occasion. Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized the importance of 'Yuva Shakti' for the journey towards 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047 and presented the concept of the Saptadhara, or seven streams, which would be responsible for taking India towards further growth.

PM Modi Hoists Tricolour at Red Fort

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi hoisted the National Flag at the Red Fort after his arrival at the historical venue.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was received by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and inspected the Guard of Honour comprised of personnel from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Delhi Police.
- The flag-hoisting ceremony was synchronized with the 21 gun salute by the 1721 Field Battery (Ceremonial) using indigenous 105 mm Light Field Guns.
- Before the flag-hoisting ceremony, Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat and remembered the sacrifices of the freedom fighters of India.

150 Years of Vande Mataram

- Commemorating the 150 years of Vande Mataram was a major feature of the 2026 Independence Day celebrations of India.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi called it an historic occasion and mentioned that the slogan Vande Mataram was reverberating in the hearts of Indians along with the Tricolour fluttering all across the country.
- Prime Minister also extended support to the people who were suffering because of floods, landslides and other natural calamities in different parts of the country.

Viksit Bharat by 2047: The Core Objective of PM Modi

- PM Modi reaffirmed the goal of transforming India into a developed country by 2047 as the country will celebrate its 100 years of independence.
- He pointed out that this goal can only be met together by the more than 140 crore citizens of the country.
- The Prime Minister pointed out that India's development has already undergone some remarkable changes and the goals of the country must be raised further now.

- He further pointed out that determination of all sections of citizens including poor, middle-class, youth, etc., has helped India achieve its development.
- According to PM Modi, more than 25 crore people have been taken out of poverty, which he highlighted as one of the most significant achievements of India's development process.

Aatmanirbharta and "Vocal for Local"

- Self-reliance, or Aatmanirbharta, was one of the main themes of his speech.
- PM Modi said that India should not continue to depend on other nations for essential products and technologies. He urged for strengthening of Swadeshi, self-reliance and "Vocal for Local".
- He further said that this goal can be accomplished through the "Make in India" initiative as India needs to be self-reliant in key sectors to protect its national interests.

Critical Minerals and Energy Security

- Critical minerals and energy security became increasingly important for India's future according to PM Modi.
- As the new age industries like semiconductor manufacturing and data centres require assured supply of energy and critical minerals, PM Modi said India needs to achieve self-reliance in these areas.
- PM Modi talked about India's initiatives relating to the critical mineral corridor and said that many countries have placed their trust in India regarding the same.
- According to him, energy security is vital for a modern economy due to growing demand from data centres, semiconductor plants and other technology intensive industries.

India's Semiconductor Strategy

- There was an emphasis on semiconductor manufacturing in India's self-reliance drive.
- According to PM Modi, India has set up three semiconductor facilities, and there is already production in place, and further such facilities will be set up in the future.
- Creating a domestic semiconductor industry will enable India to cut down on dependence on imports from abroad for essential semiconductors and boost its position in the global technology supply chain.

₹85,000 Crore Deep Sea Exploration

- Deep sea exploration was also one of the initiatives taken by India that PM Modi talked about in his speech.
- PM Modi said that ₹85,000 crore had been earmarked for deep sea exploration through the recently launched Samudra Manthan initiative.
- Exploration of India's offshore area for new oil reserves was also mentioned by PM Modi where he said that the vast areas of the coastline that India used to consider as "no go" areas for exploration will now be explored.





- The goal behind such explorations is to enhance domestic energy security and find new strategic resources.

India's Nuclear Energy Target of 2047

- India's nuclear power generation plans were part of the speech of PM Modi.
- PM Modi revealed that India's target of generating 100 GW of nuclear energy by 2047 and the development of new nuclear power reactors.
- This expansion of nuclear power generation is being done as part of India's long-term plan of meeting rising demands of energy and providing energy security.

India's Piped Gas, Solar Power, and Household Energy Generation

- PM Modi talked about the development of piped gas infrastructure, mentioning that prior to 2014 there were only around 70 cities with piped gas facility, but the number has increased to more than 700 cities now.
- It has helped more than 1.45 crore families with their piped gas facility.
- Talking about solar power generation, PM Modi said that more than 50 lakh families have received solar energy generation facility.

Electrification of Railways and Hydrogen Train

- Prime Minister mentioned the evolution of India's railway systems.
- In his speech, he mentioned that railway electrification started back in 1925 but only 30 percent of the system got electrified over the past 90 years. He added that the remaining electrification process took place in the past ten years in India.
- According to PM Modi, the railway electrification process has led to reduced imports of fuel and provided environmental advantages as well.
- India has made remarkable progress in hydrogen trains according to PM Modi.
- He used hydrogen train as an example for showing how India is making progress in the rail technology frontiers.

FTA and MSME Opportunities

- PM Modi said India is signing FTA with 40 countries.
- He encouraged Indian MSMEs to use the agreements and increase their exports.
- The Prime Minister emphasized that Indian products should be sold to international markets along with maintaining international standards of quality, cost and competitiveness.
- In particular, the seafood exporting capacity of India was highlighted by Prime Minister Modi. He pointed towards the opportunities of Kerala and Gujarat and Tamil Nadu and Bengal.

Saptadharma: Seven Streams for Viksit Bharat

Perhaps one of the most significant parts of the speech was the announcement of Saptadharma by PM Modi, which means seven streams of development.

PM Modi said that India is entering the next level reform phase and described India as a "reform express".

The seven streams are,

- Manufacturing
- Farming and Food Processing
- Technology and Innovation
- Gati Shakti
- Raksha Shakti
- Green and Blue Economy
- Soft Power

India's International Corporate Aspirations

- The PM asked Indian corporates to aim bigger internationally.
- Why should not India have 50 corporations in the Fortune 500 in the coming decade, he wondered.
- Further, he added that at least one Indian bank needs to feature among the world's top five banks.
- Similarly, at least one Indian pharmaceutical firm needs to be in the list of world's top five pharmaceutical firms.

One Crore Youth to be Trained in AI

- Empowering the youth was one of the most important parts of the speech.
- PM Modi informed that one crore youngsters would be imparted training in Artificial Intelligence.
- This is part of the efforts to make India's youth ready for an era dominated by AI and other advanced technologies.
- Moreover, he mentioned the advantages gained by youth through various programs such as Digital India, Skill India, Khelo India and National Education Policy.

Free Coaching for Competitions

- Apart from this, PM Modi announced the creation of a network to provide free coaching centers for youngsters.
- The purpose of this program is to ensure that lack of money does not come in the way of students preparing for their exams.
- In particular, this announcement is helpful for those who are preparing for government jobs and other competitive exams.

More Than ₹1 Lakh Crore Innovation Fund

- The Prime Minister has spoken about an innovation fund of more than ₹1 lakh crore.
- It is about fostering innovation and offering chances to the young innovators of India and its technology space.
- This is one of those schemes that can help in achieving the goal of turning India into an innovative nation that produces technologies and businesses that are competitive at a global level.





2036 Olympics and 2030 Commonwealth Games

- Sports got quite some emphasis in the Independence Day speech of PM Modi.
- According to the Prime Minister, India will be hosting the 2030 Commonwealth Games and has its eyes set on hosting the 2036 Olympics.
- According to him, India does not participate in a good number of Olympic games.
- In order to bridge this gap, he has talked about a Talent Hunt campaign for children between the ages of 5 to 15 years.
- The aim here is to identify sporting talent in children and make sure that they are capable in the areas where India has remained behind.
- "Jo Khele, Woh Khile" – his message in short.

Naxalism and 'Dimagi Naxal'

- Prime Minister Modi made it clear that the government's aim is to make India Naxal-free.
- According to him, there have been great changes in the regions which used to face the problem of armed Naxals.
- Moreover, according to him, Naxals have caused huge losses both in terms of money and lives of citizens.
- However, what needs to be noted here is that the PM made a reference to 'dimagi naxals'.

Civil Defence Network

- Moreover, he made the announcement that a civil defence network would be established.
- This project aims to enhance the preparedness and resilience when there is any emergency or some situation in which a civilian response is needed.

Women's Reservation and Nari Shakti

- Moreover, the Women's political representation was another important topic discussed in the speech.
- PM Modi mentioned the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam which ensures 33% reservation for women in Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies subject to the conditions set out in the law.
- In addition, he requested political parties in all hues to support the initiative and asked for the political empowerment of women.
- He said that the potential of women should be acknowledged and more representation in Indian politics.

PM Modi appeals to youth for census

- At the end of the speech, PM Modi appealed to the youth to take part in the process of census.
- Crisis Management and the Spirit of "Nagrik Devo Bhava"
- Prime Minister mentioned challenges that India faced due to the situation following the pandemic, namely conflicts and global energy crisis.

- In particular, there were fears and rumours regarding shortages of vaccines, fuel, diesel and fertilisers.
- In accordance with the Prime Minister, measures were taken by the Government to make sure that citizens, as well as farmers, do not feel the whole brunt of these crises.
- "Prime Minister referred to the spirit of 'Nagrik Devo Bhava', with the citizen as the focal point of governance."
- In addition, he gave the example of fertilisers being available to farmers at regulated prices despite their high costs internationally.

Reduction of Poverty in India

- Another accomplishment was the reduction of poverty in the country.
- In particular, PM Modi stated that more than 25 crore people were saved from poverty in the specified period, mentioning the contribution of citizens in different social and economic strata to India's development.
- In particular, he said that it is becoming increasingly hard to stop development of the country thanks to the common will of its citizens.

Transformation of Governance and Infrastructure Development

- The Prime Minister also mentioned transformations that have occurred within the governance system during the last decade.
- Old laws have been abolished, the way of governance has changed, as well as infrastructure has been renewed.
- In particular, PM Modi mentioned the development of metro rail in India's cities and the acceleration of infrastructure development.

Atmanirbhar Bharat and Domestic Exploration of Resources

- Self-reliance became the key theme of the speech of the Prime Minister.
- In particular, he said that the country should explore its own resources and increase domestic capacities instead of relying on foreign sources of energy.
- He especially emphasised the importance of offshore exploration of oil and other resources as connected with the long-term energy security of India.
- The ₹85,000 crore Samudra Manthan allocation was mentioned in this context.

75 Minute Independence Day Address

- The Independence Day address given by PM Narendra Modi lasted about 75 minutes.
- It was a combination of thoughts about India's progress since the time of its independence along with several future-focused announcements on areas such as AI, manufacturing, energy, semiconductors, defense, infrastructure, sports, women, youth, and reforms.





Key Highlights of PM Modi's Independence Day Speech 2026

- India celebrated its 80th Independence Day.
- The celebration also marked the 150th year of Vande Mataram.
- PM Modi reiterated the target of Viksit Bharat in 2047.
- The Saptadhara approach to the development plan was mentioned.
- One crore youth will be trained in AI.
- A free coaching network will be set up for competitive exams.
- More than ₹1 lakh crore innovation fund was announced.
- India plans 100 GW of nuclear power capacity by 2047.
- India is striving to make itself self-reliant on critical minerals.
- Three semiconductor manufacturing plants are operational now, according to PM Modi.
- ₹85,000 crore has been allocated for deep sea exploration.
- India is working on FTAs with more than 40 countries.
- Railway electrification has reached 100%, according to PM Modi.
- More than 50 lakh households are powered by solar energy.
- India plans to have 50 fortune 500 companies in the next decade.
- At least one Indian bank should come into the top five in the global list.
- At least one Indian pharma company should rank among the top five in the world.
- India will host the 2030 Commonwealth Games and will also aim to host 2036 Olympics.
- The launch of sports talent hunt program for the 5-15 age group.
- PM Modi reiterated the target of India becoming Naxal-free.
- A Civil defense network will be set up.
- PM Modi appealed for support in the cause of 33% reservation for women in Parliament and state legislatures.
- The youth was urged to assist their families in providing accurate data during the census.
- Aatmanirbhar, Swadeshi, and Vocal for Local was stressed by PM Modi.

Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards 2024-25: President to Honour 115 Artists

For the India's performing arts in 2026, Honorable President of India is set to confer the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships and Awards for the years 2024 and 2025 on August 13, 2026. A total of 115 artists have been selected for this prestigious recognition which includes areas such as music, dance, theatre, folk and tribal arts, puppetry, instrumental making and other performing arts.

The awards are specially important as they showcase the India's cultural institutes, performing arts and national recognitions.

Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards 2024-25

The special award ceremony is set to take place on August 13th, 2026 at 11:30 AM at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi where the awards will be conferred by the President of India on the selected artists.

Union Ministers of Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Minister of State for Culture Rao Inderjit Singh, Secretary of Ministry of Culture Vivek Aggarwal and Chairman of Sangeet Natak Akademi Dr Sandhya Purecha are some of the dignitaries attending the ceremony.

115 awardees and fellows from various states and union territories have been chosen from India's varied performing arts.

What is the Sangeet Natak Akademi?

Sangeet Natak Akademi is India's national institution of music, dance and drama. The awards are awarded for exceptional and distinguished work done in the field of performing arts.

The Sangeet Natak Akademi awards have been conferred from 1952 onwards. The Sangeet Natak Akademi awards include both classical music and dance along with theatre, folk and tribal traditions and other associated performing arts.

The highest award from the Sangeet Natak Akademi is called Akademi Fellowship or Akademi Ratna. A Fellow is given ₹3 lakh whereas an Akademi Award includes a prize money of ₹1 lakh and a Tamrapatra & Angavastram.

Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellows — Akademi Ratna

S. No.	Fellow
1	Ramlal Bareth
2	A V Anand
3	Rita Ganguly
4	Puru Dadheech
5	Chittaranjan Jyotishi
6	Pasumarthi Rattaiah Sarma
7	Sudharani Raghupathy

Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards 2024

Music

S. No.	Artist	Field / Discipline
1	Arun Nagesh Kashalkar	Hindustani Vocal
2	Nirmalya Dey	Hindustani Vocal - Dhrupad
3	Bharat Bhushan Goswami	Hindustani Instrumental – Sarangi
4	Sanjay Mukherjee	Hindustani Instrumental – Tabla
5	Krishna Vageesh	Carnatic Vocal
6	N. Vijay Siva	Carnatic Vocal
7	A S Krishnan Carnatic	Instrumental – Morching





S. No.	Artist	Field / Discipline
8	Komanduri Seshadri Carnatic	Instrumental – Violin
9	Rakesh Chaurasia	Creative and Experimental – Flute
10	Prabhathi Mukherjee	Other Major Traditions of Music – Sugam Sangeet
11	Anand Bhate	Other Major Traditions of Music – Abhang
12	Samandar Khan Manganiar	Other Major Traditions of Music – Mand

Dance

S. No.	Artist	Field / Discipline
1	Rajeswari Sainath	Bharatanatyam
2	Bipul Chandra Das	Kathak
3	Rajkumari Thambalsana Devi	Manipuri
4	Veena Murthy Vijay	Kuchipudi
5	Bichitrananda Swain	Odissi
6	Prema Ozah Borbayan	Sattriya
7	Sreedevi Rajan	Mohiniattam
8	Nripen Sahis	Chhau
9	Shashidharan Nair	Creative and Experimental
10	Kalamandalam Unnikrishnan	Music for Dance – Kathakali
11	Kumara Surya Narayana	Music for Dance

Theatre

S. No.	Artist	Field / Discipline
1	Satish Dave	Direction
2	T S Nagabharana	Direction
3	Ravi Chaturvedi	Direction
4	Om Katore	Direction
5	Gummadi Gopala Krishna Rao	Acting
6	Vagai Chandrasekar	Acting
7	Arun Nalavde	Acting
8	Dhiren D Merchant	Allied Theatre Arts – Lighting
9	Dinesh Kumar Poddar	Allied Theatre Arts – Lighting
10	Mukund Ram Marathe	Traditional Theatre – Sangeet Natak

Folk, Tribal, Puppet, Mask & Instrument Making

S. No.	Artist	Field / Discipline
1	Dursheti Ramaiah	Folk Music, Telangana
2	K Murugan	Folk Dance, Puducherry
3	S C Sharma	Folk & Tribal Music, Karnataka
4	Atamjeet Singh	Nautanki, Uttar Pradesh
5	Mahendra Ram	Folk Music, Bihar
6	Butan Devi and Somari Devi (Joint)	Folk Dance, Jharkhand
7	Ranajit Kumar Nag	Folk Dance – Sambalpuri, Odisha
8	Hawa Singh	Folk Music, Haryana
9	Veswuzo Phesao	Folk Music & Dance, Nagaland
10	Gulabi Sapera	Folk Dance, Rajasthan – Kalbeliya
11	Lourembam Bedabati	Folk Music, Manipur
12	Subhash Narayan Nakashe	Folk Dance, Maharashtra
13	Kishorbhai Somabhai Mistry	Instrument Making – Rudra Veena

Overall & Others

S. No.	Artist	Field / Discipline
1	T S Sathyavathi	Overall Contribution in Music
2	Voleti Rangamani	Overall Contribution in Dance
3	Shubhada Manohar Varadkar	Scholarship in Performing Arts – Dance
4	Tapati Chowdhurie	Art Critique – Performing Arts
5	Sunanda Nair	Overseas – Dance (Mohiniattam)

Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards 2025

Music

S. No.	Artist	Field / Discipline
1	Krishna Mohan Pathak	Hindustani Vocal – Dhrupad
2	Suresh Gandharv	Hindustani Vocal
3	Shailesh Bhagwat	Hindustani Instrumental – Shehnai
4	Jyoti Ganpati Hegde	Hindustani Instrumental – Rudra Veena
5	Pantula Rama	Carnatic Vocal
6	Papanasam Ashok Ramani	Carnatic Vocal





S. No.	Artist	Field / Discipline
7	Tripoonithura N Radhakrishnan	Carnatic Instrumental – Ghatam
8	Anoor R. Anantha Krishna Sharma	Carnatic Instrumental – Mridangam
9	D. Srinivas Carnatic	Instrumental – Veena
10	Yugantar Sindoor	Other Major Traditions of Music – Sugam Sangeet
11	Satchidananda Das Other	Other Major Traditions of Music – Mardala
12	Seema Anil Sehgal	Other Major Traditions of Music – Sugam Sangeet

Dance

S. No.	Artist	Field / Discipline
1	Roja Kannan	Bharatanatyam
2	Krishna Mohan Mishra Maharaj, Vaswati Misra and Ram Mohan Maharaj (Trio)	Kathak
3	Kalamandalam Krishnakumar	Kathakali
4	Irengbam Nalini Devi	Manipuri
5	Seetha Nagajothy and P. Nagajothy (Joint)	Manipuri
6	Mallika Kandali	Sattriya
7	Girija Chandran	Mohiniattam
8	Pagulu Jena	Chhau – Mayurbhanj
9	Kaniyal Hariprasad	Music for Dance – Bharatanatyam
10	Bhaskar Jyoti Ojah	Music for Dance – Sattriya
11	S. Kumar	Major Traditions of Dance & Dance Theatre – Bhagavatamela

Theatre

S. No.	Artist	Field / Discipline
1	Kapildev Chandrakant Shukla	Direction
2	Kallol Bhattacharyya	Direction
3	Navdeep Kaur	Direction
4	Pramod Dnyandeo Pawar	Direction
5	Subodh Patnaik	Direction
6	Chetana Das	Acting
7	Suresh Kumar Hazzu	Acting

S. No.	Artist	Field / Discipline
8	Makhan Lal Saraf	Acting
9	Ashok Patki	Allied Theatre Arts – Music for Theatre
10	Usha Nangiar	Other Major Traditions of Theatre – Nangiarkooth

Folk, Tribal, Puppet, Mask & Instrument Making

S. No.	Artist	Field / Discipline
1	Anup Ranjan Pandey	Folk Music, Chhattisgarh
2	Bheru Singh Chouhan	Folk Music, Madhya Pradesh – Nirguni
3	Surjya Kumar Debbarma	Folk Dance, Tripura
4	Joginder Singh Habbi	Folk Dance, Himachal Pradesh
5	Romalo Ram	Folk Music & Dance, Jammu and Kashmir
6	Harmanpreet Singh	Folk Dance, Punjab
7	Ali Mohammad	Folk Music, Ladakh
8	Domin Karbak	Folk Dance, Arunachal Pradesh
9	K. Rosiama	Folk Dance, Mizoram
10	Rani Maring	Instrument Making
11	Sushanta Kumar	Mask Making – Chhau
12	Mangla Prasad Sharma	Instrument Making

Overall & Others

S. No.	Artist	Field / Discipline
1	Kunal	Overall Contribution in Theatre
2	Maneesha Sathe	Overall Contribution in Dance – Kathak
3	Rakesh Sinha	Overall Contribution – Art Photography
4	Manjari Sinha	Art Critique – Performing Arts
5	T S Nandakumar	Overseas – Music (Mridangam)

301 Gallantry Medals Awarded to Police, Fire Service Personnel

Gallantry Medals have been awarded to 301 members of the Police Force and Fire Services in connection with the Independence Day 2026 awards for outstanding gallantry and devotion to duty. A large number of the awards went to those serving in LWE-affected areas. In all, 1,057 members of the Police Force, Fire, Home Guard and Civil Defence, and Correctional Services have been awarded Gallantry and Service Medals. The a





301 Gallantry Medals Given

Out of the total 301 Gallantry Medals, 272 medals have been awarded to police personnel and 29 to fire service personnel. As per the government, the above medals have been given for outstanding acts of gallantry where there was involvement of life and property saving, prevention of crime, or apprehension of criminals. The risk involved is considered with reference to their official duties and responsibilities.

Regional-wise Distribution of Gallantry Medals

The total of 301 Gallantry Medals have been awarded to personnel of various regions,

- 197 personnel from Left Wing Extremism affected regions
- 51 personnel from Jammu & Kashmir region
- 12 personnel from North-East region
- 41 personnel from other regions

The high number of medals given to LWE affected region personnel indicates the challenging situation of working by security forces against violence of the extremists.

1,057 Personnel Awarded Medals

In addition to the Gallantry Medals, there are a range of other independence day awards given to 1,057 personnel from Police, Fire Service, Home Guard and Civil Defence, and Correctional Services.

The awards are split into different categories depending on bravery and service, where awards are made for both courageous acts and dedication to public service.

92 Receive President's Medal for Distinguished Service

There were also announcements from the Centre of the President's Medal for Distinguished Service (PSM) for 92 police and allied service personnel.

The distribution was,

- 83 Police Service personnel
- 4 Fire Service personnel
- 3 Civil Defence and Home Guard personnel
- 2 Correctional Service personnel

The President's Medal for Distinguished Service is awarded for an officer's special and distinguished record of service.

664 Medals for Meritorious Service Awarded

In addition, 664 Medals for Meritorious Service (MSM) were also conferred. This medal honours meritorious service characterized by resourcefulness and dedication to duty.

These individuals include,

- 606 Individuals from the Police Force
- 28 Individuals from the Fire Services
- 18 Individuals from Civil Defense and Home Guard
- 12 Individuals from the Correctional Services

In conjunction with the Gallantry and President's Distinguished Service Medals, these honours emphasize the contributions of persons serving in India's internal security services, emergency services and correctional services.

President's Medal for Distinguished Service (PSM) 2026 — State/Organisation-Wise Winners

Andhra Pradesh

- Shri Vijaya Kumar Gudi — Inspector General
- Shri Venkata Rami Reddy Balankari — Inspector General

Assam

- Shri Devojoyoti Mukherjee — Inspector General

Bihar

- Shri Sanjay Kumar — Inspector General
- Smt. Bina Kumari — Superintendent of Police

Chhattisgarh

- Shri Moti Lal Kotwani — Deputy Inspector General

NCT of Delhi

- Shri Dinesh Kumar Gupta — Deputy Inspector General
- Shri Rajesh Kumar — Assistant Sub Inspector

Gujarat

- Shri Amit Kumar Kishor Vishwakarma — Additional Director General
- Shri Bahadursinh Abhesinh Chudasama — Deputy Superintendent of Police

Haryana

- Smt. Sushila Kaushik — Sub Inspector

Himachal Pradesh

- Shri Gurdev Chand Sharma — Deputy Inspector General

Jharkhand

- Shri Shailendra Kumar Sinha — Inspector General

Karnataka

- Shri Dharmendra Huccha Nanjappa Kallegowdana Koppalu — Assistant Commissioner of Police

Kerala

- Shri Sasidharan Sankaran Ezhuthachan Kizhakkekara — Superintendent of Police

Madhya Pradesh

- Shri Dharmvir Singh — Superintendent of Police
- Shri Sunil Kumar Pandey — Deputy Inspector General
- Shri Anil Kumar Bhaduria — Inspector
- Shri Raj Lochan Prasad Dubey — Constable

Maharashtra

- Shri Shirish Ravindra Jain — Additional Director General
- Shri Subhash Nanasaheb Bhujang — Deputy Superintendent of Police
- Shri Sanjay Rajaram Vaychale — Assistant Sub Inspector

Manipur

- Shri Lokhendro Singh Arambam — Armed Police Sub Inspector




Mizoram

- Smt. Meenu Choudhary — Additional Director General

Nagaland

- Shri Videlalie Zashumo — Inspector General

Odisha

- Shri Sanjeeb Panda — Additional Director General
- Ms. Smitarani Mohanty — Deputy Superintendent of Police

Punjab

- Shri Baljit Singh — Inspector

Rajasthan

- Shri Surendra Singh Ranawat — Assistant Commissioner of Police
- Shri Mahendra Kumar Bhagat — Additional Superintendent of Police

Tamil Nadu

- Shri J Vijai Anand — Additional Superintendent of Police
- Shri K Ramachandran — Additional Superintendent of Police
- Shri S Kumar — Assistant Commandant

Telangana

- Shri Narsaiah Jogula — Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police
- Shri R Jagadishwar Reddy — Superintendent of Police

Uttar Pradesh

- Shri Dhruva Kant Thakur — Director General of Police
- Smt. Padmaja Chauhan — Additional Director General
- Shri Prashant Kumar — Additional Director General
- Shri Deo Narayan Yadav — Assistant Commandant
- Shri Ajay Kumar Tripathi — Assistant Commandant
- Shri Vikas Srivastava — Deputy Superintendent of Police

West Bengal

- Shri Ajay Nand — Commissioner of Police

Puducherry

- Shri Ranganathan B — Superintendent of Police

Jammu & Kashmir

- Shri Shoket Hussain Shah — Senior Superintendent

Central Armed Police Forces & Other Organisations
Assam Rifles

- Shri Pritam Lal — Subedar Major

Border Security Force (BSF)

- Shri Mangi Lal Garg — Inspector General
- Shri Charu Dhawaj Aggarwal — Inspector General
- Shri Ashok Kumar — Deputy Inspector General
- Shri Dharendra Singh Sindhu — Deputy Inspector General
- Shri Amarvir Yadav — Second-in-Command

Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)

- Smt. Harpreet Kaur Sohi — Inspector General
- Shri Mohan S — Assistant Commandant

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

- Shri Narendra Kumar Singh — Inspector General
- Shri M Dhinakaran — Deputy Inspector General
- Shri Manish Sharma — Commandant
- Shri Mahesh Chandra Thwal — Commandant
- Shri D Jayachandra Naidu — Inspector

Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)

- Shri Mandhir Ekka — Inspector General
- Shri Nishith Chandra — Deputy Inspector General
- Shri Mohan Singh — Inspector

National Security Guard (NSG)

- Shri Rakesh Sharma — Group Commander

Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)

- Shri Malothu Ramulu Naik — Inspector General
- Shri Sanjay Bahadur Chand — Commandant

Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)

- Shri Narayanamurthy Venkataramanan — Deputy Foreign Language Advisor
- Shri Ujjwal Kumar Sukla — Joint Deputy Director/EXE
- Shri Jijo Jacob — Assistant Director/EXE
- Shri Md Zafare Alam — Assistant Director/EXE
- Shri Raman Kumar — Assistant Director/EXE
- Shri Kamal Kant — Assistant Director/Staff Officer
- Ms. Phul Maya Tamang — Assistant Central Intelligence Officer-I/EXE
- Shri Khota Able Shinglai — Assistant Central Intelligence Officer-I/EXE

Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

- Smt. Shobha Dutta — Superintendent of Police
- Shri Manoj Banerjee — Additional Superintendent of Police
- Smt. Ginni Rana — Additional Superintendent of Police
- Shri Ramesh Chand — Assistant Sub Inspector
- Shri Madan Lal Dhiman — Assistant Sub Inspector
- Shri Sanjay Kumar Samal — Deputy Superintendent of Police

Special Protection Group (SPG)

- Shri Umesh Chander Datta — Inspector General
- National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)
- Shri Gambhir Singh Chauhan — Deputy Inspector General

National Investigation Agency (NIA)

- Shri K M Mallikarjuna Prasanna — Inspector General
- Shri Braj Bhushan Pathak — Additional Superintendent of Police

Department of Defence Production

- Shri Sajid Farid Shapoo — Additional Director General

Railway Protection Force (RPF)

- Shri Rajesh Lal — Assistant Security Commissioner





Fire Service

Goa

- Shri Rajendra Aanant Haldankar — Deputy Director (Fire Services)

Odisha

- Shri Malaya Kumar Mohanty — Assistant Station Officer

Uttar Pradesh

- Shri Naimuddin — Leading Fireman

CISF

- Shri Mahendra Singh Kandari — Assistant Commandant

Home Guards & Civil Defence Service

Chhattisgarh

- Shri Rajesh Kumar Pandey — Additional Commandant General

NCT of Delhi

- Shri Suresh Kumar Shokeen — Commandant

Himachal Pradesh

- Shri Prem Raj — Company Commander

Correctional Services

Maharashtra

- Shri Sanjiv Sakham Ghanekar — Subhedar
- Shri Sanjay Rajaramji Talware — Havildar

National Teachers Awards 2026

President Droupadi Murmu will present the National Teachers' Awards 2026 on 5 September 2026 (Teachers' Day) at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. For the current year, 48 teachers of schools all over India have been chosen for their outstanding contributions to the field of education, innovation in teaching, and impact on the lives of the students. These National Teachers'

Awards are presented every year by the Ministry of Education to recognize teachers who have greatly enhanced the quality of school education in India.

What Is the National Teachers Award?

The National Teachers Award is an award that belongs to India and is a major national-level recognition for school teachers. This award is bestowed upon those teachers who display excellent dedication, leadership, innovation, and effectiveness in improving students' educational experience.

The award was instituted in 1958 and is presented annually on 5th September, which marks the birthday of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, former President and philosopher of India, and Teachers' Day in India.

Awards are managed by the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education.

How is the Winner of the National Teachers Awards 2026 Chosen?

The procedure for choosing winners of the National Teachers Awards 2026 is quite comprehensive and ensures that teachers with measurable qualities are selected rather than nominations.

1. On-Line Self-Nomination

In the initial step, eligible teachers apply online through the National Teachers' Awards website.

2. District/Regional Level

The first level of evaluation is carried out by the District or Regional Selection Committee where the eligibility of the candidate is established.

3. State/Organisation Level

From here, the short-listed teachers move to the next level of evaluation by the State Selection Committee or Organisation Selection Committee.

4. Independent National Jury

This is the final level of evaluation where independent jury evaluates the short-listed nominations. This can be done through virtual conference sessions.

List of National Teachers Awards 2026

S. No.	Teacher Name	State/UT/Organisation	School Name
1	Shri J Prakash Rao	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	PM SHRI GMSSS Mayabunder, Pokadera
2	Shri Rajesh Kouluri	Andhra Pradesh	MPPS Chinamallupeta, Chinamallupeta
3	Ms. Yaku Tame	Arunachal Pradesh	Government Secondary School, G-Sector Naharlagun, Papum Pare District, Arunachal Pradesh, Ward No. 16 IMC
4	Shri Rajesh Bordoloi	Assam	Adarsha Tribal Higher Secondary School, Jorhat, Kalbari
5	Ms. Khushboo Kumari	Bihar	Urdu Primary School Bidaydih, Bidaydih
6	Ms. Pushpa Prasad	Bihar	Middle School Kuchaikote Kanya, Kuchaikote
7	Ms. Radha Rajesh	CISCE	New Horizon Public School, Indiranagar
8	Ms. Sangeeta Yadav	CBSE	St. Joseph's Convent Sr. Sec. School, Ward No. 8, Idgah Hills





S. No.	Teacher Name	State/UT/Organisation	School Name
9	Shri Ravi Jaiswal	Chandigarh	Govt. Model High School Maloya Colony, Chandigarh, Maloya Colony
10	Ms. Sunita Yadav	Chhattisgarh	Govt. M.S. Khichari, Khichari
11	Ms. Patel Purnima Mohanlal	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	GHS Dalwada, Dalwada
12	Ms. Suman Goel	Delhi	GSKV Pooth Kalan, Pooth Kalan
13	Md. Zafar Alam	Eklavya Model Residential Schools, Ministry of Tribal Affairs	EMRS Karanjia, Binuria (Tato)
14	Shri Mahadev Hanamant Shinde	Goa	Gujarati Samaj-Special School, Aquem
15	Shri Nitinkumar Mahendrakumar Pathak	Gujarat	Rangpur Primary School, Rangpur
16	Shri Anil Kaushik	Haryana	GMSSSS Sanghi, Rohtak, Sanghi
17	Ms. Manjari V Mahajan	Himachal Pradesh	Government Senior Secondary School, Bhalet, Bhalet
18	Mohd. Ayaz Raina	Jammu & Kashmir	HSS Dalhori, Dalhori
19	Ms. Munmun Bhattacharjee	Jharkhand	MS Barmasia, Barmasia
20	Ms. Rathnakumari S	Karnataka	Government Higher Primary School Samatagaru, Honnebailu
21	Ms. Amutha J	Kendriya Vidyalaya	Sangathan PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 2 Madurai, Madurai
22	Dr. Manisha Khetrpal	Kendriya Vidyalaya	Sangathan PM SHRI KV NFR Rangiya, Rangia
23	Shri Sunil Kumar KP	Kerala	GHSS Irikkur, Irikkur
24	Shri Mohd Mustafa Kumal	Ladakh.	Govt Middle School Zgangjing, Sankoo, Kanoor
25	Dr. Archana Shukla	Madhya Pradesh	Govt. Mahatma Gandhi Sandipani Hr. Sec. School, BHEL Bhopal, BHEL Bhopal
26	Shri Shailendra Pratap Singh	Madhya Pradesh	Government Middle School Kanjwar, Village Kanjwar, Post Pondi Jodouri, Block Majhauri, District Sidhi, Madhya Pradesh
27	Dr. Kavita Narsingrao Gitte	Maharashtra	Sane Guruji Niwasi Vidyalaya Kaij, Sane Guruji Niwasi Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Kaij-Dharur Road, Kaij
28	Ms. Kunda Jayawant Bachhav	Maharashtra	NMC School No. 18, Anandwalli, Nashik, Maharashtra
29	Shri Wanglembam Gobin Singh	Manipur	Laikon Upper Primary School, Kongba Makha Nandeibam Leikai
30	Ms. Lalnunmawii	Mizoram	Government Electric Veng High School, Electric Veng
31	Shri R Ronald Meru	Nagaland	GHSS Sechu Zubza, Sechu
32	Shri Vaibhav Vasantrao Kulkarni	Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti	PM SHRI School Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Latur, 12 No. Pati, Near Manjara Sugar Factory, Barshi Road
33	Shri Padaraj Umakanta Nayak	Odisha	Government High School Alipingal, Alipingal
34	Shri Ganesan S Puducherry	Seenuvasan	Government High School, Mettupalayam
35	Shri Dinesh Kumar	Punjab	Govt. Victoria Girls Senior Secondary School, Patiala
36	Dr. Divyendu Sen	Rajasthan	Mahatma Gandhi Government School Pachpahar, Pachpahar
37	Dr. Vartika Gulati	Rajasthan	GGUPS Tumli Ka Bas, Chaksu, Jaipur, Post Jagat Shiromani Pura





S. No.	Teacher Name	State/UT/Organisation	School Name
38	Shri Shivprasad Arvind Tingare	Sainik Schools, Ministry of Defence	Sainik School Satara, Satara
39	Ms. Sushma Tamang	Sikkim	PM SHRI Government Senior Secondary School Dikling, Dikling
40	Shri Thanga Raj	Tamil Nadu	Panchayat Union Primary School Puliampatti, Puliampatti
41	Ms. Bhavani Bompelly	Telangana	MPPS Girls Gandhari, Gandhari
42	Shri Ranjan Debnath	Tripura	PM SHRI Sabroom Girls HS School, Sabroom
43	Dr. Renu Tripathi	Uttar Pradesh	Govt. Balika Inter College Vijay Nagar, Ghaziabad, Ward No. 14 (Municipal Area)
44	Dr. Iftkhar Khan	Uttar Pradesh	Government Inter College Ballia, Jagdishpur, Ballia
45	Ms. Shalini Kushwaha	Uttar Pradesh	Composite School Rasoolabad, Koilaha
46	Shri Gabar Singh	Uttarakhand	Govt. UPS Musyakhand, Maira
47	Shri Palash Chowdhury	West Bengal	Sri Ramkrishna Sarada Vidyapith Primary School, Ward No. 30
48	Shri Santanu Patra	West Bengal	Govt. Model School, Nayagram Block, Baranigui

President Approves 78 Gallantry Awards and 89 Mention-in-Despatches on Independence Day

Honorable President Droupadi Murmu has awarded 78 Gallantry Awards, including 13 Posthumous Awards, to personnel of the Defence Forces and Central Armed Police Forces ahead of India's 80th Independence Day. President Droupadi Murmu has further awarded 89 Mention-in-Despatches to personnel of Indian Army, Indian Navy, and Indian Air Force in appreciation of their distinguished services in different operations.

78 Gallantry Awards Approved

These 78 gallantry awards that have been sanctioned by President Murmu consist of awards from the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Central Armed Police Forces.

The awards have been distributed as follows,

Gallantry Award	Number of Awards	Posthumous
Kirti Chakra	9	7
Bar to Shaurya Chakra	1	-
Shaurya Chakra	19	1
Bar to Sena Medal (Gallantry)	5	-
Sena Medal (Gallantry)	36	5
Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry)	3	-
Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry)	5	-
Total	78	13

Kirti Chakra is one of the highest peacetime gallantry awards of India and has been awarded to 9 people including Lieutenant Colonel Maneo Francis PF, Major Jitendra Rathee, and Havildar Gajendra Singh. Out of 9 Kirti Chakra awards, 7 are posthumous.

Gallantry Awards 2026 - Award List

Kirti Chakra - 9

1. Lt Col Maneo Francis PF — Army
2. Major Jitendra Rathee — Army
3. Havildar Gajendra Singh — Army (Posthumous)
4. Head Constable Jagbir Singh — MHA (Posthumous)
5. SG Constable Jaswant Singh — MHA (Posthumous)
6. SG Constable Balvinder Singh — MHA (Posthumous)
7. SG Constable Tariq Hussain — MHA (Posthumous)
8. Head Constable Bashir Ahmad — MHA (Posthumous)
9. Inspector Sunil Kumar, STF — MHA (Posthumous)

Bar to Shaurya Chakra - 1

1. Major Aditya Pratap Singh — Army

Shaurya Chakra - 19

1. Major Paramveer — Army
2. Major Tarun Vasudevan — Army
3. Major Keshav Kumar — Army
4. Major Gaurav Singh Brijwal — Army
5. Major Vipeen Kumar — Army
6. Naib Subedar Shankar Ram — Army
7. Naib Subedar Dabbal Singh Bisht — Army
8. Havildar Jagattar Singh — Army
9. Lance Naik Narender Sindhu — Army (Posthumous)
10. Lance Naik Kapil Dev — Army
11. Sepoy Jaswinder Singh — Army
12. Lt Commander Shivam Kumar — Navy
13. Squadron Leader Sudhir Kumar — Air Force
14. DySP Dheeraj Singh Katoch — MHA
15. Inspector Ajay Singh Chib — MHA
16. DySP Sukhvinder Singh — MHA
17. ASI Niyaz Ahmad — MHA
18. Deputy Commandant Anjani Kumar — MHA
19. Constable Deepak Sah — MHA





Bar to Sena Medal (Gallantry) – 5

1. Major DS Paosho — Army
2. Major Anuj Mahajan — Army
3. Major Krishan Kant — Army
4. Subedar Ramesh Kumar — Army
5. Naib Subedar Rajendra Singh — Army

Sena Medal (Gallantry) – 36

1. Lt Col Pushkar Vijay Chaudhary — Army
2. Lt Col Sonam Topden Bhutia — Army
3. Major Sudhansu Sekhar Pani — Army
4. Major Mohit Podia — Army
5. Major R Sahil — Army
6. Major Balendu Kumar Jha — Army
7. Major Ravi Shankar Joshi — Army
8. Major Rupam Das — Army
9. Major Arnav Bali — Army
10. Major Anshuman Ranjan — Army
11. Major Arvind Kumar — Army
12. Captain Karan Singh Cheema — Army
13. Captain Harish Singh Dewali — Army
14. Captain Mohit Rawat — Army
15. Captain Anshumaan Singh — Army
16. Captain Bane Swaraj Sudhir — Army
17. Captain Pruthviraj Jaysing Nighot — Army
18. Captain Savik — Army
19. Lt Bhanu Pratap Singh — Army
20. Lt Aman Pandey — Army
21. Assistant Commandant Bikash Rai — Army
22. Subedar Pawan Kumar — Army
23. Subedar Perbhat Gaur — Army (Posthumous)
24. Subedar Kanase Namdev Balkrishna — Army
25. Subedar Baljinder Singh — Army
26. Naib Subedar Dayal Singh — Army
27. Havildar L Joel Kom — Army
28. Havildar Mulla Abidali Ashrafali — Army
29. Lance Havildar Palash Ghosh — Army (Posthumous)
30. Naik Ali Mohammad Khan — Army
31. Lance Naik Sujay Ghosh — Army (Posthumous)
32. Lance Naik Abhimanu Singh — Army
33. Lance Naik Bidha Singh — Army
34. Lance Naik Pritpal Singh — Army (Posthumous)
35. Sepoy Harminder Singh — Army (Posthumous)
36. Paratrooper Himanshu Kumar — Army
37. Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry) – 3
38. Commander Vineet Sharma — Navy
39. Commander Yuvraj Kumar — Navy
40. AC Avinash Annaso, POA (FD) — Navy
41. Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry) – 5
42. Group Captain Rahul Jagotta — Air Force
43. Group Captain Rahul Rawat — Air Force
44. Wing Commander Ashish Rajpoot — Air Force
45. Flight Lieutenant Yash — Air Force
46. Master Warrant Officer Ravinderjit Singh — Air Force

Overall Gallantry Awards

- Total Gallantry Awards: 78
- Posthumous Awards: 13
- Kirti Chakra: 9
- Bar to Shaurya Chakra: 1
- Shaurya Chakra: 19
- Bar to Sena Medal (Gallantry): 5
- Sena Medal (Gallantry): 36
- Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry): 3
- Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry): 5

Mention-in-Despatches – 89

- Indian Army: 75 personnel
- Indian Navy: 4 personnel
- Indian Air Force: 10 personnel

Army – 75

Operation Rakshak: 24 personnel, including Army Dog Tyson

1. Operation Hifazat: 14 personnel
2. Operation Orchid: 5 personnel
3. Operation Meghdoot: 2 personnel
4. Operation Snow Leopard: 6 personnel
5. Operation Chakravayuh: 1 personnel
6. Operation Chet heba: 1 personnel
7. Operation Khojuman: 1 personnel
8. Operation Mount Kangto: 1 personnel
9. Operation Talash: 2 personnel
10. Operation Awang Lekhai: 1 personnel
11. Operation Khoj: 1 personnel
12. Operation Nongren II: 1 personnel
13. Operation Maova-Kiyevi: 1 personnel
14. Operation Secure Shield-XLII: 2 personnel
15. Operation Chanbirok: 1 personnel
16. Miscellaneous Operations: 11 personnel

Navy – 4

1. Commander Nikhil Chugh
2. Lt Ajay Jose N Joseph
3. Ashwin Santosh, AVR Sea (CD)
4. Abhishek C Dhanawade, Sea I (CD)

Air Force – 10

1. Wing Commander Raja Reddy Lalita Nagesh Kumar
2. Wing Commander Ammar Haider Naqvi
3. Wing Commander Manoj Puri Goswami
4. Squadron Leader Kundarapu Koushik
5. Flight Lieutenant Parthasarathi Mulay
6. Master Warrant Officer Brahm Prakash (Retd)
7. Master Warrant Officer Anoop Singh
8. Corporal Mohan Lal Saini
9. Wing Commander CR Pradeep
10. Squadron Leader Aviral Gandhi

Total Honours: 78 Gallantry Awards + 89 Mention-in-Despatches = 167 honours approved by President Droupadi Murmu on the eve of 80th Independence Day 2026.



**Most Important Current Affairs of July 2026****FIFA World Cup 2026 Awards: Full List of Winners**

The FIFA World Cup in 2026 came to an end, and Spain was crowned the victorious title-holder after winning the match versus Argentina with a score of 1-0 in extra time. FIFA has announced its prestigious individual awards for the participants of the tournament. The majority of trophies were won by the winners of the tournament - Spain, where Rodri and Unai Simón received major awards for their achievements, while Kylian Mbappé managed to prove that he is one of the best scorers in the world by winning the Golden Boot. The awards helped to evaluate the players and their achievements in the tournament.

Spain Victorious at FIFA World Cup 2026 Awards

Spain has emerged as the utmost victor in the FIFA World Cup 2026 awards after its triumphant victory in the World Cup.

The country received three individual awards for three players who played key roles in Spain's phenomenal performance in the World Cup.

Spain won not only the tournament, but it has also recorded only one goal conceded during the whole tournament, breaking the record for the least number of goals.

The awards were due to Spain's terrific balance of defensive strength, midfield control, and tactical discipline under the leadership of coach Luis de la Fuente.

Rodri Secures Adidas Golden Ball

Spanish footballer Rodri awarded adidas Golden Ball for being the top player of the competition.

Rodri performed exceptionally throughout the competition. His excellent skills in ball control, accurate passing, alert defence, and great leadership were on show in all the eight games Spain played in the tournament.

It was his incredible performance that helped Spain in claiming the second FIFA World Cup title.

Golden Ball Winners

- Golden Ball: Rodri (Spain)
- Silver Ball: Lionel Messi (Argentina)
- Bronze Ball: Kylian Mbappé (France)

Kylian Mbappé Obtains the Golden Boot

Although France came out fourth overall, Kylian Mbappé yet once again demonstrated why he should be counted among the best forwards in the world.

He scored the overall highest number of goals during the competition, which were 10 in eight matches, and obtained the adidas Golden Boot as the tournament's top scorer.

His incredible performance in front of the net made history since he became the only player to win the World Cup Golden Boot twice in a row. He also holds the record for being the all-time top goal-scorer at men's FIFA World Cup tournaments with 22 goals scored in his career.

Main Players for the Golden Boot

- Golden Boot: Kylian Mbappé (France) – 10 Goals
- Silver Boot: Lionel Messi (Argentina) – 8 Goals
- Bronze Boot: Jude Bellingham (England) – 7 Goals

Unai Simón Wins the Golden Glove

Unai Simón, goalkeeper of the Spain national team, was awarded with the adidas Golden Glove trophy for his extraordinary performance at the FIFA World Cup.

Simón was able to maintain a clean sheet in and recorded a total of seven clean sheets throughout the tournament by keeping the net clean against Argentina in the final, which contributed significantly to the remarkable defence record of Spain.

Simón set an exceptional record for being without conceding a goal for around 650 minutes, emphasising the dominance of the Spanish defence in this tournament.

Pau Cubarsí Named FIFA Best Young Player

One of the brightest stars of the FIFA World Cup was Pau Cubarsí, defender of Spain, who received the FIFA Best Young Player Award from Aramco Company.

Despite being very young, Cubarsí showed excellent maturity, poise and tactical awareness in defence.

He was an instrumental player of the defence in the Spanish team, because they only conceded one goal during the tournament.

The award only proves that Cubarsí is one of the best young defenders in the world in football.

Netherlands Receives FIFA Good Behavior Award

The FIFA Good Behavior Award given by McDonald's was awarded to the Netherlands.

The winning team is recognized for its discipline, sportsmanship and respect towards others during the tournament.

This award is another indication of FIFA's commitment to principles of the good behavior along with competition success.

The List of Winners of the FIFA World Cup 2026 Awards

The winners of the team awards

- Champions: Spain
- Runners-up: Argentina
- Third Place: England
- Fourth Place: France

The Winners of Individual Awards

- The Adidas Golden Ball: Rodri (Spain)
- The Adidas Silver Ball: Lionel Messi (Argentina)
- The Adidas Bronze Ball: Kylian Mbappé (France)
- The Adidas Golden Boot: Kylian Mbappé (France)
- The Adidas Silver Boot: Lionel Messi (Argentina)
- The Adidas Bronze Boot: Jude Bellingham (England)
- The Adidas Golden Glove: Unai Simón (Spain)
- FIFA Best Young Player award: Pau Cubarsí (Spain)
- FIFA Fair Play trophy: Netherlands.



**PM Narendra Modi Conferred Seychelles' 'Guardian of the Blue Horizon' Presidential Distinction**

Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi conferred with the 'Guardian of the Blue Horizon' Presidential honor. Respectable President of Seychelles Dr. Patrick Herminie conferred this award on 28th June, 2026 to Indian Prime Minister. This recognition highlights the growing role of the PM Modi's in the areas like climate action, Blue Economy promotion, environmental conservation, and the sustainable development.

About the 'Guardian of the Blue Horizon' Presidential Distinction

The 'Guardian of the Blue Horizon' Presidential Distinction is a prestigious civilian honour which is instituted by the Republic of Seychelles.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has become the first recipient of this award, which recognizes exceptional global leadership in the,

- Climate action
- Environmental conservation
- Sustainable management of ocean resources
- Promotion of the Blue Economy
- Support for the small Island Developing States (SIDS)
- Sustainable development initiatives

The honour reflects the Seychelles appreciation of the international leaders who have contributed significantly to protecting the marine ecosystems and addressing global environmental challenges.

Why Was PM Narendra Modi Honoured?

According to the Government of Seychelles, the award was presented in recognition of the Prime Minister Modi's long-standing commitment towards environmental sustainability and the interests of the developing countries.

The honour acknowledges his contributions in promoting the,

- Climate action at the global level
- Sustainable ocean governance
- Blue Economy initiatives
- Green development
- Environmental conservation
- International cooperation for the Small Island Developing States

The recognition also showcases the India's expanding role in supporting the environmental resilience and sustainable development among island nations.

Environmental Initiatives Recognized by Seychelles

The honour highlights the several major initiatives launched or promoted under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

- International Solar Alliance (ISA)
- Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)
- Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam
- International Big Cat Alliance

These initiatives collectively showcases India's strong emphasis on balancing economic growth with the environmental sustainability.

Strengthening India-Seychelles Relations

The award comes at that significant moment, as India and Seychelles are celebrating the 50 years of diplomatic relations.

While accepting the honour, Prime Minister Modi dedicated this recognition to all nations who are committed to protecting the environment and combating climate change.

He noted that the distinction would further strengthen the longstanding friendship between the India and Seychelles while reinforcing their cooperation in sustainable development and maritime security across the Indian Ocean Region.

PM Modi's Australia Visit Delivers 18 Major Outcomes, Deepening Defence, Energy, Technology and Education Ties

Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Australia has contributed to a major achievement in India-Australia relations, with 18 agreements and initiatives being unveiled at the Third Annual Summit between Australia and India. These agreements, which cover wide areas such as defence, maritime security, clean energy, critical technologies, education, skill development, research and cultural cooperation, indicate that this is one of the broadest expansions of the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

New Phase in India-Australia Strategic Partnership

The summit has reaffirmed that the strategic significance of India-Australia ties is growing in complicated geopolitical circumstances.

Both countries agreed on the need for collaboration in defense, trade, technology, energy security, education and innovation while restating the commitment to the common vision of a free, open, inclusive and rule-based Indo-Pacific region.

The 18 results reflect the long-term intention to cooperate in matters crucial for regional stability and growth.

List of Outcomes During PM's Visit to Australia

1. Joint Declaration on Defence and Security Cooperation (JDDSC)
2. Maritime Security Cooperation Roadmap (MSCR)
3. India-Australia Joint Declaration on Energy Security
4. Finalization of the Administrative Arrangement of the India-Australia Civil Nuclear Agreement
5. Australia-India Partnership on Cyber, Critical Technologies, and Supply Chains (PACTS)
6. MoU between Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and MBC of Australia
7. Indian Military Officer in Australian Defence College (2028-29)
8. MoU on Mining and METS Center of Excellence
9. Flinders University Branch in Bengaluru
10. Letter of Intent between NCVET and ASQA
11. Restoration of Three Indian Artifacts
12. Starting of Rooftop Training Academy





13. MoU on Australia-Canada-India Technology and Innovation (ACITI) Partnership
14. MoU between Geoscience Australia and Geological Survey of India
15. Traditional Knowledge Digital Library Access Agreement
16. MoU between CSIR and University of Melbourne
17. MoU between SRFTI Kolkata and Griffith Film School
18. Victoria University Campus in Gurugram

Importance of These Initiatives

The outcomes resulting from the third India-Australia Annual Summit go beyond the concept of international cooperation. These agreements mean better cooperation in vital sectors, which include,

- Defense and Indo-Pacific security
- Switch to renewable energy
- Civil nuclear energy cooperation
- Artificial Intelligence and cybersecurity initiatives
- Mineral ministry cooperation
- Education and skill development cooperation
- Research
- Cultural heritage protection

These activities are aimed at to strengthening India's strategic relations and ensuring stability, technological progress, and sustainable growth in the region.

India's First Hydrogen Fuel Cell Train: Features, Safety, Route and Global Significance

Indian railways set to launch India's first Hydrogen Fuel Cell Train, the train was developed with domestic technology and with the assistance of the hydrogen ecosystem located in Jind, Haryana, the train that produces electricity on board with the help of hydrogen fuel cells with the only by-product being water vapour. The train can take around 2,600 passengers, all advanced multi-layer safety systems, along with nearly zero emissions, are installed on board the Hydrogen Fuel Cell Train, which can be regarded as the India's movement towards clean energy provision and technological advancement in order to make the railway system greener.

About First Hydrogen Fuel Cell Train in India

India's Hydrogen Fuel Cell Train is a next-gen railway vehicle that generates electricity onboard using the hydrogen fuel cells instead of conventional diesel engines or above-ground electric systems.

In comparison with the normal trains, hydrogen stored in the tanks onboard the train reacts with oxygen to produce electricity through PEM (Proton Exchange Membrane) Fuel Cells.

This is used to operate the engines of the train, and the only output is steam, which makes it one of the cleanest technologies for the railways.

This project symbolizes a giant step towards the sustainable and low carbon transport in India.

What Makes This Train an Important Symbol for Indian Railways?

Indian Railways has made significant strides in to electrifying over 99% of its broad gauge network, which has substantially cut down the use of diesel.

The Hydrogen Fuel Cell Train enhances this transition even further by,

- Stopping carbon emissions during its operation.
- Generating electricity while on the board.
- Aiding India in transition to clean energy.
- Proving the capability the technology sector of the country possesses.
- Contributing to the National Green Hydrogen Mission.
- Creating a new possibility in supporting with the Net Zero goals of the country.

It marks a new era in the history of the railway propulsion system from steam to diesel, and now to electric and hydrogen propulsion system.

How Does a Hydrogen Fuel Cell Train Function?

Instead of just utilizing fossil fuel combustion like diesel trains do, the train has a miniature power plant that is made up of the Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) Fuel Cells.

The procedure is as follows the,

- Hydrogen from the storage tanks on the train enters the fuel cell.
- Oxygen is sourced from the air.
- Electrochemical reaction takes place.
- Electricity is generated.
- Electricity is sent to the traction motors.
- Only steam and heat are emitted as by-products.

Unlike the diesel engines, there is no fire, no emissions and no waste products.

To summarize,

- $\text{Hydrogen} + \text{Oxygen} \rightarrow \text{Electricity} + \text{Steam} + \text{Heat}$

Technical Specifications of India's Hydrogen Train

The Commissioning of the new Hydrogen Train has been accomplished for the mass passenger transport from one place to other.

Key Features

- Train Structure: 10 cars
- Passenger Capacity: Approximately 2,600 passengers
- Power Cars: 2 Hydrogen Power Cars
- Trailer Cars: 8
- Power Production: 1,200 kW (1,600 hp) per Power Car
- Total Power: 2,400 kW
- Operating Speed: 75 km/h
- Maximum Design Speed: 110 km/h

This technology positions the hydrogen train to be bigger than other hydrogen passenger trains currently operating throughout the globe which generally consist of only two to four cars.





Route and Operations

Initially, this train will be running in the segment from Jind to Sonipat under the Northern Railway.

Major Stations in the Route

- Jind Junction
- Jind City
- Pandu Pindara Junction
- Gohana Junction
- Bhambhewa
- Butana
- Mohana
- Sonipat
- Sonipat New

The 89 kilometers section has been identified for the assessment of the performance, safety, and efficiency of the hydraulic passenger trains under normal railway conditions.

India's First Hydrogen Refuelling Facility in Jind

A major highlight of the project is the establishment of the largest hydrogen refuelling centre for trains in India at Jind in Haryana.

The integrated centre comprises of the,

Hydrogen Production

Hydrogen is obtained through electrolysis, the process of splitting the water into the hydrogen and oxygen with the help of electricity.

Hydrogen Storage.

The created hydrogen is stored in specially designed containers.

Compression.

Hydrogen is compressed by applying a pressure of around 500 b.

Refuelling

The hydrogen used to refuel the train comes from two dispensers operating at 350 bar at the same time so that both motor cars are refuelled.

Storage Capacity

The capacity of the centre is approximately of 3000 kg which is enough to cater to the regular needs for train operations.

Safety Approaches with the Advanced Multi-Level Systems

Hydrogen being highly combustible necessitates ensuring safety. Indian Railways has put in the multiple independent safety mechanisms for the safety of people and its operations.

Main Safety Components

- Regular hydrogen leak detection.
- Flame detection devices.
- Smoke detecting devices.
- Heating monitoring devices.
- Hydrogen shutting off devices.
- Continuous ventilation aimed at avoiding gas accumulation.

- Fire prevention devices.
 - Water spraying systems.
 - Out of ordinary mode of operation.
 - Real-time monitoring systems within the cabin of a train.
- Altogether these sets of protective mechanisms follow the internationally recognized rule of defence in depth that provides for a comprehensive safety solution rather than relying on only one element.

Global Safety Regulations

The hydrogen ecosystem is also designed according to the world-wide accepted standards such as the,

- NFPA-2
- ISO 19880 Series

The system also meets the legal requirements provided by PESO. The project has undergone the procedure of independent assessment of safety by a third party organization TÜV SÜD, Germany, which is widely recognized testing and certification authority worldwide before it is brought to actual work.

Global Tiger Day 2026 Report: India's Tiger Population Rises to 3,682; Tiger Reserves Increase to 58

On the occasion of **Global Tiger Day 2026**, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change **Shri Bhupender Yadav** highlighted India's remarkable progress in wildlife conservation over the past 12 years. Addressing the celebrations organized by the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** in **New Delhi**, the Minister stated that **India's tiger population has increased to 3,682**, while the number of **Tiger Reserves has risen to 58** under the leadership of **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.

The event was attended by **Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh**, senior government officials, wildlife experts, frontline forest personnel, students, and other stakeholders committed to wildlife conservation.

India's Growing Success in Tiger Conservation

During his address, Shri Bhupender Yadav emphasized that wildlife conservation extends beyond protecting animals and involves building a harmonious relationship between people and nature.

He noted that over the last 12 years, India has witnessed significant growth not only in the number of tigers and tiger reserves but also in:

- Elephant Reserves
- National Parks
- Wildlife Sanctuaries
- Protected Areas
- Community Reserves
- Wetlands

The Minister attributed these achievements to sustained conservation efforts, scientific management, and increased public participation.





NTCA Launches Integrated Eco-Tourism Webpage

A major highlight of the event was the launch of the **NTCA Eco-Tourism Webpage**, an integrated digital platform that provides authentic information about all Tiger Reserves across India.

Key Features

- Direct links to official Tiger Reserve websites.
- Online safari booking information.
- Accommodation booking facilities.
- Promotion of responsible and sustainable eco-tourism.
- Easy access to verified information for visitors.

The initiative aims to encourage nature-based tourism while ensuring ecological sustainability.

Importance of Knowledge Sharing in Conservation

The Minister stressed that wildlife conservation is not limited to scientific data but also includes traditional knowledge, field experience, and the dedication of forest officials.

He encouraged wildlife officers and conservationists to document their experiences so that practical insights can contribute to future conservation policies and management strategies.

Capacity Building and International Cooperation

Shri Yadav highlighted the importance of continuous capacity building for forest officers by adopting global best practices.

He also emphasized the growing role of the **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** in promoting international cooperation, knowledge exchange, and scientific collaboration for the conservation of big cats across the world.

NTCA Awards Presented

To recognize outstanding contributions in wildlife conservation, the **NTCA Awards** were presented to:

- Wildlife officers
- Forest officials
- Conservation professionals
- Frontline forest personnel

The awards acknowledged exemplary work in tiger conservation and protected area management across the country.

Nationwide Tiger Conservation Awareness Campaign

As part of the Global Tiger Day celebrations, NTCA organized a nationwide awareness campaign through **Eco-Clubs** under the Ministry's Environment Education Programme.

Special emphasis was placed on:

- Schools located near Tiger Reserves
- Student participation
- Wildlife awareness activities
- Painting competitions
- Sketching competitions
- Slogan-writing competitions
- Mask-making competitions based on the theme **"Save Tiger"**

Publications Released

Five important publications focusing on wildlife conservation and scientific management were released during the event:

1. **STRIPES – NTCA Outreach Journal (July 2026 Edition)**
2. **Security Audit Report of 24 Tiger Reserves**
3. **Habitat Suitability Assessment for Sloth Bears Across Tiger Landscapes in India**
4. **Tigers of the World** (Published by IBCA and Global Tiger Forum)
5. **The Rehman Khera Tiger** by Chandra Prakash Goyal and Satya Prakash Yadav

These publications aim to strengthen research, policy-making, and public awareness regarding wildlife conservation.

Background: Global Tiger Day

Global Tiger Day is observed every year on **29 July** to raise awareness about tiger conservation worldwide.

The day was established during the **St. Petersburg Tiger Summit (2010)**, where the **13 Tiger Range Countries** launched the **Global Tiger Recovery Program (GTRP)**.

The summit also introduced the ambitious **TX2 Goal**, which aimed to double the global wild tiger population by 2022.

Threats to Tigers

Despite conservation success, tigers continue to face several challenges:

- Poaching
- Illegal wildlife trade
- Habitat loss
- Habitat fragmentation
- Human-wildlife conflict
- Climate change

Today, wild tigers occupy **less than 8% of their historical range**, while three subspecies—the **Bali Tiger**, **Javan Tiger**, and **Caspian Tiger**—have become extinct.

Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath Inscribed on UNESCO World Heritage List

Sarnath, an ancient Buddhist site located in Uttar Pradesh, made it to the UNESCO World Heritage List on July 25th, 2026, at the 48th Session of the World Heritage Committee which took place in Busan, South Korea. With this Sarnath is the 45th UNESCO World Heritage Site from India while also emphasizing its significance in terms of history, religion, and culture. It is widely known as the place where Gautama Buddha gave his first sermon after attaining enlightenment, Sarnath has been symbolic of peace, wisdom, and spirituality for a span of 2500 years. This inscription adds to the rich heritage of India and adds even more significance to worldwide efforts to protect one of the holiest pilgrimage sites of Buddhism.

Sarnath Announced As World Heritage Site

The World Heritage Committee during its 48th meeting convened in Busan, Republic of Korea decided to inscribe Sarnath, Ancient Buddhist Site, on the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization's World Heritage List.





Thus,

- Now India has 45 World Heritage Sites.
- Sarnath is on the list of the places with Outstanding Universal Value.
- The inscription acknowledges Sarnath's contribution to the history, culture, and religion of the world.

The UNESCO decision demonstrates the its efforts in protecting places of cultural heritage which belong to the whole mankind

What Makes Sarnath Significant?

The significance of Sarnath lies in its distinguished place in history regarding Buddhism.

Sarnath is where Gautama Buddha delivered his first sermon (Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta) after gaining enlightenment in Bodh Gaya in the sixth century before the beginning of the Common Era.

The significance of this event lies in the following,

- The beginning of the propagation of Buddhism.
- Establishment of Buddhist monastery (the Sangha).
- Basis of the Buddhist doctrine.

This is what makes Sarnath the fourth holiest Buddhist place after Lumbini, Bodh Gaya, and Kushinagar.

Sarnath's Historic Monuments

Centuries of transformation have seen kings, monks, and followers of Buddhism turn the city of Sarnath into a notable center of Buddhist scholarship.

The important monuments in the city include the following the,

Dhamek Stupa

Dhamek Stupa is the most well-known monument in Sarnath. The large cylindrical stupa was built at the location where the Buddha reportedly gave his first sermon, with elaborate stone carvings. It attracts thousands of visitors every year.

Dharmarajika Stupa

Currently in ruins, Dharmarajika Stupa is one of the oldest stupas in Buddhism and has traditionally been associated with Emperor Ashoka, who played an important role in the spread of Buddhism.

Chaukhandi Stupa

The Chaukhandi Stupa commemorates the event of the Buddha meeting with his first disciples prior to giving his first sermon. It marked a key incident in the history of Buddhism.

These monuments represent what is known as the Deer Park (Mrigadava), the place where Buddhism began its journey as a world religion.

UNESCO's Recognition and Outstanding Universal Value

UNESCO has considered Sarnath as the noteworthy and deserving to be on the list due to the following reasons,

- Sarnath's association with one of the major religions.
- Its continuous importance for more than two millennia.
- Presence of the ancient and substantial artifacts honoring the Buddhist religion.

- Effect on philosophy, education, and pilgrimage throughout Asia.
- Bright future as the site will receive due attention and protection through UNESCO recognition.

UNESCO's Message About the International Value of Sarnath

After receiving the inscription, Tim Curtis, Director of the UNESCO International Bureau of South Asia, congratulated India and pointed out that Sarnath has been inspiring many Buddhist monks for two thousand years.

He observed that the temples, monasteries, and stupas of Sarnath are the imprints of kindness, intelligence, faith, and shared human heritage.

UNESCO also underlined the fact that the responsibility of safeguarding the site belongs to the current and future generations.

RBI's New Integrated Ombudsman Scheme Comes into Effect from 1 July: Key Features, Complaint Process and Benefits

From 1st of July, 2026, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has implemented the its revamped Integrated Ombudsman Scheme. This scheme introduced to strengthened framework for resolving the customer complaints against the financial entities. It replacing the 2021 scheme and this new mechanism aims to provide a free, faster, transparent grievance redressal system.

What Is the RBI Integrated Ombudsman Scheme?

The Integrated Ombudsman Scheme is the RBI's unified grievance redressal mechanism for the customers of the regulated financial institutions.

This scheme enables the customers to seek resolution of complaints related to the in service without approaching multiple authorities.

It follows the "One Nation, One Ombudsman" principle and it ensuring that the are processed irrespective of the customer's location or the location of the regulated entity.

This revised framework replaces the Integrated Ombudsman Scheme, 2021 while the complaints filed under the earlier scheme will continue to be handled as per the previous rules.



**Institutions To Be Covered**

The new revamped scheme extends its coverage to the several categories of RBI-regulated entities, including the,

- Scheduled and commercial banks.
- Eligible Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs).
- Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) issuers.
- Credit Information Companies (CICs).

This wider coverage also allows more financial consumers to access the single and standardized grievance redressal mechanism.

How Does the Complaint Process Work?

The new framework outlines the clear step-by-step process for lodging complaints.

Step 1: Contact the Regulated Entity

Customers must have to first submit their complaint to the concerned bank, NBFC, PPI issuer, or the credit information company.

Step 2: Wait for the Response

If the entity,

- Fails to respond within 30 days (or within a longer timeline prescribed by the RBI, NPCI, or applicable card network rules), or
- Provides the response that the customer finds unsatisfactory,

then the complaint can be escalated.

Step 3: Approach the RBI Ombudsman

Customers may file a complaint with the RBI Ombudsman within the 90 days from receiving the final response or after the response period expires.

This structured process encourages the regulated entities to resolve grievances at the first level while ensuring the independent avenue for unresolved cases.

Major Features of the Revamped Scheme

The revised Integrated Ombudsman Scheme introduces the several important improvements such as,

- One Nation, One Ombudsman framework.
- Uniform complaint handling across India.
- Cost-free grievance redressal.
- Non-adversarial dispute resolution process.
- Expanded role of the Deputy Ombudsmen in examining complaints.
- Clearly defined maintainability criteria for complaints.
- Online and simplified complaint filing process.

The RBI has also released the comprehensive Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document to help the customers better understand the new framework.

Compensation Under the New Framework

Where the Ombudsman finds the deficiency in the service, it may,

- Directs the regulated entity to take the corrective action.
- And award compensation for the financial losses.

The compensation limits are the,

- Up to ₹30 lakh for the consequential financial losses.
- Up to ₹3 lakh for loss of time, expenses, harassment, and mental anguish.

New EPF Withdrawal Rules 2026: 3-Day Claim Settlement, 25% Balance Rule, Online Process & Latest EPFO Changes

The Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has introduced major reforms under the its new EPFO 3.0 digital initiative, and making the Provident Fund (PF) withdrawals faster, simpler and digital. These EPF Withdrawal Rules 2026 will bring the some o the significant changes which include 3-day claim settlements, a higher ₹5 lakh auto-processing limit, simplified withdrawal categories, and the a 25% minimum balance retention rule. Here is everything you need to know about the new EPF Withdrawal Rules 2026.

What Are the New EPF Withdrawal Rules 2026?

The EPFO has streamlined the withdrawal process, replacing the multiple withdrawal categories with a simplified structure and expanded digital services.

This new framework aims to make the partial withdrawals smooth and easier, while ensuring that employees to retain some portion of their retirement savings until retirement or final settlement..

Major Highlights of EPF Withdrawal Rules 2026**3 Day Online Claim Settlement**

The eligible online PF advance claims with the Aadhaar-linked and verified KYC will now be processed within just three working days, and this significantly reduces the earlier processing period of around 7 to 20 days.

Mandatory 25% Balance Retention

As per the new rules, employees must retain at least 25% of their total EPF balance while they remain employed.

12-Month Uniform Service Requirement

Previously, , different withdrawal purposes required around 3 to 7 years of service; now most partial withdrawal benefits become available after completing 12 months of EPF membership and making the system more employee-friendly.

Three Simplified Withdrawal Categories

More than 13 separate withdrawal reasons have now been merged into the three easy-to-understand categories which are,

- Essential Needs
- Housing Needs
- Special Circumstances

Auto-Settlement Limit Increased to ₹5 Lakh

The limit for the automatic online claim processing has also increased from ₹1 lakh to ₹5 lakh, it allows eligible claims below this amount to be settled without any manual verification.





Three New EPF Withdrawal Categories

1. Essential Needs

This category covers the important personal and family requirements.

Medical Expenses

Members can withdraw up to 100% of the withdrawable balance (subject to the mandatory 25% balance retention) for the treatment of themselves or immediate family members. There is no restriction on the number of the medical claims.

Education

Employees can make up to 10 education-related withdrawals during their EPF membership. Eligible members can withdraw up to 100% of the withdrawable balance after completing the 12 months of service.

Marriage

Members can withdraw the funds for the marriage expenses up to five times during their career, but it is subject to eligibility conditions.

2. Housing-Related Needs

Employees can withdraw their EPF savings for the,

- Purchasing land
- Buying a house
- House construction
- Home renovation
- Home loan repayment

Members can also claim housing advances up to five times during their EPF membership after the completion 12 months of service.

3. Special Circumstances

This category covers situations such as,

- Financial hardship
- Factory closures
- Emergencies declared by the EPFO Central Board

Eligible members can make up to total two withdrawals per financial year.

Understanding the New 25% Minimum Balance Rule

One of the major reforms under the EPF Scheme 2026 is the introduction of the mandatory retirement savings protection mechanism.

Employees cannot withdraw their entire EPF balance while they remain employed in a service.

Example

If your total EPF balance is ₹4 lakh,

- Minimum balance to remain in the EPF: ₹1 lakh (25%)
- Maximum amount available for the withdrawal: ₹3 lakh (75%)

The retained 25% continues earning the EPF interest until retirement or any final settlement.

How to Apply for EPF Withdrawal Online

Members can submit their online claims through the EPFO Member e-Sewa Portal.

Step 1

Log in using your,

- Universal Account Number (UAN)
- Password
- Captcha

Step 2

Verify that your KYC is complete.

And ensure the following are approved,

- Aadhaar
- PAN
- Bank Account

Step 3

Go to,

Online Services → Claim (Form 31, 19, 10C & 10D)

Step 4

Verify the users registered bank account.

Step 5

Choose PF Advance (Form 31).

Step 6

Select the withdrawal category and enter the total required amount within your eligible withdrawal limit.

Step 7

Authenticate the application via using the Aadhaar OTP sent to the registered mobile number.

Once it get verified, your online claim will be submitted.

Rules for Unemployment and Final Withdrawal

This revised EPF rules also clarify withdrawal after leaving the employment.

After One Month of Unemployment

Employees can withdraw up to 75% of their EPF balance.

After 12 Months of Continuous Unemployment

The remaining 25% can also be withdrawn through the final settlement.

Full EPF Withdrawal

Members can withdraw total 100% of their EPF corpus in cases such as,

- Retirement (age 55–58, as applicable)
- Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS)
- Permanent disability
- Permanent overseas migration

Benefits of the New EPFO 3.0 Reforms

The latest EPFO reforms offer several advantages for employees,

- The faster online claim settlements.
- It will reduce the paperwork through Aadhaar-based verification.
- Easier access to the PF savings after just one year of service.
- Higher automatic processing limit of ₹5 lakh.
- Simplified withdrawal rules with fewer categories.
- Better protection of retirement savings through mandatory balance retention.





Most Important Current Affairs of June 2026

QS World University Rankings 2027: India Rises to 5th Spot Globally

India has secured the fifth position worldwide in the QS World University Rankings 2027 and around 52 featured in the list. It showcases the country's growing academic influence, expanding research capabilities and it improves the global reputation. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi leads the Indian contingent as it emerged as the highest-ranked Indian institution at the 118th spot worldwide.

India's Strongest-Ever Presence in QS Rankings

The QS World University Rankings 2027 has evaluated more than 1,500 institutions across the 106 countries which makes it as one of the most comprehensive global higher education assessments.

Also, India's representation has grown dramatically over the years. From just 14 institutions in the 2017 edition, the country now has 52 ranked universities in 2027 which is an impressive 271 percent increase over a decade.

This achievement places India behind only the countries like,

- United States (184 institutions)
- United Kingdom (93 institutions)
- China (85 institutions)
- Germany (60 institutions)

India now ranks as the fifth most represented higher education system in the world.

IIT Delhi Emerges as the India's Top-Ranked Institution

Among the Indian institutions, IIT Delhi has secured the highest position at 118th globally.

The institute retained its status as India's leading university and it matched the best global ranking ever achieved by an Indian institution in QS rankings.

The top-performing Indian institutions include the,

- IIT Delhi
- IIT Bombay
- IIT Madras
- IIT Kharagpur
- Indian Institute of Science (IISc)

These institutions continue to strengthen the India's global academic reputation via excellence in the areas like teaching, research, innovation and industry engagement.

Top Global Universities in QS Rankings 2027

The global rankings continue to be dominated by the institutions from the United States and the United Kingdom.

Top 20 Universities Worldwide

Rank	University	Country
1	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)	United States
2	Stanford University	United States
3	Imperial College	London, United Kingdom

Rank	University	Country
4	University of Oxford	United Kingdom
5	Harvard University	United States
6	University of Cambridge	United Kingdom
7	California Institute of Technology (Caltech)	United States
8	UCL	United Kingdom
8	ETH	Zurich, ETH
10	National University of Singapore (NUS)	Singapore
11	The University of Hong Kong	Hong Kong SAR
12	Nanyang Technological University (NTU)	Singapore
13	Peking University	China
14	Tsinghua University	China
15	University of Pennsylvania	United States
16	Yale University	United States
16	Cornell University	United States
18	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Hong Kong SAR
19	UNSW	Sydney, Australia
20	Johns Hopkins University	United States
20	University of California, Berkeley	United States

This rankings also highlights the growing strength of the Asian universities and particularly from Singapore, China, Hong Kong, South Korea and Japan.

India's Growing Research Strength

One of the most important highlights from the rankings is the India's growing research performance.

According to QS, India now possesses the world's third-largest research output base that reflects the significant growth in the scientific publications and academic contributions.

Research Achievements

- Eleven Indian universities rank among the world's top 100 for the Citations per Faculty.
- India continues to expand its global research footprint across science, technology, engineering and healthcare disciplines.
- With the increased collaboration between academia, industry and government is driving innovation.

Strong Performance in Employer Reputation

Indian institutions are also gaining the recognition among employers worldwide.

The QS rankings show that,

Six Indian universities feature among the global top 100 for Employer Reputation.





This metric measures how the employers perceive graduates from various institutions and reflects industry confidence in the quality of the Indian higher education.

Strong employer reputation is increasingly important as the students seek universities that offers a better career opportunities and global employability.

How India Compares with Other Major Education Systems

India's improvement rate stands out when it get compared with the several established higher education systems.

Performance Comparison

Country Ranked	Institutions Improved
China	85 72%
India	52 52%
UK	93 35%
Germany	60 16%
USA	184 13%

While many institutions in the United States and Germany experienced the ranking declines, India has recorded one of the strongest improvement rates among major education systems.

Factors Driving India's Rise

QS attributed the India's progress to several key factors.

India possesses one of the world's youngest populations which creates a strong demand for higher education.

Increased enrollment and the broader access to higher education have strengthened the country's academic ecosystem.

Initiatives such as the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 have also encouraged the institutional reforms, internationalization, multidisciplinary learning and research excellence.

Indian institutions are increasingly partnering with the international universities that boost the academic quality and research impact.

PM Modi's Historic Slovakia Visit: India and Slovakia Elevate Ties to Comprehensive Partnership

Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid the historic State Visit to Slovakia on 15th June 2026 at the invitation of Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico. This visit marked the significant milestone as it was the first visit by any Indian Prime Minister to Slovakia since the country got independence in the year 1993. This visit opened a new chapter in India-Slovakia relations, it resulting the elevation of the bilateral ties to a Comprehensive Partnership and the signing of the multiple agreements across defense, technology, education, labor mobility, culture, healthcare and research.

India and Slovakia Elevate Relations to Comprehensive Partnership

One of the most major outcomes of the visit was the decision to elevate the bilateral relations to a Comprehensive Partnership. This new framework aims to deepen the cooperation across the strategic, economic, technological and cultural sectors.

Both the countries have agreed to strengthen the existing cooperation mechanisms while exploring the new opportunities for collaboration in emerging technologies, innovation, security, trade and investment.

This move reflects the mutual confidence and a shared vision for the long-term engagement.

Key Agreements Signed During the Visit

India and Slovakia has signed the 11 important agreements and memorandums covering the wide range of sectors.

The agreements includes the cooperation in labor migration, digital technologies, higher education and research, audio-visual production, defense cooperation, quantum communication and the critical infrastructure protection.

A significant development was the establishment of the first-ever ICCR Chair in to the Artificial Intelligence at the Technical University of Kosice which highlights the growing focus on to the advanced technologies and academic collaboration.

Other agreements included the cooperation between the National Institute of Naturopathy, Pune and Slovak Health Spa Piestany, as well as the partnerships between IIT Delhi and Slovak Technical University for student exchange program, scholarships and joint research.

Agreements and MoUs Signed Between Both Countries

S.No.	Agreement/Initiative
1	MoU on Labour Migration
2	Letter of Intent on Defence Cooperation
3	MoU on Digital Technologies
4	MoU on Higher Education and Research
5	MoU on Audio-Visual Creation
6	ICCR Chair in Artificial Intelligence at Technical University of Kosice
7	MoU on Quantum Communication and Critical Infrastructure Protection
8	MoU between National Institute of Naturopathy and Slovak Health Spa Piestany
9	IIT Delhi-Slovak Technical University Cooperation Agreement
10	Tourism Cooperation between Tour Operators
11	Scientific Cooperation between INSA and SAS

Major Announcements During the Visit

There are also three major diplomatic announcements were made during the visit of PM Modi.

Announcement	Significance
Elevation of Bilateral Relations to Comprehensive Partnership	Expands strategic cooperation across sectors
Establishment of Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism	Enhances security cooperation
Establishment of Consular Dialogue	Improves people-to-people and diplomatic engagement



**PM Narendra Modi Receives Slovakia's Highest National Award**

Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the Slovakia's highest national honour, i.e. The Order of the White Double Cross (1st Class) during his first official visit to Bratislava on 15th of June 2026. This award was presented by the Peter Pellegrini in recognition of the Modi's contribution to strengthening the bilateral relations between India and Slovakia.

PM Modi Receives Slovakia's Highest Honour

During a ceremonial event in Bratislava, President Peter Pellegrini awarded the Prime Minister Narendra Modi The Order of the White Double Cross (1st Class), the highest civilian and military state decoration granted by the Slovakia to foreign citizens.

Expressing the gratitude, PM Modi has dedicated the award to the people of India and described it as the symbol of the enduring friendship between India and Slovakia.

He emphasized that the recognition reflects the warmth, trust and mutual respect shared by the both countries.

What is the Order of the White Double Cross?

Order of the White Double Cross is Slovakia's is the highest national award presented exclusively to the foreign nationals.

The decoration is awarded to the distinguished individuals who have made the exceptional contributions to strengthening relations between Slovakia and other countries, promoting international cooperation and advancing the mutual understanding.

Receiving this honor places the PM Modi among a select group of global leaders recognized by Slovakia for their diplomatic contributions.

Significance of the Award

This is the 33rd international honor conferred upon to Prime Minister Narendra Modi by a foreign nation which highlights the India's expanding global influence and diplomatic outreach.

This award also coincides with the historic moment in bilateral relations, as it marks the first-ever visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Slovakia since the country's independence.

The recognition underscores the growing importance of the India-Slovakia cooperation in areas such as trade, technology, defense, innovation, education and people-to-people exchanges.

Strengthening India-Slovakia Relations

During the visit, India and Slovakia elevated their relationship to the Comprehensive Partnership and opened a new chapter in bilateral cooperation.

Both countries have signed the 11 agreements and memorandums of understanding (MoUs) covering key sectors, including the,

- Labor migration
- Defense cooperation
- Digital technologies
- Higher education and research
- Innovation and technology partnerships

These agreements are expected to deepen the collaboration and will create new opportunities for economic and strategic engagement.

Historic Visit to Slovakia

Prime Minister Modi's visit to Slovakia is considered historic because it is the first official visit by any Indian Prime Minister to the country after it got independence.

The visit forms the part of his broader European outreach aimed at to enhancing the cooperation with European partners in trade, technology, security, innovation and sustainable development.

The conferment of the Slovakia's highest national award further symbolizes the strengthening of the bilateral ties and the shared commitment of both nations to future cooperation.

PM Modi's France Visit: India, France Unveil 13 Key Outcomes & Adopt Innovation Roadmap 2030

India and France have strengthened their long-standing strategic partnership by announcing the 13 key outcomes during Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to France. This agreements will covers the wide range of sectors which includes the artificial intelligence, innovation, trade, digital payments, education, healthcare, railways, defense and space exploration.

New Chapter in India-France Strategic Relations

The latest outcomes marks an important milestone in the India-France Special Global Strategic Partnership. Both countries have emphasized the importance of collaboration in critical and emerging technologies, economic security, innovation ecosystems and strategic sectors.

The agreements also align with the broader objective of the enhancing bilateral cooperation while creating the new opportunities for businesses, researchers, startups and academic institutions in both countries.

List of 13 Major Key Outcomes

1. Adoption of India-France Innovation Roadmap 2030 to guide cooperation in technology, innovation, research and education
2. Creation of a Joint India-France AI Working Group focused on AI governance and responsible artificial intelligence
3. MoU to set up a National Centre of Excellence for Skilling in Aeronautics and Allied Sectors at NSTI, Kanpur
4. Expansion of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) usage in France to strengthen digital payments cooperation
5. Incubation of 10 additional Indian startups at Station F, France's leading startup campus
6. Establishment of a Centre of Digital Sciences between India's Department of Science and Technology (DST) and France's INRIA
7. ICCR India Chair on "AI, Innovation and Culture" at Université Paris-Saclay to deepen academic collaboration
8. Letter of Intent between ICMR and France's Health Data Hub on cooperation in digital health research
9. Agreement to set up a High-level Mechanism to double bilateral trade over the next five years
10. Institution of an Economic Security Dialogue to enhance cooperation in supply chains and critical sectors





11. Declaration of Intent on railway and high-speed rail development in India
12. General Security Agreement on exchange and protection of classified information between the two countries
13. Letter of Intent between ISRO and France's CNES on microgravity research and human space exploration

India-France Innovation Roadmap 2030 Unveiled

One of the most important announcements was the adoption of the India-France Innovation Roadmap 2030.

The roadmap will serve as the long-term framework to guide cooperation in to the,

- Technology development
- Research and innovation
- Scientific collaboration
- Education and skill development
- Startup ecosystems

The initiative also aims to strengthen innovation-driven growth and position both countries as the leaders in emerging technologies.

Why These Agreements Matter

The 13 outcomes collectively demonstrate the expanding scope of the India-France relations beyond the traditional diplomatic and defense ties.

The agreements focus on to the future-oriented sectors such as the,

- Artificial Intelligence
- Digital Innovation
- Space Technology
- Healthcare Research
- Startup Ecosystems
- Economic Security
- Green and Sustainable Development

They also reinforce the shared vision of the both countries to shape global technological and economic developments with the collaborative leadership.

Hurun India 500 Report 2026: Top 10 Companies Account for 27% of Total Valuation

According to the latest Hurun India 500 Report 2026, India's corporate landscapes continues to be dominated by the select group of the highly valuable companies. This report released in partnership with the Axis Bank and Burgundy Private and this report highlights that the India's top ten most valuable companies collectively account for the 27% of the total valuation of the 500 firms that are featured in the ranking. Although this combined value of corporate giants declined from the ₹97 trillion to ₹86 trillion over the past year as they remain as the backbone of the India's corporate economy.

What Is the Hurun India 500 Report?

The Hurun India 500 is the annual ranking of the India's most valuable companies based on their market valuation.

The report serves as an important indicator of the,

- Corporate wealth creation
- Sectoral trends
- Investor sentiment
- Long-term business performance
- India's evolving economic landscape

The 2026 edition highlights how the relatively small group of the companies continues to dominate corporate value creation in India.

Top 10 Companies Control ₹86 Trillion in Value

According to this report, the ten most valuable Indian companies are collectively worth around ₹86 trillion (approximately \$908 billion).

Key highlights includes the,

- Top 10 companies account for the 27% of the total value of the Hurun India 500.
- Also the combined valuation declined from the ₹97 trillion in the previous year.
- Total value of the top 10 companies has grown 3.5 times over the last decade.
- Seven companies have maintained their position among the top 10 for five consecutive years.

This findings also underline the concentration of the corporate wealth among India's largest enterprises.

Top Ten Firms In Hurun India 500 Report

Ran k	Company	Value (INR Cr.)	Headquart ers	CEO/MD
1	Reliance Industries	19,36,239	Mumbai	Mukesh Ambani
2	HDFC Bank	11,87,800	Mumbai	Shashidhar Jagdeesan
3	Bharti Airtel	11,49,650	New Delhi	Shashwat Sharma
4	ICICI Bank	9,04,460	Mumbai	Sandeep Suraj Bakhshi
5	Tata Consultancy Services	8,95,080	Mumbai	Kunchitham Kritivasan
6	Bajaj Finance	5,83,050	Pune	Rajeev Jain
7	Larsen & Toubro	5,52,170	Mumbai	S. N. Subramanyam
8	National Stock Exchange of India	4,86,140	Mumbai	Ashish Kumar Chauhan
9	Infosys	4,79,270	Bengaluru	Salil Parekh
10	Sun Pharmaceutical Industries	4,33,880	Mumbai	Kirti Ganorkar





Reliance Industries Retains the Top Spot

Reliance Industries led by Mukesh Ambani remains as the leader in this ranking.

Key Highlights

- Valuation: ₹19.36 trillion
- Highest absolute value creator during the year
- Added more than around ₹1.8 trillion in value
- Accounts for nearly one-fifth of the valuation of the top 10 companies

Reliance's continued leadership reflects the its diversified business model spanning energy, telecom, retail, digital services and emerging technologies.

HDFC Bank Maintains Second Position

HDFC Bank retained the second spot despite the decline in valuation.

Although its valuation fell by 17% during this year, the bank remains as one of the India's most valuable companies and it is the key pillar of the country's financial sector.

Bharti Airtel Emerges as a Major Winner

One of the biggest success stories in this year's rankings is the Bharti Airtel.

As it climbed to third position and the valuation has reached to the ₹11.5 trillion.

Also the valuation surged the 198% over the past five years

The company's rise showcases the growing investor confidence in the India's digital infrastructure and telecommunications sector.

Financial Services Strengthen Their Dominance

The report shows that the financial services remain as one of the strongest drivers of the corporate wealth creation in India.

Major financial institutions featured prominently in the rankings includes the,

ICICI Bank

ICICI Bank has climbed to the fourth place with a valuation exceeding ₹9 trillion.

Bajaj Finance

Bajaj Finance has also entered the top 10 for the first time.

Key achievements includes the,

- Valuation increased by the 37% in one year
- Reached to the ₹5.83 trillion valuation
- Highest value creator in the percentage terms during the year

National Stock Exchange (NSE)

National Stock Exchange of India also joined the top tier and it reflecting tthe rapid expansion of the India's capital markets and retail investing ecosystem.

These developments showcases how the financialization has become the defining theme of India's economic growth story.

IT Giants Lose Ground

This report also highlights the notable shift in investor preferences away from the traditional IT services companies.

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)

Tata Consultancy Services has been also slipped to fifth place.

Its valuation has also declined by the 44% during the year and it fell 2% over the last five years.

Infosys

Infosys has dropped to the ninth position.

And its valuation has declined by 36% over the five-year period.

Why Are IT Companies Losing Relative Ground?

There are several factors are contributing to the changing fortunes of the IT firms.

- Slower Global Technology Spending
- Rise of Artificial Intelligence
- Shift Toward Domestic Growth Themes

These sectors are seen as the better positioned to benefit from India's long-term economic expansion.

Top 15 Companies by Absolute Value Creation

Rank 2025	5-Year Rank (2021)	Company	Industry	Value 2025 (₹ Cr)	5 Year Change (₹ Cr)
1	3	Bharti Airtel	Telecommunications	11,49,650	7,63,917
2	11	Adani Power	Energy	4,27,840	3,85,896
3	4	ICICI Bank	Financial Services	9,04,460	3,66,727
4	8	National Stock Exchange of India (NSE)	Financial Services	4,86,340	3,18,140
5	7	Larsen & Toubro	Construction & Engineering	5,52,170	3,01,937
6	2	HDFC Bank	Financial Services	11,87,800	2,82,161
7	15	Mahindra & Mahindra	Automobile & Auto Components	3,85,190	2,74,944
8	1	Reliance Industries	Energy	19,36,230	2,70,849
9	10	Sun Pharmaceutical Industries	Healthcare	4,33,880	2,35,911
10	16	Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone	Transportation & Logistics	3,81,840	2,30,302





Rank 2025	5-Year Rank (2021)	Company	Industry	Value 2025 (₹ Cr)	5 Year Change (₹ Cr)
11	28	Shriram Finance	Financial Services	2,20,530	1,81,853
12	12	Titan Company	Consumer Goods	3,89,320	1,70,916
13	22	Bajaj Auto	Automobile & Auto Components	2,79,330	1,70,051
14	13	Axis Bank	Financial Services	3,94,160	1,52,890
15	6	Bajaj Finance	Financial Services	5,83,050	1,51,745

What Is Absolute Value Creation?

The Absolute value creation measures the total increase in the company's market valuation over the specified period.

Unlike the percentage growth, which favors the smaller firms, absolute value creation highlights the companies which have generated the largest amount of the wealth for the shareholders in rupee terms.

This metric is particularly useful because it reflect the,

- Long-term business growth
- Investor confidence
- Wealth creation at scale
- Sustainable market leadership

The Hurun India 500 ranking tracks the valuation gains between the year 2021 and 2025.

Indian Athletics Awards 2025: Neeraj Chopra and Parul Chaudhary Win Top Honours

In the inaugural Indian Athletics Awards 2025, Olympic medal-winning javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra was named as the Best Male Athlete of the Year at the ceremony, which was held in New Delhi. Also, the national record holder, Parul Chaudhary, received the Female Athlete of the Year award.

This award was organised by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) and it recognizes the athletes, coaches, officials, state associations and contributors who have played an important role in the growth of athletics in the country.

Neeraj Chopra Wins Best Male Athlete of the Year

India's most celebrated track and field athlete and Olympic Gold medalist Neeraj Chopra added another prestigious honour to his illustrious career by winning the Best Male Athlete of the Year award.

The two-time Olympic medallist continued to perform at the highest level despite facing injury challenges.

After recovering from the back injury suffered before the 2025 World Athletics Championships in Tokyo, Chopra has returned strongly to international competition.

One of his major achievements came when he became the first Indian athlete to cross the 90-metre mark in the javelin throw and registered the remarkable throw of 90.23 metres at the Doha Diamond League.

Parul Chaudhary Named Best Female Athlete

Distance runner and steeplechase specialist Parul Chaudhary was awarded the Best Female Athlete of the Year title.

Parul enjoyed the highly successful season and winning the gold medals in both the women's 3000m steeplechase and 5000m events at the Asian Championships.

She remains one of India's leading long-distance runners and continues to set benchmarks in middle and long-distance athletics.

PT Usha Among Lifetime Achievement Award Winners

One of the most emotional moments of the ceremony came when the legendary sprinter and Indian Olympic Association president PT Usha received the Lifetime Achievement Award.

She is widely regarded as one of India's greatest athletes, and PT Usha's contributions to Indian sports span several decades.

She has inspired the generations of athletes and continues to contribute to sports administration and athlete development.

Other recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Award included the,

- Gurbachan Singh Randhawa – Former Asian Games decathlon champion
- Bahadur Singh Chauhan – Former national athletics coach
- Anju Bobby George – World Championships bronze medallist in the long jump

Emerging Athletes Receive Recognition

The Indian Athletics Awards also focused on to encouraging the next generation of talent.

- Best Emerging Male Athlete: Shahnavaz Khan
- Best Emerging Female Athlete: Pooja Singh

Both the athletes have shown exceptional promise and they are considered as the future stars of Indian athletics.

Other Major Award Winners

There are several individuals and organizations were recognized for their contributions to the sport.

- Best Coach of the Year: Parveer Singh
- Best Technical Official of the Year: Dr. Kuldeep Singh
- Best State Association of the Year: Tamil Nadu Athletics Association
- Best State Supporting Athletics: Government of Odisha

The awards acknowledge not only athletes but also the coaches, administrators, officials, and institutions that help build a strong athletics ecosystem.





Indian Athletics Awards 2025 Winners List

Category	Winner
Best Male Athlete of the Year	Neeraj Chopra
Best Female Athlete of the Year	Parul Chaudhary
Best Emerging Male Athlete	Shahnavaz Khan
Best Emerging Female Athlete	Pooja Singh
Best Coach of the Year	Parveer Singh
Best Technical Official	Dr. Kuldeep Singh
Best State Association	Tamil Nadu Athletics Association
Best State Supporting Athletics	Government of Odisha
Lifetime Achievement Award	PT Usha, Gurbachan Singh Randhawa, Bahadur Singh Chauhan, Anju Bobby George

RBI Monetary Policy Meeting June 2026

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced its latest monetary policy decisions after the **61st meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** held from **June 3 to June 5, 2026**, under the chairmanship of **RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra**.

Amid rising geopolitical uncertainty, elevated energy prices, global supply chain disruptions, and inflation concerns, the committee decided to maintain the existing policy rate while continuing with a neutral policy stance.

The decision reflects RBI's balanced approach of supporting economic growth while remaining vigilant against inflationary risks.

RBI Monetary Policy Meeting June 2026: Key Decisions

After reviewing domestic and global macroeconomic developments, the Monetary Policy Committee unanimously decided to:

- Keep the **Repo Rate unchanged at 5.25%**
- Maintain the **Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Rate at 5.00%**
- Keep the **Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate at 5.50%**
- Continue with the **Neutral Policy Stance**

The decision indicates that RBI is currently adopting a wait-and-watch approach before making further adjustments.

Members of the Monetary Policy Committee

The meeting was attended by:

- Shri Sanjay Malhotra – Governor, RBI
- Dr. Nagesh Kumar
- Shri Saugata Bhattacharya
- Prof. Ram Singh
- Dr. Poonam Gupta
- Shri Indranil Bhattacharyya

All members voted unanimously in favour of keeping the repo rate unchanged.

What is Repo Rate?

Repo Rate refers to the interest rate at which the Reserve Bank of India lends money to commercial banks.

Changes in repo rate influence:

- Loan interest rates
- Deposit rates
- Inflation levels
- Economic growth
- Consumer spending

A lower repo rate generally encourages borrowing and economic activity, while a higher repo rate helps control inflation.

Why Did RBI Keep Repo Rate Unchanged?

RBI noted that both growth and inflation risks have increased due to changing global conditions.

Major concerns highlighted include:

- Prolonged conflict in West Asia
- Rising crude oil prices
- Supply chain disruptions
- Commodity price increases
- Global financial market volatility

Although inflation remains under control at present, future price pressures remain uncertain.

The RBI concluded that additional clarity is needed before making further monetary policy adjustments.

Global Economic Outlook

The RBI observed that the global economy continues to face increasing uncertainty.

Key global developments include:

- Energy market volatility
- Declining crude oil reserves
- Rising commodity prices
- Tightening monetary conditions in advanced economies
- Strengthening US dollar

Global central banks are expected to remain cautious as inflation pressures persist.

India's Domestic Economic Outlook

Despite global uncertainty, India's economy has remained relatively resilient.

Major domestic indicators showed:

- Stable economic activity
- Strong private consumption
- Continued investment momentum
- Growth in merchandise exports
- Robust services exports

However, the effects of higher input costs and supply disruptions are beginning to emerge.

RBI Growth Forecast for FY 2026–27

Taking all factors into consideration, RBI projected:





Real GDP Growth: 6.6%

Quarter-wise projections:

- Q1: 6.6%
- Q2: 6.3%
- Q3: 6.5%
- Q4: 6.8%

The central bank highlighted that growth risks remain due to:

- Global supply disruptions
- Financial market volatility
- Weather-related uncertainties

Inflation Outlook for FY 2026–27

RBI revised inflation expectations upward due to higher food and energy prices.

Projected CPI Inflation:

5.1% for FY 2026–27

Quarter-wise estimates:

- Q1: 4.2%
- Q2: 5.1%
- Q3: 5.9%
- Q4: 5.4%

Core inflation is projected at:

4.7%

RBI stated that inflation may increase further because of rising fuel prices and second-round effects on production costs.

Major Inflation Risks Identified by RBI

The Monetary Policy Committee highlighted several emerging risks.

These include:

- Increase in petrol and diesel prices
- Higher transportation costs
- Rising industrial input prices
- Global energy shocks
- Supply chain bottlenecks
- Weak monsoon conditions

The possibility of broader inflation spreading across the economy remains an important concern.

Impact of Monsoon and El Niño on Policy Outlook

RBI also identified weather conditions as a major risk.

Concerns include:

- Deficient southwest monsoon
- El Niño conditions
- Pressure on agricultural production
- Rural demand uncertainty

However, mitigation measures such as:

- Crop diversification
- Water conservation
- Climate-resilient agriculture
- Short-duration crops

are expected to reduce some risks.

Government Measures Supporting Economic Stability

RBI acknowledged several government initiatives that strengthened resilience.

These include:

- Support for MSMEs
- Export promotion measures
- Domestic energy production expansion
- Import diversification
- Infrastructure investment

These measures are helping reduce vulnerability to global shocks.

What Does Neutral Stance Mean?

A neutral stance means RBI remains flexible.

The central bank may:

- Increase rates if inflation rises
- Reduce rates if growth weakens
- Maintain rates if conditions remain balanced

This approach allows RBI to respond quickly to future developments.

Why is RBI Monetary Policy June 2026 Important?

The June 2026 policy decision is important because it reflects RBI's strategy of balancing:

- Inflation control
- Economic growth
- Financial stability
- Global uncertainty
- Domestic demand

The decision also signals that future policy actions will remain **data-dependent**.

When is the Next RBI MPC Meeting?

The Reserve Bank of India announced that the next Monetary Policy Committee meeting is scheduled from:

August 3 to August 5, 2026

The minutes of the June 2026 meeting will be released on **June 19, 2026**.

The RBI's latest policy demonstrates cautious optimism—supporting growth while preparing for possible inflationary pressures and external shocks in the coming months.



**52nd G7 Summit 2026: Key Outcomes**

The 52nd G7 Summit was held in Évian-les-Bains, France, under the presidency of France. The summit brought together leaders of the world's leading advanced economies along with invited partner countries to discuss pressing global challenges, including geopolitical conflicts, artificial intelligence (AI), climate change, global economic stability, energy security, and supply chain resilience. The theme for the 2026 summit was "Forging New Partnerships and Rebuilding International Solidarity", highlighting the need for stronger international cooperation in an increasingly fragmented global order.

India participated in the high-level Outreach Session of the summit and used the platform to present the concerns and aspirations of the Global South. During the discussions, India emphasized inclusive global governance, equitable development, climate justice, stronger representation for developing nations, and the transformation of traditional development partnerships into relationships based on equality and mutual trust.

The summit concluded with several important decisions on Ukraine, artificial intelligence, climate action, resilient supply chains, and partnerships with emerging economies. It also reaffirmed India's growing importance as a strategic partner in global economic and geopolitical affairs.

Why is the G7 Summit 2026 in News?

governance, global economic uncertainties, and the need to strengthen partnerships with emerging economies. India's active participation as an invited partner further highlighted its growing diplomatic influence and leadership among developing nations. The summit also marked France's final year as G7 President before the presidency is transferred to the United States in 2027.

Theme of the 52nd G7 Summit

The official theme of the summit was:

"Forging New Partnerships and Rebuilding International Solidarity."

The theme reflected the collective commitment of G7 countries to rebuild trust among nations, strengthen multilateral cooperation, promote sustainable development, and address common global challenges through inclusive partnerships.

What are the G7 Outreach Sessions?

The Outreach Sessions are special meetings organized by the G7 host nation, where invited countries and international organizations participate alongside G7 members.

These sessions were introduced to address criticism that the G7 primarily represents developed economies while excluding emerging and developing nations. Countries such as India, Brazil, South Africa, Indonesia, and others are invited to share their perspectives on issues including climate change, food security, global governance, development finance, technology, and sustainable economic growth.

India's participation in these outreach sessions reflects its increasing importance in global decision-making.

Major Outcomes of the 52nd G7 Summit**Strengthening Support for Ukraine**

The G7 leaders reaffirmed their unwavering support for Ukraine and pledged continued military, financial, and humanitarian assistance. They committed to enhancing Ukraine's defence capabilities while strengthening the country's energy resilience amid the ongoing conflict.

The summit also discussed the evolving security situation in the Middle East, welcomed preliminary diplomatic engagements between the United States and Iran, and called for efforts toward achieving a ceasefire in Lebanon.

Global Framework for Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence emerged as one of the central topics of discussion.

The G7 leaders agreed to develop common technical and ethical frameworks to ensure the safe, secure, and responsible deployment of AI technologies. The proposed framework aims to encourage innovation while addressing concerns related to cybersecurity, misinformation, privacy, transparency, and responsible AI governance.

The leaders emphasized that AI should remain accessible, trustworthy, and beneficial for societies worldwide.

Building Resilient Global Supply Chains

Recognizing the vulnerabilities exposed by recent geopolitical crises and pandemics, the G7 agreed to diversify global manufacturing networks and reduce excessive dependence on single-country supply chains.

The leaders committed to expanding manufacturing partnerships with emerging economies such as India, Vietnam, and Mexico. These initiatives are expected to strengthen global production networks, improve economic resilience, and enhance critical mineral and semiconductor supply chains.

Climate Action and Environmental Security

Climate change remained one of the summit's highest priorities. The G7 reviewed progress under the G7 2030 Nature Compact and officially recognized land degradation, desertification, and drought as systemic global security threats.

The leaders emphasized stronger international cooperation in biodiversity conservation, sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, climate adaptation, and environmental restoration.

Greater Engagement with the Global South

A major focus of the summit was expanding cooperation with developing countries.

India and other invited nations advocated for reforms in global development finance by replacing the traditional donor-recipient model with equal partnerships based on trust, collaboration, and shared responsibility.

Developing nations also called for greater representation in international institutions and more inclusive global governance structures.



**India's Key Messages at the G7 Summit****Rebuilding Global Trust**

India emphasized that declining trust among nations has become one of the biggest barriers to solving global challenges. It argued that transparency, dialogue, mutual respect, and shared responsibility are essential for rebuilding international cooperation.

Partnership-Based Development

India strongly advocated moving beyond traditional aid-based relationships. Instead, it called for development partnerships based on equality, mutual benefit, capacity building, and long-term collaboration.

Stronger Voice for the Global South

India reiterated that developing countries require greater representation in international decision-making institutions rather than merely financial assistance.

It urged reforms in global governance to better reflect current geopolitical and economic realities.

India-Africa Development Partnership

India highlighted its long-standing cooperation with African nations through South-South Cooperation, technology transfer, skill development, healthcare, education, digital infrastructure, and capacity-building initiatives.

The country reaffirmed its commitment to supporting sustainable and locally driven development across Africa.

About the G7

The Group of Seven (G7) is an informal grouping of the world's leading advanced economies.

Its members include:

- Canada
- France
- Germany
- Italy
- Japan
- United Kingdom
- United States

The European Union also participates in G7 discussions.

Unlike formal international organizations, the G7 has no permanent secretariat or legally binding authority. Decisions are reached through consensus.

Objectives of the G7

The primary objectives of the G7 include:

- Promoting global economic stability
- Supporting sustainable economic growth
- Coordinating responses to financial crises
- Addressing climate change
- Strengthening global health security

- Enhancing food and energy security
- Promoting democratic values
- Supporting a rules-based international order
- Coordinating geopolitical and security policies

How Does the G7 Function?

The presidency rotates annually among member countries.

The presiding country hosts the annual summit, determines the agenda, and coordinates ministerial meetings throughout the year.

Partner countries and international organizations are often invited to Outreach Sessions to broaden global participation.

Although G7 decisions are not legally binding, they significantly influence international economic, diplomatic, and security policies.

Evolution of India–G7 Relations

India's engagement with the G7 has expanded steadily over the past two decades.

The partnership began in 2003 under Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh participated in multiple G8 Summits between 2005 and 2009.

Since 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been invited regularly to G7 Outreach Summits, reflecting India's growing geopolitical importance.

As the global economic share of traditional G7 economies has declined with the rise of emerging economies, India has become an increasingly important strategic, economic, and technological partner.

Why is India Important for the G7?

India has emerged as one of the world's fastest-growing major economies and possesses a large consumer market, expanding manufacturing base, and highly skilled workforce.

It serves as the leading voice of the Global South on issues such as climate justice, development finance, food security, and global governance reforms.

India also plays a critical role in the Indo-Pacific region through initiatives such as the Quad and contributes significantly to regional maritime security.

Its growing digital economy, Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), Unified Payments Interface (UPI), renewable energy leadership, International Solar Alliance, and Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes make India an attractive partner for investment, technology cooperation, and supply chain diversification.

India's strategic autonomy also enables it to maintain constructive relations with both Western nations and countries such as Russia, enhancing its diplomatic relevance.

Challenges Before India

Despite growing global influence, India faces several important challenges.

Balancing strategic autonomy while maintaining strong ties with both Western countries and Russia remains a complex diplomatic task.





Increasing trade protectionism in developed economies could affect India's exports and manufacturing competitiveness.

Geopolitical conflicts in Europe and West Asia continue to threaten India's energy security, trade routes, and supply chains. Rapid developments in Artificial Intelligence require stronger data protection, cybersecurity frameworks, and ethical governance.

India must also balance its climate commitments with the developmental needs of a rapidly growing economy while advocating climate justice and financial support from developed nations.

Limitations of the G7

Although the G7 remains influential, it faces several structural limitations.

Its membership is restricted to advanced economies, limiting representation of emerging powers.

The forum lacks legally binding decision-making authority.

Many developing nations criticize its Western-centric agenda.

The G7 has limited ability to resolve major geopolitical conflicts despite imposing sanctions or issuing joint declarations.

Its share of global GDP has gradually declined with the rise of countries such as India and China, increasing the importance of broader platforms like the G20.

Differences among member countries on trade, climate policy, and relations with China often reduce policy coordination.

Most Important Current Affairs of May 2026

World Press Freedom Index 2026 Report

India has been ranked at 157th out of 180 countries in the latest World Press Freedom Index 2026. Press freedom has reached its weakest point in decades across the globe, according to the latest annual report by Reporters Without Borders. The group's World Press Freedom Index, which evaluates 180 countries, recorded its lowest average score in the index's 25-year history. For the first time ever more than half of the countries assessed fall into the 'difficult' or 'very serious' category.

Understanding the World Press Freedom Index

The World Press Freedom Index evaluates the all countries based on these five key indicators.

1. Political environment
2. Legal framework
3. Economic conditions
4. Social context
5. Safety of journalists

It provides the comprehensive picture of how free and safe journalism is in each individual country.

Top 10 Countries with the Best Press Freedom

For this year once again the European nations have dominated the list and they are known for strong institutions and media protections.

Top 10 Best Countries (2026)

1. Norway
2. Netherlands
3. Estonia
4. Denmark
5. Sweden
6. Finland
7. Ireland
8. Switzerland
9. Luxembourg
10. Portugal

Norway has retained the top position for the 10th consecutive year which reflects the its strong commitment to the press freedom and journalist safety.

Top 10 Countries with the Worst Press Freedom

Top 10 Worst Countries (2026)

- Azerbaijan (171)
- Russia (172)
- Turkmenistan (173)
- Vietnam (174)
- Afghanistan (175)
- Saudi Arabia (176)
- Iran (177)
- China (178)
- North Korea (179)
- Eritrea (180)

For the third consecutive years Eritrea remains the worst performing country with severe restrictions on media.

India's Rank Falls Amid Crisis

As per the report India's position showcases the continued decline over the past decade. In the year 2014 India was ranked at 140 and there have been slight fluctuations in the recent years and this trend shows the steady downfall in the press freedom conditions.

The report also highlights that India is among more than 110 countries where the legal framework governing media was weakened and raising the concerns about the ability of journalists to report freely without any fear or legal consequence.

India and Its Neighbors Comparison

India now ranks below the neighborhood countries.

- Nepal (87)
- Maldives (108)
- Sri Lanka (134)
- Bhutan (150)
- Bangladesh (152)
- Pakistan (153)

'Criminalisation of Journalism' The Key Concern For 2026

One of the most alarming observations from the 2026 index is the rise of terms called 'criminalisation of journalism.' This refers to the increasing usage of the laws to restrict or penalize journalistic work.





Major Issues Identified

- The misuse of national security laws.
- Also the use of emergency provisions and enforcement of legal tools to restrict them to reporting.
- Also growing challenges like legal harassment and pressure on independent journalists.

Global Press Freedom Hits 25-Year Low

The 2026 index has also reveals the concerning global picture as the press freedom reaching its lowest level since 2001.

Key Global Trends

- Over the 50% of countries fall under 'difficult' or 'very serious' categories.
- Also the legal indicators of press freedom have been declined in over 60% of nations.
- And protection mechanisms for journalists are becoming weak or ineffective in 80% of countries.

This indicates that the crisis is not just limited to a few regions but it is the widespread global phenomenon.

PM Modi's UAE Visit: India and UAE Sign 7 Major Strategic Agreements

Honorable Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi has paid the visit to United Arab Emirates (UAE), both countries have significantly strengthened the bilateral ties between the both nations. This high level meetings between both nations has featured several outcomes with the signing of seven major agreements in the sectors like, over energy security, defense cooperation, artificial intelligence, maritime infrastructure, workforce development and large scale investments.

List of Agreements Signed

1. Major Energy Security with Strategic Petroleum Reserve Partnership

One of the most important agreements involves the Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL) and the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC).

This partnership is strategically important because it will strengthens the India's long-term energy resilience.

The collaboration is expected to support the strategic petroleum reserve cooperation, stronger crude oil energy security, potential collaboration in LNG infrastructure and also focus on future LPG infrastructure expansion.

As India is heavily depends on imported energy, this strategic reserve partnerships are crucial during the global supply disruptions.

2. Long-Term LPG Supply Agreement

India and the UAE also signed the dedicated agreement for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) supply.

This is important because LPG remains a key household and industrial fuel source in country.

A stable long term supply arrangement helps to,

- Reduce the supply uncertainty
- Also strengthen household fuel security
- Improve energy planning predictability
- And support the India's growing energy demand

3. India-UAE Strategic Defence Partnership

A major highlight of the visit is the Strategic Defence Partnership framework agreement.

This agreement will expands bilateral defense cooperation.

The agreement covers the,

- Defence manufacturing
- Military innovation
- Armed forces training
- Maritime security cooperation
- Cyber defence collaboration
- Secure communications systems

This reflects the shift from purely economic ties toward deeper security alignment.

4. Gujarat's Vadinar Set for Major Maritime Infrastructure Project

Also a proposed ship repair and maritime infrastructure cluster at Vadinar, Gujarat forms the another major outcome.

This aligns with the India's Make in India industrial ambitions.

The project could help the India to strengthen its maritime industrial ecosystem through the,

- Ship repair infrastructure
- Marine engineering growth
- Port-linked industrial activity
- Global maritime service competitiveness

5. Skill Development Push for India's Maritime Workforce

Also a dedicated arrangement on ship repair skill development was also announced.

This focuses on the workforce capacity building.

The main objective is to make India a stronger hub for the,

- Shipbuilding professionals
- Ship repair specialists
- Maritime engineering talent
- Industrial marine services

This agreement is vital because infrastructure growth without the skilled labor limits competitiveness.

6. India-UAE AI Partnership: 8 Exaflop Supercomputer Cluster Announced

One of the most futuristic announcements was the plan to establish the eight Exaflop supercomputer cluster.

This project will involve the collaboration between Centre for Development of Advanced Computing and G42.

This will be major AI and computing milestone.

Exaflop scale computing is associated with the extremely advanced computational capacity and it is useful in,





- Artificial intelligence
- Weather modelling
- Defence simulations
- Scientific research
- Large-scale data analytics
- Advanced computing innovation

7. UAE Commits \$5 Billion Investment in India

The UAE also committed the \$5 billion in investments across Indian infrastructure and financial institutions.

This could support sectors such as the,

- Transport infrastructure
- Urban development
- Logistics
- Industrial expansion
- Financial ecosystem strengthening

Also the large sovereign and strategic investments are often improve long-term economic confidence.

Pulitzer Prize 2026

Two Indian journalists have won the prestigious Pulitzer Prize for their reporting on cyber fraud and digital surveillance. This award recognizes their impactful storytelling which sheds the light on the growing threat of the digital scams in the modern world. This work not just highlights the real life consequences but also raise the awareness about the misuse of the technology.

Indian Journalists Win Pulitzer Prize 2026

Indian journalists R K Anand and Suparna Sharma have been awarded the Pulitzer Prize 2026 in the category of Illustrated Reporting and Commentary.

They have shared the award with Natalie Obiko Pearson for their collaborative work which was published in Bloomberg.

The award was announced on the May 4th 2026 and recognized their exceptional storytelling form and investigative depth.

A'trAPPed' Story Which Have Exposed Digital Exploitation

he award-winning project which titled as 'trAPPed' presents the gripping narrative of a neurologist in the India who have become a victim of a 'digital arrest' scam.

The story uses the powerful mix of the,

- Visual storytelling
- Data-driven insights
- Narrative reporting

It also highlights how the cybercriminals exploit the technology to manipulate and control victims remotely and exposing the dark side of digital connectivity.

Why This Story Matters in Today's Digital World

The investigation will also brings attention to the growing global threat of th cyber fraud and digital surveillance.

As the increasing dependence on smartphones and online platforms these types of such crimes are becoming more sophisticated.

The report also underscores the,

- Risks of the digital scams and online fraud.
- Also the misuse of surveillance technologies.
- And lack of awareness among users.

It also serves as the wake-up call for individuals, institutions and governments to strengthen the cybersecurity measures.

About the Pulitzer Prize

The Pulitzer Prize is one of the most respected honors in the fields of journalism, literature and music.

This award is administered by Columbia University and recognizes the excellence in,

- Investigative reporting
- Public service journalism
- Storytelling and commentary

To win this award is considered as a global benchmark of journalistic excellence.

Florence Nightingale Awards 2026

Respectable President of India Shri. Droupadi Murmu has presented the National Florence Nightingale Awards 2026 at Rashtrapati Bhavan on International Nurses Day. This ceremony recognized the outstanding nursing professionals from across the country for their dedication and commitment to the healthcare.

Key Highlights of National Florence Nightingale Awards 2026

This prestigious awards are instituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) to honor the excellence in nursing services.

- Awards are presented at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.
- It recognizes the service, compassion and resilience.
- It also includes a Certificate of Merit, ₹1 lakh cash prize and a medal.
- The ceremony also attended by Union Health Minister Shri. Jagat Prakash Nadda.

These awards represent the one of the highest recognitions for the nursing professionals in India.

Who Are the Awardees?

This year the nursing personnel from various states, Union Territories and institutions were honored.

Some of the notable awardees include,

- Kulwinder Parhi (Leh)
- Ujwala Mahadev Soyam (Maharashtra)
- Lalenthangi Hnamte (Mizoram)
- Madhu Mala Gurung (Sikkim)
- Gita Karmakar (West Bengal)
- Poonam Verma (Chandigarh)
- Kabitha Jagannath (Karnataka)
- Aysha Beebu K. (Lakshadweep)
- Dr. R Shankar Shanumugam (Tamil Nadu)
- Maj Gen Lissamma PV (Indian Army)



**Who Is Eligible for the Award?**

The awards are given to te,

- Registered Nurses
- Midwives
- Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs)
- Lady Health Visitors (LHVs)

They can belong to the,

- Central or State Governments
- Union Territories
- Voluntary organisations

This ensures the recognition across the all levels of healthcare services.

International Nurses Day 2026: Theme and Significance

The International Nurses Day is celebrated every year on the May 12 to mark the birth anniversary of the Florence Nightingale.

Theme of the 2026 is 'Our Nurses. Our Future. Empowered Nurses Save Lives'

The theme emphasizes the,

- Better working conditions for nurses.
- Fair salaries and staffing support.
- Leadership opportunities.
- Access to the quality education and training.

International Booker Prize 2026

Taiwan Travelogue wins the prize of the International Booker Prize 2026, put the Taiwan's storytelling, history and literary culture firmly on the world map. It was written by the Yang Shuang-zi and translated by Lin King and this novel has made the first work translated from Mandarin Chinese to win the prestigious award.

Taiwan Travelogue Wins International Booker Prize 2026

The prestigious International Booker Prize 2026 has gone to the Taiwan Travelogue, it is a novel originally published in Taiwan in 2020.

The book is written by the Yang Shuang-zi and translated into the English by Lin King.

This victory is historically significant because it marks the first Mandarin Chinese translated work to win the International Booker Prize.

The award recognizes both the author and translator equally and highlighting the importance of literary translation in global publishing.

What Is Taiwan Travelogue About?

The novel presents the inventive and layered storytelling structure.

It is written as a fictional memoir of a supposed Japanese writer named Aoyama Chizuko, set in the year 1938 during that period when Taiwan was under Japanese colonial rule.

But there is a literary twist as the "memoir" is fictional and the real author frames herself as a merely the translator rather than the creator.

This metafictional style makes the narrative intellectually engaging.

A Story of Travel, Food, Friendship, and Colonial History

At the centre of this story is a journey across the colonial Taiwan. Aoyama Chizuko travels through Taiwan on a government sponsored lecture tour.

She is accompanied by her interpreter Ō Chizuru (Chi-chan).

Their relationship develops into the complex emotional bond shaped by the,

- Friendship
- Cultural exchange
- Unspoken desire
- Colonial tension
- Personal freedom

The novel uses the travel and food as narrative tools.

Taiwanese cuisine becomes a central storytelling part of this novel, and it offers the readers a vivid sensory experience while also revealing social and political realities.

Full List of Shortlisted Books and Authors

Below the six novels shortlisted for the International Booker Prize 2026.

1. 'The Nights Are Quiet in Tehran' – Shida Bazayr

It is the deeply moving narrative following the Iranian family from the 1979 revolution to their life in the exile. It is also highlights the political upheaval and generational trauma.

2. 'She Who Remains' – Rene Karabash

A unique story which is set in the Albanian mountains. It focusing on the identity and survival through the life of the woman living as a man.

3. 'The Director' – Daniel Kehlmann

It was written by Daniel Kehlmann and this novel explores the life of filmmaker G.W. Pabst. The book is navigating Hollywood and Nazi-era Austria.

4. 'On Earth As It Is Beneath' – Ana Paula Maia

It is the dark and gripping tale which set in a brutal penalty colony. In where the morality and survival collides.

5. 'The Witch' – Marie NDiaye

it was authored by Marie NDiaye and this novel presents the strange dreamlike story of the sorceress and her daughters.

6. 'Taiwan Travelogue' – Yang Shuang-zi

A historical narrative set as the year like 1930s in Taiwan. And also following a Japanese writer and her translator on the journey of culture and identity.

Themes That Define This Year's Shortlist

The 2026 shortlisted books are stand out because of the the strong emotional and social themes.

Several books which are focus on displacement and identity, particularly the,

- Life in exile
- Cultural belonging
- Political resistance
- Human Resilience amid Hardship situation





Despite themes related to violence and oppression the stories emphasize the,

- Hope and endurance
- Emotional strength
- Human connection
- Blending History with Fiction

Why the International Booker Prize Matters

The International Booker Prize plays the important role in global literature by the promoting translated works and also giving voice to non-English author.

It is also encouraging the cross-cultural understanding.

Since 2016 for its inception the award has been given to the single book with the 50,000 Pound prize money equally shared between the author and translator.

Sansad Ratna Awards 2026

For the year 2026, the Sansad Ratna Awards have been announced the outstanding performance by the Members of Parliament and Parliamentary Standing Committees. This year jury has selected the 10 Lok Sabha MPs, 2 Rajya Sabha MPs and 4 Parliamentary Standing Committees for the prestigious honors. Also among those awardees Rajya Sabha MP Medha Kulkarni from Pune and Lok Sabha MP Smita Uday Wagh from Jalgaon are the standout names.

Women MPs Among Major Award Winners

The inclusion of the Medha Kulkarni and Smita Uday Wagh has drawn special attention.

Smita Uday Wagh's recognition is particularly significant because of her dedication to the parliamentary duties despite battling cancer.

According to the awards committee, she had continued attending Parliament sessions even while undergoing chemotherapy treatment which reflects the extraordinary commitment to public service.

Full List of Sansad Ratna Awards 2026 Individual Winners

The MPs selected for the outstanding parliamentary performance includes the,

1. Jagdambika Pal (Uttar Pradesh)
2. P.P. Chaudhary (Rajasthan)
3. Nishikant Dubey (Jharkhand)
4. Dr Shrikant Eknath Shinde (Maharashtra)
5. Praveen Patel (Uttar Pradesh)
6. Bidyut Baran Mahato (Jharkhand)
7. Lumbaram Chaudhary (Rajasthan)
8. Dr Hemant Vishnu Savara (Maharashtra)
9. Smita Uday Wagh (Maharashtra)
10. Naresh Ganpat Mhaske (Maharashtra)
11. Dr Medha Vishram Kulkarni (Maharashtra)
12. Narhari Amin (Gujarat)

The awards are based on the parliamentary performance up to the end of the Budget Session 2026.

Parliamentary Committees That Won Awards

Also the Four Parliamentary Standing Committees have also been recognized for the exceptional work.

These includes the,

1. Committee on Agriculture – chaired by Dr Charanjit Singh Channi
2. Finance Committee – chaired by Bhartruhari Mahtab
3. Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Committee – chaired by Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka
4. Coal and Mines Committee – chaired by Anurag Thakur

These committees were selected for their effective legislative oversight and impactful parliamentary functioning.

What Is the Sansad Ratna Award?

The Sansad Ratna Award was instituted in the year 2010 by Chennai-based NGO Prime Point Foundation.

The main idea was inspired by the former President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, who also launched the first awards ceremony.

The honour also recognizes the parliamentarians who demonstrate outstanding legislative performance, active participation and effective public representation.

How Winners Are Selected

The selection process is based on data-driven.

The performance of evaluation is based on official parliamentary data including the,

- Questions asked
- Debates participated in
- Private member bills introduced
- Committee participation
- Attendance and legislative engagement

Data support comes from the,

- PRS Legislative Research
- Lok Sabha Secretariat
- Rajya Sabha Secretariat

The independent jury comprising former parliamentarians, constitutional experts and academicians finalizes the winners.

Third India-Nordic Summit 2026

India just recently concluded the Third India-Nordic Summit which was held Oslo on May 19, 2026. India and five other Nordic nations has been agreed to transform their relationship into a Green Technology and Innovation Strategic Partnership and signals the stronger cooperation in the clean energy, climate action, Arctic research, digital innovation, trade and defense.

What is the India-Nordic Summit?

The India-Nordic Summit is the high-level diplomatic platform between India and five Nordic countries,

- Denmark
- Finland
- Iceland
- Norway
- Sweden





The partnership has began formally at the First India-Nordic Summit in the year 2018.

The primary objective was to build cooperation in the sector like,

- Innovation
- Green technologies
- Renewable energy
- Sustainable development
- Skill development
- Economic growth

Over a period of time, the relationship has expanded into a strategic sectors like maritime security, Arctic cooperation, defense and emerging technologies.

Why the Third India-Nordic Summit Matters

The 2026 summit marks the major diplomatic upgrade.

India and Nordic countries have now agreed to elevate their ties into a Green Technology and Innovation Strategic Partnership.

This is important because the Nordic nations are global leaders in to the,

- Clean energy technologies
- Green manufacturing
- Digital governance
- Sustainable urban development
- Innovation ecosystems
- Climate solutions

India offers the,

- Large-scale markets
- Skilled talent
- Manufacturing capacity
- Growing digital economy
- Strategic geopolitical relevance

This makes this partnership highly complementary with the partners.

Major Outcomes of the Summit

Green Technology and Innovation Strategic Partnership

The biggest announcement was the formal launch of the new Green Technology and Innovation Strategic Partnership.

This partnership will focus on to the,

- Renewable energy
- Green hydrogen
- Sustainable technologies
- Climate mitigation
- Digital governance
- Water management
- Smart innovation systems

Trade and Investment Cooperation Gets a Big Push

Also the economic ties between the India and Nordic countries have grown rapidly.

According to summit discussions the,

- Bilateral trade has quadrupled in the last decade
- Also the investment inflows have increased by nearly to 200%

India aims to attract the greater Nordic investments in the,

- Advanced manufacturing
- Renewable energy
- Infrastructure
- Technology
- Health-tech

India-EFTA Trade Deal Adds Momentum

A major factor which boost the India-Nordic relations is the India-European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA).

EFTA includes the,

- Iceland
- Norway
- Switzerland
- Liechtenstein

Arctic Cooperation Becomes Strategically Important

One of the most important strategic themes of the summit was Arctic cooperation.

India's partnership with Nordic countries is closely linked to the its Arctic interests.

Why Arctic Matters for India

Climate changes in the Arctic affects the,

- Indian monsoon patterns
- Food security
- Water resources
- Coastal sustainability
- Island ecosystems

India's Arctic policy, which titled as the 'India and the Arctic: Building a Partnership for Sustainable Development' put strong focuses on to the,

- Scientific research
- Climate protection
- Sustainable development
- Connectivity
- Governance cooperation
- Capacity building

Blue Economy and Maritime Cooperation

The summit has also strengthened the cooperation in the blue economy.

Blue economy refers to the sustainable use of ocean resources for a,

- Economic growth
- Maritime trade
- Fisheries
- Marine conservation
- Coastal development

India plans the Blue economy collaboration with a Norway and improve the maritime sustainability partnerships with Nordic nations.



**Digital Innovation and Emerging Technologies**

Digital transformation was another important focus area. Collaboration are planned in the areas like,

- Artificial intelligence
- 6G technologies
- Telecom
- Cybersecurity
- Digital infrastructure
- Smart governance systems

Nordic countries have the advanced expertise in digital ecosystems which makes them strong innovation partners.

STEM Research and Talent Mobility

Research collaboration has received strong emphasis.

Planned cooperation includes the,

- Science
- Technology
- Engineering
- Mathematics
- Academic partnerships
- Innovation research

This could benefit the multiple Indian students and researchers.

Defense and Strategic Manufacturing Cooperation

The summit has also discussed defense cooperation.

Potential collaboration areas are the,

- Defense production
- Technology transfer
- Industrial manufacturing
- Strategic innovation

India's liberalized defense investment policies make this as an emerging partnership area.

India's Bilateral Trade With Nordic Nations

Sweden

Bilateral trade: USD 6.96 billion (2024)

Denmark

Goods trade: USD 2.05 billion (2025)

Norway

Bilateral trade: USD 1.05 billion (2024-25)

Finland

Goods trade: USD 1.017 billion (2024-25)

Iceland

It is small but strategically important for the Arctic and geothermal cooperation.

Supreme Court Collegium Recommends Five New Judges Including Senior Advocate V Mohana

The Supreme Court Collegium led by the Respectable Chief Justice of India Surya Kant has recommended the appointment of the five new judges to the top court after the recent increase in the court's sanctioned strength from 34 to 38 judges. This recommendations has included the four High Court Chief Justices and senior advocate V Mohana. V Mohana's elevation is truly historic as she is set to become only the second woman directly appointed from the bar to the Supreme Court after Justice Indu Malhotra.

Supreme Court Judge Strength Increased to 38

Recently, the Honorable President has promulgated an ordinance to increasing the sanctioned strength of Supreme Court judges from 34 to 38 judges.

The move was aimed at addressing the,

- Rising case pendency
- Judicial workload
- Faster disposal of cases

Following this expansion, the collegium has recommended the five new appointments to fill the increased vacancies.

If it gets approved, the Supreme Court's working strength will rise from 32 to 37 judges and leaving only one vacancy.

Who Are the Recommended Judges?

The collegium has recommended the following names,

- Justice Sheel Nagu
- Justice Shree Chandrashekhar
- Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva
- Justice Arun Palli
- Senior Advocate V Mohana

These recommendations were finalized after the extensive discussions within the collegium.

V Mohana's Historic Elevation

Senior advocate V Mohana is set to create a history with her appointment as judge in top court.

She will become the second woman directly elevated from the bar to the Supreme Court

The first woman was Justice Indu Malhotra.

About V Mohana

She comes from Coimbatore and a first-generation lawyer.

She became an Advocate-on-Record in the year 1996.

She also designated as Senior Advocate in 2015 and had over the 37 years of legal practice.

Her elevation is can be seen as the significant moment for the gender representation in the higher judiciary.

Justice Sheel Nagu

Justice Sheel Nagu is currently serving as the Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

He appointed judge of Madhya Pradesh HC in the year 2011 and then became the Chief Justice of Punjab & Haryana HC in July 2024.

He was also member of inquiry panel related to Justice Yashwant Varma matter.

His retirement scheduled to 31 December 2029.

He is expected to have the tenure around three and a half years in the Supreme Court.

Justice Shree Chandrashekhar

Justice Shree Chandrashekhar, is currently the Chief Justice of Bombay High Court, has also been recommended to to court.

He earlier served on the Judges Inquiry Committee related to the Justice Yashwant Varma inquiry.

He will hold the office until 24th May, 2030.



**Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva**

Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva, who is currently Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court has been also elevated to the top court.

He is expected to have around 3.5 years of tenure in the Supreme Court.

Justice Arun Palli

Current Chief Justice of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court Justice Arun Palli has also been recommended.

He is expected to serve around 3 years and 4 months as Supreme Court judge..

Collegium Discussion and Selection Process

The recommendations reportedly followed with the intense discussions within the collegium.

The collegium currently comprises the,

- CJI Surya Kant
- Justice Vikram Nath
- Justice J.K. Maheshwari
- Justice B.V. Nagarathna
- Justice M.M. Sundresh

Some of the names were reportedly dropped after differences of opinion among members.

The final recommendations were approved after the consensus-building.

What is the Supreme Court Collegium System?

The collegium system is the mechanism through which the judges are appointed and transferred in the higher judiciary.

Composition

For the Supreme Court appointments, the collegium consists of the,

- Chief Justice of India
- Four senior-most Supreme Court judges

This system has been evolved with the multiple Supreme Court's judgments and is not directly mentioned in the Constitution.

WHO Declares Ebola Global Health Emergency

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared the Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) for the latest Ebola outbreak in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Uganda. This decision comes after a surge in the suspected infections and deaths in the respected country. However, the WHO clarified that this is not a pandemic emergency like COVID-19.

WHO Declares Global Health Emergency Over Ebola

WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has announced the emergency declaration after the outbreak showed signs of regional spread.

Around more than 300 suspected cases and 88 deaths have raised the major concern among global health agencies.

WHO has also said that international border closures are not necessary at this stage.

Where the Outbreak is Happening

The outbreak is mainly centered in the Ituri Province in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The respected authorities have reported 8 laboratory confirmed cases, 246 suspected cases and 80 suspected deaths.

Uganda has also confirmed the two Ebola cases which includes the one death.

Both the cases involved the travelers who are arrived from Congo.

Health experts believe that the real number of infections could be much higher.

What is Ebola Virus?

Ebola is a highly dangerous viral disease which causes severe haemorrhagic fever in humans.

It belongs to the Orthoebolavirus family.

The current outbreak is linked to the Bundibugyo virus strain which is a rare form of Ebola.

This strain is particularly concerning because the treatment and vaccine coverage remain limited.

How Ebola Spreads

Ebola is a zoonotic disease means that it can spread from animals to humans.

The fruit bats are considered as the natural host.

Humans can get infected through the contact with infected animals like monkeys, gorillas, chimpanzees or contaminated meat.

Also human to human spread happens through direct contact with infected,

- Blood
- Vomiting
- Saliva
- Sweat
- Semen
- Body fluids

It can also spread through the contaminated bedding or surfaces. Ebola does not spread through the air like COVID-19.

Symptoms of Ebola

Symptoms of Ebola virus usually appear between 2 and 21 days after infection.

Early signs includes the high fever, weakness, headache, sore throat and muscle pain.

As the disease worsens, patients may develop the vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, rash and organ failure.

In the severe cases, internal and external bleeding can occur.

Some patients also experience the confusion and neurological complications.

Why Ebola is So Dangerous

Ebola is one of the deadliest infectious diseases in the world.

The average fatality rate is around 50 percent though some outbreaks have recorded even higher death rates.

The virus spreads quickly in the healthcare settings if strict precautions are not followed.

Also delayed diagnosis makes the situation even more dangerous.



**How Ebola is Diagnosed**

As Ebola symptoms look similar to the malaria and other viral infections, testing is essential.

The doctors use RT-PCR tests, ELISA tests, antigen detection and virus isolation methods.

Early testing improves the survival chances significantly.

Treatment Options

WHO has recommended the monoclonal antibody treatments like Ansuvimab (mAb114) and Inmazeb (REGN-EB3) for some Ebola strains.

However, the effectiveness depends on the virus variant.

Also supportive care remains the main treatment.

This includes hydration, oxygen support and infection management.

Are Ebola Vaccines Available?

Yes, vaccines for Ebola virus are present.

The currently approved vaccines include the Ervebo, Zabdeno, and Mvabea.

But protection against the current Bundibugyo strain remains uncertain right now.

This is the main reason behind the health agencies are highly alert.

What is a Public Health Emergency of International Concern?

A PHEIC is the WHO's highest emergency alert under international health regulations.

It means that the outbreak poses a risk beyond one country and needs coordinated global action.

Previously the PHEIC declarations include COVID-19, Mpox, Zika, Polio and earlier Ebola outbreaks.

Background of Ebola Outbreak History

Ebola virus was first discovered in the year 1976 near the Ebola River in present day Democratic Republic of Congo.

Since then, the Africa has witnessed multiple outbreaks.

The deadliest Ebola epidemic occurred between the year 2014 and 2016 in West Africa which have killed 11,000 people.

From Rodents to Cruise Cabins How Hanta Virus Is Spreading Concern

Health Experts around the world are raising the concerns after the recent cases of hantavirus which is linked to cruise ship travel. This virus is rare but has the potential to become deadly as it mainly spreads by rodents and it can lead to severe lung complications within few days. As the infections remain uncommon the closed environment of cruise ships has made it tougher to trace the exposure sources. Several authorities are now urging stronger sanitation, pest control and early medical attention to prevent the any further risks.

What Is Hantavirus and How Does It Spread?

Hantavirus refers to that group of viruses which are primarily transmitted through rodents such as rats and mice.

Also humans usually get infected when they come into direct contact with rodent urine, saliva or any droppings.

The virus can also spread via airborne particles and specially in enclosed or poorly ventilated areas where the contaminated dust is inhaled.

As compared to diseases like COVID-19 hantavirus does not commonly spread from person to person which limits the large-scale outbreaks.

Why Cruise Ship Cases Are Raising Alarm

Recently the hantavirus cases associated with cruise ships which have drawn attention of the health experts due to the unique risks which ships environments pose.

Cruise ships often have the large numbers of people in confined spaces.

It also has the complex storage and waste management systems.

And this area rodents may access the food supplies or cargo zones.

Health experts believe that rodents may have contaminated certain sections of ships which leading to exposure.

Although there is no clear evidence of human to human transmission onboard and its difficulty to tracing exposure has raised concerns.

Symptoms of Hantavirus

Hantavirus symptoms are initially resemble common viral infections and making early diagnosis challenging.

Early Symptoms Include

- Fever
- Muscle aches
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Nausea and vomiting

In the severe cases this disease can progress into Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS) which affects the lungs and can cause breathing failure.

Doctors have warned that symptoms can worsen rapidly within a few days and making early medical attention critical.

How Dangerous Is Hantavirus?

Although in minor cases hantavirus infections can be highly deadly and specially if it is not treated in time.

There is currently,

- No specific antiviral cure for this virus.
- Also the treatment focused on supportive care which includes the oxygen therapy.
- And there is a need for intensive monitoring in hospitals.

Early diagnosis can significantly improve the survival chances which makes awareness crucial.

Where Has Hantavirus Been Found Before?

The cases of Hantavirus have been reported in the several parts of the world, including,

- United States
- South America
- Parts of Asia

Outbreaks are usually linked to the environments with high rodent activity such as the,

- Farms and warehouses
- Cabins and campsites
- Abandoned or poorly maintained buildings





Most Important Current Affairs of April 2026

PM Modi Launches Kaynes Semiconductor Plant in Gujarat – A Big Boost for India's Chip Industry

Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Kaynes Semicon Plant in Sanand, Gujarat on the March 31, 2026. This inauguration signals the India's growing strength in the semiconductor manufacturing and with ambition to become the global tech leader. This facility has begun now the production of the advanced components which are crucial for the industries like electric vehicles and electronics.

Kaynes Semicon Inauguration

After the inauguration of the Kaynes Technology semiconductor plant it will start the domestic chip production by the company. It is located in Sanand in Gujarat and this facility is the part of the India's broader plan to build the strong semiconductor ecosystem.

The Prime Minister also highlighted that this is not the isolated development but it is part of a rapidly growing the semiconductor ecosystem and also various projects are underway across the country.

This plant will also position the India as the reliable partner in the global semiconductor supply chain and to reducing dependence on imports.

Boost to 'Make in India' and Global Supply Chains

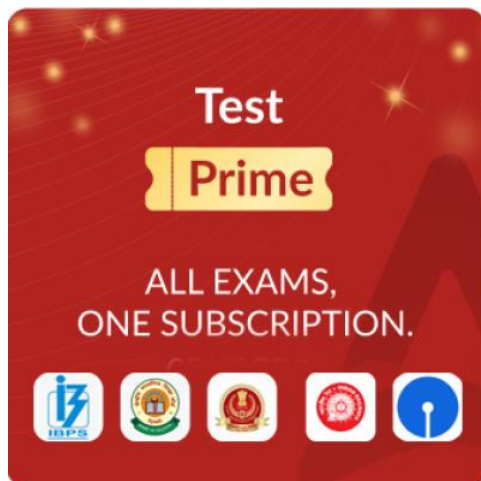
The Kaynes facility is made under the vision of 'Make in India, Make for the World'. The significant portion of the production is already linked to the global markets and also it includes partnerships with companies of the United States.

Key highlights include the,

- The supply of Intelligent Power Modules (IPMs) to the global firms
- Also the strong export potential which connecting India to Silicon Valley supply chains
- Also integration into the global semiconductor ecosystem

Powering EVs and Future Technologies

The semiconductor components which are produced at the plant and specially the Intelligent Power Modules are vital for the emerging technologies.



These modules will support the,

- Electric vehicles (EVs) and its sustainable mobility
- Industrial automation and heavy machinery
- Also an advanced electronics and energy efficient systems

India Semiconductor Mission

The Prime Minister also emphasized the importance of the India Semiconductor Mission which was launched in 2021.

This mission aims to,

- Develop the complete semiconductor ecosystem
- To promote domestic manufacturing and design capabilities
- Also to reduce dependence on global chip imports

Currently In India the projects of worth over ₹1.6 lakh crore are underway across the multiple states and it shows the country's commitment to the future ecosystem.

Semiconductor Mission 2.0 and Workforce Development

Also, India is now moving towards the next phase with the Semiconductor Mission 2.0. This will be focusing on to the building a full supply chain while including materials and equipment.

The government is also investing into the talent development,

- To target to train 85,000 semiconductor professionals
- Also to support for startups through the Chips to Startup program
- Also the participation of 400+ universities and innovators

India Census 2027 Digital: Phase 1 Starting April 1, 2026 Details

India will set to begin the Census 2027 from the next year in 2027. It is the 16th Census in the history and 8th after the Independence. As the Phase 1 will be starting from the April 1, 2026. It was announced by the Mritunjay Kumar Narayan and this will be the first-ever fully digital census to be conducted in the country. While using mobile apps and online self-enumeration portal also available in the multiple languages and this exercise marks the major shift into the data collection along with aim to for greater accuracy, transparency and efficiency.

Census 2027 Phase 1: Key Highlights and Timeline

The first phase of the Census 2027 which is known as the House Listing and Housing Census (HLO). it will be conducted from the April to September 2026 across the all states and Union Territories in India

This phase will be focused on the collecting data related to the,

- The housing conditions and the structure
- Also the household amenities like water, electricity, sanitation
- The ownership of the assets and living standards of individual

The main feature is the introduction of the Self-Enumeration (SE) which will allow the citizens to fill the correct data online before the enumerators can visit their households.





This timeline also follows the structured approach which is the,

- 15 days of the self enumeration
 - Also it will followed by 30 days of door-to-door enumeration
- With this hybrid model it ensure the both convenience and verification of data

State-Wise Schedule: How the Census Will Roll Out Across India
The schedule of Census Phase 1 has been the carefully planned in the correct manner to ensuring the smooth execution in across the country.

All states are part of the phase 1 census process and which starting from the April 1st to September 30th. States will complete the 1st phase exercise in this given window.

This couple of months longs schedule will ensures the better resource management and the efficient data collection across nation.

Phase 2: Population Enumeration in 2027

On the other side the second phase of Census 2027 will be known as Population Enumeration (PE). And it will take place in the month of February 2027.

In the 2nd phase it will collect the detailed data at the individual level such as,

- Demographics (age, gender and marital status)
- Education and occupation
- Pattern related to Migration
- Fertility and socio-economic indicators

Also the caste enumeration will take place during this phase. With this it is also making the significant exercise for the policy planning and various social justice initiatives.

What Makes Census 2027 Unique? Key Innovations

The Census 2027 marks the major transformation in India's data collection system.

First of all the Digital-First Approach in which the enumerators will use the mobile applications instead of paper forms.

Also the data will be uploaded in real-time and will reducing the errors.

On the Self-Enumeration Portal the citizens can fill their details online in 16 languages when they want to do.

These type of innovations are aim to make the census more reliable and the user friendly.

Phase – 1 Schedule For the States Date

State/UT	Self-Enumeration Period	Houselisting & Housing Census Period
Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Delhi (NDMC & Cantonment), Goa, Karnataka, Lakshadweep, Mizoram, Odisha, Sikkim	1 Apr -15 Apr	16 Apr – 15 May
Gujarat*, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	5 Apr – 19 Apr	20 Apr – 19 May
Uttarakhand	10 Apr – 24 Apr	25 Apr – 24 May

State/UT	Self-Enumeration Period	Houselisting & Housing Census Period
Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana	1 May – 30 May	16 Apr – 30 Apr
Bihar	17 Apr – 1 May	2 May – 31 May
Telangana	26 Apr – 10 May	11 May – 9 Jun
Punjab	30 Apr – 14 May	15 May – 13 Jun
Delhi (MCD), Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Jharkhand	1 May – 15 May	16 May – 14 Jun
Uttar Pradesh	7 May – 21 May	22 May – 20 Jun
Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Puducherry	17 May – 31 May	1 Jun – 30 Jun
Himachal Pradesh	1 Jun – 15 Jun	16 Jun – 15 Jul
Kerala, Nagaland	16 Jun – 30 Jun	1 Jul – 30 Jul
Tamil Nadu, Tripura	17 Jul – 31 Jul	1 Aug – 30 Aug
Assam	2 Aug – 16 Aug	17 Aug – 15 Sep
Manipur	17 Aug – 31 Aug	1 Sep – 30 Sep
West Bengal	To be decided	To be decided

PM Modi Inaugurates Samrat Samprati Museum on Mahavir Jayanti

Honorable Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Samrat Samprati Museum in the Gandhinagar on his visit to Gujarat on the March 31, 2026. With this inauguration it is marking the significant step to preserving India's rich Jain heritage. The inauguration was coincided with the auspicious occasion of the Mahavir Jayanti and with this it has added the special spiritual significance to the event. The Museum was located at the Shri Mahavir Jain Aradhana Kendra in the Koba village, Gandhinagar.

Samrat Samprati Museum: A Journey Through Jain Civilization

This newly inaugurated the Samrat Samprati Museum stands as the comprehensive repository of the Jain culture and their traditions.

It is named after Samprati and this museum honors the ruler who is known for spreading Jainism and promoting non-violence across his empire.

The museum houses over the nearly 2,000 rare artefacts and it is also offering the visitors a deep dive into Jain philosophy and their historical evolution.





Also intricately carved from the stone idols to the ancient manuscripts it is in every exhibit it shows the spiritual richness and artistic mastery of the Jain traditions.

The use of the modern audio-visual technology will enhance the visitor experience and it will be making it both educational and cultural presentation.

Seven Galleries Showcasing India's Spiritual and Cultural Legacy
The museum with proper idea has been divided into the seven distinct galleries and each of the gallery is focusing on different aspects of Jainism and Indian civilization.

These galleries present the,

- Ancient manuscripts and also illustration texts depicting Jain teachings
- Also the stone and metal idols which is representing Tirthankaras
- Miniature paintings, coin and silver chariots
- And the traditional artefacts which are reflecting the centuries-old craftsmanship

The structured layout also enable the visitors to understand the chronological development of Jainism from origin to the influence all over India.

Significance of Mahavir Jayanti and Jain Values

The inauguration on Mahavir Jayanti highlights the importance of the Bhagwan Mahavir's teachings.

In the message PM Modi emphasized that,

- The principles of truth, non-violence and compassion it is still remain highly relevant today
- Jain philosophy which promotes equality, kindness and the social responsibility
- These values are essential to addressing modern global challenges

Who Was Samrat Samprati? A Historical Insight

Samprati ruled during the 224-215 BCE and he was regarded as one of the greatest patrons of Jainism.

He was often compared to his grandfather Ashoka for his role to spreading religious values but the Samprati on the other side had focused specifically on to the Jain teachings.

His contributions also include the,

- Building several Jain temples across India
- Also supporting monks and spreading the message of ahimsa
- And importantly to promoting ethical governance based on non-violence

The museum named after him symbolizes his enduring legacy.

NASA's Artemis II Mission Begins: First Crewed Moon Journey in Over 50 Years Takes Off

The historic moment for the space exploration NASA has successfully launched the Artemis II mission on the April 1, 2026. This is marking the first crewed journey towards the Moon since after 1972. NASA's powerful Space Launch System rocket had lifted the four astronauts into space for the 10-day mission around the Moon and will take it back to earth. This mission is not just about landing but it is about testing systems which could soon return the humans to the lunar surface.

Artemis II Launch Beginning of New Era

The Artemis II mission was launched from the Kennedy Space Center at 6:35 p.m. ET and it draw the attention towards thousands of spectators.

The mission representing the,

- The revival of human lunar exploration
- And major step towards the future Moon landings
- Also to continuation of the legacy of the Apollo missions

As compare to Apollo 8 this mission will orbit the Moon without the landing and will be ensuring that spacecraft systems are safe for the future missions.

Meet the Artemis II Crew Astronauts

This mission carries the four astronauts aboard on the Orion spacecraft and each of astronaut has their big achievement.

- Reid Wiseman – Commander
- Victor Glover – First Black astronaut to travel to deep space
- Christina Koch – First woman will to journey into deep space
- Jeremy Hansen – First non-American on a Moon mission

This diverse crew highlights the shift toward the inclusive space exploration.

Mission Details: 10 Day Journey Around the Moon

The Artemis II mission is designed for the deep-space test flight.

Key Mission Timeline

April 1, 2026: Launch of the mission

April 1-2: Testing the systems in Earth orbit

April 6: Lunar flyby

April 10: Return to the Earth

The spacecraft will travel over the 695,000 over the mission performance.

Unique Trajectory and Record-Breaking Distance

Unlike the previous missions the Artemis II will follows a free-return trajectory.

It means that,

- The spacecraft will uses the Moon's gravity to return to Earth
- It can safely return to the earth back even if propulsion fails

The mission will reach about the 252,799 miles from Earth and it will making the farthest distance humans have ever traveled and also surpassing the Apollo-13.

How the Launch Unfolded & Key Technical Milestones

Artemis II launch has involved the several precise and critical stages by using the Space Launch System (SLS) rocket and Orion spacecraft.

Lift-off and Initial Thrust

- The launch was took place at Kennedy Space Center
- Twin boosters have generated over the 75% of total thrust
- Total thrust has reached 8.8 million pounds

Booster Separation

- The separation was occurred within the first few minutes of the launch
- Also the reduced weight and allowed the smoother ascent





Core Stage Separation

- With this it has marked the end of the first propulsion phase
- Also transitioned to upper-stage operations

Solar Array Deployment

- Orion also deployed the solar array wings (SAWs)
- These provide continuous power for the life support, communication and also for navigation systems.
- Each step of the mission is crucial to ensuring mission safety and long-duration space travel capability.

Why Artemis II Matters for the Future of Space Exploration

Artemis II is not just the symbolic mission but it is the critical test for future deep-space exploration.

The mission will,

- Validate the life-support systems for the long-duration space travel
- Also the test navigation and communication systems in deep space
- Will ensure the safety of the astronauts for future lunar landings

It will also lay the ground work for the Artemis III in which it aims to land humans on the Moon Surface and which is including the first woman.

Indian Navy INS Aridaman: Features, Role, and Strategic Importance Explained

Indian Navy has inducted its third nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine which is INS Aridaman. With this induction it significantly strengthens the India's sea-based nuclear deterrence and also enhances the strategic military power. This development comes alongside the commissioning of the INS Taragiri and it marking the powerful expansion of the India's naval strength under the leadership of Defense Minister of India Rajnath Singh.

What is INS Aridaman

INS Aridaman is part of the India's Arihant-class submarines which is designed to carry nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles. After this induction India now has three operational SSBNs (Ship Submersible Ballistic Nuclear submarines) at sea for the first time in the naval history.

This is important because it has strengthened the second-strike capability and also enhanced the strategic deterrence. It will strengthen the India's position as the major naval power in the world.

The submarine will ensure that India can respond even after the potential nuclear attack.

Advanced Features of INS Aridaman

INS Aridaman is the more advanced and the powerful compared to its predecessors.

- It has the approximately around 7,000-tonne displacement.
- It will be equipped with the more vertical launch system (VLS) tubes.

- Aridaman can carry the K-15 and K-4 nuclear-capable missiles.
- This K-4 missile has the range of up to 3,500 km
- Nuclear submarine is powered by the advanced nuclear reactors and it will be enabling long underwater endurance. These capabilities allow the Indian submarine to remain hidden underwater for several months and also making it highly effective in the strategic warfare.

Understanding Nuclear Triad: India's Strategic Edge

India's nuclear strength is also based on the concept of the nuclear triad which includes the,

- Land-based missiles in which Agni series missiles featured
 - Also the Air-based delivery systems and also equipped with the fighter aircrafts
 - Sea-based platforms for the submarines like INS Aridaman
- After the induction of INS Aridaman India will strengthen its position among the select group of nations like United States, Russia and China that have the full nuclear triad capabilities.

INS Aridaman vs Previous Submarines

India's earlier submarines include the INS Arihant which was commissioned in 2016 and also the INS Arighat which was commissioned two years ago in 2024.

INS Aridaman improves its capabilities by carrying more missiles along with having the longer operational endurance and also featuring enhanced technology and stealth.

Also for the future the fourth submarine is also under construction and which is indicating continued expansion.

Future Plans: Expanding Submarine Power

India is actively working to strengthen the underwater fleet by doing,

- The development of the nuclear-powered attack submarines (SSNs)
- Also to plan to build indigenous submarines
- And leasing of the submarine from Russia expected to deliver by the 2027-28

What is a Nuclear Triad?

The nuclear triad is the strategic military capability which allows the country to launch the nuclear weapons from three platforms land, air, and sea.

It ensures the survivability of the nuclear forces and also the credible deterrence against enemy.

It has also the ability to respond even after the first strike they get.

Currently the few of countries in the world possess this type of his capability and it making the strategic advantage.

RBI MPC Meeting 2026, Kept Repo Rates Unchanged at 5.25%

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India, in its **60th meeting held from April 6 to 8, 2026**, decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at **5.25%**. The meeting was chaired by Sanjay Malhotra and reflects a cautious approach amid global uncertainties and domestic resilience.





Key Policy Decisions

- Repo Rate: Unchanged at 5.25%
- Standing Deposit Facility (SDF): 5.00%
- Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) & Bank Rate: 5.50%
- Policy Stance: Neutral

The MPC unanimously voted to maintain the current rates, emphasizing a “wait and watch” approach due to evolving global and domestic conditions.

Growth Outlook for India

The Indian economy continues to show strong resilience:

- GDP Growth (2025-26): Estimated at **7.6%**
- GDP Projection (2026-27): **6.9%**

Key growth drivers include:

- Strong private consumption
- Increased investment demand
- Robust services and manufacturing sectors

However, risks such as global conflicts and supply disruptions may impact growth momentum.

Inflation Outlook

- **CPI Inflation (Feb 2026): 3.2%**
- **Projected Inflation (2026-27): 4.6%**

Factors influencing inflation:

- Rising global energy prices
- Supply chain disruptions
- Weather-related risks (like El Niño)

Core inflation remains moderate, indicating controlled underlying price pressures.

Global and Domestic Challenges

The MPC highlighted several external risks:

- Ongoing geopolitical tensions in West Asia
- Disruptions in global supply chains
- Volatility in commodity and energy prices

Domestically, India remains stable due to:

Strong financial institutions

- Government focus on manufacturing and infrastructure
- Healthy demand conditions
- Rationale Behind the Decision

The MPC chose to keep rates unchanged due to:

- Balanced inflation levels but rising risks
- Strong but vulnerable growth outlook
- Uncertainty in global economic conditions

The committee emphasized flexibility and readiness to act based on future data and developments.

Upcoming MPC Schedule

- Minutes Release: April 22, 2026
- Next MPC Meeting: June 3–5, 2026

Important Facts for Exams

- Repo rate is the rate at which RBI lends money to commercial banks
- MPC is responsible for setting India's monetary policy
- Inflation target of RBI is 4% ($\pm 2\%$) RBI headquarters: Mumbai

PM Mudra Yojana Marks 11 Years of Supporting Small and Micro Entrepreneur

India is celebrating 11 successful years of the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), a major government scheme that has helped millions of small entrepreneurs start and grow their businesses. Launched on April 8, 2015, by Narendra Modi, the scheme focuses on providing easy, collateral-free loans to people who were earlier unable to access formal banking services.

What is Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana?

The **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana** is a government initiative that **provides loans of up to Rs.20 lakh to small and micro businesses**. It mainly supports non-corporate and non-farm sectors such as small shops, service providers and rural businesses.

The **main aim of the scheme is “Fund the Unfunded”**, meaning to help those who were earlier ignored by banks and financial institutions.

Importance of MSMEs in India

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises plays a very important role in India's economy. **They:**

- Create jobs for millions of people
- Support big industries
- Help in balanced development of cities and villages
- Meet both local and global market demands

Because of their importance, schemes like PMMY are crucial for their growth.

Key Features of PMMY

The scheme offers loans in four categories based on the stage of business:

- **Shishu:** Loans up to Rs.50,000
- **Kishor:** Loans from Rs.50,000 to Rs.5 lakh
- **Tarun:** Loans from Rs.5 lakh to Rs.10 lakh
- **Tarun Plus:** Loans from Rs.10 lakh to Rs.20 lakh

These loans are:

- Given without any collateral
- Available for manufacturing, trading and service sectors
- Also cover activities like dairy, poultry, and beekeeping
- Offered with flexible repayment options as per RBI guidelines

Major Achievements in 11 Years

Over the last decade, PMMY has made a big impact:

- 57.79 crore loans have been given
- Total loan amount reached Rs.40.07 lakh crore
- Around two-thirds of loans went to women entrepreneurs
- About one-fifth loans were given to first-time entrepreneurs

This shows how the scheme has helped common people become business owners.

Support for Women and Weaker Sections

The scheme has especially helped:

- Women entrepreneurs (around 67% beneficiaries)
- SC/ST and OBC communities (about 51% beneficiaries)
- Small and first-time business owners

This has increased financial inclusion and reduced dependence on local money lenders.





Government's View on the Scheme

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that PMMY has brought a **"silent transformation"** in the country by giving confidence to millions of people to start their own businesses. Minister of State for **Finance Pankaj Chaudhary** also highlighted that the scheme has created self-employment opportunities and reduced exploitation by informal lenders.

Three Main Pillars of Financial Inclusion

The success of PMMY is based on three important goals:

- **Banking the Unbanked:** Bringing people into the banking system
- **Securing the Unsecured:** Providing financial protection
- **Funding the Unfunded:** Giving loans to those without access

These pillars ensure that even the poorest sections can grow financially.

Year-Wise Growth of the Scheme

Over the years, the scheme has grown steadily. **From Rs.1.37 lakh crore in 2015-16**, the loan amount has **increased to over Rs.5.65 lakh crore in 2025-26 (till March 2026)**. This shows rising trust and demand for the scheme.

Chetak Screen Awards 2026 Honors Excellence in Indian Cinema: Full List of Winners

In the top category there was a strong fight between the nominations and some of them stand out performance won the award at night.

Some of the main Awards highlights the,

- Best Film: Homebound
- Best Director: Aditya Dhar (Dhurandhar)
- Best Actor (Male): Ranveer Singh (Dhurandhar)
- Best Actor (Female): Yami Gautam (Haq)

These awards highlight a mix of commercial success and critical acclaim.

Chetak Screen Awards 2026 – Winners List

Top Awards

- **Best Film:** Homebound
- **Best Director:** Aditya Dhar (Dhurandhar)
- **Best Actor (Male):** Ranveer Singh (Dhurandhar)
- **Best Actor (Female):** Yami Gautam (Haq)

Acting Awards

Supporting Roles

- **Best Supporting Actor (Male):** Akshaye Khanna (Dhurandhar)
- **Best Supporting Actor (Female):** Shalini Vatsa (Homebound)

Breakthrough Performances

- **Breakthrough Actor (Male):** Ahaan Panday (Saiyaara)
- **Breakthrough Actor (Female):** Aneet Padma (Saiyaara)
- **Breakthrough Director:** Shazia Iqbal (Dhadak 2)

Technical & Creative Awards

- **Best Cinematography:** Dhurandhar – Vikash Nowlakha
- **Best Editing:** Dhurandhar – Shivkumar V. Panicker
- **Best Production Design:** Dhurandhar – Saini S. Johray
- **Best Sound Design:** Dhurandhar – Bishwadeep Chatterjee
- **Best Special Effects (VFX):** Dhurandhar

Writing & Dialogue

- **Best Story & Screenplay:** Homebound
- **Best Dialogue:** Dhurandhar – Aditya Dhar

Music Awards

- **Best Song:** Saiyaara (Title Track)
- **Best Lyrics:** Gulzar (Gustaakh Ishq)
- **Best Playback Singer (Male):** Faheem Abdullah (Saiyaara)
- **Best Playback Singer (Female):** Shreya Ghoshal (Saiyaara)
- **Best Background Score:** Dhurandhar – Shashwat Sachdev

Other Key Awards

- **Best Choreography:** Dhurandhar – Shararat
- **Best Costume Design:** Chhaava & Dhurandhar (joint recognition)
- **Best Makeup & Hairstyling:** Dhurandhar
- **Best Action:** Dhurandhar

Special Category

Best Film for Gender Sensitivity: Haq

OTT Awards

- **Best OTT Film:** Stolen
- **Best OTT Actor (Male):** Abhishek Banerjee (Stolen)
- **Best OTT Actor (Female):** Sanya Malhotra (Mrs)
- **Best OTT Director:** Karan Tejpal (Stolen)
- **Best OTT Script:** Stolen

Dhurandhar: The Biggest Winner of 2026

The film Dhurandhar have dominated the across multiple categories and its proved its excellence in the both performance and technical aspects.

Key Awards Won by Dhurandhar

- Best Actor (Male) – Ranveer Singh
- Best Director – Aditya Dhar
- Best Supporting Actor – Akshaye Khanna
- Best Background Score – Shashwat Sachdev
- Best Cinematography
- Best Editing
- Best Action
- Best Sound Design
- Best Production Design
- Best Special Effects

Homebound Wins Best Film

Despite the dominance of Dhurandhar movie Homebound ha emerged victorious in the Best Film category. This films highlights the strong storytelling and emotional depth.

This film had already recognized at the global stage and nominated for the Oscars 2026 too.

This win reflects the importance of the strength of narration and audience connection.



**Global Trade Hits New High in 2025: Key Winners, Losers, and India's Positions**

Global trade showcased the strong performance in the 2025 as the exports of goods reached at \$26.3 trillion and it is reflecting the 7% rise compared to the previous year. This data are according to the World Trade Organization (WTO), as per this numbers the surge was driven by the rising demand and mainly in technology and services. Countries like China and the United States of America continue to dominates and India remains at the 19th position which is highlights the progress and the untapped potential in the global trade.

Global Export Rankings 2025: Who Dominates World Trade

As per the latest global export rankings show clear concentration of trade among the few major economies. The top 10 countries together contribute the nearly half of the global exports (49.6%) which is indicating highly competitive global market.

As per the list China leading at top while followed by the United States and Germany. These three economies alone account for nearly the 29% of global exports. Which showcasing their strong industrial base and global trade networks.

Also the other major exporters include the Netherlands, Hong Kong, Japan, Italy, South Korea, United Arab Emirates and France.

Asia Leads Global Trade Growth

One of the biggest highlights of 2025 is Asia's dominance in the trade growth. This region has recorded a 9.5% rise in exports and also 6% increase in imports and which had making it the fastest growing trade region.

This growth is largely driven by the,

- The rising demand for AI-related and technology products
- Also the expansion of manufacturing in Asian economies
- And strong supply chain networks

The regions like Europe saw a slight decline in export volumes and the Middle East and Africa showed the impressive growth though from a smaller base.

Top 10 Exporting Countries in the World (2025)

The top 10 exporter nations are together accounted for the nearly 49.6% of global exports and this shows how this trade concentrates to few nations.

Global Export Leaders

1. China – \$3,771,842 million
2. United States – \$2,185,220 million
3. Germany – \$1,764,188 million
4. Netherlands – \$989,237 million
5. Hong Kong – \$753,582 million
6. Japan – \$738,337 million
7. Italy – \$726,499 million
8. South Korea – \$709,330 million
9. United Arab Emirates – \$706,671 million
10. France – \$683,095 million

India's Position in Global Exports

India ranks at 19th in the exporters tally with exports valued at \$445,278 million and the 1.7% share in global exports.

Majorly, India exports this products like textiles and garments, generic medicines (pharmaceuticals), engineering goods and IT and services.

Despite India being as a fastest growing economy it still faces challenges to scaling its export capacity compared to global leaders.

Supreme Court of India Clarifies Legal Status of Voting and Election Participation Rights

Honorable Supreme Court of India has ruled out that the right to vote and to contest elections are not fundamental rights but they are statutory rights and it governed by the law. This judgment was came on the April 11, 2026 and it during a case related to the cooperative society elections in State of Rajasthan. The Court also emphasized that these rights are exist only within the framework of the laws like the Representation of the People Acts and it can be subject to the conditions, qualifications and the disqualifications.

What is The Supreme Court Verdict?

A bench comprising the Justices BV Nagarathna and R Mahadevan have reiterated the well-established legal position that,

- The right to vote enables the participation in elections but is not the fundamental right which provide under the Constitution.
- The right to contest elections is the separate and it can be restricted via different eligibility conditions.

The Court has also clarified that both rights are purely statutory it means that they are created and regulated by laws passed by the Parliament or the state legislatures and they are not guaranteed under Part III (Fundamental Rights) of the Constitution of India.

Background of the Rajasthan Cooperative Societies Case

The ruling has been comes from the dispute involving the elections in District Milk Producers Cooperative Unions in Rajasthan. These unions have operated under the Rajasthan Co-operative Societies Act, 2001 which had established the three-tier system.

Key Issues in the Case

In the act there were certain bye-laws were framed to set the eligibility criteria for candidates which includes the,

- Minimum number of days of the milk supply
- Quantity of milk supplied
- Operational status of societies
- And the audit compliance standards

So with this some cooperative societies have challenged these rules in the Rajasthan High Court and argued that that they were unfair and exceeded the legal provisions.

In the 2015 a single judge has struck down the bye-laws and in 2022 a division bench upheld the decision which taken earlier.

However the Supreme Court has overturned the High Court justification and stated that these bye-laws are merely set eligibility conditions and were legally valid.





Why the Supreme Court Upheld the Bye-Laws

The apex court has observed that this bye-laws do not amount to the disqualifications but it simply define eligibility and they are not violate the constitutional principles like equality. Also said the courts should not interfere in the internal matters of the cooperative societies unless there is clear illegality.

The court also noted that cooperative societies are generally not considered 'State' under Article 12 of the Constitution.

Therefore their internal election matters typically not fall under the judicial review via Article 226 by writ jurisdiction.

Statutory Nature of Electoral Rights

The Court have also highlighted that electoral rights from laws such as the,

- Representation of the People Act, 1950
- Representation of the People Act, 1951

These laws define that the,

- Who can vote (on the basis of age, citizenship, registration)
- Who can contest elections
- Also the grounds for the disqualification (like the criminal record, corrupt practices, etc.)

Difference Between Fundamental Rights and Statutory Rights

Aspect	Details
Fundamental Rights	They are guaranteed by the Constitution of India under the Part III It are cannot be easily restricted Directly enforceable in the Supreme court or High Court
Statutory Rights	This rights are created by legislation Can be modified or restricted by the law They exist only within the legal framework

TIME100 2026: Full List of World's Most Influential People and Key Trend

The awaited TIME100 list for 2026 has been officially released by the TIME. This reports highlights the world's most influential people who shaping the global trends and decisions. This annual list recognizes the leaders, innovators and the changemakers across politics, business, entertainment, science and more. The 2026 edition showcases how influence today goes just beyond the power and also focusing on to the individuals driving change in the areas like artificial intelligence, climate action and the global governance.

What is the TIME100 List?

The TIME100 list is the annual recognition by TIME magazine which identifies the most influential individual persons worldwide. It is not based on the wealth or fame alone but it also impact, leadership and the ability to shape the future.

Categories typically include the,

- Leaders
- Innovators
- Artists
- Titans

- Icons
- Pioneers

TIME100 2026 Key Highlights You Should Know

The TIME100 list continues the legacy of the recognizing the impactful personalities across diverse sectors from the worldwide.

- The list features the top 100 influential individuals from across the globe.
- It will also includes the leaders from politics, business, entertainment, science and activism.
- The 2026 edition marks the 23rd annual TIME100 list.

The list not just highlight popularity but it also recognize the real-world impact and influence.

Global Leaders and Political Figures on the List

Several prominent world's political leaders have been featured into the list and it is reflecting their role to shaping international relations and policies.

Notable names include in the list are,

- Xi Jinping who is appearing for the 14th time.
- US President Donald Trump
- Benjamin Netanyahu
- Claudia Sheinbaum

Business, AI and Tech Leaders

From the sectors like the technology and business leaders have dominated the 2026 list which is showing the growing importance of innovation.

Key figures includes the,

- Sundar Pichai
- MrBeast
- Michael Dell

The focus is n the AI, digital platforms and the global business ecosystems which highlights how technology is shaping the modern world.

Entertainment and Cultural Icons in TIME100

The list also celebrates the global entertainers who have influence culture and society.

Some of notable names include,

- Ranbir Kapoor
- Dakota Johnson
- Ben Stiller

In music sectors.

- Jennie
- Coco Jones

These personalities have shape the global pop culture and influence the millions worldwide.

Indian Names Shine in TIME 100 – 2026 Highlights

1. Sundar Pichai – Global Tech Leadership

- As the CEO of Google and Alphabet Sundar Pichai continues to shaping the future of technology and artificial intelligence.
- His leadership has positioned the Google at the front runner of innovation and making him the consistent global influencer.





2. Vikas Khanna – Culinary Excellence on Global Stage
He is the renowned chef and has gained the international recognition for promoting the Indian cuisine globally. His work goes beyond just food and contributing to social causes and cultural representation.

3. Ranbir Kapoor – Indian Cinema’s Global Reach

Ranbir Kapoor’s inclusion highlights the growing global appeal of the Indian cinema. He is the only Indian actor to be featured in the 2026 list and which is reflecting the his impact and popularity worldwide.

Youngest and Oldest Influencers on the List

Alysa Liu at the age of the 20 years old featured into the list.

And the Dolores Huerta at the 96 years of age also part of the list.

This wide age range shows that influence has the no age limit.

TIME100 Summit and Gala 2026

The TIME100 list is not just about the recognition but it brings the global leaders together.

- TIME100 Summit: April 22, 2026 (New York City)

- TIME100 Gala: April 23, 2026

The gala will be hosted by the Nikki Glaser with the performances by Luke Combs and Coco Jones.

For the first time ever the red carpet event will be livestreamed across the world and making it accessible to the audiences worldwide.

The TIME100 2026 Full List

Category	Listed Individuals
Global leaders & policymakers	Pope Leo XIV Mark Carney Mette Frederiksen Claudia Sheinbaum Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah Xi Jinping Tarique Rahman Benjamin Netanyahu Rafael Mariano Grossi Sanae Takaichi Balendra Shah Henna Virkkunen
U.S. political & public figures	Donald Trump Gavin Newsom Marco Rubio Mark Kelly Zohran Mamdani Jacob Frey Steve Witkoff Susie Wiles Dan Caine
Business, technology & AI leaders	Gwynne Shotwell Dario Amodei Daniela Amodei Sundar Pichai Neal Mohan Michael Dell Susan Dell MrBeast

Category	Listed Individuals
	C.C. Wei Jeremy Allaire Sarah Friar John Furner David Ellison Josh D’Amaro Aliko Dangote Lip-Bu Tan Fatih Birol
Science, space & health	Reid Wiseman Tony Tyson Kiran Musunuru Precious Matsoso Mari Luz Canaquiri Murayari Mariangela Hungria Rebecca Ahrens-Nicklass Luciano Moreira Anne-Claire Amprou
Advocates & changemakers	Shirin Ebadi Dolores Huerta Heather Gerken Kica Matos Shannon Minter Lauren Hersh Mamadou Amadou Ly Zabib Musa Loro Rachel Foster Sabrina Walter
Entertainers (film, TV, media)	Ben Stiller Benicio Del Toro Zoe Saldaña Ethann Hawke Kate Hudson Dakota Johnson Ranbir Kapoor Claire Danes Keke Palmer Sterling K. Brown Alan Cumming Noah Wyle Anderson .Paak Jonathan Groff Wagner Moura Rhea Seehorn Jafar Panahi Nikki Glaser
Musicians	Luke Combs Coco Jones Jennie Hilary Duff Rauw Alejandro Noah Kahan





Category	Listed Individuals
Athletes	Scottie Scheffler Chloe Kim Lando Norris Noah Lyles Hilary Knight Alysa Liu
Fashion, arts, literature & culinary	Ralph Lauren Victoria Beckham Matthieu Blazy Anok Yai Nancy Silverton Vikas Khanna Mashama Bailey Lynsey Addario Cao Fei Tayari Jones Yiyun Li Freida McFadden Walter Hood

Setback for Women's Representation: Women's Reservation Bill 2026 Fails to Clear Constitutional Hurdle

The Women's Reservation Bill 2026 was defeated in the Lok Sabha even after securing the more votes in favor than the against. The Bill which is aimed to reserve the 33% seats for women in the Parliament and state assemblies which could not meet the strict constitutional requirement of the two-thirds majority. This development has sparked intense political debate and also raising questions about consensus, electoral reforms and the future of the women's representation in India.

Women's Reservation Bill Fails Despite Majority Support
The Constitutional 131st Amendment Bill, 2026 was put to the vote after the intense two-day debate in the Lok Sabha. The results has surprised the many observers.

- Votes in favour: 298
- Votes against: 230
- Votes required: 360 at the full strength for the 2/3rd Majority

Even despite the Bill had more support than the opposition votes but it failed because of the constitutional amendments which require the special majority not just the simple majority. This makes it the rare instance where a Bill with clear support but still does not pass.

Notably this is the first constitutional amendment Bill in the 12 years which was introduced by the Modi government to be defeated in the Lok Sabha.

Why the Two-Thirds Majority Became the Deciding Factor

As per the Constitution of India any amendment which needs to change the constitutional part it requires the approval under a strict framework.

This includes,

- At least the two-thirds of members present and voting
 - And also not less than 50% of the total strength of the House
- As the current Lok Sabha strength is at 543 the Bill needed at least the 360 votes which it could not achieve. This rule ensures that the major constitutional changes are made only with the broad political consensus.

Political Divide and the Delimitation Debate

One of the biggest and main reasons behind the Bill's defeat was the unified opposition stance. Several opposition parties have raised the concerns over the link between the women's reservation and delimitation.

Delimitation refers to the redrawing of the electoral boundaries which is based on population changes.

Opposition leaders have argued that,

- It could disadvantage the southern states.
- It might alter the political balance across the regions.
- The government was using the women's reservation as the cover to push delimitation reforms.

This issue have become the central point of the disagreement and prevented the consensus.

Government vs Opposition: The Clear Face-Off

The debate on this bill saw the strong positions from both sides.

- PM Narendra Modi urged all the parties to support the Bill and calling it the long-overdue step for women's empowerment.
- Home Minister Amit Shah have accused the opposition of deliberately blocking progress.
- Opposition leaders have also maintained that structural concerns must be addressed first and especially regarding to the delimitation.

Despite last-minute efforts to gather support for the bill the political divide remained the hurdle for this historic bill.

The Long Journey of Women's Reservation: Background

The idea to reserving seats for the women in legislatures is nothing new. It has been discussed for over the four decades.

The proposal aims to ensure the greater participation of women in decision-making.

Currently the women's representation in the Parliament remains relatively low.

The previous attempts to pass the similar Bills have also faced the political hurdles.

Globally the many countries have adopted the gender quotas to improve the representation and which making India's delay more noticeable all around the world.





**Prestigious Laureus World Sports Awards 2026 Held in Madrid:
Full Winners List and Highlights**

The Laureus World Sports Awards 2026 were held in the Capital of Spain In Madrid. This event ceremony brings together the biggest names in the global sports for the grand celebration of excellence. This prestigious event honored the top athletes and teams for their outstanding performances in the calendar year 2025. This year tennis stars have dominated the night as the Carlos Alcaraz and Aryna Sabalenka taking top honors of the night. While the Paris Saint-Germain and Lando Norris have also emerged as the major winners.

Carlos Alcaraz and Aryna Sabalenka Lead the Winners List

Upcoming Tennis sensation Grand-slam winner Carlos Alcaraz was named the Laureus World Sportsman of the Year after for the incredible season which saw him reclaim the world No.1 in the ranking and won the multiple Grand Slam titles. At age of just 22 he became one of the youngest winners of this prestigious award.

Aryna Sabalenka have also secured the Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year title and maintained her dominance throughout the year. Her consistent performances which includes the a US Open victory set her apart from the competition.

Paris Saint-Germain Named Team of the Year

Paris Saint-Germain from the Paris League 1 club has won the Laureus World Team of the Year Award after the historic season. The club have secured multiple trophies which includes the their first UEFA Champions League title and establish themselves as one of the most dominant teams in the modern football. Their remarkable achievements placed them among the elite clubs like Real Madrid and FC Barcelona that have previously won this honor.

Breakthrough and Comeback Stories In The Spotlight

Lando Norris the F1 driver won the Breakthrough of the Year Award after becoming the Formula One World Champion and delivered exceptional performances throughout the season. Meanwhile Rory McIlroy have received the Comeback of the Year Award. His emotional victory at the Masters helped him complete the long-awaited career Grand Slam and it marks the one of the most inspiring moments in sports.

Recognition of Young Talent and Inspirational Performances

Lamine Yamal Spain and FC Barcelona Forward made history by winning the Young Sportsperson of the Year Award which showcases his rapid rise in global football at a young age of just 17.

Chloe Kim have continued her dominance by winning the Action Sportsperson of the Year Award and further cemented her legacy in winter sports.

Gabriel Araújo was also honored as Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability and which showcases the excellence in para-sports on the global stage.

Special Honours and Lifetime Recognition

Toni Kroos the Former Real Madrid and German National who won the 6 UEFA Champions League and One FIFA World Cup have received the Sporting Inspiration Award after the exceptional career filled with major titles and achievements.

The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Nadia Comăneci who marks the 50 years since her historic perfect 10 in Olympic gymnastics in which that moment that changed the sport forever.

India's Women World Cup Team Nomination

After clinching the maiden ICC Women's World Cup in the November 2025 the Indian women team have nominated for the Best Team Of The Year category. But it could not get the recognition.

The Paris Saint Germain won the award in the Best Team category.

Complete Winners List of Laureus 2026

- **Sportsman of the Year:** Carlos Alcaraz
- **Sportswoman of the Year:** Aryna Sabalenka
- **Team of the Year:** Paris Saint-Germain
- **Breakthrough of the Year:** Lando Norris
- **Comeback of the Year:** Rory McIlroy
- **Sportsperson with a Disability:** Gabriel Araújo
- **Action Sportsperson:** Chloe Kim
- **Young Sportsperson:** Lamine Yamal
- **Sporting Inspiration Award:** Toni Kroos
- **Lifetime Achievement Award:** Nadia Comăneci
- **Sport for Good Award:** Fútbol Más

What Makes Laureus Awards So Prestigious

The Laureus World Sports Awards are among the top most respected honors in global sports.

The winners are selected by members of the Laureus World Sports Academy which is the group of legendary athletes.

The awards just not celebrate just victories but also resilience, inspiration and the ability of sport to brings the positive change in society.

**Goldman Environmental Prize 2026 Honours First All-Women
Cohort of Environmental Leader**

Goldman Environmental Prize 2026 has been awarded to the six women leaders from across the world. And its marks the first all-women cohort since the inception of the award. This award is often referred to as the 'Green Nobel' and the prize honors grassroots activists who are working to protect the environment and to combat climate change. This year's winners represent the different six regions and showcase how local action can drive the global environmental change.





What is the Goldman Environmental Prize?

The Goldman Environmental Prize was established in 1989 by philanthropists the Richard and Rhoda Goldman and it is one of the world's most prestigious awards for environmental activism. Goldman Environmental Prize recognizes the grassroots leaders from six global regions annually.

Each of the recipient receives \$200,000 and highlights their contributions to environmental protection, biodiversity conservation and climate justice.

2026 Winners: The Historic All-Women Cohort

For the first time in the history the all six winners are women and representing different parts of the world:

1. Iroro Tanshi (Nigeria) – Africa
2. Borim Kim (South Korea) – Asia
3. Sarah Finch (United Kingdom) – Europe
4. Theonila Roka Matbob (Papua New Guinea) – Islands & Island Nations
5. Alannah Acaq Hurley (United States) – North America
6. Yuvelis Morales Blanco (Colombia) – South & Central America

Their achievements showcases the diverse efforts ranging from to fighting fossil fuel projects to protecting the endangered species and ecosystems.

Key Contributions of the Winners

Fighting The Fossil Fuels and Climate Change

Several winners have focused on to the combating fossil fuel projects.

- Yuvelis Morales Blanco have successfully opposed the fracking projects in Colombia and protected the local ecosystems and communities.
- Borim Kim have led a landmark youth climate case and it resulted in a court ruling that strengthened climate accountability in South Korea.
- Sarah Finch played a key role in the legal victory requiring authorities to consider the climate impacts before approving oil extraction.

Protection To Biodiversity and Ecosystems

- Also the Iroro Tanshi has rediscovered the endangered bat species and she worked to protect their habitat from wildfires.
- Theonila Roka Matbob led efforts to hold the mining giant accountable for environmental damage.
- Alannah Acaq Hurley also helped stop a major mining project threatening in the Alaska's ecosystems.

Why This Year is Significant

The 2026 edition stands out not only because of the all-women winners but also due to the working of their work.

These activists demonstrate the,

- The growing role of women in the environmental leadership.
- Also the power of grassroots movements.

The importance of the legal and community-driven action.

Most Important Current Affairs 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 Chakaravathy** – 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**.
- Jaspri 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 Eepthut (Short Stories)	Haobam Nalini





Language	Title and Genre	Name of the Author
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





Category	Winner(s)	Organization /Publication
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



RANKERS

for

 **IBPS PO**
 **SBI PO**

MAINS 2026



 **10 Aug, 2026**
 **9 AM TO 7:00 PM**

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 lead 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 govern 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 Clause 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950.

This clause states that,

- Only persons professing Hinduism were initially eligible for SC status

Over the 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 structure
- 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.

Most Important Current Affairs of February 2026

UNION BUDGET 2026-27

Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman tabled the Union Budget 2026-27 in Parliament. This first Budget prepared in Kartavya Bhawan is inspired by three core principles that aim to drive India's economic growth, empower citizens, and ensure inclusive development.

Budget Estimates at a Glance

- **Non-debt receipts:** ₹36.5 lakh crore
- **Total expenditure:** ₹53.5 lakh crore
- **Centre's net tax receipts:** ₹28.7 lakh crore
- **Gross market borrowings:** ₹17.2 lakh crore
- **Fiscal deficit:** 4.3% of GDP (BE 2026-27)
- **Debt-to-GDP ratio:** 55.6% of GDP
- **Public capital expenditure:** ₹12.2 lakh crore

THREE KARTAVYAS: The Foundation

The budget is structured around three key principles designed to steer India's development:

- **First Kartavya:** Accelerate and sustain economic growth by enhancing productivity, competitiveness, and building resilience to global dynamics.
- **Second Kartavya:** Fulfil people's aspirations and build their capacity to become strong partners in India's prosperity.
- **Third Kartavya:** Aligned with "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas," ensuring every family, community, region, and sector has equitable access to resources and opportunities.

FIRST KARTAVYA: ACCELERATING ECONOMIC GROWTH

1. Scaling Up Manufacturing in Strategic Sectors

Biopharma SHAKTI Initiative

- ₹10,000 crore outlay over 5 years to develop India as a global biopharma manufacturing hub
- Three new National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) to be established
- Seven existing NIPERs to be upgraded
- Network of 1,000+ accredited clinical trial sites to be created





India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) 2.0

- Focus on producing equipment, materials, and designing full-stack Indian intellectual property
- Industry-led research and training centers to develop skilled workforce

Other Manufacturing Initiatives

- Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme outlay increased to ₹40,000 crore
- Dedicated Rare Earth Corridors in Odisha, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu
- Three dedicated Chemical Parks through challenge route
- Hi-Tech Tool Rooms by CPSEs at two locations for precision manufacturing
- Scheme for Enhancement of Construction and Infrastructure Equipment
- Container Manufacturing Scheme with ₹10,000+ crore allocation over 5 years

Integrated Textile Sector Programme

- National Fibre Scheme for self-reliance in natural and man-made fibres
- Textile Expansion and Employment Scheme to modernize traditional clusters
- Mega Textile Parks to enhance value addition
- Mahatma Gandhi Gram Swaraj initiative for khadi, handloom, and handicrafts

2. Rejuvenating Legacy Industrial Sectors

- Scheme to revive 200 legacy industrial clusters through infrastructure and technology upgradation to improve cost competitiveness and efficiency

3. Creating "Champion SMEs" and Supporting Micro Enterprises

- ₹10,000 crore SME Growth Fund to create future Champions
- Self-Reliant India Fund supplemented with additional ₹2,000 crore
- Professional Institutions (ICAI, ICSI, ICMAI) to design short-term courses for 'Corporate Mitras' in Tier-II and Tier-III towns

4. Delivering Powerful Infrastructure Push

Capital Expenditure

- Public capital expenditure increased to ₹12.2 lakh crore in FY 2026-27
- Infrastructure Risk Guarantee Fund to strengthen private developer confidence
- REITs for recycling significant real estate assets of CPSEs

Transportation & Logistics

- New Dedicated Freight Corridors connecting Dankuni (East) to Surat (West)
- 20 new National Waterways to be operationalised over 5 years
- Training institutes as Regional Centres of Excellence for manpower development
- Ship repair ecosystem at Varanasi and Patna for inland waterways

- Coastal Cargo Promotion Scheme to increase inland waterways and coastal shipping share from 6% to 12% by 2047
- Seaplane VGF Scheme for incentivising seaplane manufacturing and operations

5. Ensuring Long-Term Energy Security

- ₹20,000 crore outlay over 5 years for Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage (CCUS) technologies

6. Developing City Economic Regions

- ₹5,000 crore allocation per city economic region over 5 years through challenge mode
- Seven High-Speed Rail corridors as growth connectors:
 1. Mumbai-Pune
 2. Pune-Hyderabad
 3. Hyderabad-Bengaluru
 4. Hyderabad-Chennai
 5. Chennai-Bengaluru
 6. Delhi-Varanasi
 7. Varanasi-Siliguri

Financial Sector Reforms

- High Level Committee on Banking for Viksit Bharat to review and align banking sector
- Restructuring of Power Finance Corporation and Rural Electrification Corporation
- Comprehensive review of Foreign Exchange Management (Non-debt Instruments) Rules
- Municipal Bond incentives of ₹100 crore for single issuances exceeding ₹1,000 crore

SECOND KARTAVYA: FULFILLING ASPIRATIONS & BUILDING CAPACITY

Creating Professionals for Viksit Bharat

Allied Health Professionals

- Upgrade existing Allied Health Professional (AHP) institutions
- Establish new AHP institutions in private and government sectors
- Target: 100,000 additional Allied Health Professionals over 5 years

Medical Hubs & AYUSH

- Five Regional Medical Hubs to promote India as a medical tourism hub
- Three new All India Institutes of Ayurveda

Animal Husbandry

- Scale up veterinary professionals by 20,000+
- Loan-linked capital subsidy scheme for veterinary colleges, hospitals, diagnostic labs, and breeding facilities

Orange Economy (Creative Technologies)

- Indian Institute of Creative Technologies, Mumbai to establish Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comics (AVGC) Content Creator Labs in 15,000 secondary schools and 500 colleges





Education

- Five University Townships in major industrial and logistic corridors through challenge route
- One girls' hostel per district through VGF/capital support
- High-Powered 'Education to Employment and Enterprise' Standing Committee

Tourism & Heritage

- National Council for Hotel Management upgraded to National Institute of Hospitality
- Pilot scheme for upskilling 10,000 guides in 20 tourist sites
- National Destination Digital Knowledge Grid for documenting cultural and heritage sites
- 15 archaeological sites (including Lothal, Dholavira, Rakhigarhi, Adichanallur, Sarnath, Hastinapur, and Leh Palace) to be developed into cultural destinations

Sports

- Khelo India Mission to transform the Sports sector over the next decade

THIRD KARTAVYA: INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT (SABKA SAATH, SABKA VIKAS)

1. Increasing Farmer Incomes

- Integrated development of 500 reservoirs and Amrit Sarovars
- High Value Agriculture support for coconut, sandalwood, cocoa, and cashew in coastal areas
- Coconut Promotion Scheme to increase production and productivity
- **Bharat-VISTAAR**: Multilingual AI tool integrating AgriStack portals with ICAR agricultural practices

2. Empowering Divyangjan

- Divyangjan Kaushal Yojana offering task-oriented roles in IT, AVGC, Hospitality, and Food & Beverage sectors

3. Mental Health & Trauma Care Commitment

- NIMHANS-2 to be established in North India
- National Mental Health Institutes in Ranchi and Tezpur to be upgraded as Regional Apex Institutions

4. Focus on Purvodaya States & North-East Region

- Integrated East Coast Industrial Corridor with node at Durgapur
- Five tourism destinations in Purvodaya States
- 4,000 e-buses deployment
- Buddhist Circuits development in Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, and Tripura

5. Finance Commission Grants

- ₹1.4 lakh crore provided to States for FY 2026-27 as recommended by 16th Finance Commission

DIRECT TAX REFORMS

New Income Tax Act

- New Income Tax Act, 2025 to come into effect from April 2026
- Simplified forms redesigned for easy compliance by ordinary citizens

Ease of Living Measures

- Interest awarded by Motor Accident Claims Tribunal exempt from Income Tax
- TCS rate on overseas tour packages reduced to 2% (from 2-20%)
- TCS rate on LRS remittances for education and medical reduced to 2% (from 5%)
- Simplified TDS provisions for manpower supply
- Single window filing with depositories for Form 15G/15H
- Tax return filing timeline extended from December 31 to March 31 with nominal fees
- Staggered tax return filing timeline
- 6-month foreign asset disclosure scheme for small taxpayers

Penalty & Prosecution Rationalization

- IT assessment and penalty proceedings integrated
- Taxpayers allowed to update returns even after reassessment (at 10% additional tax)
- Immunity for income misreporting with additional tax payment
- Decriminalization of non-production of books and TDS non-payment in kind
- Immunity from prosecution for non-disclosure of foreign assets below ₹20 lakh (retrospective from October 1, 2024)

Support for IT Sector

- Software development, IT-enabled services, and contract R&D services clubbed under single "Information Technology Services" category with 15.5% safe harbour margin
- Safe harbour threshold enhanced from ₹300 crore to ₹2,000 crore
- 5-year continuation of safe harbour through automated process
- Fast-tracked Unilateral Advanced Pricing Agreement (APA) process within 2 years

Attracting Global Business & Investment

- Tax holiday till 2047 for foreign cloud service companies using Indian data centers
- 15% safe harbour for related entity data center services
- 2% safe harbour for non-resident component warehousing in bonded warehouses
- 5-year exemption for non-residents providing capital goods to toll manufacturers
- 5-year exemption for non-resident experts' global income
- MAT exemption for non-residents paying presumptive tax

Cooperatives

- Extended deductions for cooperative societies supplying cattle feed and cotton seed
- Inter-cooperative dividend income deductible in new tax regime
- 3-year dividend exemption for notified national cooperative federations

Other Direct Tax Proposals

- Buyback taxation as capital gains for all shareholders; additional tax for promoters (22% corporate, 30% non-corporate)





- TCS rationalization on alcoholic liquor, scrap, minerals (2%), and tendu leaves (2%)
- STT on Futures raised to 0.05% (from 0.02%)
- STT on options raised to 0.15% (from 0.1-0.125%)
- MAT made final tax at 14% (from 15%) with no further credit accumulation from April 1, 2026

INDIRECT TAX REFORMS

Tariff Simplification

Marine, Leather & Textile Products

- Duty-free import limit for seafood processing inputs increased from 1% to 3% of FOB value
- Duty-free imports permitted for leather/synthetic footwear exports

Energy Transition & Security

- Extended basic customs duty exemption for Lithium-Ion Cell manufacturing
- Exemption on sodium antimonate for solar glass manufacture

Nuclear Power & Critical Minerals

- Existing exemptions on nuclear power project imports extended till 2035
- Exemption on capital goods for critical mineral processing

Biogas & Aviation

- Biogas value excluded from Central Excise on biogas-blended CNG
- Basic customs duty exempted on civilian, training aircraft components and defence sector aircraft parts

Electronics

- Exemption on microwave oven components

Special Economic Zones

- One-time concessional duty rates for DTA sales by eligible manufacturing units

Ease of Living (Customs)

- Tariff rate on dutiable goods for personal use reduced from 20% to 10%
- 17 drugs/medicines exempted from basic customs duty
- Duty-free personal import for drugs/medicines and food for 7 rare diseases
- Revised baggage clearance provisions during international travel

Customs Process Simplification

Trust-Based Systems

- AEO duty deferral enhanced from 15 to 30 days for Tier 2-3
- Advance ruling validity extended from 3 to 5 years
- Auto-notification of goods arrival for clearance completion
- Warehouse framework transformed to operator-centric system with self-declarations

Ease of Doing Business

- Single digital window for seamless cargo clearance approvals by end of FY
- Food, drugs, and wildlife product clearance operationalized by April 2026

- Immediate Customs clearance for compliance-free goods
- Customs Integrated System (CIS) rollout in 2 years
- Non-intrusive scanning with AI technology expansion for container inspection

New Export Opportunities

- Fish catch in Exclusive Economic Zone/High Seas made duty-free; foreign port landing treated as export
- Complete removal of ₹10 lakh value cap on courier exports

Dispute Settlement

- Honest taxpayers can settle disputes by paying additional amount in lieu of penalty

Grammy Awards 2026 Full Winners List

Here Is The Full List Of Winners 2026

General/Major Categories

- **Song of the Year:** Billie Eilish – Wildflower
- **Best New Artist:** Olivia Dean
- **Producer of the Year:** Cirkut
- **Songwriter of the Year:** Amy Allen

Pop

- **Best Pop Solo Performance:** Lola Young – Messy
- **Best Pop Vocal Album:** Lady Gaga – Mayhem
- **Best Pop Duo/Group Performance:** Cynthia Erivo & Ariana Grande – Defying Gravity
- **Best Dance-Pop Recording:** Lady Gaga – Abracadabra

Country

- **Best Contemporary Country Album:** Jelly Roll – Beautifully Broken
- **Best Country Solo Performance:** Chris Stapleton – Bad As I Used to Be
- **Best Traditional Country Album:** Zach Top – Ain't In It for My Health
- **Best Country Song:** Tyler Childers – Bitin' List

Rap/Hip-Hop

- **Best Rap Album:** Kendrick Lamar – GNX
- **Best Rap Performance:** Clipse – Chains & Whips (ft. Kendrick Lamar & Pharrell Williams)
- **Best Rap Song:** Kendrick Lamar ft Lefty Gunplay – TV Off
- **Best Melodic Rap Performance:** Kendrick Lamar with SZA – Luther

R&B/Soul

- **Best R&B Album:** Leon Thomas – Mutt
- **Best R&B Performance:** Kehlani – Folded
- **Best Traditional R&B Performance:** Leon Thomas – Vibes Don't Lie
- **Best R&B Song:** Kehlani – Folded

Rock/Metal/Alternative

- **Best Rock Album:** Turnstile – Never Enough
- **Best Rock Performance:** Yungblud – Changes (Live from Villa Park, Back to the Beginning)





- **Best Rock Song:** Nine Inch Nails – As Alive as You Need Me to Be
- **Best Metal Performance:** Turnstile – Birds
- **Best Alternative Music Album:** The Cure – Songs of a Lost World
- **Best Alternative Music Performance:** The Cure – Alone

Dance/Electronic

- **Best Dance/Electronic Album:** FKA twigs – Eusexua
- **Best Dance/Electronic Recording:** Tame Impala – End of Summer

Latin/Global

- **Best Música Urbana Album:** Bad Bunny – Debí Tirar Más Fotos
- **Best Global Music Performance:** Tyla – PUSH 2 START

Folk/Jazz/Classical

- **Best Folk Album:** I'm With Her – Wild and Clear and Blue
- **Best Jazz Performance:** Chick Corea, Christian McBride & Brian Blade – Windows (live)
- **Best Orchestral Performance:** Andris Nelsons, conductor (Boston Symphony Orchestra) – Messiaen: Turangalîla-Symphonie

Visual Media/Soundtracks

- **Best Compilation Soundtrack for Visual Media:** Sinners
- **Best Song Written for Visual Media:** Huntr/x – Golden (from KPop: Demon Hunters)
- **Best Music Video:** DoeChii – Anxiety

Other Categories

- **Best Audio Book, Narration, and Storytelling Recording:** "Meditations: The Reflections Of His Holiness The Dalai Lama," Dalai Lama
- **Best Comedy Album:** Your Friend, Nate Bargatze,
- **Best Children's Music Album** – Harmony by FYÜTCH & Aura V
- **Best Contemporary Instrumental Album:** Brightside," ARKAI
- **Best Chamber Music/Small Ensemble Performance:** Dennehy: Land Of Winter
- **Best Choral Performance:** "Ortiz: Yanga"

WPL Titles in 2026

The Women's Premier League 2026 final delivered one of the greatest matches in women's T20 history. **Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB)** chased down a massive 204-run target, the highest successful chase ever in the WPL, to defeat Delhi Capitals (DC) by six wickets at Vadodara. Powered by a breathtaking partnership between Smriti Mandhana and Georgia Voll, the match went down to the final over, sealing **RCB's second WPL title** and extending Delhi Capitals painful run of final defeats.

Key Highlights Of WPL Final 2026

- **Delhi Capitals Post a Huge Total:** Batting first, Delhi Capitals put up a formidable 203 for 4, the **second-highest first-innings score in any women's T20 final**. Jemimah Rodrigues anchored the innings with a fluent 57, while Laura Wolvaardt contributed 44.
- **Mandhana-Voll Partnership Rewrites Records:** RCB's chase looked daunting after losing an early wicket at 9 for 1, but Smriti Mandhana and Georgia Voll turned the final on its head. The duo added a sensational **165 runs off just 92 balls, the highest partnership for any wicket in WPL history**.
- **Late Drama Keeps the Final Alive:** Just when the chase seemed under control, DC struck back. Voll was dismissed for 79, followed by quick wickets of Richa Ghosh and Mandhana, leaving RCB under pressure in the final overs. From a near-certain win, the equation suddenly tightened, setting up a dramatic finish that had fans on the edge of their seats.

Player Of the Match In WPL Final 2026

- Smriti Mandhana was deservedly adjudged the Player of the Match for her sublime knock that anchored RCB's historic chase in the WPL 2026 final.
- Walking in after an early setback, the RCB skipper played with a perfect blend of composure and aggression, smashing 87 off just 41 balls, laced with 12 fours and three sixes.
- Her innings not only set the tempo in the record 204-run chase the highest ever in a WPL or IPL final but also dismantled Delhi Capitals' bowling under immense pressure.

WPL 2026 Winners (Category wise) & Prize Money

Team Awards

- **Winner:** Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) – ₹6 Crore
- **Runner-up:** Delhi Capitals (DC) – ₹3 Crore

Individual Awards

- **Orange Cap (Most Runs):** Smriti Mandhana – ₹5 Lakh
- **Purple Cap (Most Wickets):** Sophie Devine – ₹5 Lakh
- **Most Valuable Player (MVP):** Sophie Devine – ₹5 Lakh
- **Emerging Player:** Nandini Sharma – ₹5 Lakh

Australian Open 2026

Australian Open 2026 Winners in Each Category

- **Men's Singles Champion:** Carlos Alcaraz
- **Women's Singles Champion:** Rybakina
- **Men's Doubles Champion:** Neal Skupski & Christian Harrison
- **Women's Doubles Champion:** Elise Mertens and Zhang Shuai
- **Mix Doubles Champion:** Gadecki and Peers

16th Finance Commission

The balance of money between the **Centre and the States** has entered a new phase. The 16th Finance Commission, whose recommendations will apply from 2026-27 to 2030-31, has decided to retain the States' share at 41% of the divisible tax pool but has significantly altered how that share is distributed. By introducing GDP contribution as a new criterion and ending revenue deficit grants, the Commission has signalled a shift towards efficiency, growth and fiscal discipline, making this a high-importance topic for competitive exams.





41% Tax Devolution Retained: What It Means

- **Despite demands from 18 states to raise their share to 50%, the Commission retained the 41% devolution rate.**
- It argued that states already account for over two-thirds of total non-debt public revenues, and increasing their share further would constrain the Union government's ability to meet national obligations.
- This decision reflects **continuity with the 15th Finance Commission**, while signalling that fiscal federalism will now focus more on quality of spending rather than only higher transfers.

GDP Contribution Added

- A major innovation is the **introduction of State GDP contribution as a new parameter** in the **horizontal devolution formula, with a 10% weight.**
- This criterion recognizes states that contribute more to national economic growth.
- The Commission clarified that this is a directional change, not a radical shift, to balance efficiency with equity.

Changes in Horizontal Devolution Formula

- Along with GDP contribution, the Commission made several adjustments.
- It removed the **2.5% weight for tax effort, increased the population weight by 2.5 percentage points**, and reduced the weights for area, demographic performance, and per capita GSDP distance.
- As a result, industrialized and faster-growing states like Karnataka, Kerala, Gujarat and Maharashtra gained higher shares, while more populous and poorer states such as Uttar Pradesh and Bihar saw relative declines.
- This redistribution has major political and economic implications.

No Revenue Deficit Grants

- **For the first time, the Commission recommended zero Revenue Deficit Grants (RDGs).**
- It argued that RDGs weaken incentives for fiscal reform by encouraging dependency.
- States, it said, have sufficient scope to increase revenues and rationalise expenditure.
- This is a major departure from earlier Finance Commissions and reflects a strong push towards self-reliance and fiscal responsibility at the state level.

Local Bodies and Disaster Management Funding

- While cutting RDGs, the Commission earmarked ₹7.91 trillion for rural and urban local bodies over five years, with a 60:40 rural-urban split, focusing on water, sanitation and urban infrastructure.
- It also recommended ₹2.04 trillion for State Disaster Response and Mitigation Funds and ₹79,000 crore for national disaster funds, using a revamped disaster risk index.
- This shows a preference for functional, purpose-linked grants rather than general fiscal support.

RBI MPC February 2026

The **RBI MPC February 2026 meeting** is important for banks, borrowers, investors, and common people. In this meeting, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** decided to **keep the repo rate unchanged at 5.25%** and continue with a **neutral monetary policy stance**.

The decision was taken during the **59th meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** held from **February 4 to 6, 2026**, under the chairmanship of **Sanjay Malhotra**, Governor of RBI.

This policy decision reflects RBI's balanced approach towards **controlling inflation** while **supporting economic growth**.

Why RBI MPC February 2026 Is in News?

The **RBI MPC February 2026** meeting is in news because:

- The **repo rate was kept unchanged at 5.25%**
- RBI continued its **neutral stance**
- Updated **growth and inflation projections** were released

These decisions directly affect **loan EMIs, fixed deposits, bank interest rates, and inflation expectations**.

Key Decisions of RBI Monetary Policy February 2026

After reviewing global and domestic economic conditions, the MPC **unanimously voted** to keep policy rates unchanged.

Current Policy Rates

- **Repo Rate:** 5.25%
- **Standing Deposit Facility (SDF):** 5.00%
- **Marginal Standing Facility (MSF):** 5.50%
- **Bank Rate:** 5.50%

The MPC also decided to **maintain a neutral stance**, meaning RBI will take future actions based on economic data.

What Does "Neutral Stance" Mean?

A **neutral stance** means RBI is **not committed** to either:

- Increasing interest rates, or
- Cutting interest rates

RBI will closely monitor **inflation, growth, and global conditions** before taking the next step. This gives flexibility to respond to future risks.

Global Economic Outlook

Globally, the economy showed **resilience in 2025**, supported by:

- Government spending
- Trade activity
- Supportive monetary policies

However, challenges remain:

- Geopolitical tensions
- Volatility in financial markets
- High interest rates in advanced economies

Despite these risks, global equity markets remained supported by strong investments in technology sectors.

India's Growth Outlook

India's economy continues to perform well despite global uncertainty.





GDP Growth Estimates

- **2025–26 GDP growth:** 7.4%
- Driven by:
 1. Strong private consumption
 2. Rising investment
 3. A strong services sector

Manufacturing activity has shown improvement, while agriculture remained resilient due to good crop output.

Future Growth Projections

- **Q1 2026–27:** 6.9%
- **Q2 2026–27:** 7.0%

RBI stated that growth risks are **evenly balanced**.

Inflation Outlook in RBI MPC February 2026

Inflation remained **very low** towards the end of 2025.

- CPI inflation was **0.7% in November** and **1.3% in December 2025**
- Food prices stayed in deflation
- Core inflation remained under control

Inflation Projections

- **2025–26:** 2.1%
- **Q4 2025–26:** 3.2%
- **Q1 2026–27:** 4.0%
- **Q2 2026–27:** 4.2%

RBI noted that inflation risks are also **evenly balanced**.

Impact of RBI MPC February 2026 on Loans and EMIs

Since the **repo rate is unchanged**:

- Home loan EMIs are **unlikely to increase**
- Personal and car loan interest rates remain stable
- Banks are not expected to change lending rates immediately

This provides **relief to borrowers**.

Impact on Fixed Deposits and Banks

For depositors:

- Fixed deposit rates may **remain stable**
- No major increase in FD returns in the short term

For banks:

- Stable interest rate environment
- Better planning for credit growth

What This Decision Means for Common People

- No sudden increase in loan burden
- Inflation remains under control
- Economic growth continues steadily

This policy supports **financial stability** while protecting consumer interests.

What's Next?

- **MPC meeting minutes:** February 20, 2026
- **Next RBI MPC meeting:** April 6–8, 2026

RBI will review new GDP and CPI data before future decisions.

India AI Impact Summit 2026

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the [India AI Impact Summit 2026](#) at [Bharat Mandapam](#) in New Delhi, describing Artificial Intelligence as a transformative chapter in human history. Addressing leaders from over 100 countries, he emphasized that India sees AI not just as an opportunity, but as the blueprint of tomorrow. The summit, themed “**Sarvajan Hitaya, Sarvajan Sukhaya**” (Welfare for All, Happiness for All), aims to promote human-centric, inclusive, and responsible AI for global progress.

India AI Impact Summit 2026: Global AI Leadership on Display
The India AI Impact Summit 2026 brought together,

- Representatives from 100+ countries
- Over 20 Heads of State and Government
- Around 60 Ministers and Vice Ministers
- 500+ global AI leaders and CEOs

Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that hosting the world's largest AI summit is a moment of pride for India and the Global South.

Artificial Intelligence: A Turning Point in Human Civilization

- PM Modi compared AI's emergence to historic milestones like the invention of **fire, writing** and **wireless communication**.
- He said Artificial Intelligence represents a transformation of similar magnitude.
- He stressed that while machines are becoming intelligent, AI's real power lies in multiplying human capability.
- However, he cautioned that the direction **humanity chooses today will shape AI's long-term impact**.
- The Prime Minister emphasized that AI must remain human-centric, sensitive, and responsible.

The M.A.N.A.V Vision for AI

At the summit, PM Modi unveiled India's M.A.N.A.V framework for Artificial Intelligence governance.

- M – Moral and Ethical Systems
- A – Accountable Governance
- N – National Sovereignty (Data ownership rights)
- A – Accessible and Inclusive AI
- V – Valid and Legitimate AI systems

This M.A.N.A.V vision positions India as a leader advocating ethical AI standards globally.

Democratizing AI for the Global South

- The Prime Minister underlined the need to democratize AI so that it becomes a tool for inclusion and empowerment, particularly for developing nations.
- He said **AI must not become a monopoly of a few countries or corporations**.
- Instead, open code, shared development, and global collaboration should guide AI's future.
- India believes AI must evolve as a Global Common Good, ensuring benefits reach all sections of society.





AI and the Future of Work

PM Modi highlighted that AI will redefine the future of work. He described a new era where humans and intelligent systems,

- Co-create
- Co-work
- Co-evolve

He emphasized that AI will make work smarter, more efficient, and impactful. However, **skilling, reskilling and lifelong learning** must become a mass movement to prepare youth for emerging roles.

Addressing Risks: Deepfakes, Trust & Global Standards

The Prime Minister warned about the growing challenge of deepfakes and fabricated content. He proposed,

- Authenticity labels for digital content
- Watermarking AI-generated material
- Clear global standards for safe and trusted AI

He emphasized that transparency is essential and quoted, **"Sunlight is the best disinfectant."**

India's AI Ecosystem and Global Invitation

India is building a strong AI ecosystem through,

- Semiconductor and chip-making initiatives
- Secure data centers
- Quantum computing research
- A thriving startup ecosystem

PM Modi extended a global invitation **"Design and Develop in India. Deliver to the World. Deliver to Humanity."**

He noted that any AI model that succeeds in India's diverse environment can scale globally.

About the India AI Impact Summit

- The summit is structured around **three pillars People, Planet, and Progress.**
- And seven working groups covering Economic Growth, Democratizing AI Resources, Social Inclusion, Safe and Trusted AI, Human Capital, Science, and Resilience.
- It aims to position India as a leader in responsible AI governance while strengthening collaboration between governments, industry, and academia.

BAFTA 2026: Check Full List of Winners

BAFTA Film Awards 2026 – Winners List

Major Awards

- **Best Film** – One Battle After Another
- **Outstanding British Film** – Hamnet
- **Outstanding Debut by a British Writer, Director or Producer** – My Father's Shadow
- **Film Not in the English Language** – Sentimental Value
- **Documentary** – Mr. Nobody Against Putin
- **Animated Film** – Zootropolis 2 (Zootopia 2)
- **Children's & Family Film** – Boong

Direction & Writing

- **Director** – Paul Thomas Anderson (One Battle After Another)
- **Original Screenplay** – Ryan Coogler (Sinners)

- **Adapted Screenplay** – Paul Thomas Anderson (One Battle After Another)

Acting Awards

- **Leading Actress** – Jessie Buckley (Hamnet)
- **Leading Actor** – Robert Aramayo (I Swear)
- **Supporting Actress** – Wunmi Mosaku (Sinners)
- **Supporting Actor** – Sean Penn (One Battle After Another)
- **EE Rising Star Award** – Robert Aramayo

Technical Awards

- **Casting** – I Swear (Lauren Evans)
- **Cinematography** – One Battle After Another (Michael Bauman)
- **Editing** – One Battle After Another (Andy Jurgensen)
- **Costume Design** – Frankenstein (Kate Hawley)
- **Make Up & Hair** – Frankenstein
- **Original Score** – Sinners (Ludwig Göransson)
- **Production Design** – Frankenstein
- **Sound** – F1
- **Special Visual Effects** – Avatar: Fire And Ash

Short Films

- **British Short Animation** – Two Black Boys In Paradise
- **British Short Film** – This Is Endometriosis

Special Honours

- **BAFTA Fellowship:** Donna Langley
- **Outstanding British Contribution to Cinema:** Clare Binns

About BAFTA

- The British Academy Film Awards (BAFTAs) is an annual award ceremony honoring excellence in British and international films.
- Presented by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA).
- First held on 29 May 1949 in the United Kingdom.
- Officially known as the EE British Academy Film Awards since 2013.
- Broadcast by the BBC since 1956.





National Current Affairs

National Current Affairs of July 2026

Cabinet Approvals

1. Cabinet Approves Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS)

The Union Cabinet approved the **Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS)** with a total outlay of **₹62,500 crore** to boost India's mobile phone manufacturing ecosystem. The five-year scheme, running from **FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31**, offers incentives ranging from **2.25% to 5%** on eligible sales, along with additional incentives for domestic sourcing of key components and for design and R&D activities by Indian brands. The initiative aims to enhance domestic value addition, strengthen supply chains, increase exports, and establish India as a global electronics manufacturing hub. Under the scheme, India is expected to achieve mobile phone production worth **₹39 lakh crore** and generate around **60,000 direct jobs** during its implementation period.

2. Cabinet Approves Semicon 2.0 with ₹1.27 Lakh Crore Outlay

The Union Cabinet approved **Semicon 2.0** with a financial outlay of **₹1,27,500 crore** to accelerate the development of India's semiconductor design and manufacturing ecosystem. The programme focuses on six pillars—chip design, manufacturing equipment and materials, fabrication units (fabs), ATMP/OSAT facilities, research and development, and talent development. It aims to build on the success of **Semicon 1.0**, under which **12 semiconductor manufacturing units** have already been approved with investments exceeding **₹1.64 lakh crore**. The initiative seeks to position India as a global semiconductor hub while strengthening technological self-reliance, supply chain resilience, and advanced chip manufacturing capabilities.

3. Cabinet Approves Two Railway Multi-Tracking Projects in Odisha and Jharkhand

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved **two railway multi-tracking projects** worth **₹3,907 crore** covering Odisha and Jharkhand. The projects include **Paradeep–Haridaspur Doubling** and **Rajkharsawan–Dangoaposi Fourth Line**, adding around **145 km** to the railway network. Scheduled for completion by **2030-31**, the projects will improve connectivity to around **1,526 villages** with a population of nearly **14 lakh**, increase freight capacity by **44 million tonnes per annum (MTPA)**, reduce logistics costs, and cut carbon emissions while enhancing operational efficiency under the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan.

4. Cabinet Approves National Investment Policy for Urea-2026 (NIPU-2026)

The CCEA approved the **National Investment Policy for Urea-2026 (NIPU-2026)** to encourage fresh investments in gas-based

urea manufacturing plants and strengthen India's fertilizer self-sufficiency. Replacing the earlier **NIP-2012**, the policy introduces key reforms such as separate fixed and variable cost calculations, a **Return on Equity (RoE)** band of **12% to 16%**, and measures to reduce foreign exchange risks. The government estimates savings of more than **₹250 crore per plant** under the new framework. The policy aims to reduce India's dependence on urea imports by encouraging the establishment of new domestic production units.

5. Cabinet Approves BHAVYA Rasayan Scheme for Chemical Parks

The Union Cabinet approved the **Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana Rasayan (BHAVYA Rasayan)** with a financial outlay of **₹3,030 crore** to establish **three dedicated Chemical Parks** across India. Implemented from **FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31**, the Centre will provide grants of up to **₹1,000 crore per park**, while states will contribute at least **₹500 crore**. Each park will span a minimum of **2,000 acres** and provide common infrastructure such as effluent treatment plants, hazardous waste management facilities, logistics hubs, steam networks, and water supply systems. The scheme aims to strengthen India's chemical manufacturing sector, boost exports, attract investments, and generate employment.

6. Cabinet Approves Ballari–Guntakal Railway Multi-Tracking Project

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the **third and fourth railway lines between Ballari and Guntakal** in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh at an estimated cost of **₹1,264 crore**. The project will add around **46 km** to the railway network and is expected to be completed by **2028-29**. It will improve connectivity for nearly **99 villages** with a population of about **7 lakh**, facilitate transportation of minerals and industrial goods, increase freight movement by **16.22 MTPA**, and reduce fuel consumption and carbon emissions while improving operational efficiency.

7. Cabinet Approves 'Samudra Manthan' National Offshore Exploration Scheme

The Union Cabinet approved **'Samudra Manthan'**, the **National Offshore Exploration Scheme**, with a total outlay of **₹84,084 crore** to enhance India's offshore oil and gas exploration. The scheme includes large-scale seismic surveys, deepwater drilling, scientific exploration, offshore infrastructure development, and the establishment of an integrated oil and gas manufacturing ecosystem. It aims to unlock offshore energy reserves exceeding **600 Million Metric Tonnes of Oil Equivalent (MMTOE)**, strengthen India's energy security, encourage domestic production, generate employment, and promote advanced offshore technologies in line with the vision of **Viksit Bharat**.





8. Cabinet Approves Revamped Khelo India Scheme

The Union Cabinet approved a revamped **Khelo India Scheme** along with enhanced **Assistance to National Sports Federations (ANSFs)** with a combined outlay of **₹36,441 crore** for **2026-27 to 2030-31**. The expanded programme introduces a comprehensive athlete development pathway from grassroots to elite competition, significantly expands the athlete support ecosystem, strengthens school sports through **Khelo India Feeder Schools** and **Khelo India Utkrishta Vidyalayas**, and enhances coaching, sports science, digital infrastructure, and international exposure. The initiative aims to prepare India for future global sporting events, including the **2030 Commonwealth Games** and the country's Olympic ambitions.

9. Cabinet Approves Continuation of PM-KISAN Scheme

The Union Cabinet approved the continuation of the **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)** scheme from **2026-27 to 2030-31** with a financial outlay of **₹3.15 lakh crore**. Under the scheme, eligible farmer families will continue to receive **₹6,000 annually** through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) in three instalments. Since its launch in **2019**, the scheme has transferred over **₹4.47 lakh crore** directly into farmers' bank accounts, benefiting more than **9.49 crore farmers** under the latest instalment. The continuation aims to strengthen farmers' income, support agricultural investment, and improve rural financial stability.

10. Cabinet Approves Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana (PM-SSY)

The Union Cabinet approved the **Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana (PM-SSY)** with a total outlay of **₹5,070 crore** to promote **Floating Solar Photovoltaic (FSPV)** projects integrated with Energy Storage Systems. The scheme targets the installation of **5,000 MW** of floating solar capacity along with **10,000 MWh** of energy storage between **FY 2026-27 and FY 2030-31**. It provides Central Financial Assistance of **₹1 crore per MW** and additional support for feasibility studies. The initiative aims to utilize reservoirs and water bodies for renewable energy generation, reduce around **10 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions annually**, create **16,000–17,000 jobs**, and strengthen India's clean energy infrastructure.

State-wise July Month Important Events

Andhra Pradesh

- **Srikakulam Greenfield Airport:** To be developed under UDAN Scheme by AAI-APADC on 1,383 acres in two phases, complementing Bhogapuram International Airport.
- **Pillale Sampada Initiative:** Launched to encourage balanced population growth; includes Talliki Vandanam Scheme (₹15,000 per child), linked to Swarna Andhra 2047 vision.
- **Common Zoning Regulations (CZR) 2026:** Reduces land-use categories from 16 to 9; introduces negative-list zoning approach.
- **Mee Bhoomi-Blockchain Pilot Project:** Uses Hyperledger Fabric via NIC to modernize land records across 7 mandals and 89 re-survey villages.

- **Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport, Bhogapuram:** Inaugurated by PM Modi (1 Aug 2026); ₹5,000 crore, built by GMR Group; commercial ops from 17 Aug 2026; first phase capacity 6 million passengers/year.

Arunachal Pradesh

- **Emergency Helicopter Relief, Lower Siang:** Skyone Airways Mi-172 delivered 11.5 MT of supplies (Pasighat–Koyu) and evacuated 4 critical patients after floods/landslides.

Assam

- **Borjuli Biodiversity Heritage Site (Sonitpur):** Declared for in-situ wild rice (*Oryza rufipogon*) conservation via ICAR-NBPGR and Assam State Biodiversity Board.
- **Matcha Tea Production:** Assam becomes India's first state to commercially produce Matcha, manufactured at Chota Tingrai Tea Estate, Tinsukia, auctioned via GTAC.

Bihar

- **Mukhyamantri Bihar Heli-Tourism and Air Tourism Service Scheme 2026:** Subsidies up to ₹15,422/ticket; connects Patna with Rajgir, Valmikinagar, Maa Mundeshwari Temple from 18 July 2026.

Gujarat

- **Operation Surakshit Cyberspace:** 28-day cyber awareness campaign (1–28 July 2026) targeting cyberstalking, fraud, harassment.
- **Project SAMARTH:** ₹190 crore semiconductor training hub at IIT Gandhinagar, targeting 10,000 professionals trained over 5 years.
- **Inflatable Rubber Dams (Rajvasana & Pathakwadi):** South Korean tech, ₹162+ crore combined investment; SCADA-automated.
- **Viksit Gujarat – Data Centre Policy 2026–29:** Capital subsidies, power tariff support for AI/cloud/hyperscale data centres.
- **Unjha Cumin & Fennel GI Tag:** Granted to Mehsana district spices via Unjha APMC, SDAU, EDII.
- **e-Zero FIR System:** Launched 27 July 2026 to auto-convert 1930 helpline cyber fraud complaints into e-FIRs.
- **Shipbuilding and Repair Policy 2026:** ₹27,000+ crore expected investment; two Mega Shipbuilding Parks plus Porbandar Greenfield Cluster.
- **Kalpasar Project (Gulf of Khambhat):** 64-km dam creating ~13,000 MCM freshwater reservoir; irrigation to ~10 lakh hectares; 2,470 MW hybrid renewable capacity planned.
- **Pithora Painting GI Tag:** Granted to Rathwa tribal mural art form.

Haryana

- **Yamuna Water Project (with Rajasthan):** Ends 30-year dispute; ~580 MCM water via pipelines to Sikar, Churu, Jhunjhunu.
- **Sirsa Kinnow GI Tag:** Haryana's first fruit GI tag, granted to Kharisuverian Farmer Producer Company.





Himachal Pradesh

- **GI Registration (8 new products):** Total GI tags now 17, including Spiti Seabuckthorn, Kinnauri Apple, Chamba Metal Art, etc.
- **Regulated Cannabis Cultivation:** Third state (after Uttarakhand, MP) to permit under NDPS Amendment Rules 2026; medicinal/scientific use only.

Jharkhand

- **AI Policy 2026–31:** ₹1,150 crore public investment; targets ₹10,000+ crore private investment, 50+ GCCs, 1,000 AI startups.
- **Jharkhand Film and Television Institute (JFTI):** MoU with SRFTI to establish state's first film institute in Ranchi.

Karnataka

- **Draft Karnataka Apartment (Ownership and Management) Bill, 2025:** Aligns with RERA; Apartment Owners Councils; 75% consent for redevelopment; applies to complexes with 8+ units.
- **India's First Government-Backed AI University:** Announced by CM D.K. Shivakumar at Google I/O Connect India 2026, Bengaluru.

Maharashtra

- **India's First Offshore Airport:** Approved by MADC in Arabian Sea off Palghar, near Uttan–Virar Sea Link.
- **National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA):** ₹48 crore project digitizing legislative proceedings in Mumbai and Nagpur.
- **AI-Powered Bird Sanctuary:** ₹45 crore project at Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary for AI-based bird detection/monitoring.
- **PM-RKVY Second Instalment:** Maharashtra first state to qualify after utilizing 75%+ of ₹335 crore initial allocation.

Madhya Pradesh

- **Submer Group Investment:** Spain-based firm to invest \$2 billion (semiconductor facility + 1-GB data centre) at MP Tech Growth Conclave 3.0.
- **Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill 2026:** MP becomes fourth state (after Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Assam) to approve UCC; STs/PVTGs exempt.

Odisha

- **Deep Sea Fishing Mission:** ₹2,295.45 crore (2026–2036) to boost Blue Economy; targets 2 lakh MT additional fish production, 50,000 jobs.
- **HCL Technologies AI Data Centre, Bhubaneswar:** ₹15,000 crore investment with Sarvam AI; Odisha Sovereign AI Park; 5,000 jobs by 2028.
- **Jagannath Temple Trademark:** SJTA secured trademark for 5 sacred names (Jagannath Dham, Shree Kshetra, Mahaprasad, Nilachakra, Koili Vaikuntha).

Rajasthan

- **Yamuna Water Project (with Haryana):** See Haryana entry.
- **State Water Plan 2047:** Integrates Jal Jeevan Mission, AMRUT 2.0, Atal Bhujal Yojana; ₹5,100 crore under AMRUT 2.0.

- **Mukhyamantri Yuva Suyog Platform:** Digital youth platform piloted in Bagru and Baran; integrated with MY Bharat Programme.
- **Bharat Taxi Cooperative Mobility Platform:** Launched in Jaipur; 8 lakh drivers, 41 lakh customers nationally; ₹5 lakh accident insurance for drivers.

Telangana

- **BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers' Meeting:** India hosting 12th meeting in Hyderabad, 15–16 July 2026, chaired by Mansukh Mandaviya.

Tamil Nadu

- **Highest Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER):** 52.3% in higher education (2023–24) vs national average 30%; female GER 53.1%.
- **Secure Our City (SOC) Campaign, Chennai:** All 5 phases completed; free CCTV installation via Securecam India.
- **Madurai Banyan Tree:** 107th birthday celebrated; last surviving centenarian tree in Meenakshipuram.

Uttarakhand

- **Sixth Fully Literate State:** Under ULLAS programme/NEP 2020, joining Mizoram, Goa, Tripura, HP, Sikkim.
- **GI Products Gallery, Haldwani:** First such gallery; showcases 30+ GI products (Munsiyari White Rajma, Berinag Tea, etc.).
- **Elephant Radio-Collaring:** WII collaboration ahead of Haridwar Kumbh Mela 2027; Rajaji–Corbett landscape study.

Uttar Pradesh

- **Startup Policy 2026:** ₹1,000 crore Startup Fund; ₹15 lakh seed funding; targets \$1 trillion economy by 2030.
- **Data Centre Policy 2026:** Targets ₹2 lakh crore investment, 2 GW capacity; incentives for Bundelkhand/Purvanchal.
- **Jalalabad Renamed Parashurampuri:** Shahjahanpur town renamed, citing Lord Parashuram's birthplace association.
- **Highest Cyber Fraud Complaints:** UP reported 1.85 lakh complaints (highest nationally) in H1 2026.
- **Kaushal Setu & Kaushal Sarathi:** Digitizes training centre registration and connects students to jobs; AI/robotics/textiles partnerships.

July Month Launches & Inaugurations:

- **The Ministry of Law and Justice** launched the **Fresh Application Module** on the **Notary Portal** to enable eligible advocates and legal practitioners to apply online for appointment as **Notary Public** under the **Notaries Act, 1952** and **Notaries Rules, 1956**. Developed with the **National Informatics Centre (NIC)**, the portal provides **paperless applications, automated scrutiny, real-time tracking, and transparent processing**, reducing delays and paperwork. Applications will be invited based on vacancies and regional requirements. The initiative strengthens **Digital India** by improving **efficiency, accessibility, transparency, accountability**, and modernizing legal administration across the country.





- The National Health Authority (NHA) launched **Ayushman Sarathi**, a **WhatsApp-based chatbot** to simplify access to services under **Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY**. Beneficiaries can verify eligibility, apply for and download **Ayushman Cards**, complete **e-KYC**, link **Aadhaar**, locate **empanelled hospitals**, track grievances, and submit feedback through secure **API integration**. The chatbot operates **24x7**, reducing dependence on physical government offices while ensuring faster and transparent service delivery. The initiative promotes **Digital India**, **paperless governance**, improved healthcare accessibility, efficient administration, and citizen-centric digital healthcare services for millions of beneficiaries nationwide.
- The Government of India launched the **Samagra Shishu Bal Swasthya Karyakram (SSBSK)** to strengthen healthcare for children from **birth to 36 months** by integrating newborn and early childhood health services. The programme prioritizes **low birth weight**, **malnourished**, **premature**, and developmentally vulnerable children through additional home visits, early screening, regular monitoring, and timely referrals by frontline workers. It also promotes awareness about **nutrition**, **breastfeeding**, **child development**, and reduced **screen exposure**. Integration with digital health platforms enables continuous monitoring, aiming to improve child survival, healthy development, and community-based healthcare delivery.
- The Government of India established the **Bureau of Port Security (BoPS)** under the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways** to strengthen **maritime** and **cyber security**. Modeled on the **Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)**, BoPS will function under the **Directorate General of Maritime Administration (DGMA)** as the apex authority for port and ship security. The **CISF** has been designated as the **Recognised Security Organisation** for security assessments, planning, and training. The initiative enhances surveillance, intelligence sharing, cyber resilience, regulatory compliance, and protection of India's critical maritime infrastructure.
- **Bharat Taxi** was launched in **Gujarat** by **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** on **27 June 2026** as a **cooperative-based ride-hailing platform** under the vision of "**Sahakar Se Samridhi**." Unlike private aggregators, drivers (**Sarathis**) become shareholders, ensuring **ownership**, **higher earnings**, **insurance**, **loans**, **welfare**, and **transparency**. The platform supports **two-wheelers**, **auto-rickshaws**, and **taxis**. Over **7 lakh Sarathis** and **37 lakh customers** are already connected. Initially launched in Gujarat, it aims to expand to **seven cities by July 31** and **500+ cities within two years**, with support from major cooperative and transport institutions.
- **Gujarat** launched the **PM Family Care Tracker (PM-FCT)** and **Health Passport** as a pilot project on **28 June 2026** to strengthen **maternal and child welfare**. The digital platform tracks beneficiaries from **pregnancy to 16-18 years**,

integrating **health**, **education**, **nutrition**, **birth and death registration**, and welfare databases. It generates automatic alerts for **missed vaccinations** and **school dropouts**, enabling timely government intervention. Connected departments include **Health**, **Women and Child Development**, and **Education**. Supporting **Viksit Gujarat @2047** and **Viksit Bharat @2047**, it marks a significant step toward integrated **digital governance** and welfare delivery.

- The **Union Health Ministry** launched **e-Sushrut@Clinic**, a cloud-based **Hospital Management Information System (HMIS)** developed by **C-DAC** for **primary health centres**, **sub-centres**, and **small outpatient clinics**. Unveiled by **Union Health Minister J. P. Nadda** on **29 June 2026**, it digitizes **patient registration**, **billing**, **MIS reporting**, and offers **speech-to-text documentation** with **clinical decision support**. Supported by the **National Health Authority (NHA)** through cloud hosting and SMS services, it integrates with the **Health Professional Registry (HPR)** and **Health Facility Registry (HFR)**. Over **800 health facilities** have already been onboarded.
- The **Government of India** launched the **FCRA 2.0 Portal** and **e-Overseas Citizen of India (e-OCI) Card** on **30 June 2026** to strengthen digital governance. Introduced by **Union Home Minister Amit Shah**, the **FCRA 2.0 Portal** enables online registration, renewal, compliance monitoring, **Aadhaar authentication**, e-signatures, OCR verification, and integration with **PAN**, **NGO Darpan**, and **UDIN**. The **e-OCI Card** digitizes Overseas Citizen of India services through online updates and digital records while retaining the validity of existing OCI cards, improving transparency, efficiency, and citizen-centric governance.
- **Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan** launched the nationwide **Viksit Bharat – G-RAM G Act** from **Andhra Pradesh**, introducing a legal guarantee of **125 days** of wage employment annually for every eligible rural household. Replacing the previous **100-day** employment guarantee, the scheme provides unemployment allowance if work is unavailable. The Centre will contribute over **₹95,000 crore** in the first year, with long-term investment of **₹7.5 lakh crore**. **Gram Sabhas** will lead development planning, while Andhra Pradesh received **₹7,707 crore**, **74,212 PMAY-G houses**, and major **PMGSY-IV** infrastructure projects.
- **UIDAI** has introduced a free **Email Update Service** through the **Aadhaar App**, allowing users to add or update their email ID digitally without visiting an Aadhaar Seva Kendra. Available free for six months from **1 July 2026**, the service enhances convenience, security, and transparency by sending real-time notifications for Aadhaar authentication. Within two days, over **2.5 lakh** users updated their email IDs. The app also supports mobile number, address, and other eligible updates, reflecting growing adoption of **Digital India** initiatives and improving citizen-centric digital governance across India.





- The Government launched the **e-OCI Card**, enabling eligible **Overseas Citizen of India (OCI)** cardholders to carry a secure digital version of their OCI card on smartphones. Accessible through the **OCI Services Portal**, it simplifies travel documentation by allowing digital verification by immigration authorities and airlines. The government clarified that the physical OCI booklet remains fully valid, while the digital version is optional. The initiative strengthens **Digital Governance**, enhances travel convenience, reduces document loss risks, and improves accessibility for millions of OCI cardholders worldwide.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **CG Semi Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) Facility** at **Sanand, Gujarat**, under the **Semicon India Programme**. The facility strengthens India's **semiconductor ecosystem** by supporting **chip packaging, assembly, testing, and quality assurance**. Developed through collaboration with **India, Japan, and Thailand**, it will initially manufacture **20 crore semiconductor units annually**, with plans to increase capacity to **500 crore units**. The project supports **high-tech manufacturing**, reduces import dependence, promotes **self-reliance**, and advances India's ambition of becoming a **global semiconductor hub**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated India's first **greenfield refinery-cum-petrochemical complex** at **Pachpadra, Rajasthan**, developed with an investment of **₹79,450 crore** by **HPCL** and the **Government of Rajasthan**. The facility has a **9 MMTPA crude refining capacity** and **2.4 MMTPA petrochemical production capacity**, producing fuels and petrochemical products. The project will reduce **petrochemical imports**, strengthen **energy security**, generate employment, and support downstream industries. It also promotes the **Petrochemical and Plastic Park**, transforming western Rajasthan into a major industrial and manufacturing hub.
- The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** launched **Tribex**, India's first dedicated **digital learning platform** for **tribal arts, culture, languages, and traditional knowledge**. Inaugurated by **Jual Oram** in **Bhubaneswar**, the platform currently offers **20 free certificate courses** and plans to expand beyond **100 courses**. It also introduces **UGC-recognised postgraduate diploma programmes** in tribal studies, museology, textiles, and sustainable livelihoods. Supported by an **MoU with Sampurnanand Sanskrit University**, Tribex promotes **digital documentation**, research, skill development, employment opportunities, and preservation of India's rich tribal heritage.
- **IIM Bangalore** announced its **first overseas campus** at the **Singhasari Special Economic Zone (SEZ)** in **Malang, Indonesia**, under the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**. Developed through an **MoU with PT Intelegensia**

Grahatama, the project will begin with **executive education and leadership programmes**, followed by full **management degree courses**. Academic focus includes **Artificial Intelligence, Digital Transformation, Healthcare Management, Climate and Sustainability, and Global Supply Chain Management**. The initiative strengthens **India-Indonesia educational cooperation** and expands the global presence of Indian higher education institutions.

- India has become the **world's largest Retail and FMCG Global Capability Centre (GCC) hub**, hosting **180 GCCs** employing over **2.72 lakh professionals**. Major companies including **Walmart, Tesco, Target, H&M, L'Oréal, and Lowe's** operate technology, analytics, finance, and supply-chain centres in India. **Bengaluru** leads GCC employment, followed by **Delhi NCR** and **Hyderabad**. Rapid adoption of **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** has increased demand for specialists in **Large Language Models (LLMs), GenAI Ops, MLOps, and data analytics**, strengthening India's position as a global technology and innovation hub.
- The **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** launched **CITES 2.01 (Centralised IT Enabled Services)**, migrating nearly **340 million member accounts** to a unified national platform. Introduced by **Mansukh Mandaviya**, the system enables **centralised claim processing, real-time tracking**, and faster digital services through a single portal. The **EPF interest rate for FY2025-26** remains **8.25%**, while the **auto-settlement limit** has increased from **₹1 lakh to ₹5 lakh**. Future features include **UPI-based PF withdrawals** and withdrawal of up to **75% of PF balance**.
- Union Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** launched the **PRAGATI (Promoting Regenerative Agriculture, Growth, Agri-Entrepreneurship and Transformative Innovation)** initiative to strengthen **sustainable agriculture** and rural livelihoods. The programme aims to develop **20,000 agri-entrepreneurs** and benefit **20 lakh small and marginal farmers** through **regenerative farming, digital technologies, soil testing, mechanisation, and financial literacy**. Initially covering **eight states**, the initiative is supported by organizations including the **PepsiCo Foundation, SBI Foundation, and Gates Foundation**, promoting climate-resilient and technology-driven agriculture.
- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change inaugurated the **Centre of Excellence on Human-Wildlife Conflict** at **WII-SACON, Coimbatore**. The centre will serve as a national hub for **research, policy support, capacity building, and innovation** to address **human-wildlife conflicts**. It will use **Artificial Intelligence (AI), satellite mapping, and predictive analytics** for conflict mitigation. The **National Human-Wildlife Conflict Portal** and a status report on wildlife conflicts were also launched, promoting **scientific conservation, evidence-based policymaking, and protection of both wildlife and human communities**.





- Vice President **C. P. Radhakrishnan** inaugurated the **Mannam Smrithi Mandapam** and unveiled the statue of **Mannathu Padmanabhan** at the Mannam International Centre in New Delhi. The memorial honours the renowned **social reformer, freedom fighter, and founder of the Nair Service Society (NSS)**, who worked for **education, equality, and social upliftment**. The Vice President praised his vision of **justice, dignity, and inclusiveness**, saying it transcended caste and regional boundaries. He also participated in the **Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam** campaign by planting a sapling, promoting **environmental conservation** and community service.
- **MeitY**, in collaboration with the **Drone Federation India (DFI)**, launched **NIDAR 2.0** under the **SwaYaan Initiative** for **2026–27** to promote indigenous drone technology. The competition offers prizes worth over **₹65 lakh**, startup incubation, internships, cloud credits, and technical support. It includes **Drone Innovation** and **Component Innovation** tracks focusing on **autonomous drones, disaster response, medical delivery, GPS-denied navigation, indigenous flight controllers, and VEGA processor-based electronics**. The initiative supports **Atmanirbhar Bharat** by strengthening India's drone and semiconductor ecosystem.
- The Central Government plans to introduce the **Prevention of Insult to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026** during the **Monsoon Session of Parliament**. The proposed law seeks to extend legal protection to **Vande Mataram**, making its insult or obstruction a punishable offence, similar to the **National Flag** and **National Anthem**. The amendment will define the meaning of **"insult"** and **"obstruction"** while ensuring constitutional safeguards, including **freedom of speech**. The move recognizes the National Song's historic contribution to India's **freedom movement** and reinforces efforts to preserve **national symbols** and patriotic values.
- **Indian Railways** will introduce India's first **Hydrogen Fuel Cell Train** on the **Jind–Sonipat** route under the **National Green Hydrogen Mission**. Powered by **Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) fuel cells**, the train emits only **water vapour** and **heat**. Designed for around **2,600 passengers**, it includes a **3,000 kg hydrogen refuelling facility** at Jind. Developed using **indigenous technology**, the project supports **Net Zero** goals and promotes **clean mobility** and **sustainable rail transport**.
- The Government launched **Going Global: A Practical Guide for Indian MSMEs**, prepared by **CTIL-IIFT** and **CII**, to help MSMEs enter **international markets**. The guidebook covers **export planning, trade intelligence, market access, sustainability standards, Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), Rules of Origin**, and **trade remedies**. It aims to strengthen **MSME exports** by reducing trade barriers and improving export awareness.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **Advanced Mother and Child Centre** and **Advanced Neurosciences Centre** at **PGIMER Chandigarh** and laid the foundation for a **150-bed Critical Care Block** under **PM-ABHIM**. The projects will strengthen **maternal care, pediatric services, neurology, neurosurgery, medical education, and research**. The Prime Minister also highlighted achievements such as **AIIMS expansion, Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, eSanjeevani consultations**, and new **medical colleges**.
- President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated **Saushrutam 2026**, a three-day international seminar at the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), New Delhi, on 15 July 2026 to mark **Sushruta Jayanti**. She also inaugurated the institute's MRI section and paid tribute to Acharya Sushruta, widely regarded as the **Father of Surgery**. Highlighting his pioneering contributions to plastic surgery and surgical science, she emphasized integrating Ayurveda with modern scientific research and evidence-based medicine. The seminar encourages innovation, ethics, and global collaboration in Ayurvedic research while strengthening Ayurveda's role in modern healthcare.
- Indian Railways launched the **Reform Express** initiative, introducing eight major freight reforms to modernise logistics and improve freight efficiency. With this, **17 of the planned 52 reforms** have been completed. The reforms include simplified licensing for container train operators, expansion of containerised cargo movement, freight tariff rationalisation, and the Rail Bhoomi Portal for digitised land acquisition. These measures aim to lower logistics costs, encourage private sector participation, improve multimodal connectivity, and strengthen India's freight infrastructure while enhancing the competitiveness of rail transport.
- The Government launched **Going Global: A Practical Guide for Indian MSMEs**, prepared by **CTIL-IIFT** and **CII**, to strengthen **MSME exports**. The guide covers **export planning, trade intelligence, market access, Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), Rules of Origin**, sustainability standards, and global compliance. It addresses regulatory challenges, improves export awareness, reduces trade barriers, and enhances global competitiveness. The initiative aims to help **Indian MSMEs** expand into international markets and contribute significantly to India's export growth.
- The **National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026** was introduced in the **Rajya Sabha** on **24 July 2026** to provide statutory protection to **Vande Mataram**, India's **National Song**, under the **Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971**. The proposed amendment seeks to place it under the same legal framework as the **National Flag, Constitution, and National Anthem**, while prescribing penalties for intentionally preventing or disrupting its singing. Introduced during the **150th anniversary celebrations of Vande Mataram**, the Bill recognizes its historic contribution to **India's freedom movement** and awaits parliamentary approval.





Miscellaneous National News

- **India** secured **five medals** at the **Global Skills Challenge Australia 2026**, winning **three gold**, **one silver**, and **one bronze** during the competition held from **23–29 June 2026**. Nearly **600 participants** from **16 countries** competed in preparation for **WorldSkills Shanghai**. Indian participants excelled in **cloud computing**, **additive manufacturing**, **health and social care**, and **digital game art**. The achievement reflects the success of the **Skill India Mission**, showcases India's globally competitive vocational talent, encourages youth participation in technical careers, and strengthens the country's reputation in international skill development.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** became the **first recipient** of Seychelles' highest civilian honour, the "**Guardian of the Blue Horizon**" **Presidential Distinction**, conferred by **President Dr. Patrick Herminie** on **28 June 2026**. The award recognizes leadership in **climate action**, **Blue Economy**, **environmental conservation**, **ocean governance**, and support for **Small Island Developing States (SIDS)**. It acknowledges India's initiatives including **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**, **Mission LiFE**, **Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam**, and the **International Big Cat Alliance**. Presented during the **50th anniversary of India–Seychelles diplomatic ties**, it further strengthens bilateral cooperation in **maritime security**, sustainability, and regional climate resilience.
- During his **Seychelles visit**, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** visited the **Seychelles National Botanical Gardens**, where he met **Jonathan**, the **world's oldest living land animal**. Jonathan, a **Seychelles giant tortoise**, was born around **1832** and is recognized by **Guinness World Records**, with an age nearing **194 years**. He resides on **Saint Helena**, a British Overseas Territory. Modi also planted a tree, highlighting **environmental conservation**, **biodiversity protection**, **climate resilience**, **Mission LiFE**, and **Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam**. The visit symbolized India's commitment to sustainable development and global environmental cooperation.
- The **Union Health Ministry** released the revised **Anaemia Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan Guidelines 2026** on **29 June 2026**, introducing a **7x7x7 strategy** covering **seven beneficiary groups**, **seven interventions**, and **seven institutional mechanisms**. The programme adopts a **life-cycle approach**, includes **low birth weight infants (0–6 months)** as a new target group, and adds "**Eating Right**" to encourage iron-rich diets. The framework upgrades from **T3 (Test, Treat, Talk)** to **T4 (Test, Treat, Talk, Track)** and integrates **JANANI**, **RBSK**, and **U-WIN** platforms, strengthening anaemia prevention, monitoring, maternal health, and child nutrition nationwide.
- The **Ministry of Tourism** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Google India Pvt. Ltd.** in **New Delhi** to enhance the digital visibility of India's tourism destinations. Witnessed by **Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**, the agreement leverages **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**, digital technologies, and data-driven insights to

improve discoverability of cultural, historical, spiritual, and natural attractions. It supports personalized visitor engagement, travel trend analysis, digital marketing, and official training. The **non-commercial, non-binding MoU** strengthens the **Incredible India** campaign while promoting **Digital India**, sustainable tourism, and India's global tourism competitiveness.

- The **Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Act, 2025** came into force from **1 July 2026**, replacing the earlier rural employment framework. The Act increases guaranteed employment from **100 to 125 days** per eligible rural household and focuses on durable asset creation, water conservation, transparent governance, and sustainable development. The Government allocated **₹95,692.31 crore** for nationwide implementation. It also promotes **Self-Help Group (SHG)** participation, women's empowerment, technology-driven execution, and improved rural infrastructure. Existing beneficiaries continue receiving benefits without disruption during the transition.
- The **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** granted **in-principle approval** to restart the **tiger reintroduction programme** in **Odisha's Satkosia Tiger Reserve** after the unsuccessful **2018 translocation** attempt. A **2024 assessment** confirmed the absence of resident tigers and recommended habitat improvement before reintroduction. Spread across **1,136 sq km**, including a **523 sq km core area**, the reserve offers suitable tiger habitat. Recommended measures include village relocation, prey base enhancement, anti-poaching initiatives, staff training, and conflict mitigation. The project aims to restore ecological balance, biodiversity, and a sustainable tiger population.
- The **White-rumped Vulture (Gyps bengalensis)** remains **Critically Endangered** on the **IUCN Red List** following drastic population declines caused mainly by **diclofenac**, other harmful **NSAIDs**, contaminated carcasses, electrocution, habitat loss, and urbanization. As vital scavengers, vultures prevent disease spread by removing animal carcasses. India is expanding **captive breeding programmes**, planning the release of over **700 vultures**, while banning harmful veterinary drugs like **ketoprofen** and **nimesulide**. Conservation efforts in **Nepal** and **Cambodia**, along with **GPS tracking** and satellite monitoring, support long-term species recovery.
- Under **NEP 2020**, India is transforming education through the **Academic Bank of Credits (ABC)** and the **Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR)**. Managed by the **University Grants Commission (UGC)**, **ABC** enables students to store, transfer, accumulate, and redeem academic credits across institutions. **APAAR**, a **12-digit lifelong student ID**, integrates school and higher education records with **DigiLocker** and **ABC**. Together, they support **Multiple Entry and Exit**, academic mobility, online learning through **SWAYAM**, and flexible degree completion, creating a unified, transparent, and student-centric education ecosystem.





- The **Union Cabinet** approved **two highway projects** worth **₹14,114.81 crore**, including an **8.1-km six-lane tunnel** in **Delhi** and the **117.7-km Kanpur–Kabrai Greenfield Highway** in **Uttar Pradesh**. The Delhi tunnel, built under the **Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM)**, will connect **Dwarka Expressway** with **Nelson Mandela Marg** through a **3.14-km twin-tube tunnel** beneath the **Southern Ridge Forest** using **Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM)** technology. The highway, developed by **NHAI** under the **BOT model**, will reduce travel time from **3.5 hours to 1.5 hours**, improve connectivity, and generate employment.
- The **Southern Birdwing (Troides minos)**, India's largest butterfly and the **state butterfly of Karnataka**, has been recorded for the **first time in Telangana** at the **Amrabad Tiger Reserve**. Belonging to the **Papilionidae** family and endemic to **South India**, it is primarily found in the **Western Ghats** and is listed as **Least Concern** on the **IUCN Red List**. The sighting in the **Nallamala Hills** of the **Eastern Ghats** enriches Telangana's biodiversity records and highlights the ecological significance of the **Amrabad Tiger Reserve**.
- The **Government of India** directed **Meta** to temporarily suspend the rollout of **WhatsApp's username feature** and submit a detailed explanation within **three days**. The feature would allow users to communicate through **unique usernames** instead of mobile numbers, enhancing privacy. However, the government raised concerns regarding **privacy safeguards, identity verification, cybersecurity, traceability, impersonation risks, phishing, fraud prevention, and compliance with Indian laws**. Until consultations conclude, Meta has been instructed not to launch the feature in India, ensuring stronger digital governance and user protection.
- reflecting stronger domestic production and the Government's import substitution strategy. **Power sector imports** dropped **24.89%**, while **Imported Coal-Based (ICB)** plants recorded the steepest decline of **27.45%**. Imports for **Domestic Coal-Based (DCB)** plants also decreased **11.26%**. Coal imports' share in total consumption fell from **21.69%** to **19.68%**, whereas **coking coal imports** rose **1.34%** due to steel demand. Improved logistics, first-mile connectivity, and domestic supply strengthened energy security.
- **MANAS (Madak Padarth Nishedh Asoochna Kendra)**, India's **National Narcotics Helpline**, strengthens the vision of **Nasha Mukh Bharat** by enabling citizens to anonymously report drug trafficking, peddling, and illegal cultivation. Launched by the **Ministry of Home Affairs** under the **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)** with the **Digital India Corporation (DIC)**, it operates through the **1933 helpline, UMANG app, web portal, and email**. The platform also links callers to the **14446 de-addiction helpline**, offering counselling, rehabilitation support, multilingual services, chatbot integration, Smart IVRS, and stronger coordination with anti-narcotics agencies nationwide.
- **NITI Aayog**, in collaboration with **PwC**, released the **"Strategic Roadmap for Making Ayurveda Global"** outlining a phased vision up to **2047**. The roadmap seeks to establish

Ayurveda as an evidence-based global healthcare system through international clinical trials, annual safety reports, scientific validation, and modernization of the **Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL)**. It proposes a patent-watch system, global Ayurveda centres in **Geneva, New York, and Tokyo**, and medical value travel zones. With **Ayush exports** doubling between **2014** and **2023**, the roadmap supports global market expansion under institutional governance led by the **Minister of Ayush**.

- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** issued notices to **Telegram** and **Signal**, following an earlier notice to **WhatsApp**, regarding their **username-based communication** features. The Government expressed concerns that anonymous usernames could facilitate **fraud, phishing, impersonation, and digital arrest scams**. Platforms were asked to explain security safeguards, identity verification mechanisms, and misuse prevention within **three days**. Meanwhile, **Zoho-backed Arattai** decided to disable username-based accounts. The move reflects India's focus on strengthening **digital governance**, user accountability, cybersecurity, and compliance with national regulations.
- **ACME Group** signed a nearly **US\$1 billion** agreement with **Mitsubishi Gas Chemical (MGC)** to supply **100,000 tonnes** of **Green Methanol** annually from its upcoming **Paradip, Odisha** facility. The fuel, produced using **Green Hydrogen** and captured carbon dioxide, will support Japan's shipping sector while meeting **EU RFNBO** and future **IMO** standards. The deal strengthens **India-Japan Clean Energy Cooperation**, supports the **National Green Hydrogen Mission**, secures a long-term export market, promotes sustainable fuels, and boosts India's leadership in green energy and global low-carbon supply chains.
- Union Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal** unveiled India's first export-import shipping container manufactured for **A.P. Moller-Maersk** at **Dadri, Uttar Pradesh**. Maersk simultaneously placed an order for **1,000 additional containers** with **DCM Shriram Group**, marking a long-term partnership. The initiative supports **Atmanirbhar Bharat, Make in India, and Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047**, while complementing the **₹10,000 crore Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme (CMPS)**. It aims to boost domestic manufacturing, technology transfer, employment, supply-chain resilience, exports, and establish India as a global hub for high-quality shipping containers.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated India's first **Greenfield Integrated Refinery-cum-Petrochemical Complex** at **Pachpadra, Rajasthan**, developed by **HPCL Rajasthan Refinery Limited (HRRL)**. Built at an investment of over **₹79,450 crore**, the refinery has a capacity of **9 MMTPA** and integrates petrochemical production with refining. The project strengthens **India's Energy Security**, enhances petrochemical self-sufficiency, supports cleaner fuel production, creates employment, and produces value-added petrochemical products, marking a major milestone in the country's energy and industrial infrastructure development.





- **Japan** reaffirmed support for the **Mumbai–Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR)** project, targeting commercial operations on priority sections by **2027**. Built using **Shinkansen E10** technology, the **508-km** corridor is financed **81%** by **JICA** through a **50-year loan at 0.1% interest**. The first operational stretch between **Surat–Bilimora/Vapi** is expected by **15 August 2027**, while the full corridor is targeted for **2029**. The project enhances high-speed connectivity, technology transfer, economic development, and strengthens long-term **India–Japan Strategic Partnership**.
- The **Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA)** inducted its first **15 Global Biofuel Champion Fellows** in New Delhi. Selected from **32 countries**, each fellow will receive research funding of up to **US\$15,000** and serve as a **GBA Ambassador** for two years. Established during the **G20 Summit 2023**, the alliance now includes **34 countries** and **14 international organizations**. The fellowship promotes innovation in **Ethanol, Biodiesel, and Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)**, encouraging research collaboration, leadership development, and global clean energy solutions supporting sustainable transportation.
- India hosted the **BRICS Heads of Anti-Drug Agencies Meeting** in **Guwahati, Assam**, led by the **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)** under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**. Delegates from the expanded **11-member BRICS** discussed challenges including **synthetic drugs, darknet trafficking, New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)**, and **cryptocurrency-based money laundering**. India presented its **Vision Document on Narcotics Control 2026–2029**, emphasizing **technology-driven investigations, border surveillance, intelligence sharing, and international cooperation**. The summit is expected to adopt a **Joint Declaration** to strengthen coordinated global action against transnational narcotics networks.
- India crossed **104 crore linked digital health records** under the **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)**, connected to over **93 crore ABHA accounts**. The **Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA)** is a **14-digit digital health ID** that securely links patients with **hospitals, doctors, laboratories, pharmacies, and insurance providers**. The initiative enables **paperless healthcare**, preserves complete **medical history**, and improves continuity of treatment. The government aims to expand the **digital public health ecosystem** by integrating healthcare facilities nationwide, ensuring **secure, accessible, and efficient digital health services** for all citizens.
- India registered **125 new Geographical Indication (GI) tags** during **2025–26**, raising the total to **822 registered GI products**. **Madhya Pradesh** led with **26 registrations**, followed by **West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, and Jharkhand**. The new registrations include **traditional handicrafts, agricultural products, tribal heritage, and indigenous knowledge**, helping preserve regional identity while improving exports and market value. **Handicrafts account for 53%** and **agricultural products 31%** of all GI registrations. The initiative strengthens protection of authentic regional products and promotes India's cultural and economic heritage.
- India ranked **125th** among **197 countries** in the **Global Passport Index (GPI) 2026**, despite achieving its highest-ever score of **45.1**. Published by **Global Citizen Solutions**, the index evaluates passports based on **mobility, quality of living, and investment opportunities**. India ranked **136th in mobility, 118th in quality of living, and 94th in investment potential**. Indian passport holders currently enjoy **visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to around 26 destinations**, while visas remain necessary for several major countries. **Sweden** secured the top position in the 2026 rankings.
- The **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** facilitated the first export of premium **Areko cherries** and **Scentrose plums** from **Jammu & Kashmir** to the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**. The **one-metric-tonne shipment**, sourced from **Shopian and Pulwama**, reached **Abu Dhabi and Dubai**. Farmers reportedly earned nearly **60% higher returns for cherries** and **120% higher returns for plums** compared to domestic markets. The initiative aims to expand India's **fresh fruit exports**, improve farmers' incomes, strengthen **horticulture exports**, and establish Jammu & Kashmir as a leading premium fruit-exporting region.
- Union Home and Cooperation Minister **Amit Shah** announced the establishment of a **Cooperative Life Insurance Company** and expansion of the **Bharat Taxi** platform to **500 cities** within two years during the **Ministry of Cooperation's fifth Foundation Day**. The insurance company aims to strengthen the **cooperative sector**, promote **financial inclusion**, and improve insurance access. **Bharat Taxi**, operating under a **cooperative model**, currently has **6.37 lakh drivers** and **35.77 lakh customers**. The initiative also promotes **organic farming**, entrepreneurship through **PACS**, and nationwide cooperative-led economic development and employment generation.
- The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** designated the **Natural History Museum (NHM), Mizoram University**, as India's **21st Designated Repository** under the **Biological Diversity Act, 2002**. Recommended by the **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)**, the repository preserves authenticated **biological specimens**, supports **species identification**, and strengthens biodiversity conservation. Located in the **Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot**, the museum houses over **500 specimens** covering plants, fungi, insects, reptiles, amphibians, and fishes. The recognition enhances **biodiversity documentation**, ecological restoration, scientific research, and collaboration with regional conservation institutions.





- The **Union Government** extended two new **National Pension System (NPS)** life-cycle investment options to employees of **Central Autonomous Bodies (CABs)**. The **LC-75 High Fund** allows up to **75% equity exposure** for long-term wealth creation, while the **Aggressive Life Cycle Fund** provides about **50% equity exposure**, gradually reducing risk after **45 years of age**. Previously available only to Central Government employees, the options improve **retirement planning**, increase investment flexibility, align portfolios with individual financial goals, and enhance the attractiveness of NPS through the **Central Recordkeeping Agency (CRA)** platform.
- **Kamarajar Port Limited (KPL)** in **Tamil Nadu** became India's **second port** after **Visakhapatnam Port** to achieve an **18-metre operational draft** following completion of the **₹440-crore Capital Dredging Phase VI Project**. The upgrade enables handling of fully loaded **Capesize vessels** carrying up to **1,70,000 DWT**, improving cargo capacity and operational efficiency. Enhanced channel depth, berth infrastructure, and navigational facilities will reduce **logistics costs**, improve **vessel turnaround time**, strengthen **EXIM trade**, and significantly enhance India's **global maritime competitiveness**.
- **Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Maharashtra** signed a landmark agreement to resolve long-pending financial disputes related to the **Sardar Sarovar Project** and **Indira Sagar Project** under the **Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal (NWDt)** Award. The agreement addresses **cost-sharing, rehabilitation expenses, land compensation, interest liabilities**, and pending dues among participating states. Signed in the presence of **Amit Shah** and **C. R. Patil**, it strengthens **cooperative federalism**, improves **inter-state water governance**, and supports sustainable irrigation, hydropower generation, and drinking water management across the Narmada basin.
- The Government approved nationwide implementation of the **Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU)** scheme with an investment of **₹60,000 crore** over five years. The initiative will modernize **1,000 Government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs)** through upgraded laboratories, digital infrastructure, advanced equipment, revised curricula, and stronger placement support. It also establishes **five National Centres of Excellence (NCoEs)** using a **hub-and-spoke model**. The scheme aims to create an **industry-ready workforce**, strengthen vocational education, enhance employability, and promote industry-academia collaboration.
- India's **energy storage requirement** is projected to reach **888 GWh by 2035–36**, according to the latest **India BESS Market Review** and **Central Electricity Authority (CEA)** estimates. The requirement includes **80 GW/321 GWh** from **Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)** and **94 GW/567 GWh** from **Pumped Storage Projects (PSPs)**. Installed BESS capacity is expected to exceed **10 GWh** by 2026, while **lithium-ion cell manufacturing** may reach **110 GWh by 2030**. The expansion supports **renewable energy integration, grid reliability**, and India's long-term **clean energy transition**.
- India hosted the **13th ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) Joint Committee Meeting** in **New Delhi** to accelerate the review of the **India–ASEAN trade pact**. Representatives from all **10 ASEAN member states** discussed **Customs Procedures, Trade Facilitation, Market Access**, and **Rules of Origin** to strengthen regional trade. Co-chaired by **Nitin Kumar Yadav** and **Mastura Ahmad Mustafa**, the meeting assigned time-bound tasks for pending negotiations. **ASEAN** accounts for nearly **11% of India's global trade**, with bilateral trade reaching **USD 128 billion** during **2025–26**.
- The **Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering & Winter Sports (JIM & WS)** successfully completed a mountaineering expedition to the **Mt Khyam Tso Massif** in **Ladakh**. The team summited **Peak Pt 5901 m, Peak Pt 6090 m, Peak Pt 5944 m**, and finally **Mt Khyam-III (6,018 m)** despite extreme weather conditions. Expedition leader **Col. Hem Chandra Singh** also achieved the **first-ever paragliding flight from 5,600 metres**. The expedition showcased India's mountaineering excellence, technical expertise, and commitment to exploring the remote Himalayan region.
- **Jaipur** secured the **6th position globally** in the **Happy City Index 2026**, becoming the **only Indian city** in the global top ten. The ranking recognizes excellence in **governance, healthcare, education, mobility, environmental sustainability, innovation, and quality of life**. Jaipur's success reflects its balance between preserving **cultural heritage** and promoting **smart city development**, improved civic amenities, tourism, handicrafts, and economic opportunities. The recognition highlights India's growing emphasis on **sustainable, livable, and citizen-centric urban development**.
- The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** notified **Navi Mumbai International Airport** as India's **42nd designated drug import port** under the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940**. The notification strengthens the country's pharmaceutical import infrastructure by providing an additional regulated entry point for medicines. Issued after consultation with the **Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB)**, the decision improves **healthcare logistics**, enhances **supply chain efficiency**, reduces congestion at existing ports, and strengthens regulatory oversight while supporting India's growing pharmaceutical sector.





- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, accompanied by Indonesian President **Prabowo Subianto**, visited the **Prambanan Temple Complex** in **Yogyakarta** and launched an **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** restoration project. The **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, built in the **9th century**, is Indonesia's largest **Hindu temple complex**, dedicated to the **Trimurti—Shiva, Vishnu, and Brahma**. The restoration project symbolizes centuries-old **India–Indonesia cultural ties**, strengthens heritage conservation, and promotes bilateral cooperation in preserving historic monuments and shared civilizational traditions.
- India launched the **Letter of Authorisation (LoA)** regime to promote **sustainable deep-sea fishing**, strengthen the **Blue Economy**, and improve fishermen's livelihoods. The framework allows regulated fishing in the **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)** and high seas, reducing pressure on coastal fisheries while expanding seafood exports. Supporting **Fish Farmer Producer Organizations (FFPOs)** and cooperatives, the initiative enhances marine resource management. Simultaneously, **Odisha** launched the **Deep Sea Fishing Mission 2026–2036** with **₹2,295.45 crore** to develop fisheries infrastructure, aquaparks, export facilities, and modern markets, boosting India's marine economy and sustainable fisheries growth.
- The **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** discovered **thorium-bearing deposits** in **Gundlupet, Karnataka**, spread across nearly **700 acres**, with **20 acres** identified for mining. Found in **monazite**, the deposits contain **thorium, rare earth elements**, and uranium. Thorium can produce **uranium-233**, making it an important future **nuclear fuel**. India already possesses among the world's largest thorium reserves. The discovery strengthens strategic mineral security, supports future **advanced nuclear reactors**, and enhances resource assessment. Operating under the **Ministry of Mines**, GSI continues geological exploration to advance India's long-term nuclear energy programme.
- The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** will establish India's first **Centre for High Altitude Medicine and Public Health Research** at **Keylong, Himachal Pradesh**. The centre will research **altitude physiology, acute mountain sickness (AMS), HAPE, HACE**, disaster medicine, climate-sensitive diseases, maternal health, nutrition, and mental health. It will use **telemedicine, drone-based healthcare**, digital surveillance, and collaborate with **DRDO, AFMS**, and academic institutions. Located above **2,500 metres**, the facility will strengthen healthcare, emergency response, and scientific research in India's Himalayan and border regions through advanced mountain medicine.
- The **AISHE Reports 2022–23 and 2023–24** revealed record **higher education enrolment** of **4.5 crore**, rising **31.5%** since 2014–15. The **Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)** increased to **30**, while **female enrolment** reached **2.24 crore** with a **GER of 31.2**. The **Gender Parity Index (GPI)** remained above **1.08** for the seventh consecutive year. **STEM enrolment** crossed **one crore**, with women forming **44%** of students. Faculty strength reached **17.32 lakh**, reflecting progress under **NEP 2020** toward inclusive, quality-driven higher education and expanded access nationwide.
- **NABARD** facilitated **Geographical Indication (GI)** registration for **28 new products**, increasing its total supported GI products to **176**. The newly registered items include **handicrafts, handloom textiles, bamboo crafts, pottery, paintings, and musical instruments** from several states. Governed by the **Geographical Indications of Goods Act, 1999**, GI protects products linked to specific regions. NABARD has also established **GI Facilitation Centres** and a **GI Store**, benefiting over **13,000 artisans** and creating more than **50,000 direct employment opportunities**.
- The **Union Health Ministry** amended the **Drugs Rules, 1945** to strengthen regulation of **alcohol-based medicinal formulations**. Products containing more than **12% v/v ethyl alcohol** in quantities above **30 ml** will now require manufacturing and sale licences under the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940**. These medicines have been included under **Schedule H1**, making them **prescription-only drugs** with mandatory pharmacy records. The revised rules aim to prevent misuse of medicinal products as intoxicants while ensuring legitimate medical use from **January 2027**.
- The **Department of Posts (DoP)** and **TRAI** signed an MoU to conduct India's largest **rural telecom network performance survey** covering **5.68 lakh villages**. Using an **Android-based application, Gramin Dak Sevaks (GDSs)** will assess mobile services of **Airtel, Jio, Vodafone Idea, and BSNL** across all states and Union Territories. The initiative will identify **network gaps**, evaluate service quality, and provide data for **evidence-based policymaking**, helping strengthen **Digital India**, improve rural connectivity, and guide telecom infrastructure investments.
- India will observe the **3rd NAMASTE Day** on **14 July 2026**, celebrating three years of the **National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) Scheme**. Led by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**, the initiative promotes **mechanised sanitation**, eliminates **manual scavenging**, and ensures the **safety, dignity, and welfare** of sanitation workers. Nationwide events will include **health camps, PPE awareness, mechanised equipment demonstrations, skill training, and welfare benefit distribution**. Launched in **2023–24**, the scheme supports an inclusive sanitation ecosystem by improving workplace safety and enhancing the social and economic well-being of sanitation workers.





- **ONGC** successfully drilled its **second geothermal well** in **Puga Valley, Ladakh**, reaching a depth of **1,000 metres** at an altitude above **14,000 feet**. Developed through the **ONGC Energy Centre**, the project supports India's **first 1 MW pilot geothermal power plant**. Following the success of the first well, it confirms the region's geothermal potential for generating **24x7 clean energy**. The project aims to reduce dependence on fossil fuels, strengthen **energy security** in remote Himalayan regions, and contribute towards India's target of **500 GW non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030**.
- As **Digital India** completed **11 years**, the **eSaras** platform emerged as a major initiative promoting **rural entrepreneurship**. Developed by the **Digital India Corporation** under **MeitY** with the **Ministry of Rural Development**, it enables **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)**, **Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs)**, and rural entrepreneurs to sell products nationwide through **ONDC-enabled applications**. Supporting over **8.99 crore SHG members** and **1,400+ products**, the platform provides **digital payments, logistics, multilingual support through BHASHINI**, and market access. It also contributes to the government's target of creating **6 crore Lakhpati Didis by 2029**.
- **Bharat Tex 2026** will be held at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**, from **14–17 July 2026**, showcasing India's complete textile value chain. Organized by the **Bharat Tex Trade Federation** with support from the **Ministry of Textiles**, the event is inspired by **PM Narendra Modi's 5F Vision—Farm, Fibre, Factory, Fashion, and Foreign**. It is expected to host over **1,600 exhibitors, 7,000 global buyers, and 1.3 lakh visitors**, promoting **trade, investment, sustainability, innovation, exports**, and strengthening India's position as a **global textile manufacturing and sourcing hub**.
- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, along with **CERT-In, CSIRT-Fin, and SISA**, released the **Digital Threat Report 2025–26** to strengthen cybersecurity in India's **Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI)** sector. The report highlights rising threats from **AI-powered cyberattacks, credential theft, cloud exploitation, social engineering, and supply chain attacks**. It introduces a **Cyber Failure Anatomy Framework** and recommends an **18-month cybersecurity roadmap** emphasizing **continuous monitoring, stronger security controls, collaboration, and proactive cyber resilience** to safeguard India's expanding digital financial ecosystem.
- The **Government of India** has officially renamed the **Central Vista redevelopment area** as the **Kartavya Bhawan Area (Kartavya Bhawan Complex)**. Union Minister **Manohar Lal** directed all ministries to discontinue using the term **Central Vista** in official documents. The renamed area includes **Kartavya Path, Kartavya Bhawans**, the upcoming **Common Central Secretariat**, and future government offices. The decision follows the **2022 renaming of Rajpath to Kartavya Path** and reflects the government's objective of replacing colonial-era names with terminology symbolizing **public service, national identity, and democratic values**.
- **India Post** achieved its highest-ever **Q1 FY2026–27 revenue** of **₹4,009 crore**, registering **22% year-on-year growth**. Announced during the **Quarterly Business Review Meeting** chaired by **Union Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia**, the performance reflects India Post's transformation into a **digitally empowered, customer-centric organisation**. **Citizen Centric Services** recorded the highest growth (**86%**), followed by **Parcel Services (50%), Mail Services (42%), and International Business (34%)**. **Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and West Bengal** emerged as top-performing circles, while operational efficiency significantly improved through sharp reductions in **nil business transactions**.
- **ICAR** unveiled the **Viksit Krishi Vision 2047** roadmap to modernize Indian agriculture through **technology, sustainability, and climate resilience**. The plan aims to establish **100 Climate Smart Villages**, reach **100 million farmers**, and launch **digital knowledge platforms**. ICAR also released **43 new crop varieties, 17 agricultural technologies, and 14 research publications**. The roadmap promotes **AI, robotics, precision farming**, and commercialization of innovations to enhance **productivity, farmer incomes, and food security**, supporting **Viksit Bharat 2047**.
- **NITI Aayog** released the first **Investment Friendliness Index (IFI)** to assess the investment readiness of all **36 States and Union Territories** using **84 indicators** across **eight key pillars**. Designed as a **benchmarking tool**, the index encourages reforms to improve **investment ecosystems** rather than create competition. **Gujarat** emerged as the **top-performing large state** with a score of **56.6**, followed by **Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Odisha**, while **Goa** led the **Union Territory** category. Since no state crossed the **60-mark**, the report highlights the need for improvements in **governance, infrastructure, business climate, and regulatory reforms** to achieve **Viksit Bharat**.
- The **National Conference on Responsible Business Conduct (NCRBC) 2026** was held in **New Delhi** with the theme **"ESG-led Transformation for Viksit Bharat."** Organized by the **Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA)** under the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs**, the conference focused on integrating **Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG)** principles into India's development strategy. Experts emphasized **transparent ESG reporting, AI-enabled reporting, corporate governance, responsible supply chains, and prevention of greenwashing** to promote **sustainability and inclusive growth**.
- India received approval to develop its first **Urban Night Safari** at **Kukrail Reserve Forest, Lucknow**. The **₹1,510-crore** project, spread across **855 acres**, will include **natural wildlife enclosures, a Day Zoo, eco-friendly safari vehicles, forest trails, and educational centres**. The safari will house species like **Asiatic Lions, Bengal Tigers, Leopards, Hyenas, Flying Squirrels, and Gharials**, promoting **wildlife conservation, eco-tourism, and environmental education**.





- India commissioned its first **Deep Geothermal Wells** at **Puga Valley, Ladakh**, with two wells drilled to **1,000 metres** by the **ONGC Energy Centre**. The project aims to support a **1 MW pilot geothermal power plant**, with recorded temperatures of **135°C** indicating strong **geothermal potential**. The initiative promotes **renewable energy**, **24x7 clean power**, and **sustainable energy generation**.
- Uttar Pradesh** became India's **second-largest state** in **rooftop solar installations** under the **PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana**. The state recorded over **6.74 lakh installations** with a capacity of **2.28 GW**, behind **Gujarat**. The programme has boosted **clean energy adoption**, reduced **electricity costs**, and generated around **85,000 jobs** in the **solar sector**.
- The Ministry of Heavy Industries has invited bids for **10 GWh Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) battery manufacturing** under the ₹18,100 crore PLI Scheme. This final allocation phase aims to complete the target of establishing **50 GWh domestic battery capacity**, with around 40 GWh already allotted. Launched in 2021, the scheme supports next-generation batteries essential for electric vehicles and renewable energy storage. It seeks to reduce import dependence, strengthen domestic manufacturing, improve energy security, and accelerate India's clean energy transition through advanced battery technology.
- The Union Cabinet approved **Semicon 2.0** with an outlay of **₹1.27 lakh crore** to strengthen India's semiconductor ecosystem. Building on Semicon 1.0, the programme focuses on chip design, fabrication, packaging, research, and workforce development. Semiconductors are vital for AI, electric vehicles, telecom, healthcare, and defence industries. The initiative seeks to reduce dependence on imported chips, promote innovation, attract investments, and establish India as a trusted global semiconductor manufacturing hub while supporting long-term technological self-reliance.
- The Union Cabinet approved two major highway projects worth over **₹25,400 crore** under the Varanasi Decongestion Plan. The projects include elevated corridors along the Varuna and Ganga rivers, reducing travel time and improving connectivity. A 910-metre cable-stayed bridge and a 1.32-km travelator-equipped foot overbridge linking Kashi Vishwanath Temple are also planned. Implemented by NHAI under the Hybrid Annuity Model, the projects aim to ease congestion, enhance tourism, improve urban mobility, and strengthen Varanasi's transport infrastructure.
- The **Central Government** will introduce the **Prevention of Insult to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026** during the **Monsoon Session**. The Bill extends legal protection to **Vande Mataram**, making its **insult** or **obstruction** punishable, similar to the **National Flag** and **National**

Anthem. It defines key terms while protecting **freedom of speech** under the Constitution. The move recognizes **Vande Mataram's** historic role in India's **freedom movement** and aims to preserve **national symbols**, **patriotic values**, and respect for the **National Song**.

- ICAR** launched **Viksit Krishi Vision 2047** to modernize agriculture using **AI**, **robotics**, **precision farming**, and **climate-smart technologies**. The roadmap targets **100 Climate Smart Villages**, reaching **100 million farmers**, and introduces **43 crop varieties**, **17 agricultural technologies**, and **14 research publications**. It promotes **digital knowledge platforms**, innovation commercialization, improved **farmer incomes**, **food security**, and sustainable farming. The initiative supports the vision of **Viksit Bharat 2047** by creating a technology-driven and climate-resilient agricultural ecosystem.
- Indian Railways** will introduce India's first **Hydrogen Fuel Cell Train** on the **Jind-Sonipat** route in **Haryana** under the **National Green Hydrogen Mission**. Powered by **PEM Fuel Cells**, the train emits only **water vapour** and **heat**, making it eco-friendly. It accommodates **2,600 passengers**, features advanced safety systems, and includes a **3,000 kg hydrogen refuelling facility**. Developed using **indigenous technology**, the project supports **Net Zero**, **clean mobility**, sustainable transport, and innovation in hydrogen-powered rail infrastructure.
- The **Government of India** has constituted a high-powered **Exam Reform Task Force** under the chairmanship of **Nandan Nilekani**, co-founder of **Infosys**, to strengthen the credibility of India's examination system. The panel will recommend reforms to prevent **paper leaks**, curb **unfair practices**, enhance **transparency**, improve **technology-based monitoring**, strengthen **security mechanisms**, and modernize **exam management**. Other members include **Dr. S. Somnath**, **Tapan Deka**, **Prof. V. Kamakoti**, **Anita Karwal**, and **Amrit Lal Meena**. The initiative comes ahead of the proposed **Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026**, which seeks stricter punishment for examination fraud.
- The **University of Leeds** and **IIT Kharagpur** signed a strategic **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to deepen cooperation in **research**, **education**, **innovation**, and **student mobility**. The partnership promotes **faculty and student exchange programmes**, **joint academic initiatives**, **entrepreneurship**, and **industry collaboration**. It also focuses on **technology transfer**, **intellectual property development**, **startup support**, and **research commercialization** to convert innovations into practical solutions. The agreement further strengthens **India-UK academic relations**, enhances **global talent development**, expands international research opportunities, and provides students with valuable **cross-cultural learning experiences**.





- **President Droupadi Murmu** received the honorary **Doctor Honoris Causa** degree from the **Bucharest University of Economic Studies (ASE)**, **Romania**, for her outstanding public service, commitment to **education, social inclusion**, and strengthening **India–Romania relations**. She dedicated the honour to the **1.4 billion people of India**, describing it as a symbol of enduring friendship between the two nations. During her address, she called **education** the greatest equaliser, shared her inspiring journey from her village to the Presidency, and emphasized balancing **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** with **ethics, compassion, wisdom**, and **human values**.
- **Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan** resigned following nationwide protests over alleged irregularities in the **NEET-UG examination**. In his resignation letter, he stated that the decision was taken in the best interests of students and to restore confidence in India's education system. He acknowledged students' concerns, emphasized the importance of **education** in nation-building, highlighted government action against **exam malpractice**, and thanked the Prime Minister and ministry officials. The controversy has accelerated discussions on **computer-based examinations**, stronger **digital infrastructure**, improved **monitoring systems**, and faster **grievance redressal** mechanisms.
- Following the resignation of **Dharmendra Pradhan**, **Pralhad Joshi** was entrusted with the additional charge of the **Ministry of Education**. The appointment was approved by **President Droupadi Murmu** on the advice of **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** under **Article 75(2) of the Constitution of India**. Joshi will continue managing the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**, and the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** alongside his new responsibility. A senior **BJP** leader and **Dharwad MP** since 2004, he also appreciated Pradhan's role in implementing the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.
- A state-of-the-art **AI Holobox** of former Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** was inaugurated at the **Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya**, **New Delhi**, on **26 July 2026**. The exhibit features a **hyper-realistic 3D AI avatar** capable of interacting with visitors using authenticated **historical records, speeches, writings**, and **archival materials**. The inauguration coincided with the **27th Kargil Vijay Diwas** and included a special exhibition showcasing **microfilms, historic photographs, archival videos, official documents**, and **personal letters**. The initiative demonstrates how **Artificial Intelligence** can preserve India's **political, historical, and cultural heritage** while creating immersive educational experiences.
- The **Government of India** has approved the **manufacture and agricultural use of anhydrous ammonia** as a fertilizer for **three years**, aiming to improve **nitrogen-use efficiency** and reduce dependence on **urea**. Containing about **82% nitrogen**, it provides a highly concentrated nutrient source but requires **specialized equipment, safe storage**, and **trained handling** due to its hazardous nature. The initiative supports **sustainable agriculture**, aligns with the **National Green Hydrogen Mission**, encourages **green ammonia** and **green urea** production, strengthens **fertilizer security**, reduces **import dependence**, and promotes environmentally friendly farming practices.
- The **Kosi–Mechi Intra-State Link Project** has been approved under the **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojana–Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (PMKSY-AIBP)** to improve irrigation infrastructure in Bihar. The project has a balance cost of **₹6,143.22 crore**, with **₹3,652.56 crore** as **Central assistance**, and is scheduled for completion by **March 2029**. It will transfer surplus water from the **Kosi River** to the **Mechi basin**, modernize the **Eastern Kosi Main Canal**, expand irrigation coverage, improve **water-use efficiency**, support farmers, enhance **agricultural productivity**, and promote sustainable **water resource management**.
- The **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)** celebrated its **20th Foundation Day** on **27 July 2026** at **Prithvi Bhawan, New Delhi**, showcasing two decades of achievements in **weather forecasting, ocean research, climate science, polar exploration**, and **disaster preparedness**. Established in **2006**, the Ministry has advanced programmes such as **Mission Mausam, Prithvi Systems**, and the **Deep Ocean Mission**. During the celebration, **AI-based coastal monitoring systems**, upgraded **cyclone warning facilities**, advanced **weather platforms**, and **13 Centres of Excellence** were launched, reinforcing India's commitment to scientific innovation and public safety.
- The **National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)** is transforming legislative functioning across India by replacing **paper-based procedures** with a secure **digital governance platform** under the **Digital India Programme**. Designed around the vision of "**One Nation, One Application**," NeVA digitizes legislative documents, proceedings, and administrative workflows. According to the latest update, **33 of 37 State and Union Territory Legislatures** have signed **MoUs**, while **21 Legislative Houses** have already become **fully digital**. The platform improves **transparency, efficiency, accessibility**, and coordination among legislators, officials, and citizens while promoting **paperless governance** and continuous technological upgrades.
- The **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** facilitated the **first-ever air shipment** of Karnataka's **Neelam and Totapuri mangoes** to the **Maldives** on **30 July 2026**. Around **one metric tonne** of mangoes from **Kolar district** was exported by **Ashwini A of Ahalya Devi Ventures**. Flagged off by **APEDA Chairman Abhishek Dev**, the initiative enabled farmers to earn over **50% higher returns** through **premium export pricing**. Supported by **Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs)**, it promoted **women-led agri-business**, expanded **global horticulture exports**, and strengthened farmers' incomes.





- **Ahmedabad** inaugurated the **Amdavad Experience Centre** in **Glasgow** during the **Commonwealth Games 2026** to showcase its vision of hosting the **2030 Commonwealth Games**. Opened by **Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi**, the centre highlights **Ahmedabad's sports infrastructure, Gujarat's cultural heritage**, and preparations for the **centenary edition** of the Games. It attracted over **5,000 registrations** within a day from athletes, delegates, and sports officials. The launch featured a traditional **Garba performance**, while discussions with the **British Council** focused on strengthening future **educational and cultural partnerships**.
- The **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** enabled the **first-ever sea shipment** of **value-added flavoured makhana (fox nuts)** from **Bihar** to **Canada**, marking a significant achievement for India's agri-exports. The **7-metric-tonne** consignment, processed by **Nutrivin Agro Private Limited**, was dispatched from **Darbhanga** through **Mundra Port** to **ZKV Foods, Canada**. Manufactured according to **international food safety and quality standards**, the initiative promotes **value-added agricultural exports**, improves **branding, packaging**, and **global market access**, while helping farmers earn **over 50% higher incomes**.
- The **Lok Sabha** passed the **Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026**, extending **legal protection** to **Vande Mataram**, India's **National Song**. The amendment to the **Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971** makes deliberate insults or obstruction during its rendition a **punishable offence**, placing it on par with protections available to the **National Flag, Constitution**, and **National Anthem**. After receiving approval from both **Houses of Parliament**, the Bill has been sent to the **President** for assent. Written by **Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay**, **Vande Mataram** played a vital role in **India's freedom movement**.
- The **Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs**, chaired by **Shashi Tharoor**, recommended appointing a dedicated **Polar Representative** to strengthen India's engagement in **Arctic and Antarctic** affairs. Presented in **Parliament** on **30 July 2026**, the report titled "**India's Role and Presence in the Arctic and Antarctic Regions**" emphasized enhancing **polar diplomacy, scientific cooperation**, and long-term strategic planning. It also called for the early construction of a new **Maitri Research Station** in Antarctica, noting that changes in polar regions significantly influence **India's climate, monsoon, sea levels**, and **coastal security**.
- **Indian Railways** introduced an **online personal luggage booking** facility for passengers holding **confirmed reserved tickets**, effective **31 July 2026**. Developed by the **Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS)**, the platform enables passengers to book **excess luggage online** while reserving tickets, eliminating the need to visit luggage counters. The system displays **free baggage allowances, permissible**

limits, charges, prohibited items, and applicable penalties. Free luggage limits range from **35 kg in Second Class** to **70 kg in AC First Class**, while oversized luggage must be booked separately in the **Brake Van**.

- To mark **four years of her presidency**, **President Droupadi Murmu**, the **15th President of India** and the **first tribal President**, launched several **citizen-centric and sustainability-focused initiatives** at **Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi**. The initiatives include the **RAAHI (Rashtrapati Bhavan Access and Heritage Interconnector)** project, an **application-based e-Audio Guide**, the **third edition of e-Upahaar**, **Bachpan-Bal Parisar** for children, a **Net Zero Energy Strategy** for the Service Block, and upgraded infrastructure within the **President's Estates**. These initiatives aim to enhance **visitor experience, heritage conservation, digital governance, public engagement**, and **environmental sustainability**.
- **Vastra Utsav 2026**, organised by the **Friends of DakshinaChitra (FoD)** as a fundraiser for the **DakshinaChitra Museum** near **Chennai**, celebrates India's **handloom heritage, traditional crafts**, and **sustainable fashion**. The exhibition brings together **master weavers, artisans, designers, craft revivalists, and women entrepreneurs** from across the country. Featuring nearly **50 stalls**, it showcases **handwoven textiles, natural fibres, traditional dyeing techniques, SHG products, millet-based foods**, and indigenous crafts. The event promotes **artisan livelihoods, women's empowerment, ethical fashion**, and the preservation of India's rich **textile and cultural heritage**.
- India's **first Telecom Manufacturing Zone (TMZ)** will be established in **Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh**, to strengthen **domestic telecom and electronics manufacturing** under the **Make in India** and **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** initiatives. An **MoU** will be signed between the **Madhya Pradesh Government** and the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)**, followed by the formation of a **Special Purpose Company (SPC)**. Spread across **350 acres**, the project will manufacture **mobile phones, telecom equipment, optical fibre, semiconductors, 5G and 6G products**. Supported by **₹493 crore** in Central funding, it is expected to attract **₹12,000–15,000 crore** in investments and create around **5,000 direct jobs**.
- The **Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS)**, India's **oldest scientific research institution**, completed **150 years** in **2026**. Established on **29 July 1876** in **Calcutta (now Kolkata)** by **Dr. Mahendralal Sircar**, the institution played a pioneering role in promoting **scientific research** and nurturing Indian scientists. During the **Bengal Renaissance**, IACS contributed significantly to **physics, chemistry, biology, and materials science**. Its most historic achievement was **Sir C. V. Raman's discovery of the Raman Effect** in **1928**, which earned him the **1930 Nobel Prize in Physics**. Currently functioning under the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, IACS continues to promote **innovation and advanced research** in India.





- **Indian Railways** achieved a major milestone on **31 July 2026** by successfully transporting India's first **live donor heart** through the **Mumbai Central–Gandhinagar Capital Vande Bharat Express**. The organ was moved from **Surat to Ahmedabad** and delivered to the **U.N. Mehta Institute of Cardiology & Research Centre** for a critical transplant procedure. Train No. **20901** completed the journey within the required **organ viability period**. A special **Green Corridor** was created from Ahmedabad Railway Station to the hospital with support from the **Railway Protection Force (RPF)** and **Gujarat State Police**. The operation highlighted railway infrastructure's expanding role in **emergency healthcare logistics** and involved coordination among railway officials, doctors, security agencies, and transplant teams.

National Current Affairs of June 2026

Cabinet Approvals

- **Cabinet approves Delhi-NCR Clean Mobility Scheme:** The Union Cabinet approved a two-year scheme with a financial outlay of **₹9,585 crore** to reduce air pollution in the Delhi-NCR region by replacing old BS-IV and earlier trucks and buses with **BS-VI or electric vehicles (EVs)**. The scheme will be funded through the **National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB)** and implemented by the Ministries of Road Transport & Highways and Petroleum & Natural Gas in collaboration with Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh. Around **2.07 lakh commercial vehicles** are expected to benefit through interest subsidies, fuel vouchers, tax concessions, OEM discounts, and a fully digital implementation portal.
- **Cabinet approves ₹10,000 crore ATF Price Stabilization Fund:** The Union Cabinet approved a **one-time budgetary support of up to ₹10,000 crore** for Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to stabilize **Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF)** prices for scheduled Indian airlines amid fuel price volatility caused by the West Asia crisis. The support will be provided as **interest-free advances**, ensuring predictable ATF pricing, protecting airlines from sudden fuel price spikes, reducing fare volatility, and maintaining domestic and international air connectivity. The mechanism will remain operational for **36 months** with annual review and recovery of funds once international fuel prices normalize.
- **Civil Aviation Minister welcomes ATF support:** Civil Aviation Minister **Ram Mohan Naidu** welcomed the Cabinet's decision, stating that the ₹10,000 crore ATF stabilization mechanism would provide major relief to airlines by reducing uncertainty in fuel costs while benefiting passengers through more stable airfares. He highlighted that previous government measures included **₹5,000 crore support under ECLGS**, a cap on domestic ATF price increases, reduced airport charges, and lower VAT on ATF by Delhi and Maharashtra.
- **Cabinet approves NH-347B highway project in Madhya Pradesh:** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the upgradation of the **Hiwarkhedī–Roshni–Ashapur–Rudhy** section and widening of the **Deshgaon–Julwaniya** section of **NH-347B** in Madhya Pradesh at a total cost of **₹4,415.60 crore** under the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM). Covering **233.65 km**, the project will improve connectivity across **Betul, Khandwa, Khargone, and Barwani**, reduce congestion, improve road safety, connect multiple economic and logistics hubs, and generate over **42 lakh person-days** of employment.
- **Cabinet approves NH-63 and NH-563 widening in Telangana:** The CCEA approved widening of the **Armoor–Jagtial–Mancherial** section of **NH-63** and the **Jagtial–Karimnagar** section of **NH-563** to four lanes in Telangana with a total investment of **₹7,597.16 crore**. The **190.76-km** project, to be executed under HAM and BOT (Toll) models, will reduce travel time by over **two hours**, improve logistics, ease congestion, enhance regional connectivity, and generate more than **77 lakh man-days** of employment.
- **Cabinet approves Khagaria–Purnea highway project in Bihar:** The CCEA approved the four-laning of the **Khagaria–Purnea** section of **NH-31 and NH-231** in Bihar under the **BOT (Toll)** model at a cost of **₹3,936.05 crore**. The **143.53-km** project includes a **6.73-km Greenfield Purnea Bypass**, aims to reduce travel time to about **two hours**, strengthen connectivity to key economic and logistics nodes, and generate over **73 lakh person-days** of employment.
- **Cabinet approves Odisha Coastal Highway project:** The CCEA approved construction of the **Rameshwar–Paradeep Coastal Highway** in Odisha under the Hybrid Annuity Model at a total cost of **₹8,300.79 crore**. The **160.18-km** corridor, comprising a four-lane section from **Rameshwar to Konark** and a two-lane paved shoulder section from **Konark to Paradeep**, will improve connectivity across coastal Odisha, reduce travel time by **2.5 hours**, strengthen port connectivity, and generate over **120 lakh man-days** of employment.
- **Cabinet approves Ahmedabad Metro Phase 2A:** The Union Cabinet approved **Ahmedabad Metro Rail Phase 2A**, comprising a **6.032-km** corridor with **five stations** connecting **Koteshwar Road to Ahmedabad Airport** at a total cost of **₹2,169.04 crore**. Once completed, the Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar Metro network will expand to **77.63 km**, providing improved airport connectivity, reducing traffic congestion, promoting sustainable urban transport, and generating around **2,500 jobs** during construction and operations.





- **Union Cabinet adopts resolution on Prime Minister Narendra Modi:** The Union Cabinet adopted a resolution marking **10 June 2026** as a historic milestone as **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** became the **longest-serving elected Prime Minister of India**, completing **4,399 consecutive days** in office and surpassing the previous record of **Jawaharlal Nehru**. The resolution praised his leadership over **12 years of the NDA government**, highlighting achievements in poverty reduction, infrastructure, national security, women empowerment, startup growth, social welfare, economic reforms, and India's global standing while expressing confidence in achieving the vision of **Viksit Bharat 2047**.
- **Cabinet approves GPRA project in Amaravati:** The CCEA approved construction of the **General Pool Residential Accommodation (GPRA)** campus in **Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh**, at a cost of **₹1,234.91 crore**. Spread across **17 acres**, the project will provide **1,504 residential units** for Central Government employees with modern civic amenities and GRIHA 4-Star green building standards. The project is expected to generate around **7 lakh man-days annually** during construction and **50,000 man-days annually** during operations.
- **Cabinet approves Central Government Office Complex in Amaravati:** The CCEA approved construction of the **Central Government General Pool Office Accommodation (CGGPOA)** in **Amaravati** at a cost of **₹1,299.08 crore**. The office complex will accommodate around **8,000 Central Government employees**, provide modern office infrastructure with sustainable green building features, improve inter-departmental coordination, and create approximately **7 lakh man-days** of employment during construction.
- **Cabinet approves additional ₹30,000 crore investment in NIIF:** The Union Cabinet approved an additional **₹30,000 crore investment commitment** in the **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)**, taking the Government of India's total commitment to **₹60,000 crore**. The investment will support **NIIF Infrastructure Fund II** and future strategic funds, enabling investments in transportation, energy, digital infrastructure, urban infrastructure, climate projects, and e-mobility while attracting institutional capital, strengthening public-private partnerships, generating employment, and accelerating India's infrastructure development towards the **Viksit Bharat 2047** vision.

Parliament News

State-wise October Month Important Events

Andhra Pradesh

- The Regional Horticultural Research Station (RHRS), Lam Farm, Guntur, introduced two new chilli varieties—**LCA-625** and **LCA-643**—to provide alternatives to the popular Teja and Byadgi chillies. The varieties aim to improve productivity, pest resistance, spice processing, and farmers' income.

- The Union Cabinet approved the **Ahmedabad Metro Rail Project Phase 2A?** (*Not Andhra Pradesh – ignore*)
- The Union Cabinet approved the construction of **Central Government General Pool Residential Accommodation (GPRA)** in **Amaravati** at a cost of **₹1,234.91 crore**. The project will include **1,504 residential units**, green building features, and generate around **7 lakh man-days** of employment annually during construction.
- The Union Cabinet also approved the construction of the **Central Government General Pool Office Accommodation (CGGPOA)** in **Amaravati** at a cost of **₹1,299.08 crore**. The office complex will accommodate nearly **8,000 Central Government employees** and follow GRIHA 4-Star green building standards.

Assam

- The Government launched **Mission Senehgori** with an investment of around **₹396–411 crore** to transform Assam's **Muga Silk** into a global luxury textile brand by strengthening the silk value chain, exports, branding, and GI authentication.
- **APEDA** facilitated the first-ever export of **GI-tagged Tezpur Litchi** from Assam to Dubai, improving farmers' incomes and promoting export-oriented agriculture.
- The Government of Assam and the **European Union** launched the **Blue Valley Cluster** in Guwahati to promote sustainable industries in **Flavours, Fragrances, and AYUSH** sectors.
- Assam and Nagaland signed a **tripartite MoU** to jointly explore crude oil and natural gas reserves along their shared border using a **50:50 revenue-sharing model**.
- Assam received **GI Tags** for **Karbi Anglong Handloom Products, Assam Bihu Pepa, Assam Bamboo Crafts, and Deuri Handloom Products**, strengthening traditional crafts and rural livelihoods.

Bihar

- The Cabinet approved the **₹3,936.05 crore Khagaria–Purnea NH-31/NH-231 Four-Lane Project** under the BOT (Toll) model to improve connectivity and logistics.
- Bihar will establish a **₹31.21 crore Integrated Aqua Park** in Bhojpur with hatcheries, feed plants, training centres, and diagnostic laboratories to strengthen fisheries and aquaculture.

Delhi

- The Union Cabinet approved a **₹9,585 crore Delhi-NCR Clean Mobility Scheme** to replace old BS-IV and earlier trucks and buses with **BS-VI or Electric Vehicles** to reduce pollution.
- Delhi inaugurated **18 Namoo Oxygen Parks** under the **Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam** campaign and announced plans to plant **15 lakh trees** and develop **100 oxygen parks**.
- Delhi inaugurated its **first All-Women Police Station** in North Delhi to strengthen women-centric policing.





Gujarat

- The Gujarat Information Commission directed **Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation** to introduce **QR-coded certificates** for street food vendors to improve food safety and transparency.
- Under **Operation Milap**, Gujarat Police traced **1,470 missing persons** through digital intelligence and interstate coordination.
- The Union Cabinet approved **Ahmedabad Metro Phase 2A** worth **₹2,169.04 crore**, extending metro connectivity to Ahmedabad Airport.

Haryana

- The **World Bank** approved a **₹4,000 crore loan** for the **Jal Sanrakshit Haryana Project**, focusing on canal modernization, groundwater recharge, micro-irrigation, and climate-resilient agriculture.

Jammu & Kashmir / Ladakh

- India inaugurated its **7th Regional Meteorological Centre in Jammu** to strengthen weather forecasting for **Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, and Himachal Pradesh**.
- India achieved a major milestone with the successful breakthrough of the **Zojila Tunnel** main tunnel, ensuring all-weather connectivity between **Kashmir and Ladakh**.
- The Government discussed **constitutional safeguards for Ladakh under Article 371**, focusing on local governance, land rights, and cultural protection.

Jharkhand

- **Bhagaiya Silk, Kuchai Silk, Munda Jewellery, and Bamboo Craft** received **Geographical Indication (GI) Tags**, strengthening traditional handicrafts and rural livelihoods.

Karnataka

- **D.K. Shivakumar** was unanimously elected Congress Legislature Party leader and later took oath as the **18th Chief Minister of Karnataka**, succeeding Siddaramaiah.
- According to the **Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2026**, **Bengaluru** ranked **2nd in Asia** among AI-native startup ecosystems.

Kerala

- Kerala launched **HAWK (Hostile Activity Watch Kernel)**, India's first judiciary-integrated wildlife offence management system.
- Kerala intensified surveillance after a **suspected Nipah virus** case in Kozhikode.
- Kerala launched the **Priyadarshini Free Bus Travel Scheme**, offering free KSRTC bus travel to women and transgender persons.
- Kerala unveiled **Vision 2031**, aiming to make the state India's most women-friendly through gender-responsive governance and safety initiatives.

Madhya Pradesh

- The Cabinet approved the **₹4,415.60 crore NH-347B Highway Project** covering **233.65 km**.
- Madhya Pradesh plans to introduce a **Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill** during the Monsoon Session 2026.
- **Khurasani Imli (Baobab Fruit)** from Mandu received a **GI Tag**.

Maharashtra

- The Maharashtra Cabinet approved the **Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Farmer Debt Relief Scheme**, offering crop loan waivers up to **₹2 lakh**.
- Maharashtra approved the **₹300 crore High-Energy Medical Cyclotron Project** in Nagpur for cancer diagnosis and treatment.
- The state also approved the **Maharashtra Rural Drinking Water Policy 2026**.

Meghalaya

- Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** laid the foundation stone for projects worth **₹1,246 crore**, focusing on logistics, roads, tourism, and livelihoods.
- **Lakadong Turmeric** gained international recognition after being showcased at the **G7 Summit 2026**.

Odisha

- The Cabinet approved the **₹8,300.79 crore Rameshwar-Paradeep Coastal Highway Project**.
- A rare sighting of a **melanistic tigress with three cubs** was recorded in **Similipal Tiger Reserve**.
- Odisha restored the original **Odia names of 64 places** across 26 districts.
- Odisha approved **20 investment projects worth ₹76,611.86 crore**, expected to generate over **50,500 jobs**.
- Odisha launched the **GO-EAST Investment Policy** and revised **IPR 2022** to attract industries in backward districts.
- President **Droupadi Murmu** highlighted the significance of **Raja Parba**, Odisha's traditional festival.

Punjab

- Punjab notified the **VB-G RAM G Rural Employment Scheme 2026**, guaranteeing **125 days** of employment annually.

Rajasthan

- Rajasthan constituted a **five-member committee** headed by **Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai** to draft the **Uniform Civil Code (UCC)**.

Sikkim

- Forest officials recorded the **first-ever video evidence** of a herd of **Mishmi Takin** in **North Sikkim**, highlighting Himalayan biodiversity.

Tamil Nadu

- Tamil Nadu launched the **Singappen Special Task Force**, an all-women police unit for women's safety.
- Tamil Nadu approved the establishment of **five Renewable Energy Zones** to accelerate clean energy projects.





Telangana

- The Cabinet approved the ₹7,597.16 crore NH-63 & NH-563 **Four-Lane Highway Project**, improving connectivity across Nizamabad, Jagtial, Mancherla, and Karimnagar.

Tripura

- Tripura Sarinda**, a traditional bowed musical instrument, received a **Geographical Indication (GI) Tag**.

Uttar Pradesh

- A new **Regional Meteorological Centre** was inaugurated in **Lucknow**.
- Uttar Pradesh launched **Project Ganga**, aiming to provide high-speed internet to **20 lakh rural families**.
- Invest India** and **Invest UP** signed a strategic partnership to boost **FDI**.
- Uttar Pradesh continues implementing the **Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana**, providing ₹25,000 to eligible girls from birth to higher education.

West Bengal

- West Bengal became the **33rd Legislature** to adopt the **National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)**.
- West Bengal became the **36th State/UT** to implement **Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY**.
- The state presented the **West Bengal Budget 2026–27** with an outlay of ₹4.38 lakh crore.
- The government proposed creating **five new districts: Kolkata, Basirhat, Sundarban, Jangipur, and Arambagh**.

June Month Launches & Inaugurations:

- Government Launches Samadhan Didi:** The Government of India launched **Samadhan Didi**, an AI-powered multilingual voice chatbot integrated with the **CPGRAMS** grievance portal. Developed with **Bhashini**, it enables citizens to register complaints in **22 constitutional languages**, automatically identifies the concerned department, and enhances transparency, accessibility, and digital governance.
- Government Launches Khet Bachao Abhiyan:** Union Agriculture Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** launched the **Khet Bachao Abhiyan** to promote sustainable farming through soil conservation, balanced fertilizer use, efficient water management, and climate-resilient agricultural practices. The campaign also encourages Soil Health Cards, farmer training, and awareness against fake fertilizers and pesticides.
- Chandigarh University Launches IndiaAI Data Lab:** Chandigarh University, in collaboration with **Intel India**, launched India's first private **IndiaAI Data Lab** to provide hands-on training in Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Data Science, and emerging technologies. The initiative aims to bridge the gap between academia and industry while developing skilled AI professionals.

- MSDE Launches Navachar Mantra:** The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) launched **Navachar Mantra** at IIT Delhi to support rural innovators and startups through mentorship, investor access, intellectual property support, and market linkages. The programme primarily targets entrepreneurs from Tier-2, Tier-3 cities, and aspirational districts.
- India Establishes First Model Border Village:** India established its first **Model Border Village** at **Chumur in Ladakh** under the Vibrant Village Programme. The project focuses on climate-resilient housing, infrastructure development, tourism promotion, livelihood generation, and strengthening border security in remote Himalayan regions.
- Government Begins Fotu La Tunnel Project:** The Government initiated bidding for the ₹824 crore **Fotu La Tunnel Project** on the Srinagar–Kargil–Leh Highway. The twin tunnels will provide all-weather connectivity to Ladakh, improve military logistics, boost tourism, and reduce travel disruptions caused by heavy snowfall.
- NAMO Airport Terminal Inaugurated at Daman:** Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the new **NAMO Airport Terminal** in Daman, along with development projects worth around ₹2,970 crore. The modern terminal is expected to improve regional air connectivity, tourism, trade, and passenger convenience.
- National Zoological Park Launches NZP Saathi App:** The National Zoological Park, New Delhi, launched the **NZP Saathi App**, self-ticketing kiosks, UPI-enabled payment facilities, and free Wi-Fi to enhance visitor experience through digital ticketing, smart navigation, and interactive educational content.
- Government Launches Land Port Management System (LPMS):** Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** launched the **Land Port Management System (LPMS)** to digitize operations at India's land ports. The platform offers online slot booking, digital payments, cargo tracking, and single-window clearance to improve cross-border trade and passenger movement.
- ICAR Launches Oilseeds Kisaan Mitra:** The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) launched **Oilseeds Kisaan Mitra**, India's first WhatsApp-based AI advisory platform for oilseed farmers. It provides free multilingual guidance on crop cultivation, pest management, irrigation, post-harvest practices, and seed availability.
- Department of Posts Launches Drone Mail Service:** The Department of Posts launched a **drone-based mail delivery service** in Himachal Pradesh between **Mandi and Rehardhar**, reducing delivery time from more than two hours to just seven minutes and improving connectivity in remote mountainous regions.





- **Ministry of Ayush Launches Yoga Park Portal:** The Ministry of Ayush launched the **Yoga Park Portal** to transform public parks into community wellness centres by promoting Yoga, meditation, preventive healthcare, and public participation ahead of the International Day of Yoga 2026.
- **Government Launches Green Hydrogen Certification Portal:** Under the **National Green Hydrogen Mission**, the Government launched the **Green Hydrogen Certification Portal** to ensure transparency and compliance in green hydrogen production while supporting innovation and clean energy development.
- **Government Launches Aadhaar App:** The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** launched the upgraded **Aadhaar App**, offering face authentication, biometric lock/unlock, QR-based Aadhaar sharing, authentication history, and secure digital identity management.
- **Government Launches NAFEX.in and Digital Platforms:** Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** launched **NAFEX.in**, the **NAFED-KALYAN Scholarship Scheme**, **DRISHTI Portal**, and an **ERP Portal** to modernize agricultural marketing, procurement, logistics, and governance through digital technologies.
- **Government Launches Digital Policing Applications:** The Government launched four advanced digital policing platforms—**Abhigyan**, **CrPI**, **e-Prosecution 2.0**, and **e-Forensics 2.0**—to strengthen the Integrated Criminal Justice System (ICJS), improve investigations, and enhance coordination among law enforcement agencies.
- **Government Launches Air Suvidha 2.0:** The Ministry of Civil Aviation launched **Air Suvidha 2.0**, a fully digital health declaration system for international passengers to strengthen airport screening, disease surveillance, and contactless travel.
- **Ministry Launches SHATAYU Dashboard:** The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launched the **SHATAYU Dashboard**, a centralized digital platform connecting senior citizens with certified geriatric caregivers to improve elderly care services across India.
- **Government Launches Vision Document on Narcotics Control (2026–2029):** Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** launched the **Vision Document on Narcotics Control (2026–2029)** to strengthen anti-drug enforcement, rehabilitation, awareness campaigns, and inter-agency coordination for building a drug-free India.

Miscellaneous National News

- **Indian Air Force Uses Bambi Buckets in Kasauli Forest Fire:** The Indian Air Force deployed **Mi-17V-5 helicopters** equipped with **Bambi Buckets** to combat the Kasauli forest fire in Himachal Pradesh. The helicopters carried out over **150 sorties**, dropping more than **62,500 litres of water** to control the blaze. The operation highlighted the importance of aerial firefighting technology in tackling forest fires in difficult mountainous terrain.
- **Supreme Court Orders Removal of Encroachments from Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve:** The Supreme Court directed authorities to remove illegal encroachments and unauthorized structures from the **Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve** in the Western Ghats. The order aims to restore degraded forest land, strengthen biodiversity conservation, and protect one of India's ecologically sensitive regions.
- **Bhavitha Mandava Named in Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia:** Hyderabad-born model **Bhavitha Mandava** was featured in the **Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia 2026** list under the Rising Talents category. She became the first Indian model to open **Chanel's Métiers d'Art Show** and was later appointed as Chanel's Indian brand ambassador, enhancing India's presence in the global fashion industry.
- **India Becomes World's Second Largest Solar Growth Market:** India emerged as the **world's second-largest solar growth market** in 2025 after surpassing the United States in annual solar capacity additions. The country crossed **155 GW** of installed solar capacity, supported by initiatives such as the **PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana**, reinforcing India's leadership in renewable energy and climate action.
- **India Gets Its 100th Ramsar Site:** The **Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary (Surha Tal)** in Uttar Pradesh was designated as **India's 100th Ramsar Site** on World Environment Day 2026. The recognition highlights India's commitment to wetland conservation, biodiversity protection, and sustainable ecosystem management.
- **APEDA Facilitates First Export of Botanical Millet Functional Foods:** The **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** facilitated India's first export of **botanical-infused millet functional foods** from Karnataka to New Zealand. The milestone promotes value-added millet products, strengthens agricultural exports, and enhances farmers' income.
- **FSSAI Introduces Official Vegan Logo:** The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** introduced India's official **Vegan Logo** to help consumers identify certified vegan products. The logo will become mandatory from **1 July 2027**, improving food labeling transparency and promoting plant-based food choices.
- **ASI Restores Historic Mantapa at Hampi:** The **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** restored the historic **Virupaksha Temple Mantapa** at Hampi by removing later constructions and restoring its original architectural design. The restoration improves heritage conservation while preserving the cultural and historical significance of the UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- **India Announces Introduction of E85 Fuel:** The Government announced the rollout of **E85 fuel**, consisting of **85% ethanol and 15% petrol**, to promote clean energy and reduce dependence on imported crude oil. The initiative is expected to lower carbon emissions, strengthen India's biofuel economy, and increase farmers' income through higher ethanol production.





- **Akashvani Completes 90 Years:** India's public broadcaster **Akashvani (All India Radio)** completed **90 years** of broadcasting service. Operating under **Prasar Bharati**, Akashvani continues to be one of the world's largest radio broadcasting networks, playing a vital role in news dissemination, education, and cultural preservation.
- **NFHS-6 Highlights Lowest Fertility Rate:** According to the **National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6)**, the **Andaman & Nicobar Islands** recorded India's lowest **Total Fertility Rate (0.9)**. The findings indicate changing demographic trends, including declining birth rates and an ageing population.
- **India Becomes World's Third Largest Domestic Aviation Market:** India became the **world's third-largest domestic aviation market**, driven by rapid airport expansion, increased passenger traffic, and regional connectivity initiatives such as **UDAN**. The milestone reflects the country's growing aviation infrastructure and economic development.
- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Completes 11 Years:** The **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)** programme completed **11 years** of implementation. Since its launch in 2015, the scheme has contributed to improvements in the child sex ratio, girls' education, women empowerment, and awareness against gender discrimination.
- **India Deploys Tunnel Hood Technology:** India introduced **Tunnel Hood Technology** on the **Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train Corridor** to reduce air pressure waves, minimize noise pollution, improve passenger comfort, and enhance the efficiency of high-speed rail operations.
- **Indian Railways Expands Kavach 4.0:** Indian Railways accelerated the deployment of **Kavach 4.0**, its indigenous **Automatic Train Protection (ATP)** system. The technology is designed to prevent train collisions, overspeeding, and signal-passing-at-danger incidents, significantly improving railway safety.
- **India Targets 155 GW Wind Energy by 2035:** India announced a target of achieving **155 GW of Wind Energy Capacity by 2035**, with an intermediate target of **100 GW by 2030**. The initiative supports India's renewable energy transition, energy security, and climate commitments.
- **Government Temporarily Restricts Telegram:** The Government temporarily restricted access to **Telegram** ahead of the **NEET UG 2026 Re-Examination** to prevent the circulation of fake question papers, answer keys, and misleading content, thereby ensuring examination integrity.
- **Supreme Court Declares Right to Walk a Fundamental Right:** The Supreme Court ruled that the **Right to Walk on Safe and Encroachment-Free Footpaths** is protected under **Article 21** of the Constitution. The Court directed authorities

to prioritize pedestrian-friendly urban planning and maintain safe public walkways.

- **India Becomes World's Largest Ship Recycling Nation:** India became the **world's largest ship recycling nation** in 2025, achieving the **Maritime India Vision 2030** target ahead of schedule. The achievement reflects the success of modernized recycling facilities and sustainable maritime policies.
- **India Releases Indian Pharmacopoeia 2026:** India released the **Indian Pharmacopoeia 2026**, becoming the **first country** to establish dedicated quality standards for **blood and blood components**. The new standards aim to improve transfusion safety, quality control, and healthcare outcomes.
- **India Announces Seven New Bullet Train Corridors:** The Government announced **seven new High-Speed Rail Corridors** under the National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL), expanding India's bullet train network beyond the Mumbai-Ahmedabad route to improve connectivity and economic growth.
- **India Launches Bhu-Aadhaar (ULPIN):** India expanded **Bhu-Aadhaar (Unique Land Parcel Identification Number - ULPIN)** by assigning unique digital identities to over **36 crore land parcels**. The initiative modernizes land records, reduces disputes, and improves transparency in land administration.
- **India Crosses Five Lakh Organ Donation Pledges:** India crossed **5 lakh voluntary organ donation pledges**, reflecting increased public awareness and improved digital registration through the **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission**. The milestone supports ethical organ transplantation and better healthcare access.
- **India Ranked 13th in QS World Future Skills Index 2027:** India secured the **13th position globally** in the **QS World Future Skills Index 2027**, reflecting its growing capabilities in Artificial Intelligence, digital technologies, innovation, startup ecosystems, and future workforce readiness.





National Current Affairs of May 2026

Cabinet Approvals

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, approved the introduction of **the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026**, to increase the strength of **Supreme Court judges from 33 to 37**, excluding the Chief Justice of India. The move aims to improve judicial efficiency, reduce case pendency, and ensure speedier delivery of justice. The expenditure on additional judges, supporting staff, and related facilities will be met from the Consolidated Fund of India. The proposal builds upon a series of amendments that have progressively increased the Supreme Court's sanctioned strength since the enactment of the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956.
- The Cabinet also approved two new semiconductor projects under the **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)** with a cumulative investment of around **₹3,936 crore in Gujarat**. Crystal Matrix Limited will establish India's first commercial Mini/Micro-LED display facility based on Gallium Nitride (GaN) technology at Dholera, while Suchi Semicon Private Limited will set up a semiconductor assembly and testing facility in Surat. Together, these projects are expected to create around 2,230 skilled jobs and strengthen India's semiconductor ecosystem. With these approvals, the total number of semiconductor projects under ISM has reached 12, attracting investments of approximately ₹1.64 lakh crore.
- The Union Cabinet approved the **Mission for Cotton Productivity** with a financial outlay of **₹5,659.22 crore** for the period 2026-27 to 2030-31. The mission seeks to improve cotton productivity, quality, and sustainability through the development of high-yielding and climate-resilient seed varieties, adoption of advanced farming technologies, modernization of ginning facilities, strengthening testing infrastructure, and promoting the Kasturi Cotton Bharat initiative. The mission targets cotton production of 498 lakh bales by 2031 and aims to increase productivity from 440 kg per hectare to 755 kg per hectare while benefiting nearly 32 lakh farmers.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved three major railway multi-tracking projects worth approximately ₹23,437 crore. These include the **Nagda–Mathura 3rd and 4th Line, Guntakal–Wadi 3rd and 4th Line, and Burhwal–Sitapur 3rd and 4th Line projects**. Covering 19 districts across six states, these projects will add about 901 kilometers to the railway network, improve connectivity for around 83 lakh people, support freight movement, reduce logistics costs, and contribute to environmental sustainability through lower fuel consumption and carbon emissions.
- In another significant infrastructure decision, the Cabinet approved the development of a modern ship repair facility at **Vadinar, Gujarat, with an investment of ₹1,570 crore**. The project will be jointly implemented by Deendayal Port Authority and Cochin Shipyard Limited. Equipped with floating dry docks, workshops, and advanced marine infrastructure, the facility will enable India to repair large vessels domestically, reducing dependence on foreign shipyards, saving foreign exchange, and generating employment opportunities in the maritime sector.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the **Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane for the 2026-27 sugar season at ₹365 per quintal for a basic recovery rate of 10.25%**. Farmers will receive additional incentives for higher recovery rates, while those supplying cane to mills with recovery below 9.5% will still receive ₹338.3 per quintal without deductions. The approved FRP is over 100% higher than the cost of production and is aimed at safeguarding the interests of nearly five crore sugarcane farmers and their families.
- To strengthen India's aviation sector, the **Cabinet approved ECLGS 5.0 support** specifically for airlines facing financial stress due to rising aviation fuel costs and global operational disruptions. Airlines will be eligible for loans of up to ₹1,500 crore per borrower under specified conditions, with repayment periods extending up to seven years. The measure is expected to improve liquidity, protect jobs, maintain connectivity, and ensure operational stability across the aviation ecosystem.
- The Cabinet also approved the extension of the lease period of **Airports Authority of India land leased to MIHAN India Limited beyond August 2039**. This decision enables the transfer of Nagpur Airport operations to GMR Nagpur International Airport Limited for a 30-year concession period. The move is expected to transform Nagpur's Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport into a world-class aviation hub capable of handling up to 30 million passengers annually, significantly enhancing regional connectivity and cargo operations.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the **Ahmedabad (Sarkhej)–Dholera Semi High-Speed Double Line railway project at an estimated cost of ₹20,667 crore**. This will be India's first semi high-speed rail project based on indigenous technology. The line will provide faster connectivity between Ahmedabad, Dholera Special Investment Region, Dholera Airport, and the Lothal National Maritime Heritage Complex, improving passenger mobility and serving as a model for future semi high-speed rail projects across the country.
- The CCEA approved higher **Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for 14 Kharif crops for the Marketing Season 2026-27**. The highest increase was announced for sunflower seed, followed by cotton, nigerseed, and sesamum. The revised MSPs ensure farmers receive at least 1.5 times the cost of production, reinforcing the government's commitment to providing remunerative prices and encouraging diversification toward pulses, oilseeds, and millets.





State-wise October Month Important Events

Andhra Pradesh

- Justice Lisa Gill was sworn in as the first woman Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court in Vijayawada, marking a major milestone for women's representation in India's judiciary. The oath was administered by Governor S Abdul Nazeer. Her appointment reflects progress toward gender equality, inclusivity, and diversity in the legal system. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu extended congratulations. This historic step encourages greater participation of women in legal professions and strengthens the credibility of India's judicial institutions.
- The Andhra Pradesh government, led by N Chandrababu Naidu, launched a ₹13,000 crore Mushroom Mission to make the state India's largest producer. Targeting 67,500 tonnes output and 1.62 lakh units, it focuses on small farmers, self-help groups (SHGs), and rural employment. With 40% subsidy support, the initiative promotes varieties like milky, paddy straw, and button mushrooms. It aims to build a strong agri value chain, boost exports, and generate sustainable income, positioning the state as a hub for agri-based entrepreneurship and rural development.
- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu announced a new population incentive policy offering ₹30,000 for a third child and ₹40,000 for a fourth child to address declining fertility rates. The announcement reflects a shift from earlier population-control thinking toward encouraging larger families amid demographic concerns. Many countries including Japan, South Korea, China, and Italy face similar low-birth challenges. Since replacement fertility level is around 2.1 children per woman, the policy aims to prevent future workforce shortages, ageing population pressures, and long-term economic slowdown.

Assam

- Himanta Biswa Sarma has submitted his resignation as the Chief Minister of Assam to Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya at Lok Bhawan, Guwahati, following the Assembly election results. The Governor requested Sarma and his Council of Ministers to continue in a caretaker capacity until the new government is officially formed. The BJP-led NDA secured a landslide victory in the state, and sources indicate that Sarma is likely to continue as Chief Minister, with the oath-taking ceremony expected on May 12, 2026. As per constitutional convention, Chief Ministers resign after elections to allow the Governor to invite the newly elected legislative party leader to form the government. The BJP has appointed J.P. Nadda and Nayab Singh Saini as observers for selecting the legislature party leader, while ally AGP has extended support to Sarma's candidature.
- Himanta Biswa Sarma took oath as Chief Minister of Assam for a second consecutive term, marking the NDA government's third straight victory since 2016. The grand ceremony in Guwahati was attended by PM Narendra Modi,

Union Ministers and several BJP-NDA Chief Ministers and leaders. Along with him, Rameswar Teli, Atul Bora, Charan Boro, and Ajanta Neog took oath as ministers in the new cabinet. The NDA alliance secured a two-thirds majority in Assam Assembly elections, while Ranjeet Kumar Dass was nominated as the new Assembly Speaker.

- The Assam Cabinet led by Himanta Biswa Sarma has approved the draft Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill, which is expected to be introduced in the State Assembly on May 26. The proposed law aims to create a common civil framework covering matters such as marriage, divorce, property succession, live-in relationships, compulsory marriage registration, and divorce registration. A Uniform Civil Code refers to a common set of civil laws applicable to all citizens regardless of religion, replacing religion-based personal laws in certain civil matters. The Assam government said the move promotes legal uniformity, equality before law, and transparency. The state has clarified that tribal communities, religious rituals, traditional customs, and cultural practices will remain exempt from the proposed law. Assam now joins states like Goa and Uttarakhand in advancing discussions around state-level UCC implementation.

Gujarat

- Gujarat Forest Department intensified the Jal-Parab Campaign** in Little Rann of Kutch to provide water support for wildlife during extreme summer conditions.

Haryana

- The Haryana government launched the ShramMitra app, a digital labour market platform designed to directly connect workers and employers while replacing the traditional labour chowk system. Introduced by Labour Minister Anil Vij, the app enables skill-based worker registration, online job matching, direct wage negotiations, multilingual access, and mobile hiring. Developed by the Haryana Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board, it already includes data for nearly 75,000 registered workers. The platform improves transparency, accessibility, and employment opportunities for both daily wage and skilled workers through digital labour market reforms.

Jharkhand

- Jharkhand achieved a major education milestone by recording a 0% primary dropout rate in 2024-25, according to NITI Aayog and Unified District Information System for Education Plus data. The state reduced primary dropout from 6.41% in 2014-15 to zero, while upper primary dropout declined from 7.42% to 1.7% and secondary dropout from 23.2% to 3.5%. Jharkhand ranked fourth nationally in secondary dropout reduction, reflecting strong progress in student retention, school participation, and educational access, despite challenges like teacher vacancies and out-of-school children.





- Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu inaugurated new passenger facilities at Birsa Munda Airport, Ranchi, including a Bhagwan Birsa Munda statue, UDAN Yatri Café, Kids Zone, Flybrary, and AVSAR Counter. The installations honour Birsa Munda, the iconic tribal freedom fighter and symbol of indigenous resistance against British colonial rule. The UDAN Yatri Café aims to provide affordable food, supporting the Ease of Flying initiative. The minister also announced expansion plans under the Modified UDAN Scheme, targeting development of 100 new airports and 200 heliports to strengthen regional air connectivity.

Karnataka

- The Bengaluru Police has introduced an AI-powered multilingual feature in the Namma 112 helpline, enabling communication in 10+ Indian and foreign languages like Bengali, Malayalam, French, Spanish, and Arabic. Built on Voice AI technology, it ensures real-time translation, reducing delays during emergencies. With around 8,000 daily calls, including 100–200 language-barrier cases, this system improves emergency response efficiency and accessibility. It strengthens public safety, supports international visitors, and reflects India's push toward digital governance, smart policing, and inclusive emergency services in a globally diverse city like Bengaluru.
- The Karnataka government has launched India's first digital grievance redressal system for gig workers, developed by the Karnataka Platform-based Gig Workers Board with the e-Governance Department. Through the Integrated Public Grievance Redressal System (IPGRS), workers can report issues related to wages, incentives, and working conditions, with real-time tracking and time-bound resolution. This initiative creates a formal link between workers, platforms, and authorities, enhancing transparency, accountability, and worker protection. It marks a major step toward regulating the gig economy and ensuring rights for app-based workers like delivery partners and ride-hailing drivers.
- According to National Crime Records Bureau data, Bengaluru recorded the highest suicide rate among major Indian cities, with nearly 20 suicides per lakh population during 2022–2024. The Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India report showed Bengaluru recorded 2,403 suicides in 2024, while Delhi had higher total cases but a lower suicide rate due to its larger population. Major causes included family problems, illness, mental health issues, economic stress, work pressure, migration stress, and social isolation, highlighting growing urban mental health concerns and the need for better counselling and support systems.
- Karnataka has introduced the Kartavya-KAAMS App (Karnataka Advanced Attendance Management System) to modernize attendance tracking in government institutions

from the 2026–27 academic year. The system replaces traditional biometric attendance with AI-based facial recognition, geo-fencing, and HRMS integration to ensure accurate and transparent workforce monitoring for teachers, headmasters, and staff. Developed by the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms, the app requires employees to mark "In Time" and "Out Time" attendance daily and links with systems like HRMS and student performance tracking platforms. The rollout aims to cover over 20 lakh government employees, improving efficiency, accountability, and digital governance across Karnataka's public sector.

- Karnataka has become India's first state to introduce an Alcohol-in-Beverage (AIB)-based excise taxation system, replacing the traditional bulk-litre model with a more scientific alcohol-content-based structure. Tax slabs have been reduced from 16 to 8, changing liquor pricing significantly. Premium scotch whiskies and mild beers may become 20–25% cheaper, while several budget liquor brands could become 20–30% costlier. The reform aims for transparency and rational taxation, but industry groups warn that higher taxation on mass-market brands may affect consumer demand, retail sales, and excise revenue collections.
- **Siddaramaiah resigned as Karnataka Chief Minister**, marking a major political transition with D. K. Shivakumar expected to take charge.

Kerala

- The V. D. Satheesan has been chosen by the Indian National Congress to lead the new government in Kerala after the United Democratic Front secured a massive victory in the 2026 Assembly elections. The announcement ends days of leadership speculation involving senior leaders like K. C. Venugopal and Ramesh Chennithala. The UDF reportedly won 102 seats in the 140-member Assembly, defeating the Left Democratic Front led by Pinarayi Vijayan and ending a decade of Left rule in the state. A practicing lawyer and six-time MLA from Paravur, Satheesan previously served as the Leader of Opposition and is now set to become Kerala's next Chief Minister for the first time.
- V. D. Satheesan took oath as Kerala Chief Minister on 18 May 2026, leading the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) back to power after ten years of Left rule. The ceremony at Central Stadium was historically notable because the entire 21-member Cabinet took oath simultaneously, a rare event in Kerala's political history. Senior leaders including Rahul Gandhi attended. The cabinet includes leaders from Congress, Indian Union Muslim League, RSP, and Kerala Congress factions, reflecting a broad coalition government aimed at stable governance.





- Kerala has become India's first state to create a dedicated cabinet-level Artificial Intelligence (AI) portfolio, formally recognising AI as an independent governance domain. The portfolio has been assigned to senior leader P. K. Kunhalikutty under the Industries and Commerce Department, alongside IT, startups, and industrial development. The move reflects Kerala's ambition to leverage AI in governance, healthcare, education, manufacturing, economic growth, and startup innovation. By institutionalising AI at the cabinet level, the state aims to accelerate technology-driven public service reforms, industrial modernisation, and innovation-led economic transformation.
- **Kerala inaugurated India's first private medical museum** in Thiruvananthapuram to promote scientific learning and medical awareness.
- **Kerala announced India's first dedicated Department for Senior Citizens' Welfare** and approved the Kerala State Policy for Senior Citizens 2026.

Maharashtra

- Maharashtra approved the Compressed Biogas (CBG) Policy 2026 to promote renewable energy, waste-to-energy systems, and sustainable waste management, allocating ₹500 crore for FY 2026-27. The policy aims to establish CBG projects in every district using municipal solid waste and agricultural residue to produce clean fuel through anaerobic digestion. It includes PPP and hybrid annuity models, viability gap funding up to ₹15 crore per project, mandatory waste segregation, and priority utility support. Linked with schemes like SATAT and Swachh Bharat Mission, the initiative supports India's Net-Zero 2070 goals and circular economy efforts.
- Pune is set to introduce India's first Low Emission Zone (LEZ) in the Shivajinagar area, marking a significant step toward urban air quality control and sustainable mobility. The project is being developed by the Pune Municipal Corporation with support from ITDP India and aligns with the Maharashtra Electric Vehicle Policy 2021 to promote cleaner transport systems. The LEZ will restrict or regulate high-emission vehicles, especially older vehicles below Bharat Stage-III norms and pre-2011 registrations, within about 7–10% of Pune's central business district, using pollution charges and penalties for compliance. Enforcement will rely on Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) systems.
- India is developing its first underwater museum near Sindhudurg, Maharashtra, centred around the decommissioned naval warship INS Guldar. The vessel will be submerged around 22 metres underwater near Nivati Rocks, serving as both a marine tourism attraction and an artificial reef supporting biodiversity conservation. The project will offer activities including scuba diving, wreck diving, submarine sightseeing, and speedboat access, boosting experiential tourism along the Konkan coast. Developed with environmental studies by the Maharashtra Maritime Board and CSIR-National Institute of

Oceanography, the initiative promotes sustainable coastal development and employment generation.

Madhya Pradesh

- The Madhya Pradesh government has partnered with Google Cloud India to deploy AI-driven solutions for Simhastha Kumbh 2028 in Ujjain, one of India's largest religious gatherings. Artificial intelligence will support crowd management, traffic prediction, emergency response, congestion control, and pilgrim assistance, improving safety and efficiency. A proposed Centre of Excellence in Indore will focus on AI research, innovation, and digital governance skill development. The initiative reflects Madhya Pradesh's push toward technology-enabled governance, ensuring smoother management of millions of devotees during the mega spiritual event.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired the Central Zonal Council Meeting in Jagdalpur, bringing together Chief Ministers and senior officials from Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand to strengthen cooperative federalism. Discussions focused on internal security, infrastructure development, border coordination, inter-state cooperation, governance, and economic planning. The Central Zonal Council is one of five statutory councils created under the States Reorganisation Act, 1956, aimed at resolving regional issues through consultation. The Home Minister serves as chairman, while Chief Ministers act as rotating vice-chairpersons.

Odisha

- Odisha has emerged as the top-performing state under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban 2.0 in house completion rankings from March 2025 to March 2026. Under the scheme launched in September 2024, Odisha sanctioned 24,625 houses, geo-tagged 23,464 sites, started foundation work on 3,134 houses, and completed 2,008 houses by May 2026. The achievement highlights the state's strong implementation of affordable urban housing, digital monitoring, geo-tagging technology, and coordinated efforts by urban local bodies to provide pucca houses for economically weaker and middle-income families.
- Deputy CM Pravati Parida inaugurated Nimapara Patha Utsav 2026 in Puri district, Odisha, under the Utkarsha Nimapara 2.0 initiative. The festival promotes Odia folk traditions including tribal dance, Sankirtan, Pala, Dasakathia, street theatre, and storytelling, blending culture with public awareness campaigns. Youth-focused activities such as sports events, marathons, debates, music, and dance competitions encourage civic participation and talent development. Symbolic launches including the official jersey, mascot "Utkarsha Ghoda," and medals reflect efforts to combine heritage preservation with community development.
- **Odisha signed a \$3.3 billion semiconductor manufacturing MoU** with Intel and 3D Glass Solutions to establish an advanced substrate facility.





Rajasthan

- Rajasthan has expanded its newborn nutrition and breast milk donation initiative through the Yashoda Mothers programme and state-run human milk banks to support infants who lack access to maternal breast milk. The initiative includes key facilities such as the Mother Milk Bank at Barmer District Hospital, Jeevan Dhara Milk Bank, and the Aanchal Mother Milk Bank, which collect, screen, and safely store donated breast milk for neonatal care. These human milk banks follow strict medical protocols including infection screening (HIV testing) and storage at controlled temperatures (around -19°C), ensuring safe distribution to newborns in NICUs and reducing infant mortality risks. The programme, supported under the Norway-India Partnership Initiative, promotes lactating mothers as “Yashoda Mothers” and has significantly strengthened neonatal healthcare and nutrition support across the state.
- Rajasthan launched its first semiconductor cluster in Bhiwadi, marking the state’s entry into India’s rapidly growing electronics and semiconductor manufacturing sector. The project was inaugurated by Bhajan Lal Sharma, while Ashwini Vaishnav stated that the cluster has already attracted nearly ₹1,200 crore in investments and is expected to generate around 2,500 jobs. Semiconductors are critical for technologies like AI, smartphones, EVs, telecom, and defence systems, making the project strategically important. The initiative supports Rajasthan’s broader “Developed Rajasthan 2047” vision and strengthens its advanced manufacturing ecosystem.
- **Kumbhalgarh Fort (Rajsamand)** gained global recognition as the world’s second-longest continuous wall (36 km) and remains a UNESCO-listed Rajput heritage site.
- **Oil India Limited discovered a new natural gas-bearing zone in Rajasthan’s Dandewala Field**, strengthening domestic energy production and reducing import dependence.

Sikkim

- **Sikkim became India’s fifth fully literate state** under the ULLAS Initiative through community-led literacy and lifelong learning efforts.
- **Sikkim Police received the President’s Police Colour Award** for distinguished service and contribution to public safety.

Telangana

- Narendra Modi inaugurated India’s first operational PM MITRA Park in Warangal, developed at a cost of over ₹1,695 crore to strengthen India’s textile manufacturing and export ecosystem. Spread across 1,327 acres, the park is expected to attract investments of over ₹6,000 crore and create around 24,400 jobs, especially boosting employment opportunities for women. Built under the PM MITRA Scheme, the project follows the government’s 5F vision — Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign — integrating

the complete textile value chain in one location. With strong connectivity, modern infrastructure, and investor support, Warangal is emerging as a major textile hub, enhancing India’s global competitiveness in textile exports, manufacturing, and industrial growth.

- **Telangana launched India’s first women-operated solar power plant** in Khammam under the Indira Mahila Shakti Scheme to promote renewable energy and women empowerment.

Tamil Nadu

- C. Joseph Vijay was sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 10 May 2026 at Chennai’s Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium, marking a historic shift in the state’s political landscape. His party, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam, emerged as the largest party in the 2026 Assembly elections and formed a coalition government with support from parties like Congress, CPI, CPI(M), VCK, and IUML. Vijay’s victory ended nearly six decades of dominance by the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam in Tamil Nadu politics. His rise from cinema superstar to Chief Minister reflects Tamil Nadu’s long tradition of film personalities entering politics, similar to leaders like M. G. Ramachandran and J. Jayalithaa.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Joseph Vijay expanded the state cabinet by inducting 23 new ministers, increasing total cabinet strength to 32 members. Vijay retained major portfolios including Home, Police, Youth Welfare, Urban Development, and General Administration, reflecting his emphasis on governance and law enforcement. A key reshuffle saw K. A. Sengottaiyan moved from Finance to Revenue and Disaster Management, while N. Marie Wilson took charge of Finance, Planning, and Development. Political observers note that further inclusion of alliance partners like Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) and Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) may reshape cabinet dynamics.

Tripura

1. **Mission Queen Pineapple worth ₹236 crore was launched in Tripura to develop the GI-tagged fruit into a premium global brand.**

Uttarakhand

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired the Central Zonal Council Meeting in Jagdalpur, bringing together Chief Ministers and senior officials from Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand to strengthen cooperative federalism. Discussions focused on internal security, infrastructure development, border coordination, inter-state cooperation, governance, and economic planning. The Central Zonal Council is one of five statutory councils created under the States Reorganisation Act, 1956, aimed at resolving regional issues through consultation. The Home Minister serves as chairman, while Chief Ministers act as rotating vice-chairpersons.





- The Uttarakhand government has approved a ₹450 crore ropeway project connecting Rishikesh to Neelkanth Mahadev Temple, dramatically reducing travel time from three hours to just 15 minutes. Starting from Tapovan, the ropeway will boost religious tourism, improve accessibility for senior citizens and families, and ease traffic congestion. Since the route passes near the Rajaji Tiger Reserve and Ganga ecosystem, environmental safeguards and wildlife protection measures have been included. The temple, located at 1,330 metres altitude, attracts thousands of pilgrims during Shravan and Mahashivratri, supporting Uttarakhand's tourism economy.

Uttar Pradesh

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired the Central Zonal Council Meeting in Jagdalpur, bringing together Chief Ministers and senior officials from Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand to strengthen cooperative federalism. Discussions focused on internal security, infrastructure development, border coordination, inter-state cooperation, governance, and economic planning. The Central Zonal Council is one of five statutory councils created under the States Reorganisation Act, 1956, aimed at resolving regional issues through consultation. The Home Minister serves as chairman, while Chief Ministers act as rotating vice-chairpersons.

West Bengal

- Highest-ever voter turnout (92.47%) in Assembly elections.
- Suvendu Adhikari elected as new Chief Minister.
- Suvendu Adhikari took oath as first BJP CM of West Bengal.
- BJP formed first-ever BJP-led government in West Bengal.
- Rathindra Bose elected Speaker of 18th West Bengal Assembly.
- West Bengal approved implementation of the 7th Pay Commission.
- West Bengal Chief Minister **Suvendu Adhikari** announced the **Annapurna Bhandaar Scheme**, under which eligible women will receive **₹3,000 per month** through **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)**. The scheme is expected to start from **1 June 2026** and will replace the earlier **Lakshmir Bhandar Scheme**. The government also announced **free bus travel for women** and implementation of central welfare schemes in the state.

Ladakh

- Five new districts announced: Nubra, Sham, Changthang, Zaskar and Drass.
- Mahey Tokpo-Raldho irrigation canal inaugurated in Changthang region.

Mizoram

- Aizawl hosted first Regional Cooperative Reform Conference under "Sahkar se Samridhi".

Puducherry

- N. Rangasamy sworn in as Chief Minister for a record fifth term.
- Department of Commerce approved two new Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Puducherry** to promote exports, investments, and industrial growth.

Sikkim

- Implementation of Anand Marriage Act, 1909 from June 1, 2026.

Chhattisgarh

- AI-powered Dial 112 emergency response system launched across all 33 districts.
- Hosted Central Zonal Council Meeting in Jagdalpur.

Delhi

- ₹4,000 crore Air Train Project at IGI Airport.
- Income eligibility for ration cards proposed to increase from ₹1.2 lakh to ₹2.5 lakh.
- "Vaman Van" biodiversity and environmental education project launched.

May Month Launches & Inaugurations:

- NITI Aayog** launched the **DPI@2047 roadmap** to transform India into a **\$30 trillion economy** with **\$18,000 per capita income**. The plan includes **DPI 2.0 (2025–2035)** focusing on digital empowerment and inclusive access, and **DPI 3.0 (2035–2047)** driving innovation-led growth. Building on platforms like **Aadhaar** and **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**, it targets MSMEs, agriculture, education, and healthcare. The initiative supports financial inclusion, job creation, and aligns with **Viksit Bharat 2047**, aiming for sustainable and technology-driven economic development.
- Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)** launched a **14-day Bharat-Bhutan Mystic Mountain Tour** from **New Delhi**, offering a premium rail-cum-road journey via the **Bharat Gaurav Deluxe AC Tourist Train**. Covering Northeast India and Bhutan, key destinations include **Guwahati, Shillong, Thimphu, and Paro**. The package features luxury cabins, meals, 3-star stays, and guided sightseeing. Priced from **₹1.16 lakh**, it ensures a hassle-free travel experience. This initiative boosts tourism, strengthens India-Bhutan connectivity, and promotes cultural exchange through curated travel.
- Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** will establish a **₹15 crore Basmati and Organic Training Centre** in **Pilibhit** to boost agricultural exports. The centre will train farmers in basmati cultivation, organic farming, and export practices, supported by AI-based crop mapping and a **NABL-accredited lab** for quality testing. Targeting over **50,000 farmers**, it will enhance productivity, traceability, and global competitiveness.





- **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **594 km Ganga Expressway** in **Uttar Pradesh**, built at **₹36,230 crore**, to boost connectivity and economic growth. Linking **Meerut to Prayagraj** across **12 districts**, the six-lane (expandable to eight) corridor reduces travel time from **10–12 hours to about 6 hours**. A key feature is a **3.5 km emergency airstrip** for defence use.
- India conducted a nationwide trial of the **Cell Broadcast Alert System** on **May 2, 2026**, led by the **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)**. Powered by the **SACHET Integrated Alert System** developed by **C-DOT**, it supports **19+ languages** and works even during network congestion.
- India has launched its first **Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) Tolling System** in **Gujarat** on the **Surat–Bharuch stretch of NH-48** at the **Chorayasi Toll Plaza**. Introduced by the **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)**, the system enables vehicles to pass toll points without stopping.
- The **Union Health Ministry** has launched a comprehensive **National Framework for Managing Childhood Diabetes**, covering children from birth to 18 years. The government has promoted the **4Ts awareness model — Toilet, Thirsty, Tired, and Thinner**.
- The **Union Cabinet** approved **two new semiconductor projects** under the **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)** with a combined investment of over **₹3,936 crore** in **Gujarat**.
- The **Union Cabinet** approved a **state-of-the-art ship repair facility** at **Vadinar, Gujarat**, with an investment of around **₹1,570 crore**.
- The **Union Cabinet** approved the **₹5,659.22 crore Mission for Cotton Productivity** for the period **2026–27 to 2030–31**.
- The **South Coast Railway (SCoR) Zone** with headquarters at **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**, will become operational from **June 1, 2026**.
- **PRASHAST 2.0** has been launched by **NCERT** to promote inclusive education and support early identification of disabilities among school children.
- The **MoHFW** launched the **JANANI (Journey of Antenatal, Natal and Neonatal Integrated Care) Platform** to strengthen maternal and child healthcare through digital monitoring and integrated health records.
- **Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya** launched a nationwide **free annual health check-up programme** for workers aged **40 years and above** under the new Labour Codes through the **ESIC network**.
- **Sanjay Seth** inaugurated **India's first international ophthalmology research conference (AIOS-AFOU 2026)** in **New Delhi**.
- India launched the **Sehat Mission** in **New Delhi** under the leadership of **Narendra Modi**, aiming to link agriculture, nutrition, and healthcare into a unified national strategy.
- The **Supreme Court of India** launched the **'One Case One Data'** initiative and AI-powered chatbot **'Su-Sahayak'**.
- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** approved the **Ahmedabad (Sarkhej)-Dholera Semi High-Speed Double Line Rail Project** worth **₹20,667 crore**.
- The **Union Cabinet** approved a **₹37,500 crore Coal Gasification Scheme** to gasify nearly **75 million tonnes** of coal and lignite.
- **Bhupender Yadav** launched the **Lion Species Spotlight Programme** at **Sasan Gir** ahead of the **International Big Cat Alliance Summit 2026**.
- The **Centre** launched the **₹189.79 crore Mizoram Ginger Mission** to transform **Mizoram ginger** into a globally recognized premium product. Backed by the **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region**, the mission focuses on farmer income growth, processing infrastructure, export readiness, and international branding. The initiative was launched by **Jyotiraditya Scindia** and **Lalduhoma**.
- **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** launched **Project Saksham** in partnership with **Vertis Foundation** to promote skill development and employment opportunities for rural women. Under the program, **12 training centres** have been established across India, training over **6,000 youth** and enabling more than **4,000 job placements**.
- **Narendra Modi** visited the **United Arab Emirates** on **15 May 2026**, where both nations signed major agreements to strengthen India's energy security. A key outcome was the strategic petroleum reserve partnership between **Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL)** and **Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC)**.
- **Tata Electronics** partnered with **ASML** for India's first commercial **300 mm semiconductor fabrication plant** in **Dholera, Gujarat**. The **US\$11 billion** project will manufacture chips for smartphones, automobiles, AI systems, industrial electronics, and consumer devices.
- **Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia** launched the **₹175 crore "Coffees of Nagaland" Mission** to develop **Nagaland** into a premium specialty coffee hub for domestic and international markets.
- India unveiled the first proposed design for the **Mumbai–Ahmedabad Bullet Train**, the country's first **high-speed rail corridor**. The train is expected to operate at **320 kmph** and reduce travel time between Mumbai and Ahmedabad to nearly **two hours**.
- The **Government of India** launched the **Ayush Anudan Portal** under the broader **Ayush Grid Initiative**, modernising grant management in the traditional healthcare sector.
- The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** notified standards for higher ethanol-petrol blends including **E22, E25, E27, and E30**, signalling India's next phase of biofuel adoption.
- The **Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya** launched its third **AI-powered HoloBox**, featuring a life-like **3D virtual Mahatma Gandhi avatar**.
- The **Government of India** launched the **'Arunachal Kiwi: The USP of Arunachal Pradesh' Mission** with a **₹167 crore** outlay to transform the state into a premium organic kiwi production hub.





- The **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** launched the **JEEVAN App** and **SHATAYU Geriatric Caregiver Dashboard** to strengthen India's elder care ecosystem through digital technology.
- **Indian Railways** launched the **CHIRAG Centre in Hyderabad** to modernize workforce management through AI-based analytics, HRMS strengthening, predictive planning, and digital governance support.
- **Mission Karmayogi 2.0** was launched under NPCSCB to promote AI-driven governance, competency-based training, and citizen-centric public administration through the iGOT platform.
- **ICMR** organized the **Medical Innovations Patent Mitra (I2I Connect)** event and transferred 41 indigenous healthcare technologies including vaccines, diagnostics, and medical devices to industry partners.
- **Government of India** launched the **PM-AJAY Portal** and **AJAY Mobile App** to enable real-time monitoring, geo-tagging, and transparent implementation of Scheduled Caste welfare schemes.
- **India Semiconductor Mission** launched the **Investors Support Portal** to provide single-window assistance, policy support, and faster approvals for semiconductor ecosystem growth.
- **Yoga Mahotsav 2026** was inaugurated at **Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh** as part of the 25-day countdown campaign for the 12th International Day of Yoga.
- **Ministry of Ayush** launched the **Yoga Sangam Portal** and **Yoga Park Portal** to improve accessibility, participation, and nationwide promotion of yoga activities.
- **South Coast Railway** became operational as **India's 18th railway zone** with headquarters at Visakhapatnam to enhance railway administration and regional connectivity.
- **Indian Railways** unveiled a new **18-star logo** to symbolize the country's newly expanded railway zone structure following the creation of South Coast Railway.
- **Delhi's IGI Airport** launched the **SkyCast System** under **Mission Mausam** using advanced weather-monitoring technologies to reduce delays and improve aviation safety.
- **Department of Financial Services** launched the **Common Landing Portal** to allow citizens to search and recover unclaimed deposits, insurance claims, shares, and financial assets through a unified platform.
- The **Government of India** announced the **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra 2026**, to be held from **June to August** under the **Ministry of External Affairs**. Devotees will travel via **Lipulekh Pass** and **Nathu La Pass**.
- **Om Birla**, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, reconstituted four key **Parliamentary Committees for 2026–27: Committee of Estimates, Public Accounts Committee (PAC), Committee on Public Undertakings, and Committee on Welfare of SC/ST**.
- The **Government of India** notified the **Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2026** through the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**. Key changes include full digitalisation of **OCI** and citizenship applications and introduction of **e-OCI**.
- The **Andaman and Nicobar Islands** created a **Guinness World Record** by unfurling the world's largest underwater national flag at **Radhanagar Beach, Swaraj Dweep**. The Indian Tricolour measured **60 × 40 metres**.
- **Sikkim** became **India's first fully paperless judiciary**, as announced by **Chief Justice of India Surya Kant** during the **National Conclave on Technology and Judicial Education** in Gangtok.
- The **Assembly Election Results 2026** brought major political changes across several states. In **West Bengal**, the **BJP won 206 seats**. In **Tamil Nadu**, **TVK** emerged as the largest party with **108 seats**. In **Kerala**, the **UDF** defeated the **LDF**.
- **Hazaribag district (Jharkhand)** is set to become **India's first and only pearl farming cluster**, promoting scientific aquaculture, women empowerment, and rural employment.
- The **Union Cabinet** approved the **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026**, proposing to increase the strength of the **Supreme Court** from **34 to 38 judges**, including the **Chief Justice of India (CJI)**.
- **Vande Mataram** completed **150 years** since it was written by **Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay** in **1875**. The Union Cabinet proposed granting the song legal protection equivalent to the **National Anthem, Jana Gana Mana**.
- **CSIR-Central Road Research Institute (CRRI)** and **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)** received recognition from the **India Book of Records** and **Asia Book of Records** for developing India's first roadblock section using technical textile geocells made from **end-of-life plastic waste**.
- **Apaar Saxena** from **Karnataka** earned the prestigious **International Master (IM) Title** awarded by **FIDE**, after securing all three required IM norms in European chess tournaments.
- India introduced **QR-code-enabled identity cards** for **Census 2027 enumerators** to improve transparency, security, and digital verification.
- The **Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA)** may introduce a permanent **women-only Vice-President post** from the **2027–28 election cycle** following a proposal by the **Supreme Court of India** to improve women's representation in legal leadership. The proposal aims to strengthen **gender inclusivity**, leadership opportunities, and participation of women lawyers in Bar body governance.

Miscellaneous National News

- The **Supreme Court of India** ruled that **safe travel on highways** is a **fundamental right under Article 21 (Right to Life)**, expanding its scope beyond survival to safe mobility. The Court also directed formation of **District Highway Safety Task Forces**.
- The **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** released the **Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0 Report** on **National Panchayati Raj Day**. A total of **3,635 Gram Panchayats** emerged as **Front Runners (A Grade)**, with **97.3% participation** from over **2.59 lakh Panchayats**.





- The **Somnath Temple** marks **75 years of its reopening** and **1000 years since the first recorded invasion in 1026**, celebrated nationwide through **Somnath Swabhiman Parv**. Revered as the **first of the 12 Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva**, the temple symbolizes India's spiritual heritage, resilience, and cultural continuity.
- On **11 May 2026**, two female cheetahs from **Botswana** were released into the open forest of **Kuno National Park** under **Project Cheetah**. Launched in **2022**, the programme aims to rebuild a self-sustaining wild cheetah population and strengthen biodiversity conservation.
- **Narendra Modi** urged citizens to save fuel and avoid unnecessary foreign travel because India imports nearly **85% of its crude oil**. The appeal highlighted the importance of energy conservation, reducing import dependence, and strengthening India's long-term **energy security**.
- A recent ruling by the **Supreme Court of India** on **Section 498A** highlighted the need to balance protection for women with preventing false implication of entire families in dowry harassment cases. The court stressed the importance of **evidence-based investigations** and individual accountability.
- The **Government of India** announced the rollout of the **Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025 (VB-G RAM G Act)**, which will replace **MGNREGA** from **1 July 2026**. Eligible rural households will receive a legal guarantee of **125 days of wage employment annually**.
- The **Ministry of Labour and Employment** notified a **1% Construction Welfare Cess** to support welfare schemes for construction workers across India from **May 1, 2026**. The cess will fund healthcare, education assistance, insurance, and social security benefits.
- **Justice Surya Kant** announced the formation of a **Judicial Infrastructure Advisory Committee** headed by **Justice Aravind Kumar** to modernize court infrastructure and improve India's justice delivery system.
- **Piyush Goyal** announced India's ambitious goal of achieving **\$1 trillion in exports** during the current financial year while releasing the **LEADS 2025 Report** and presenting the **LEAPS 2025 Awards** in New Delhi. India recorded a historic **\$863 billion in exports in FY 2025–26**.
- India imposed an immediate **ban on sugar exports until 30 September 2026**, shifting policy from "restricted" to "prohibited," according to the **Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)**.
- India's **ethanol programme** entered a major transition phase as **maize** emerged as the country's largest ethanol feedstock for the first time during the first half of **Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) 2025–26**.
- The **"Algae Tree"** installed in **Bhopal** is a solar-powered bio-engineering device using **microalgae** to absorb **CO₂** and release oxygen. It is designed to improve urban air quality in areas with limited space for traditional tree plantation.
- India is planning a **₹40,000 crore subsea gas pipeline** connecting **Oman to Gujarat** to strengthen long-term energy security after the **2026 Strait of Hormuz crisis**.
- India will host the first **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Summit** in **New Delhi** on **June 1–2, 2026**. The alliance focuses on conserving seven major big cat species, including lions, tigers, leopards, snow leopards, cheetahs, jaguars, and pumas.
- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** launched **Phase III of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** across **16 states and 3 Union Territories**, covering around **36.73 crore electors**.
- India's **jaggery (gur)** is emerging as a global substitute for refined sugar due to its nutritional benefits and strong export growth. India produces over **70% of global jaggery** and supports nearly **2.5 million rural livelihoods**.
- The return of the historic **Anaimangalam (Leiden) Copper Plates** from the **Netherlands** marks a major cultural achievement for India. The collection dates back to the **11th-century Chola Empire** and contains important Tamil and Sanskrit inscriptions.
- **President Droupadi Murmu** approved an ordinance increasing the **Supreme Court's judge strength from 34 to 38**, including the **Chief Justice of India**, to improve judicial efficiency and reduce case backlog.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's** visit to the **Afsluitdijk Dam** in the **Netherlands** highlighted India's interest in advanced climate-resilient water infrastructure. India is studying the model for **Gujarat's proposed Kalpasar Project**.
- The **Central Information Commission (CIC)** ruled that the **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** is not a "public authority" under the **RTI Act, 2005**, keeping it outside the scope of Right to Information obligations.
- **Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla** constituted the **Committee on Empowerment of Women**, chaired by **Daggubati Purandeswari**, to oversee women's welfare policies and empowerment programmes.
- The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** proposed significant amendments under the **draft Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2026**, introducing **e-OCI cards**, digital citizenship systems, and stricter passport disclosure requirements.
- **Indian Railways** approved a **₹238 crore safety and rehabilitation project** for the **Jammu–Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra rail section** under **Northern Railway** to improve passenger safety and infrastructure resilience.
- **Project Cheetah** achieved a major conservation breakthrough as India's cheetah population rose to **53**, including **33 cubs born in India**, marking significant progress in species revival.
- India faced an **extreme heatwave crisis in 2026**, with reports showing **97 of the world's 100 hottest cities** located in the country on a single day, with temperatures crossing **48°C** in several states.





- India accelerated **Chenab River infrastructure projects** worth nearly ₹2,600 crore, including the **Chenab-Beas Link Tunnel** and **Dulhasti Stage-II Hydropower Project**, to improve water utilisation and hydropower generation.
- **India strengthened cybersecurity assessments of advanced AI systems** to identify threats across banking, digital infrastructure, enterprise software, and cloud ecosystems.
- **Supreme Court upheld the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** and declared electoral roll verification legally valid under Article 324 and the Representation of the People Act, 1950.
- **National Health Accounts Estimates 2022–23 showed improvement in healthcare financing** with increased government expenditure and reduced out-of-pocket medical spending.
- **Kolkata was announced as the host city for International Day of Yoga 2026** with the theme "Yoga for Healthy Ageing" promoting preventive healthcare and wellness.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the 51st PRAGATI Meeting** to review infrastructure projects worth nearly ₹30,000 crore across multiple sectors and states.
- **Supreme Court recognized access to trauma care as a Fundamental Right under Article 21** and directed reforms in emergency healthcare and accident response systems.
- **India's Total Fertility Rate declined to 1.9** according to the Sample Registration System Report 2024, marking the first drop below replacement level.
- **Shrey Parikh, a 14-year-old Indian-origin student from California, won the Scripps National Spelling Bee 2026** after securing victory in the final spell-off round.
- **Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru became India's second-busiest domestic airport** in April 2026 by surpassing Mumbai in passenger traffic.

India's Cold Water Fisheries sector emerged as a key pillar of the Blue Economy through expanding trout farming, aquaculture development, and employment generation in hill regions.

National Current Affairs of April 2026

Cabinet Approvals

1. Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) for Kharif 2026

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Narendra Modi, approved Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for the Kharif season 2026 (April–September) on Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers. The estimated budget is ₹41,533.81 crore, higher than Kharif 2025. This will ensure farmers get fertilizers like DAP and NPK at affordable prices, with subsidies provided to companies under the NBS scheme (in force since 2010).

2. Kamala Hydro Electric Project (1720 MW)

The Cabinet approved ₹26,069.50 crore investment for the 1720 MW Kamala Hydro Electric Project in Arunachal Pradesh. The project will generate 6870 MU power, improve electricity supply, support flood control in the Brahmaputra valley, and boost infrastructure like roads and bridges. It will be developed as a joint venture between NHPC Limited and the state government, with added benefits like employment and local development.

3. Kalai-II Hydro Electric Project (1200 MW)

The Cabinet approved ₹14,105.83 crore for the 1200 MW Kalai-II Hydro Electric Project on the Lohit River in Arunachal Pradesh. Expected to generate 4852.95 MU annually, it will strengthen the power supply and help manage peak demand. The project will be executed by THDC India Limited with state partnership and will promote infrastructure growth, employment, and regional development.

4. Extension of PMGSY-III Scheme

The Cabinet approved the extension of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III till March 2028 with an outlay of ₹83,977 crore. The scheme focuses on improving rural connectivity to markets, schools, and hospitals. It will boost rural economy, reduce transportation costs, generate employment, and improve access to essential services.

5. Dearness Allowance (DA) Hike 2026

The Cabinet approved a 2% increase in Dearness Allowance (DA) and Dearness Relief (DR), raising it to 60% of basic pay/pension effective January 2026. This will benefit about 50.46 lakh employees and 68.27 lakh pensioners, with a financial impact of ₹6,791.24 crore annually, based on the 7th Pay Commission formula.

6. Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMI Pool)

The government approved the creation of the Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool with a sovereign guarantee of ₹12,980 crore. This initiative will reduce dependence on foreign insurers and ensure continuous insurance coverage for Indian vessels, even in global uncertainties. It covers risks like cargo damage, war risks, and liabilities, strengthening India's maritime trade security.

7. Railway Multi-Tracking Projects (UP & Andhra Pradesh)

The Cabinet approved railway projects worth ₹24,815 crore to expand rail networks by 601 km across Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. These include Ghaziabad–Sitapur and Rajahmundry–Visakhapatnam routes. The projects aim to reduce congestion, improve logistics, enhance freight capacity, boost tourism connectivity, and cut CO₂ emissions, while generating large-scale employment.

Parliament News

State-wise April Month Important Events

Andhra Pradesh

- The Government of India officially declared **Amaravati** as the sole capital of Andhra Pradesh through a Gazette notification dated April 6, 2026. This decision amends the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, and resolves years of uncertainty over the three-capital proposal (Amaravati, Visakhapatnam, and Kurnool). Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu called it a historic victory for the state. The move is expected to accelerate infrastructure development, attract investments, and ensure administrative clarity, strengthening governance and long-term economic growth.





Bihar

A major political transition took place in Bihar in April 2026.

- **Nitish Kumar resigned** as Chief Minister, ending his over two-decade-long leadership marked by governance reforms, infrastructure expansion, and welfare initiatives.
- He also resigned from the Bihar Legislative Council after becoming a Rajya Sabha member, shifting his focus to national politics.
- **Samrat Choudhary** was sworn in as the new Chief Minister, becoming the first BJP leader to hold the top post in Bihar.
- This transition signals a new political phase in the state while maintaining coalition stability under the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

Gujarat

Gujarat witnessed two significant developments related to governance and technology:

- The **Gujarat High Court banned the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)** in judicial decision-making and judgment drafting. The court emphasized that justice must rely on human reasoning and warned against risks like bias, hallucination, and privacy concerns. However, AI can still be used for legal research and administrative work.
- The **Gujarat Police launched NARIT AI**, India's first AI-based narcotics investigation tool under the NDPS Act, 1985. Built using Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) technology, it helps analyze FIRs, detect legal gaps, and generate structured reports. This improves investigation quality, reduces procedural errors, and ensures faster case handling.

Haryana

- Air pollution remained a serious concern as **Gurgaon was ranked India's most polluted city in March 2026**, with PM_{2.5} levels reaching 116 µg/m³, far above safe limits. According to the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air, several cities in Haryana dominated the pollution list, while Ghaziabad remained the most polluted city overall for FY 2025–26. Despite initiatives like the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), the data highlights the urgent need for stricter environmental policies and scientific interventions to protect public health.

Karnataka

Karnataka saw key developments in space recognition, social reform, and sustainability:

- The **Karnataka Postal Circle released commemorative stamps** celebrating ISRO's journey from Aryabhata (1975) to the upcoming Gaganyaan mission, highlighting India's achievements in space exploration.
- The **Karnataka High Court directed the state to implement a menstrual leave policy** across all sectors, including unorganized workers. The court recognized menstrual leave as a part of fundamental rights under Article 21, promoting dignity, equality, and gender-sensitive workplace reforms.

- The **Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB)** became the first water utility in India to receive ISO 50001:2018 certification for energy management. This recognition promotes energy efficiency, cost reduction, and sustainable urban infrastructure.

Maharashtra

- In a major step toward rural development, Chief Minister **Devendra Fadnavis launched the "My Village, Healthy Village" (Majha Gaon, Arogyasampann Gaon) campaign** on World Health Day. With a budget of ₹65.25 crore, the initiative focuses on preventive healthcare, sanitation, nutrition, safe drinking water, and maternal health. Villages meeting health standards will be recognized as "Arogyasampann Gaon," encouraging community participation and strengthening grassroots healthcare systems.

Odisha

- The proposed **Shree Jagannath International Airport in Puri** received Stage-I forest clearance from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The approval allows diversion of 27.886 hectares of forest land, subject to environmental safeguards and compensatory afforestation. The airport is expected to boost tourism, especially during the famous Rath Yatra, reduce dependency on Bhubaneswar airport, and create new employment and economic opportunities in the region.

Telangana

- The Government of Telangana signed an **AI-focused Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Deakin University** in Hyderabad. A major outcome is the establishment of the **Aikam-Deakin Hub (DHRITI)**, which will focus on advanced AI research, innovation, and skill development. The initiative aims to build an AI-ready workforce, support startups, and promote ethical AI applications, strengthening Telangana's position as a leading technology and innovation hub in India.

Chhattisgarh

- The Chhattisgarh government, led by Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, approved the formation of a **high-level committee to draft the implementation framework for the Uniform Civil Code (UCC)**. Based on Article 44 of the Constitution, the UCC aims to introduce uniform personal laws for all citizens. The committee will examine legal, cultural, and social aspects before suggesting a roadmap, marking an important step toward legal uniformity and equality.

Meghalaya

- The state of Meghalaya officially recognized **Khasi and Garo as state languages**, alongside English, under the Meghalaya Official Languages Ordinance, 2026. Announced by Chief Minister Conrad Sangma, the move promotes cultural preservation, improves administrative accessibility, and strengthens demands for inclusion of these languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.





Punjab

- The Punjab Assembly passed the **Anti-Sacrilege Bill 2026**, proposing strict punishments, including life imprisonment and fines up to ₹25 lakh for acts of religious disrespect, especially involving the Guru Granth Sahib. The Bill aims to strengthen law and order, ensure religious harmony, and establish zero tolerance toward sacrilege. It will come into force after the Governor's approval.

Maharashtra (Mumbai)

- Senior IAS officer **Ashwini Bhide** was appointed as the **first woman Municipal Commissioner of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)**. Known for her role in infrastructure projects like Mumbai Metro Line 3, her appointment marks a milestone in gender representation. She is expected to enhance urban governance, improve civic services, and accelerate development in India's richest municipal body.

National (Important Development)

- Menaka Guruswamy** became India's **first openly queer Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha)**. She is widely known for her role in the landmark Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India (2018) case, which led to the decriminalization of Section 377. Her appointment reflects growing inclusivity, diversity, and progressive democratic values in India.

April Month Launches & Inaugurations (Bullets)

- India launched **Census 2027**, its first fully digital census using mobile apps and self-enumeration, improving transparency and accuracy in population data collection.
- The Ministry of Education introduced an **AI & Computational Thinking curriculum (Classes 3–8)**, launched by Dharmendra Pradhan, to build digital and problem-solving skills among students.
- Jitendra Singh inaugurated the **BIRAC-BioNEST Incubation Centre** to promote biotech startups and innovation in food and health sectors.
- The Election Commission launched the **'Know Your Candidates (KYC)' feature** on ECINet to provide voters with candidate details like criminal records, assets, and education.
- India launched the **ASISSE survey** to collect detailed data on the services sector, improving economic planning and policymaking.
- NHAI launched the **'Arogya Van' initiative** to plant medicinal trees along highways, promoting biodiversity and awareness of Ayurveda.
- The government launched **Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0** with ₹10,000 crore to support startups in AI, robotics, and deep-tech sectors.
- The Ministry of Textiles launched **'Vishwa Sutra – Weaves of India for the World'** to promote Indian handloom globally.
- The Ministry of Culture launched the **'VM Frames' filmmaking competition** to celebrate 150 years of *Vande Mataram*, written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay.

- CBI launched the **AI chatbot 'Abhay'** to help citizens verify official notices and prevent cyber fraud.
- India laid the foundation of its first **3D semiconductor packaging unit** in Odisha to boost electronics and AI manufacturing.
- Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Delhi–Dehradun Economic Corridor**, improving connectivity, tourism, and trade.
- The Prime Minister also inaugurated the **Sri Guru Bhairavaikya Mandira** in Karnataka, promoting cultural and spiritual heritage.
- The Union Cabinet approved and launched the **Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMI Pool)** to strengthen India's shipping and insurance sector.

Miscellaneous National News

- A **Great Indian Bustard chick** was born in Gujarat after nearly 10 years using the innovative "Jumpstart Approach," boosting conservation efforts.
- India implemented **Solid Waste Management Rules 2026**, mandating four-way waste segregation and promoting a circular economy.
- Lok Sabha passed the **IBC Amendment Bill 2026**, ensuring faster insolvency resolution and strengthening creditor rights.
- The **Jan Vishwas Amendment Bill 2026** was passed to decriminalise minor offences and improve ease of doing business.
- Amaravati was declared the **sole capital of Andhra Pradesh**, ending the three-capital model and ensuring administrative clarity.
- India became the **3rd largest renewable energy market globally** with 250.5 GW capacity.
- National Council of Educational Research and Training received **Deemed University status**, enabling advanced research and PhD programs.
- India implemented **E20 petrol nationwide**, blending 20% ethanol to reduce emissions and oil imports.
- The **RoSCTL scheme** was extended to support textile exporters and maintain global competitiveness.
- Blackbucks returned to Chhattisgarh** after nearly 100 years through scientific reintroduction, boosting biodiversity.
- Sadhana Saptah 2026** was organized to improve governance, service delivery, and civil service capacity.
- India added a record **6.05 GW wind energy capacity**, strengthening renewable energy goals.
- The impeachment motion against **Gyanesh Kumar** was rejected, ensuring constitutional protection of the Election Commission.
- The **CAPF Administration Act 2026** was notified to standardize recruitment and service conditions in paramilitary forces.
- The **Kalai-II Hydro Electric Project** was approved in Arunachal Pradesh to boost clean energy production.





- **Yashwant Varma resigned** amid controversy, highlighting judicial accountability issues.
- Mundra Port became India's largest automobile export hub, strengthening logistics and exports.
- The **CPA Conference 2026 (Goa)** focused on inclusive governance, women's participation, and youth engagement.
- A statue of Swami Vivekananda was unveiled in Seattle, strengthening India-US cultural ties.
- India introduced a **digital-only toll system** using FASTag and UPI to improve efficiency and transparency.
- The **131st Constitutional Amendment Bill** proposed increasing Lok Sabha seats to 850 for better representation.
- Harivansh Narayan Singh was re-elected for a third term, creating a parliamentary record.
- India recognized **55,200 startups** in FY 2025-26, boosting employment and innovation.
- **Kankaria Coaching Depot** became India's first **water-neutral railway depot**, promoting sustainability.
- **Shekha Jheel** in Uttar Pradesh was declared India's **99th Ramsar Site**, enhancing wetland conservation.
- **Atal Pension Yojana** crossed 9 crore enrollments, strengthening social security for unorganized workers.
- India announced new **online gaming rules (PROGA 2025)** to regulate and ensure safer gaming practices.
- Konark Sun Temple restoration work began to preserve its heritage and structure.
- **Dhar** was selected under the **Safe Cities Project 2026** to improve women's safety and urban infrastructure.
- Landfills in Mumbai and Secunderabad were identified among the **top methane emitters globally**, raising environmental concerns.
- A **Census helpline (1855)** was launched to assist citizens and improve data accuracy.
- Indian Space Research Organisation completed nationwide **land-use mapping** to support rural planning and governance.

National Current Affairs of March 2026

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

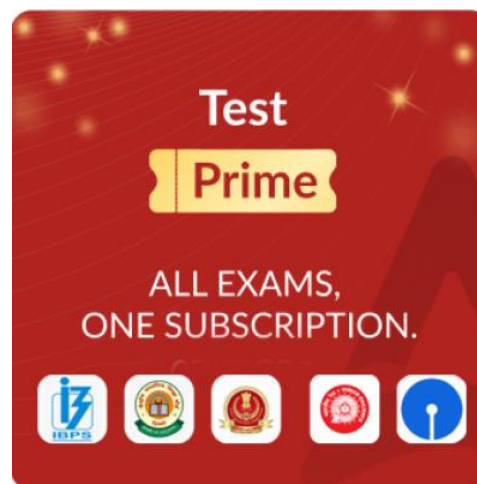
- **Chhattisgarh Presents ₹1.72 Lakh Crore Budget for FY26-27:** Finance Minister Om Prakash Chaudhary presented Chhattisgarh's Budget 2026-27 with total outlay of ₹1,72,000 crore (4.2% increase from ₹1,65,000 crore in FY25-26), revenue receipts of ₹1,43,000 crore, capital expenditure of ₹26,500 crore (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 Spacetechnology 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 Aarogya Sri 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 Eparchaeon 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 Bailurty, 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 Niranjana Jyoti Assumes NCBC Chairperson Role:** Sadhvi Niranjana 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 Samridh 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 (CO₂, 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 CO₂ eq per kg) and green methanol (max 0.44 kg CO₂ 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 Mukht 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 Dhyani 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.

National Current Affairs of February 2026

Cabinet Approvals

- ② On **13 February 2026**, the Hon'ble Prime Minister dedicated the new **Prime Minister's Office**, now named '**Seva Teerth**', marking a historic shift from the colonial-era **South Block**. The transition symbolizes India's movement from a legacy of colonial governance to a culture of **service-oriented administration** aligned with the vision of **Viksit Bharat @2047**. The Union Cabinet also resolved to convert **North and South Blocks** into the "**Yuge Yugeen Bharat National Museum**", celebrating India's civilizational heritage.
- ② The Cabinet approved the establishment of the **Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 (FoF 2.0)** with a corpus of **₹10,000 crore** to mobilize long-term domestic capital and strengthen India's venture capital ecosystem. Building upon the success of **FFS 1.0**, which supported **145 AIFs** and enabled investments of over **₹25,500 crore in 1,370+ startups**, FoF 2.0 will prioritize **deep-tech, innovative manufacturing, early-stage founders, and nationwide inclusion**. The initiative aligns with India's innovation-led growth strategy and aims to generate high-quality jobs while enhancing economic resilience.

- ② The Cabinet also approved the launch of the **Urban Challenge Fund (UCF)** with **₹1 lakh crore Central Assistance**, expected to catalyze total investments of **₹4 lakh crore** over five years. Operational from **FY 2025–26 to FY 2030–31**, the Fund mandates at least **50% market-based financing**, encouraging municipal bonds, PPPs, and private investment. With a dedicated **₹5,000 crore Credit Repayment Guarantee Scheme** for smaller and northeastern cities, UCF focuses on **Cities as Growth Hubs, Creative Redevelopment, and Water & Sanitation**, promoting climate-responsive and outcome-based urban infrastructure.
- ② The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved multiple national highway projects to enhance connectivity and economic growth. In **Maharashtra**, the **Ghoti–Trimbak–Jawhar–Manor–Palghar (NH-160A)** corridor of **154.635 km** was sanctioned at a cost of **₹3,320.38 crore (EPC mode)**, connecting major expressways including the **Delhi–Mumbai Expressway** and generating nearly **44.84 lakh person-days of employment**. In **Gujarat**, construction of **107.67 km of NH-56** at **₹4,583.64 crore (HAM mode)** will improve tribal connectivity and reduce travel time by **40%**. In **Telangana**, widening of **NH-167 (80.01 km)** at **₹3,175.08 crore (HAM mode)** will enhance freight efficiency and regional integration.
- ② A landmark infrastructure project was approved in **Assam**, involving a **33.7 km 4-lane greenfield corridor** from **Gohpur to Numaligarh**, including a **15.79 km twin-tube underwater road-cum-rail tunnel under the Brahmaputra River**, at a cost of **₹18,662 crore (EPC mode)**. This will be India's **first underwater road-cum-rail tunnel** and is expected to generate **80 lakh man-days of employment**, significantly improving connectivity in the Northeast.
- ② Additionally, three major **railway multi-tracking projects—Kasara–Manmad, Delhi–Ambala, and Ballari–Hosapete—**were approved at a total cost of **₹18,509 crore**, adding **389 km** to the rail network across **Delhi, Haryana, Maharashtra, and Karnataka**. These projects will improve freight capacity by **96 MTPA**, reduce logistics costs, save **22 crore litres of fuel**, and lower **CO₂ emissions by 111 crore kg**, contributing to India's climate goals and enhancing connectivity to key industrial and tourist hubs.
- ② The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, approved the proposal to change the name of the State of "**Kerala**" to "**Keralam**" under **Article 3 of the Constitution of India**. After Cabinet approval, the **President of India** will refer the **Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026** to the **Kerala Legislative Assembly** for expressing its views. Once the Assembly's views are received, the Bill will be introduced in **Parliament** with the President's recommendation. The Kerala Legislative Assembly had earlier passed a unanimous resolution on **24 June 2024** requesting the name change, stating that "**Keralam**" reflects the state's linguistic identity. As per **Article 3**, Parliament has the authority to alter the name of a state, but such a Bill must be referred to the concerned State Legislature before introduction.





2. The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** approved enhanced delegation of powers to **POWERGRID**, increasing its permissible equity investment limit from **₹5,000 crore to ₹7,500 crore per subsidiary**, while retaining the cap of **15% of net worth**. This approval enables POWERGRID to participate in large transmission projects such as **UHVAC and HVDC networks**, support evacuation of renewable energy, and help achieve India's target of **500 GW non-fossil capacity**. It also strengthens competition under **Tariff Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB)**, ensuring better price discovery and affordable clean energy.
2. The CCEA also approved the development of a new **Civil Enclave at Srinagar International Airport** at an estimated cost of **₹1,677 crore**. The project, spread over **73.18 acres**, will include a modern terminal building of **71,500 sq. meters**, designed to handle **10 million passengers per annum (MPPA)** and 2,900 peak-hour passengers. The expanded apron will accommodate **15 aircraft bays**, including one widebody (Code E). The project aims for a **5-star GRIHA rating** and will enhance tourism and connectivity in the Kashmir Valley.
2. Further, the CCEA approved **three Railway projects** costing **₹9,072 crore**, namely **Gondia-Jabalpur Doubling, Punarakh-Kiul 3rd & 4th line, and Gamharia-Chandil 3rd & 4th line**. These projects will add approximately **307 km** to the railway network, improve connectivity to **5,407 villages (98 lakh population)**, and enhance freight capacity by **52 MTPA**. The expansion will reduce oil imports by **6 crore litres** and cut CO₂ emissions by **30 crore kg**, aligning with the **PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan**.
2. The CCEA also approved the **Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Raw Jute (TD-3 grade)** for the **Marketing Season 2026-27** at **₹5,925 per quintal**, ensuring a **61.8% return over cost of production**. This represents an increase of **₹275 per quintal** over the previous season. Since 2014-15, MSP for jute has increased from **₹2,400 to ₹5,925 per quintal**. The **Jute Corporation of India (JCI)** will continue as the nodal agency for price support operations.
2. Additionally, the Union Cabinet approved the **Ahmedabad Metro extension from GIFT City to Shahpur**, spanning **3.33 km with three elevated stations**, at a cost of **₹1,067.35 crore**. The project will be implemented by **Gujarat Metro Rail Corporation Limited (GMRC)**, a 50:50 joint venture between the Centre and the Gujarat Government. The extension is expected to benefit **23,702 passengers by 2029** and **58,059 passengers by 2041**, strengthening connectivity between Ahmedabad and GIFT City.

State-wise February Month Important Events

● ANDHRA PRADESH

1. Andhra Pradesh CM N. Chandrababu Naidu launched **Pilloo AI**, a multilingual voice-based billing platform designed to support MSMEs in digital transactions.

2. The foundation stone of **Amaravati Quantum Valley**, India's first quantum technology hub, was laid to promote quantum computing, research, and innovation.
3. NTPC Green Energy Ltd signed an MoU to establish **India's first large-scale Green Urea production facility** at Pudimadaka in Visakhapatnam.
4. **Waaree Energies** announced a **₹8,175 crore 16 GWh lithium-ion battery gigafactory** at Rambilli, expected to generate around 3,000 jobs.

● ARUNACHAL PRADESH

5. **Kabak Yano of Arunachal Pradesh** successfully summited Mount Aconcagua in Argentina as part of the 7-Summit Expedition.
6. **Arunachal Pradesh celebrates its Foundation Day on 20 February**, attaining statehood in 1987 as India's 24th state.

● ASSAM

7. The Asian Development Bank approved a **USD 182 million loan** to enhance flood and erosion resilience along the Brahmaputra River in Assam.
8. Assam Cabinet approved **3% reservation in Class I and II government jobs** for Tea Tribes and Adivasis.
9. **Kumar Bhaskar Varma Setu**, a 2.86 km extradosed bridge over the Brahmaputra, was inaugurated to reduce travel time significantly.
10. **Northeast India's first Emergency Landing Facility** was developed on Moran Bypass in Dibrugarh for Indian Air Force operations.
11. Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** laid the foundation stone of Assam Police's 10th Battalion Headquarters in Kamrup district.

● BIHAR

12. Bihar Cabinet approved the development of **Sonepur International Airport** with a 4,200-metre runway to enhance trade, tourism, and connectivity by 2030.

● DELHI

13. Delhi Government launched the **'Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana'** providing financial support for girls with a maturity value exceeding ₹1 lakh.
14. **The Chief Minister Skill Development Scheme** aims to train 3,728 artisans with stipend support and digital market onboarding.
15. Delhi Police launched **'Operation Shashtra'** to curb online fear-mongering by monitoring over 6,000 social media profiles.





16. Delhi implemented the **Bhu-Aadhaar system** under ULPIN, assigning a 14-digit unique ID to every land parcel.

17. Delhi approved a **20% reservation for ex-Agniveers** in Delhi Police constable posts with age relaxation benefits.

18. Under the **Rah-Veer Scheme**, helpers of road accident victims within the golden hour receive ₹25,000 incentive and legal protection.

GOA

19. **Goa** became the second Indian state after Kerala to publish a comprehensive state-level Bird Atlas for biodiversity conservation.

GUJARAT

20. **Gujarat** emerged as India's largest renewable energy contributor with 42.583 GW installed capacity.

21. **The second mountain tunnel (MT-6)** of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail project was completed in Gujarat.

22. Gujarat signed a Letter of Intent with **Starlink** to expand satellite internet services to remote and border regions.

23. **Uday Kotak** was appointed Chairman of **GIFT City, India's** International Financial Services Centre.

24. **Gujarat** signed an MoU with L&T Vyoma to study a 250 MW green AI data centre at Dholera SIR.

25. Gujarat presented its largest-ever **₹4.08 lakh crore Budget for 2026-27** focusing on tourism, green transport, and sports infrastructure.

HARYANA

26. Haryana announced **CM Shri Schools** based on the PM Shri model with CBSE curriculum and 25% RTE reservation.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

27. **Himachal Pradesh** launched '**Padhai with AI**' initiative to promote personalized digital education.

28. **Losar Festival 2026 (Fire Horse Year)** was celebrated in McLeod Ganj in the presence of the Dalai Lama.

JHARKHAND

29. **Jharkhand** presented its **₹1.58 lakh crore "Abua Dishom" Budget for 2026-27** with significant gender and social sector allocations.

KERALA

30. Kerala launched the '**Sthree Suraksha**' scheme providing ₹1,000 monthly pension to eligible women and transgender beneficiaries.

31. **Kerala** announced **India's first comprehensive Graphene Policy** and set up a ₹87 crore Graphene Innovation Centre in Kochi.

32. **Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary in Kannur** was renamed as Aralam Butterfly Sanctuary.

MADHYA PRADESH

33. **Madhya Pradesh** presented a ₹4.38 trillion Budget under the GYANII model with major allocations for women welfare and Simhashta 2028.

MAHARASHTRA

34. **Sunetra Pawar** became Maharashtra's first woman Deputy Chief Minister.

35. Mumbai inaugurated **India's first melody road** that plays the tune of "**Jai Ho**" at regulated speeds.

36. **Mumbai Climate Week 2026** focused on Global South climate solutions and renewable energy transition.

MANIPUR

37. **Yumnam Khemchand Singh** was elected **Chief Minister of Manipur** following President's Rule.

MEGHALAYA

38. **Meghalaya** presented a **₹32,023 crore Budget for 2026-27** with increased capital expenditure and growth targets.

MIZORAM

39. **Mizoram** celebrated its **39th Foundation Day on 20 February** marking its statehood in 1987.

NAGALAND

40. **The Sangtam Naga** community passed a resolution banning pangolin hunting and trade in Nagaland.

41. A tripartite agreement was signed to establish the Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority.

PUNJAB

42. **Punjab** launched the '**Meri Rasoi**' scheme providing free food kits to nearly 40 lakh families.

43. Prime Minister Narendra Modi renamed **Adampur Airport** as **Sri Guru Ravidass Maharaj Ji Airport** and inaugurated **Halwara Airport's** civil terminal.

RAJASTHAN

44. **Rajasthan** became **India's largest wool producer** contributing 47.5% of national output.

45. **Alwar district** became **India's first fully insured district** achieving 100% insurance coverage.

46. **Rajasthan** presented a **₹6.11 lakh crore Budget for 2026-27** with major infrastructure and water projects.

47. **Rajasthan** introduced a **Homestay Scheme 2026** to promote rural tourism and livelihood generation.





TAMIL NADU

48. **V.O. Chidambaranar Port** became **India's first major port** to receive IGBC Platinum Rating and install an Anti-Drone System.

UTTAR PRADESH

49. **Uttar Pradesh** presented a **₹9.13 trillion Budget for FY27** aiming to achieve a **\$1 trillion economy target**.
50. **IBM** inaugurated an **AI GovTech Innovation Centre** in Lucknow to develop AI-based governance solutions.

ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS (UT)

51. A mud volcano eruption was reported near **Diglipur**, while India's only known mud volcano is located on Baratang Island.

February Month Launches & Inaugurations:

1. Indian Railways operationalized India's first **LNG–Diesel Dual-Fuel DEMU Train** at **Sabarmati, Ahmedabad**, enabling **40% diesel substitution** and estimated annual savings of **₹23.9 lakh per 8-coach train**, promoting green rail transport.
2. Union Minister **Dr. Jitendra Singh** inaugurated the **₹32 crore CSIR-NIO Regional Centre** at **Visakhapatnam** to strengthen India's capabilities in **marine geological surveys, deep-sea exploration, and monsoon research**.
3. The **Ministry of Minority Affairs** launched the **Survey Module and Waqf Property Lease Management Module** on the **UMEED Portal** to ensure transparency and digitization in Waqf asset administration.
4. The **Odisha Government**, in partnership with **BonV Aero**, established India's first **National UAV Test & Innovation Corridor** at **Rangeilunda Airport**, allowing drone testing up to **1,000 metres altitude**.
5. **Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL)** signed a Letter of Intent with **Akasa Air** during **Wings India 2026** to explore supply and usage of **Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)** in India's aviation sector.



6. India hosted the **2nd India–Arab Foreign Ministers Meeting** in **New Delhi**, attended by **22 Arab League countries**, culminating in the adoption of the **New Delhi Declaration** for enhanced cooperation.
7. The **Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS)** signed a **2-year MoU** with **Berhampur University** to digitize and preserve **rare Ayurvedic manuscripts**.
8. **Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)** launched the national creative campaign **"SAIL-e-BRATION"** on the **MyGov platform** to encourage citizen participation through short videos.
9. The **Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs** unveiled the upgraded **NYPS 2.0 Portal**, expanding Youth Parliament participation to **95,319 participants across 660 sittings** nationwide.
10. **Axis Bank** launched **"Rooftop Solar Finance"**, offering **collateral-free loans up to ₹2 crore** for MSMEs to install rooftop solar systems and promote clean energy adoption.
11. Union Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** granted **Miniratna Category-I status** to **Yantra India Limited**, enabling independent capital expenditure approvals up to **₹500 crore**.
12. The **National Statistical Office (NSO)** launched the **Model Context Protocol (MCP) Server** on the **eSankhyiki Portal**, providing AI-enabled access to official datasets such as CPI and IIP.
13. Union Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** inaugurated **Zetwerk Electronics' manufacturing facility** in **Bengaluru** and launched **Qualcomm's 2nm semiconductor chip design**, boosting India's electronics ecosystem.
14. Union Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** launched the **Nationwide Pulse Self-Reliance Mission** in **Sehore, Madhya Pradesh**, aiming to transform India into a global exporter of pulses.
15. Union Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** inaugurated **Siuri and Kumarpur Road Over Bridges** and flagged off the **Asansol–Bokaro train service** in West Bengal.
16. Union MoS **Jitin Prasada** inaugurated the **STQC Lab Automation Portal 'SATYA'**, digitizing certification lifecycles for electronics and IT products.
17. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated **'Seva Teerth'** on **Raisina Hill, New Delhi**, a sustainable governance complex housing the **PMO, Cabinet Secretariat, and NSCS under one roof**.

Miscellaneous National News

- The **National Statistical Office (NSO)** announced India's first **National Household Income Survey (NHIS)** and **Annual Survey of Incorporated Service Sector Enterprises (ASISSE)** starting **April 2026**, using digital CAPI technology across all states (except A&N Islands).
- NSO also announced a comprehensive **Survey on Migration (July 2026–June 2027)** to capture internal migration patterns and socio-economic profiles.





- The **16th Finance Commission** retained **41% tax devolution to states** for the **2026–31 period**, ensuring cooperative federalism and fiscal stability.
- The Government of India and the **World Bank** announced an annual **USD 8–10 billion financing framework for 5 years** aligned with the *Viksit Bharat @2047* vision.
- The Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways established the **Bharat Container Shipping Line (BCSL)** through an MoU among SCI, CONCOR, and port authorities.
- The Government withdrew **18% Central Excise Duty on Unmanufactured Tobacco** from **1 February 2026**, providing relief to farmers.
- The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** mandated a **two-year Central Deputation** for IPS officers to qualify for appointment as Inspector General of Police.
- **Alwar (Rajasthan)** became India's first district to achieve **100% insurance coverage** under the "Insurance for All by 2047" initiative.
- India joined the **BRICS Centre for Industrial Competencies (BCIC)** to strengthen manufacturing and Industry 4.0 capabilities.
- The **FASTag Annual Pass** crossed **50 lakh users**, enabling over **26.55 crore toll crossings** within six months.
- The **World Bank** praised **Karnataka's fiscal transparency**, highlighting inclusion of off-budget borrowings.
- The Government expanded **Startup India** to support **deep-tech startups for 20 years**, including AI and robotics.
- India and the **USA signed an Interim Trade Agreement (ITA)** with tariff reductions on agricultural products and projected **USD 500 billion trade purchases** over five years.
- The Department of Science & Technology launched the **India–Netherlands Hydrogen Fellowship Programme** to boost green hydrogen research.
- India signed MoUs with **23 countries** to share **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** models globally.
- **UPI** became operational in **eight countries**: UAE, Singapore, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, France, Mauritius, and Qatar.
- The **Department of Social Justice & Empowerment (DoSJE)** signed an MoU with **Physics Wallah Foundation** to provide free online coaching to 5,000 SC, OBC, and PM CARES beneficiaries.
- The Ministry of Mines notified the **Offshore Areas Mineral Rules, 2026**, regulating offshore mineral exploration.
- Lok Sabha Speaker **Om Birla** launched the **National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)** at the Bihar Assembly to promote paperless legislative functioning.
- India launched **'iLive Connect'**, the world's first AI-powered home healthcare ecosystem.
- The Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) signed MoUs to strengthen **drug safety and pharmacovigilance** mechanisms.
- The Department of Posts signed an MoU with the **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** to distribute Mutual Fund products through post offices.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs issued guidelines stating **'Vande Mataram' must be sung in full (six stanzas)** before the National Anthem.
- The Ministry of Cooperation launched **'White Revolution 2.0'**, targeting a **50% increase in milk procurement over five years**.
- The Government initiated feasibility assessments for **seven new Bullet Train Corridors** spanning nearly 4,000 km.
- India began implementing the **World's Largest Grain Storage Plan** in the cooperative sector, starting with a pilot in Madhya Pradesh.
- The Ministry of Statistics revised base years: **GDP & IIP to 2022–23**, and **CPI to 2024 (100 base)**.
- India's **Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI)** rose to **516.76 (September 2025)** from 493.22 in March 2025.
- The **WHO prequalified the novel Oral Polio Vaccine (nOPV2)** developed by **Biological E Limited, Hyderabad**.
- The National Statistical Systems Training Academy (NSSTA) celebrated its **18th Foundation Day**, emphasizing AI-enabled statistical systems.
- The **Uttar Pradesh Economic Survey** projected GSDP at **₹36 lakh crore (2025–26)**, targeting a \$1 trillion economy.
- NITI Aayog released the **Trade Watch Quarterly Report**, highlighting **8.5% export growth in Q2 FY26**, with electronics exports reaching USD 42.1 billion.
- The Finance Minister launched **Bharat-VISTAAR**, an AI platform integrating **AgriStack** and **ICAR** packages, accessible via toll-free number 155261.
- The Government amended **IT Rules 2021**, mandating labelling of AI-generated content from **20 February 2026**.
- The Cabinet approved the **Urban Challenge Fund (₹1 lakh crore)** for urban infrastructure development (FY26–31).
- The Government approved India's first **Underwater Road-cum-Rail Tunnel under Brahmaputra (₹18,662 crore)** connecting Gohpur to Numaligarh.
- The Union Budget sanctioned **National Large Solar Telescope (NLST)** and **National Large Optical Telescope (NLOT)** in Ladakh.
- President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the **OI Chiki Script Centenary Celebrations**, marking 100 years since its invention in 1925.
- The Supreme Court declared **Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHH)** a Fundamental Right under **Article 21**.
- The Government mandated sale of **E20 Petrol (20% ethanol blend)** nationwide from **1 April 2026**.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs launched **PRAHAAR**, India's National Counter-Terrorism Policy based on seven pillars.





- India removed the **Most Favoured Nation (MFN)** clause from the India–France Tax Treaty.
- The **Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH)** campaign was launched with Amitabh Bachchan as brand ambassador.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** became the first global leader to receive the **Speaker of the Knesset Medal** during his Israel visit.
- India joined the **Pax Silica Coalition**, a US-led initiative to secure semiconductor supply chains.
- The Food Corporation of India (FCI) signed a **5-year MoU** with WFP to supply 200,000 MT rice annually.
- Reliance Industries announced a **₹10 trillion AI investment plan** to build sovereign AI infrastructure in Jamnagar.
- The **Delhi–Meerut Namo Bharat Corridor (82 km)** was inaugurated as India's first Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS).
- ESIC celebrated its **75th Foundation Year**, expanding coverage to over 15 crore beneficiaries.
- India marked the **50th anniversary of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976**.

International Current Affairs

International Current Affairs of July 2026

- Bangladesh's **Teesta River Comprehensive Management and Restoration Project** gained attention following discussions with **China** during **Tarique Rahman's** Beijing visit. The project includes dredging **140 million cubic metres** of sediment, reclaiming **171 sq km** of land, constructing and repairing **234 km** of embankments, developing a **224-km road network**, and building **82 jetties**. Since the **Teesta River** flows through **Sikkim, West Bengal**, and Bangladesh, the project carries strategic significance for **India-Bangladesh water sharing, regional connectivity**, and cross-border cooperation. China emphasized its role as technical support without targeting any third country.
- The **AI for Good Global Commission**, launched by the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** and **Salesforce**, aims to promote **responsible, inclusive, and sustainable Artificial Intelligence** governance worldwide. The commission comprises over **40 global leaders** from governments, industry, academia, and international organizations. Indian business leaders **Mukesh Ambani, Sunil Bharti Mittal, Lakshmi N. Mittal**, and **Vishal Talwar** are founding members, reflecting India's growing influence in AI governance. Co-chaired by **Paul Kagame** with **Doreen Bogdan-Martin** as Vice-Chair, the commission begins deliberations during the **AI for Good Global Summit 2026**.
- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** added the first molecular diagnostic test for the **Bundibugyo Ebola virus** to its **Emergency Use Listing (EUL)**, enabling faster laboratory confirmation during outbreaks. The test detects viral **RNA** in blood samples, improving diagnosis of a strain different from **Zaire ebolavirus**. First identified in **Uganda** in **2007**, the virus has caused a major outbreak in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)**. The new diagnostic strengthens outbreak preparedness, expands testing capacity, and enhances global response against viral haemorrhagic fevers and public health emergencies.
- India** and **Mali** launched the first **India–Mali Forum for Promotion of Exports** in **Bamako** to institutionalize bilateral trade and investment. Bilateral trade reached **US\$326.61 million** in FY 2025–26, recording **55% growth** supported by India's **DFTP Scheme**. The forum featured **B2B, B2G**, and **G2G** meetings focusing on textiles, mining, pharmaceuticals, energy, digital trade, and agro-industry. Mali also announced an **Investment Forum** for December 2026, strengthening strategic partnerships, investment opportunities, and long-term economic cooperation.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** began a **six-day diplomatic tour** of **Indonesia, Australia, and New Zealand** from **6–11 July 2026** to strengthen India's **Indo-Pacific partnerships**. In Indonesia, he will meet **President Prabowo Subianto** and review the **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**. In Australia, discussions with **Prime Minister Anthony Albanese** will focus on **defence, trade, critical technologies, and education**. The New Zealand visit includes talks with **Prime Minister Christopher Luxon** on **economic cooperation**. The tour reinforces India's **Act East Policy, MAHASAGAR Vision**, and commitment to a **free and inclusive Indo-Pacific**.
- India is chairing the **Ninth Session of the UNCTAD Intergovernmental Group of Experts (IGE) on Consumer Protection Law and Policy** in Geneva. Led by **Nidhi Khare**, the meeting focuses on strengthening **global consumer protection**, international cooperation, and policy coordination. A major highlight is the launch of the **UN Principles for Consumer Product Safety**, adopted by the **UN General Assembly** in **December 2025**. India is showcasing initiatives such as the **National Consumer Helpline** and **AI-powered e-Jagruti platform**, highlighting its leadership in **digital consumer grievance redressal** and international consumer policy.
- India** and **Indonesia** strengthened their **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** by signing **14 agreements** covering **defence, trade, maritime security, space, education, digital payments, healthcare, critical minerals, and telecommunications**. Indonesia agreed to procure **BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles** and **Astra Beyond-Visual-Range Air-to-Air Missiles (BVRAAMs)** worth over **US\$600 million**. Both countries reaffirmed support for a **free, open, inclusive, and rules-based Indo-Pacific**, emphasizing **ASEAN Centrality**, maritime cooperation, international law, and stronger regional security, further deepening bilateral strategic and defence ties.





- **Switzerland** announced that the **Geneva AI Summit 2027** will be held on **21–22 June 2027** alongside the **ITU AI for Good Global Summit**. The event will gather **world leaders, researchers, technology companies, and international organisations** to discuss **AI governance, innovation, ethics, AI safety, and responsible artificial intelligence**. Building on previous global AI summits, the conference aims to promote **human-centric, inclusive, and trustworthy AI** while reinforcing **Geneva's** role as a global centre for multilateral diplomacy and international policymaking.
- India and **Myanmar** held the **23rd National-Level Border Coordination Meeting** in **New Delhi**, reviewing security along the **1,643-km shared border**. Both countries agreed to strengthen cooperation against **terrorism, insurgency, narcotics trafficking, arms smuggling, human trafficking, wildlife crime, and cybercrime** through enhanced intelligence sharing and operational coordination. Discussions also covered the **Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project** and the **India–Myanmar–Thailand Trilateral Highway**, supporting India's **Neighbourhood**.
- According to media reports, **OpenAI** plans a wider rollout of **GPT-5.6** after completing evaluation under a new **U.S. Department of Commerce** framework for **frontier AI systems**. The review assessed **cybersecurity, national security, AI safety**, and misuse risks under a **2026 Executive Order** establishing oversight for advanced AI models. The framework seeks to balance **innovation** with safeguards against cyber threats, misinformation, military misuse, and hostile actors. Official confirmation from **OpenAI** and U.S. authorities had not yet been issued.
- India and **Kyrgyzstan** inaugurated the **International Centre for Civilizational Studies – Manas and Mahabharata** in **Bishkek** to promote comparative research, cultural diplomacy, and academic collaboration. The centre will study the **Mahabharata** and the **Manas Epic**, encouraging interdisciplinary work in literature, philosophy, history, and international relations. Agreements with **seven Kyrgyz universities** will support faculty exchanges, joint research, and educational programmes. The event also marked the release of the first **Hindi translation** of the **Manas epic**, strengthening centuries-old cultural and civilizational ties between both countries through education and scholarship.
- India and **Australia** launched **PACTS (Partnership for Cyber, Critical Technologies and Supply Chains)** during the Third Annual Summit in Melbourne. The initiative promotes cooperation in **cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, semiconductors, critical minerals, digital resilience**, and defence research through collaboration among governments, industry, universities, and innovators. Built around **five strategic pillars**, PACTS aims to strengthen secure supply chains, technology commercialization, and innovation. Alongside it, both countries launched the **Australia–Canada–India Technology and Innovation Partnership (ACITI)** to promote trilateral cooperation in advanced technologies and research.
- Prime Ministers **Narendra Modi** and **Anthony Albanese** reaffirmed the **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP)** during the Third India–Australia Annual Summit in Melbourne. Both leaders reviewed progress since 2020 and committed to concluding the **Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)** to expand trade and investment. Discussions covered **defence, critical minerals, clean energy, cybersecurity, space, civil nuclear cooperation**, education, renewable energy, and research. Australia also announced the return of ancient Indian artefacts, strengthening cultural ties alongside strategic cooperation and reinforcing a stable, rules-based Indo-Pacific partnership.
- India and New Zealand elevated their ties to a **Strategic Partnership** and set a target to double bilateral trade to **₹35,000 crore (NZ\$7 billion)** by **2030**. The countries adopted the **Strategic Partnership Roadmap 2030**, focusing on **trade, agriculture, clean energy, education, innovation, skills, and sports**. The recently concluded **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** is expected to strengthen economic cooperation. New Zealand also announced **\$20 billion investment** in India to boost long-term economic engagement.
- A **UN Women** report highlighted a severe **humanitarian funding crisis**, stating that over **one million women and girls** lost access to essential assistance due to declining donor support. The survey of **855 women-led organisations** found that **40%** risk closure within a year, while many have reduced staff and services. Funding shortages have affected **gender-based violence protection, reproductive healthcare, education, and shelters**, prompting calls for increased global investment in women-led humanitarian organisations.
- **Andy Burnham** is set to become the next **Prime Minister of the United Kingdom** after securing support from **322 Labour MPs**. Under **Labour Party** rules, a rival candidate requires **81 nominations**, making Burnham's leadership almost certain. He is expected to succeed **Keir Starmer**, who resigned following Labour's poor local election performance. The leadership transition is expected to reshape the party's strategy and restore public confidence ahead of future national elections.
- India and New Zealand adopted the **Strategic Partnership Roadmap to 2030**, signing **10 agreements** covering **defence, maritime security, disaster management, agriculture, education, tourism, culture, and scientific research**. Key outcomes include **defence logistics cooperation, Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism, Animal Husbandry Agreement, Kiwifruit Centres of Excellence in Nagaland and Uttarakhand**, and expanded **Indo-Pacific cooperation**. Both countries also pledged to enhance **trade, renewable energy, Antarctic research, and academic collaboration**.
- **14 Nations Reaffirm South China Sea Arbitration Ruling (90 Words)**





- **Fourteen countries**, including the **United States, United Kingdom, Japan, Australia, and the Philippines**, reaffirmed the **2016 South China Sea Arbitration Award** under **UNCLOS**, rejecting **China's Nine-Dash Line claims**. Issued on the ruling's **10th anniversary**, the joint statement described the tribunal's decision as **final and legally binding**. The countries expressed concern over increasing tensions, coercive maritime activities, and threats to regional stability. They reaffirmed support for **freedom of navigation, peaceful dispute resolution, international law, and a rules-based maritime order** in the strategically important **South China Sea**.
- India announced the **Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ)** allocation procedure under the **India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)**, effective from **1 June 2026**. Issued by the **Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)**, the notification allows concessional tariffs on specified imports such as **dates, marble, aluminium products, petrochemicals, copper weld wire, and LDPE**. Eligible importers must obtain a valid **Certificate of Origin** from Oman. The TRQ mechanism aims to facilitate bilateral trade while balancing domestic industry interests.
- The **United Nations** released its first scientific report on **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**, urging governments to strengthen global AI governance. Prepared by the **Independent International Scientific Panel on AI**, the report highlights AI's opportunities, risks, and growing **compute divide** dominated by the **United States and China**. It covers **AI applications, security, human rights, environmental concerns, governance**, and economic impacts. For India, the report stresses expanding domestic computing infrastructure through the **IndiaAI Mission** to ensure technological self-reliance and global competitiveness.
- **Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi**, President of **Zanzibar**, visited India to strengthen cooperation in **education, healthcare, trade, investment, and technology**. He attended the **63rd Convocation of IIT Madras**, highlighting the success of the **IIT Madras Zanzibar Campus (2023)**. The visit reinforced **India-Tanzania relations** and India's role in **South-South Cooperation**.
- **Andy Burnham** has been confirmed as the new **Leader of the UK Labour Party** and is expected to become the **Prime Minister of the United Kingdom**, succeeding **Sir Keir Starmer**. He pledged to restore **public trust**, strengthen **public services**, promote **regional development**, expand **local government autonomy**, and support **inclusive economic growth**.
- **Serhii Koretskyi** was appointed **Prime Minister of Ukraine** following a government reshuffle led by **President Volodymyr Zelenskyy**. Formerly **CEO of Naftogaz**, he will focus on **energy security, economic stability, public services**, and protection of **critical infrastructure** during the ongoing **Russia-Ukraine conflict**.
- India hosted the **5th BIMSTEC National Security Advisers' Meeting** in New Delhi on 16 July 2026, bringing together senior officials from all seven member countries. Discussions

focused on cyber security, terrorism, transnational crime, trafficking, satellite cooperation, and intelligence sharing. The meeting highlighted India's commitment to regional security cooperation and collective action against emerging threats. It also strengthened collaboration among Bay of Bengal nations to promote peace, stability, and secure digital infrastructure in the region.

- India played a prominent role at the **49th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC49)** held in Geneva by leading the adoption of seven international food standards. The Indian delegation, headed by **FSSAI CEO Rajit Punhani**, chaired standards on dried coriander seeds and fresh curry leaves while co-chairing guidelines on vanilla, cardamom, and food-processing water safety. India also proposed global standards for cashew kernels, reinforcing its leadership in food safety, international trade, and global standard-setting.
- **Zanzibar President Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi** visited India to strengthen cooperation in **education, healthcare, trade, investment, and technology**. He attended the **63rd IIT Madras Convocation** and highlighted the success of the **IIT Madras Zanzibar Campus (2023)**. The visit reinforced **India-Tanzania strategic ties**, promoted **South-South cooperation**, educational collaboration, infrastructure support, and capacity building while enhancing economic, cultural, and diplomatic engagement between the two nations.
- **Andy Burnham** became the new **Prime Minister of the United Kingdom** on **20 July 2026** after being appointed by **King Charles III**, following **Keir Starmer's** resignation. Formerly the **Mayor of Greater Manchester**, Burnham secured parliamentary confidence and was invited to form a government under UK constitutional practice. In his first address outside **10 Downing Street**, he described his administration as a **"circuit breaker"** government and promised long-term reforms to restore **political stability, economic confidence, and public trust**.
- **President Droupadi Murmu** began the **first-ever State Visit** by an Indian President to **Moldova**, holding talks with **President Maia Sandu** in **Chisinau**. Both leaders discussed cooperation in **trade, investment, agriculture, healthcare, renewable energy, digital public infrastructure, Artificial Intelligence, innovation, and education**. India announced increased **ITEC training slots**, specialised AI and cyber diplomacy courses, and invited Moldova to join the **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)** and the **Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA)**, strengthening bilateral ties.
- India became the **123rd WTO member** to accept the **Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies**, reinforcing its commitment to **sustainable fisheries** and marine conservation. The agreement, adopted at **MC12 (2022)** and effective from **15 September 2025**, prohibits subsidies supporting **illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing**, overfishing, and depleted fish stocks. It applies only to **marine wild capture fisheries**, leaving **aquaculture and inland fisheries** unaffected. The move aligns with **PMMSY** and India's fisheries policies while protecting traditional fishers.





- **Khalil al-Hayya** was elected the new overall leader of **Hamas**, succeeding **Yahya Sinwar**, who was killed during the **Gaza conflict** in **October 2024**. A senior Hamas leader and chief negotiator in indirect ceasefire talks mediated by **Egypt** and **Qatar**, al-Hayya won through a **69-member electoral college**, defeating **Khaled Meshaal** in the second-round runoff. He assumes leadership amid military setbacks, international scrutiny, and ongoing ceasefire negotiations, with diplomacy expected to remain central to Hamas' future strategy.
- **France** approved a landmark law banning children **under 15** from accessing **social media platforms**, becoming the **first European country** to implement such nationwide restrictions. Backed by **President Emmanuel Macron**, the law introduces mandatory **age verification** from **September 2026**, while the full ban takes effect in **January 2027**. The legislation aims to improve **child online safety**, protect mental health, reduce cyberbullying, and limit exposure to harmful content, though concerns remain regarding **privacy, data protection, and enforcement**.
- **Kanishka Narayan**, a British politician of **Indian origin**, has been appointed the **United Kingdom's first Minister for Artificial Intelligence**. Born in **Muzaffarpur, Bihar**, and educated at **Oxford University** and **Stanford University**, he will lead the UK's AI strategy covering **AI safety, innovation, regulation, digital transformation, research, startups, infrastructure, and ethical governance**. His appointment reflects the growing importance of **Artificial Intelligence** in governance while highlighting the increasing global leadership of professionals of Indian origin.
- **President Droupadi Murmu** became the **first Indian President** to make a bilateral visit to **North Macedonia**, strengthening ties established in **1995**. Both nations agreed to deepen cooperation in **trade, technology, healthcare, tourism, agriculture, AI, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, textiles, and skill development**. India announced expanded **ITEC training**, renewed the healthcare **MoU** for five years, and promoted cooperation through the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**, **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**, and **Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA)** to enhance bilateral relations.
- India hosted the **BRICS Network University (BRICS NU) Governing Board Meeting** and the first conference on **Traditional and Indigenous Knowledge Systems** under its **BRICS Presidency 2026**. Organised by the **Ministry of Education**, the event focused on **higher education, research collaboration, faculty exchange, innovation, ethical AI, and preservation of indigenous knowledge**. India proposed creating a new **International Thematic Group** on Traditional and Indigenous Knowledge Systems, receiving broad support from BRICS member countries to strengthen academic cooperation.
- A **University of Oxford** study published in **Sustainable Cities and Society** ranked **Delhi, Mumbai, and Chennai** among the world's **top 10 cities most vulnerable to extreme heat**. Assessing **205 global cities**, the research evaluated **temperature exposure, population vulnerability, and adaptive capacity**. **Delhi** ranked **second**, while **Mumbai** and **Chennai** ranked **sixth** and **ninth**, respectively. The study recommends expanding **green spaces, climate-resilient infrastructure, healthcare systems, urban planning, and heat action plans** to address increasing climate-related risks.
- The **United States** approved a **30-year civilian nuclear cooperation agreement** with **Saudi Arabia** under **Section 123 of the US Atomic Energy Act, 1954**. The agreement supports cooperation in **reactor development, nuclear fuel supply, technology transfer, infrastructure, and technical expertise**, assisting Saudi Arabia's energy diversification. However, the deal excludes the **Gold Standard** restrictions on uranium enrichment and spent fuel reprocessing, prompting debate over **nuclear proliferation risks**, despite supporters viewing it as a significant strategic partnership.
- **India delivered 4.5 tonnes of medical aid to Kenya** to enhance the country's **Ebola preparedness** and disease response capabilities. The assistance, handed over in **Nairobi** by **High Commissioner Adarsh Swaika**, included **PPE kits, sample transport kits, infrared thermometers, face shields, and protective boots**. The supplies will support **healthcare workers, disease surveillance, laboratory testing, and emergency response systems**. The initiative reflects **India's commitment to global health cooperation, humanitarian assistance**, and its longstanding healthcare partnership with **Kenya and African nations**.
- **India hosted the 16th BRICS Health Ministers' Meeting** in **Chandigarh** under its **BRICS Chairship 2026**, bringing together representatives from **11 member countries**. The meeting focused on **pandemic preparedness, Universal Health Coverage, digital health, AI, telemedicine, and equitable healthcare access**. Members adopted the **16th Health Ministerial Declaration**, reaffirming cooperation to strengthen resilient healthcare systems. India proposed establishing a **BRICS Network of Centres of Excellence on Mental Wellness**, coordinated by **NIMHANS Bengaluru**, while also supporting collaboration in **traditional medicine, electronic health records, and secure health data exchange**.
- **Spain** is battling one of its **largest-ever wildfires**, with more than **32,000 hectares** destroyed in **Guadalajara** amid an intense **heatwave**. The blaze forced evacuations in **34 villages**, while over **200 firefighters**, helicopters, and aircraft continue firefighting operations. Officials described it as the **largest wildfire in Castilla-La Mancha** and the **second-largest in Spain's history**. Prime Minister **Pedro Sánchez** linked the disaster to **climate change**, stressing the need for stronger climate action as **heatwaves, drought, and extreme weather** continue to increase wildfire risks across Europe.





- During **President Droupadi Murmu's** visit to **Romania**, India signed **three agreements** covering **science and technology, Indian studies, and sports cooperation**. The countries also agreed to **double bilateral trade within three years** and declared **2028 as the India–Romania Year of Innovation**. The partnership aims to strengthen cooperation in **AI, renewable energy, healthcare, manufacturing, and education**, while marking **80 years of diplomatic relations**.
- India invited **Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman** as a **special guest** for the **BRICS Summit 2026** in **New Delhi**. Although Bangladesh is not a BRICS member, the invitation reflects stronger **regional cooperation** and support for the **Global South**. Under the theme "**Creating Resilience, Innovation, Collaboration and Sustainability**," India is promoting cooperation in **health, climate resilience, disaster management, digital transformation, and economic development**.
- India and **Israel** completed the **second round** of negotiations for a proposed **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** in **New Delhi**. Discussions focused on **trade in goods and services, customs, intellectual property, rules of origin, and investment**. With bilateral merchandise trade reaching **USD 3.93 billion** in **FY 2025–26**, the agreement aims to improve market access, technology cooperation, investment, and supply chain resilience.
- During the **48th Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee** held in **Busan, South Korea**, **Mount Olympus (Greece)** and the **D-Day Landing Beaches (France)** were added to the **UNESCO World Heritage List**. **Mount Olympus**, Greece's highest peak at **2,918 metres**, received recognition as a **Mixed World Heritage Site** for its exceptional **natural biodiversity and mythological significance**. The **D-Day Landing Beaches** in **Normandy**, including **Omaha, Utah, Gold, Juno, Sword Beaches, and Pointe du Hoc**, were inscribed for their historic role in **World War II**. UNESCO also highlighted concerns regarding **climate change, tourism, and sea-level rise**.
- According to the **Competere Foundation's** report, India improved its ranking in the **Market Distortions Performance Index** from **82nd in 2010** to **57th in 2023**, gaining **25 positions**. The report credits reforms such as the **Goods and Services Tax (GST), Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)**, regulatory simplification, and **trade facilitation measures** for reducing market distortions. The index assesses **ownership rights, domestic competition, and international competitiveness**. The findings highlight India's progress toward a more **transparent, competitive, and investment-friendly economy**, while emphasizing the need for continued structural reforms to sustain long-term economic growth.
- A **U.S.-backed peace proposal** under **President Donald Trump's Board of Peace** seeks the phased **disarmament of Hamas** and other militant groups in **Gaza** as part of a broader **ceasefire and reconstruction plan**. While **Hamas** has reportedly accepted the proposal in principle, **Israel** has not yet granted formal approval, citing security concerns. Mediated by **Egypt, Qatar, and Turkey**, the plan includes **verified disarmament, phased Israeli troop withdrawal, deployment of an international stabilization force, establishment of a new Palestinian police force, and internationally supervised reconstruction**, with implementation dependent on mutual compliance.
- **Venezuela** has formally notified the **United Nations (UN)** of its decision to withdraw from the **Rome Statute**, the founding treaty of the **International Criminal Court (ICC)**. Foreign Minister **Felix Plasencia** called the move "**firm and irrevocable**", citing concerns over alleged **geographical bias** and unequal treatment by the court. Under **Article 127 of the Rome Statute**, withdrawal will become effective after **one year**, and it will not stop ongoing investigations, including the ICC probe into alleged **crimes against humanity** in **Venezuela** opened in **2021**. The ICC, headquartered in **The Hague, Netherlands**, investigates **genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and aggression**, and Venezuela's exit adds to growing challenges facing the global justice system.
- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** unveiled two major reforms for the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** on **29 July 2026** in **New Delhi** to promote **gender equality** and improve personnel welfare. The new policy introduces a **gender-neutral officer induction framework**, allowing women officers to join **Short Service Appointment (SSA)** and **Permanent Appointment (PA)**, while opening SSA for male candidates as well. The reforms also empower the ICG to declare personnel "**presumed dead**" in cases of disappearance at sea during duty, enabling faster release of **ex gratia compensation, terminal benefits, and financial assistance to Next of Kin (NoK)**. The initiatives strengthen **Nari Shakti, inclusiveness, and operational efficiency in maritime security**.
- India achieved a major milestone as its **first-ever direct commercial container freight train** reached **Nepal** carrying a consignment of **canola** under the revised **India–Nepal Rail Transit Protocol**. The train operated from **Kolkata Port (India) to Biratnagar (Nepal)** with **40 wagons** and eliminated **border transshipment** requirements. The initiative aims to reduce **transit time, logistics costs, and cargo handling**, while improving **supply chain efficiency**. The direct freight service strengthens **India–Nepal trade relations**, promotes **regional connectivity**, and supports sustainable rail-based transportation under the **Neighbourhood First Policy**.





- The Pacific island country previously known as **Nauru** officially changed its name to the **Republic of Naoero** after approval of a **constitutional amendment** by Parliament in **May 2026** and confirmation by President **David Adeang** on **31 July 2026**. The name change aims to restore the nation's **indigenous identity**, protect the endangered **Nauruan language (dorerin Naoero)**, and strengthen cultural heritage. The **United Nations** was informed on **26 June 2026** and began updating official records. The country's short name is now **Naoero**, while its code **NRO** remains unchanged. Located in **Micronesia**, the nation covers around **21 sq km**, has nearly **12,000 people**, uses the **Australian Dollar**, and has **Yaren District** as its administrative centre.

International Current Affairs of June 2026

- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** announced the **World No Tobacco Day 2026 Awards**, recognizing outstanding contributions to **tobacco control** and public health worldwide. Awardees included individuals, researchers, government agencies, and organizations from all six WHO regions. The **WHO Director-General Special Award** was conferred on **Dr. Shaya Mohsin Zindani** of Yemen. India received recognition through **Rajasthan's Health Department** and the **ICMR–National Institute of Cancer Prevention and Research** for their efforts in tobacco awareness, prevention initiatives, and policy implementation aimed at reducing tobacco consumption and improving public health outcomes.
- India has extended **emergency medical assistance** to African nations affected by the **Ebola outbreak** by supplying essential healthcare materials through the **Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention**. The assistance includes diagnostic kits, medicines, protective equipment, infection-control supplies, and case-management materials. The support is intended to strengthen healthcare responses in affected communities, particularly in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**. The initiative reflects India's commitment to **global health security**, humanitarian assistance, and **South-South cooperation**, while reinforcing long-standing partnerships with African nations in public health and emergency response efforts.
- Forbes 2026 ranking placed **Elon Musk** as the world's richest person with **\$835 billion**, followed by **Larry Page**, **Sergey Brin**, **Jeff Bezos**, and **Larry Ellison**. The top 10 also includes **Michael Dell**, **Mark Zuckerberg**, **Jensen Huang**, **Bernard Arnault**, and **Steve Ballmer**. The list highlights continued dominance of the **technology sector**, especially companies like **Tesla**, **SpaceX**, **Alphabet**, **Amazon**, **Oracle**, and **Meta**. Rapid growth in **AI**, **cloud computing**, and **digital innovation** significantly influenced global wealth creation. The ranking reflects how tech-driven enterprises continue to shape global financial power and ultra-high-net-worth individual distribution worldwide.
- Venezuela's Acting President **Delcy Rodríguez** will visit India from **3–7 June 2026** for high-level discussions with Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**. The talks will focus on strengthening cooperation in **energy, trade, investment, technology, pharmaceuticals, healthcare, transportation, and renewable energy**. The visit reflects deepening **India–Venezuela relations**, particularly in the context of rising crude oil imports from Venezuela. Accompanied by senior ministers, the visit aims to expand **South–South cooperation** and diversify India's energy partnerships. It highlights efforts to strengthen bilateral engagement and enhance strategic economic collaboration between the two countries.
- Khalilur Rahman of Bangladesh** has been elected President of the **81st UN General Assembly session**, defeating Cyprus candidate **Andreas Kakouris**. He will assume office in **September 2026** for a one-year term. His priorities include **peace and security, SDGs, climate action, human rights, emerging technologies, and UN reforms**. The session theme is **"Restoring Trust, Managing Transformation."** His election comes at a critical time for global governance, reflecting increased focus on **multilateral cooperation, UN reform, and global development challenges**.
- The **United Nations General Assembly** elected five new **non-permanent members of the UN Security Council (2027–2028 term)**: **Austria, Kyrgyzstan, Portugal, Trinidad and Tobago, and Zimbabwe**. Their tenure begins on **1 January 2027**. Notably, Kyrgyzstan secured its **first-ever UNSC seat**, marking a historic achievement. The election reflects shifting global diplomatic dynamics and strengthens representation from diverse regions. The new members will contribute to discussions on **global peace, security, and international cooperation** during a critical period for multilateral governance.
- The **University of Liverpool** received approval from India's Ministry of Education to establish its **first Indian campus in Bengaluru** under the **NEP 2020 framework**. This development enhances **India–UK higher education collaboration**, promoting global-quality education, research partnerships, and academic internationalization. The initiative was supported by senior Indian and UK officials, reflecting growing educational ties. The campus will provide students access to **international curricula and research opportunities**, strengthening India's position as a global education hub.
- India and the UK launched the **Critical Minerals Global Supply Chain Observatory (GSCO)** in New Delhi to monitor and strengthen supply chains of **critical minerals** used in **clean energy, EVs, semiconductors, and advanced technologies**. Developed by institutions including **IIT (ISM) Dhanbad** and the **University of Cambridge**, the platform tracks **resource availability, geopolitical risks, and market disruptions**. It enhances cooperation in strategic resource security and supports sustainable industrial growth in emerging technologies.





- The **UN General Assembly** elected five non-permanent members of the **UN Security Council** for 2027–2028, including **Austria, Kyrgyzstan, Portugal, Trinidad and Tobago, and Zimbabwe**. Their term begins in **January 2027**. Kyrgyzstan achieved a historic first-ever seat. The election reflects global diplomatic balance and strengthens representation in international security governance. These members will contribute to decisions on **global peace, conflict resolution, and international stability** during a crucial geopolitical period.
- The **University of Liverpool** received approval to establish its first **India campus** in **Bengaluru** under **NEP 2020**. The move strengthens **India–UK education cooperation**, enabling access to global-quality higher education within India. The campus will promote **research collaboration, academic exchange, and internationalization of education**, enhancing India's position as a global education hub. It reflects growing foreign university participation in India's higher education system.
- India and the UK launched the **Critical Minerals Global Supply Chain Observatory (GSCO)** in New Delhi to monitor global supply chains of **critical minerals used in EVs, semiconductors, and clean energy technologies**. Developed with institutions like **IIT (ISM) Dhanbad and University of Cambridge**, the platform tracks **resource availability, market risks, and geopolitical vulnerabilities**. It strengthens cooperation in **strategic resource security and sustainable technology development**.
- India secured continued access to the **European Union market** for exports of **aquaculture products, honey, eggs, and animal casings** beyond September 2026. The inclusion of India in the list of authorized exporting countries under **Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2026/1189** ensures uninterrupted trade with one of the world's largest markets. The revised regulations focus on stricter food safety standards and addressing **antimicrobial resistance (AMR)** concerns. This development is particularly significant for India's fisheries sector, whose exports to the EU are valued at approximately **USD 1.59 billion**, strengthening trade prospects and export earnings.
- The **Bonn Climate Conference 2026**, held from **June 8–18** under the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**, began with calls for stronger climate action and increased adaptation finance. The **Global Climate and Health Alliance** urged governments to raise public adaptation funding to at least **\$120 billion annually by 2035**. Discussions at the conference focus on adaptation finance, fossil-fuel transition strategies, loss-and-damage funding, and just transition measures. Health experts emphasized strengthening healthcare systems, disaster preparedness, food security, and climate resilience, particularly in vulnerable and developing nations facing growing climate risks.
- According to the **Japan Meteorological Agency**, **El Niño** has returned in 2026 and is expected to strengthen through the year, with the possibility of developing into a **Super El Niño**. Triggered by unusually warm waters in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean, the phenomenon significantly alters global weather patterns. It may weaken India's monsoon, affecting agriculture, water availability, and food production. Globally, major crops such as **rice, wheat, coffee, cocoa, and cotton** could face reduced yields. Scientists also warn of increased risks of droughts, floods, heatwaves, and rising global temperatures.
- At the **SAPLING High-Level Policy Dialogue** held in **Ahmedabad**, the **World Bank Group** highlighted that transforming South Asia's food systems could create millions of jobs and attract billions of dollars in investments. The event emphasized that the region's **\$700 billion agriculture sector** faces challenges such as low value addition and food wastage exceeding **30%**. Experts recommended greater investment in food processing, cold-chain infrastructure, logistics, and exports. India's rapidly growing food-processing sector, supported by schemes like **PMKSY, PMFME, and PLI**, was identified as a key driver of employment generation and economic growth.
- According to the **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**, global refugee numbers declined by **3% to 41.6 million** at the end of **2025**, marking the first decrease in over a decade. The reduction was driven largely by returns to **Afghanistan, Syria, and Sudan**, with around **14.7 million people** returning home, including **4.4 million refugees** and **10.3 million internally displaced persons**. Despite this progress, nearly **70% of refugees** remain trapped in prolonged displacement situations. Through its **"50 by 35" initiative**, UNHCR aims to reduce aid dependency by promoting employment, education, and self-reliance among displaced populations.
- India pledged **\$2.5 million** to the **United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)** as the first installment of its annual **\$5 million assistance package** for Palestinian refugees. The contribution will support education, healthcare, social welfare, and humanitarian relief services. At the **United Nations Security Council**, India reiterated support for a **two-state solution** as the only sustainable path to resolving the **Israel-Palestine conflict**. India also called for a ceasefire in Gaza, protection of civilians, unrestricted humanitarian access, and renewed peace negotiations, reaffirming its long-standing commitment to peace, stability, and humanitarian assistance in the region.





- Ahead of the **G7 Summit 2026**, **France** identified **India** as one of its key strategic priorities, highlighting the growing importance of bilateral relations. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** is scheduled to visit France for discussions with President **Emmanuel Macron** on defence cooperation, innovation, maritime security, climate action, space collaboration, and civil nuclear energy. Established in **1998**, the India-France Strategic Partnership has expanded significantly across multiple sectors. Discussions are expected to include the **Rafale programme**, **Bharat Innovates platform**, and enhanced nuclear cooperation, reflecting India's increasing influence in the **Indo-Pacific** and global affairs.
- Scientists discovered the world's largest **whale graveyard** in the **Diamantina Fracture Zone** of the southeastern **Indian Ocean**, at depths exceeding **7,000 metres**. Led by the **Chinese Academy of Sciences** using the **Fendouzhe submersible**, researchers identified more than **485 fossil sites** across a 1,200-kilometre underwater rift. Fossils dating from **120,000 years to 5.3 million years old** were uncovered, including remains of extinct whale species. The discovery provides valuable insights into whale evolution, deep-sea biodiversity, marine ecosystems, and long-term carbon storage, making it a significant breakthrough in marine paleontology.
- **Elon Musk** reportedly became the world's first **trillionaire** after the **SpaceX IPO**, which valued the company above **\$2 trillion**. Shares debuted at **\$135**, peaked at **\$161.11**, and raised nearly **\$75 billion**, making it the largest IPO in history. SpaceX's success in reusable rockets and Starlink satellite internet drove investor confidence. Musk's business empire, including **Tesla**, **xAI**, and **X**, further strengthened his financial milestone, marking a major shift in global technology and space economy leadership.
- The initiative "**Bharat Innovates 2026**" will be jointly launched by **PM Narendra Modi** and **President Emmanuel Macron** in France as part of the India-France innovation partnership. The event will host **120 startups**, **15 institutions**, and **500 investors**, focusing on sectors like **semiconductors**, **AI**, **space**, **biotechnology**, and **energy**. It aims to boost collaboration, investment, and research between India and France. The platform strengthens the **1998 strategic partnership** and enhances India's global position in deep-tech innovation and startup ecosystems.
- Reports indicate a tentative understanding between the **United States** and **Iran**, supported by regional diplomacy involving **Pakistan**, **Qatar**, **Turkey**, and **Saudi Arabia**. Proposed measures include easing maritime restrictions, reopening the **Strait of Hormuz**, and supporting a broader regional ceasefire framework. The development could improve energy security, stabilize oil markets, reduce shipping costs, and lower geopolitical tensions. For India, smoother energy supplies and reduced crude oil price volatility could positively impact economic stability and trade.
- India and France announced **13 major outcomes** during Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's** visit, strengthening their **Special Global Strategic Partnership**. Key initiatives include the **India-France Innovation Roadmap 2030**, a **Joint AI Working Group**, expanded **UPI services**, startup collaborations, defence cooperation, railway projects, and space research partnerships between **ISRO** and **CNES**. Both nations also agreed to work toward doubling bilateral trade within five years, highlighting their commitment to innovation, technology, economic security, and sustainable development.
- The **India-France ATL Bridge** has been launched to connect young innovators, schools, and entrepreneurs from both countries. Developed through cooperation between the **Atal Innovation Mission** and **La Fondation Dassault Systèmes**, the initiative will support student exchanges, innovation projects, and entrepreneurship programmes. France will also establish its first **School Innovation Lab** based on India's **Atal Tinkering Lab** model. The programme strengthens educational collaboration, promotes innovation, and deepens people-to-people ties between India and France.
- The **52nd G7 Summit** in **France** brought together leaders of major advanced economies to discuss economic growth, energy security, critical minerals, supply chains, and geopolitical challenges. The summit gained significance amid reports of a possible **US-Iran understanding** and the reopening of the **Strait of Hormuz**, which could stabilize global oil markets. India participated as a partner country, highlighting its increasing role in international diplomacy and global governance discussions.
- The **Bharat Innovates 2026** summit in France showcased India's growing **deep-tech ecosystem**, featuring over **120 startups**, **20 institutes**, and **350 global investors**. Innovations were presented across artificial intelligence, quantum computing, semiconductors, biotechnology, space technology, defence, and clean energy. The event strengthened India-France collaboration in innovation and highlighted India's ambition to become a global technology and startup hub through research, entrepreneurship, and international partnerships.
- **Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf** is one of Iran's most influential political figures, serving as the **Speaker of Parliament** and playing an important role in the country's policymaking and strategic affairs. A former **IRGC Commander**, **Police Chief**, and **Mayor of Tehran**, he has decades of experience in governance and security. His influence extends across domestic politics and foreign policy discussions, making him a significant figure in shaping Iran's future political and diplomatic direction.





- India and Japan have adopted the implementation framework for the **Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)** under **Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement**. The mechanism enables collaboration on low-carbon projects through technology transfer, investment, and capacity building, with resulting **Carbon Credits** shared between both nations. The framework establishes transparent procedures for project approval, monitoring, verification, and credit issuance while preventing double counting of emission reductions. The initiative supports both countries in achieving their **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** and advancing climate goals.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mark Carney agreed to launch negotiations for a **General Security of Information Agreement (GSOIA)** and accelerate efforts to conclude a **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** in 2026. The proposed agreements will strengthen cooperation in **Defence, Intelligence Sharing, Trade, Energy Security, Critical Minerals, and Technology Partnerships**. The development reflects growing strategic engagement and economic cooperation between India and Canada.
- At the **G7 Summit 2026**, India joined global efforts to address the resurgence of **Ebola** and strengthen international action against **Cancer**. Along with partner nations, India supported initiatives related to **Vaccine Development, Disease Surveillance, Diagnostic Research**, and public health preparedness. The summit also emphasized affordable healthcare access, early cancer detection, and international research collaboration. India's participation highlights its expanding role in **Global Health Diplomacy** and multilateral cooperation in addressing worldwide health challenges.
- India expanded the international footprint of the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** by launching services at **Galleries Lafayette Nice Massena**. The initiative was facilitated by **NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL)** and **Lyra Collect**, enabling Indian visitors to make seamless QR-based payments in France. UPI is now operational in **Nine Countries**, including France, Singapore, UAE, Nepal, Bhutan, Mauritius, Qatar, Sri Lanka, and Cambodia. The expansion strengthens India's leadership in digital payments and promotes cross-border financial connectivity.
- The United States has officially renamed the **United States Indo-Pacific Command** back to the **United States Pacific Command**. Originally established in 1947, the command was renamed in 2018 to reflect the Indo-Pacific strategic concept. While the historical name has been restored, its mission, personnel, and operational responsibilities remain unchanged. The command continues to oversee one of the world's most strategically important regions, stretching from the U.S. West Coast to the western boundary of India.
- The United States and Iran announced the **Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding**, a 14-point interim framework aimed at reducing regional tensions and facilitating broader diplomatic negotiations. The agreement includes commitments to avoid military escalation, reopen the **Strait of Hormuz**, and engage in discussions on sanctions relief and regional stability. The development is expected to support global energy markets, improve maritime security, and encourage continued diplomatic engagement between the two countries.
- India expanded the international footprint of the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** with its launch at **Galleries Lafayette Nice Massena** in France. Implemented through collaboration between **NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL)** and **Lyra Collect**, the integration allows Indian visitors to make instant QR-code-based digital payments abroad. UPI is now operational in **nine countries**, enhancing convenience for travellers and supporting global acceptance of India's digital payment ecosystem. The expansion also strengthens **India–France digital cooperation** and showcases India's leadership in financial technology innovation.
- The United States officially restored the name **United States Pacific Command**, reversing the 2018 change to **Indo-Pacific Command**. While the name has changed, the command's mission, operational structure, personnel, and geographical responsibilities remain unchanged. Established in **1947**, it is the oldest and largest U.S. combatant command. The move is considered largely symbolic and administrative, reflecting a return to historical nomenclature while maintaining the same strategic focus across the Asia-Pacific region, including areas extending to India's western boundary.
- The United States and Iran signed the **Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding**, a 14-point interim agreement designed to reduce regional tensions. The pact establishes a **60-day negotiation framework**, commitments to avoid military escalation, and plans to reopen the **Strait of Hormuz**, a crucial global energy route. Discussions on sanctions relief and Iranian oil exports are also included, while Iran reaffirmed its commitment not to pursue nuclear weapons. The agreement is expected to contribute to regional stability, diplomatic engagement, and improved global energy market confidence.
- Addressing the Indian diaspora in Paris, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** emphasized that India is increasingly recognized as a **trusted global partner**. He highlighted India's progress in digital transformation, infrastructure, innovation, and inclusive growth while stressing the importance of trust in international relations. Referring to discussions at the **G7 Summit 2026**, he advocated inclusive global governance, responsible technology use, and stronger representation for developing nations. He also highlighted growing **India–France cooperation** in defence, space, climate action, trade, and scientific research.





- **Uzbekistan** became the first Central Asian country to join the **New Development Bank (NDB)**, established by the **BRICS nations**. After completing accession procedures, Uzbekistan became the bank's **10th member**, gaining access to long-term financing for infrastructure and sustainable development projects. Since its establishment in 2015, the NDB has approved projects worth nearly **US\$43 billion**. The membership supports Uzbekistan's modernization goals and reflects its growing role in regional and global economic cooperation.
- France is set to inaugurate its first traditional **Hindu Temple** built entirely using stones sourced from India and crafted by Indian artisans. The temple follows authentic Hindu architectural principles and will be inaugurated with a **15-day cultural and religious celebration**. It is expected to serve as a spiritual and cultural hub for the Indian diaspora while promoting cultural exchange and preserving Indian traditions abroad. The project symbolizes growing **India–France cultural relations** and highlights the global presence of Indian heritage.
- The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** introduced a landmark child safety regulation establishing **15 years** as the minimum age for social media use. The policy mandates **AI-based age verification**, digital identity checks, stronger privacy settings, parental controls, and restrictions on interactions with strangers. Platforms must identify and remove underage accounts. The UAE becomes the first Arab nation to implement such nationwide rules, reflecting growing concerns about online safety, harmful content exposure, screen addiction, and digital privacy among children and teenagers.
- **Professor Dr. Bimal Patel** has been elected as a Judge of the **International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)**, marking a major achievement for India's international legal diplomacy. Established under the **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**, ITLOS is an independent judicial body headquartered in **Hamburg, Germany**, which resolves disputes related to maritime boundaries, navigation rights, fisheries, marine resources, environmental protection, and detained vessels. Patel currently serves as the **Vice-Chancellor of Rashtriya Raksha University**, is a member of the **United Nations International Law Commission**, and serves on India's **National Security Advisory Board**. His election strengthens India's role in global maritime governance and complements the presence of **Neeru Chadha**, who currently serves as **Vice President of ITLOS**.
- **Jonathan**, a **Seychelles giant tortoise** living on the South Atlantic island of **Saint Helena**, has been officially recognized as the **world's oldest known terrestrial animal** and the **oldest turtle ever recorded**. Estimated to have been born around **1832**, Jonathan is approximately **194 years old**. During his lifetime, he has witnessed major historical events, including the **Victorian era**, the construction of the **Eiffel Tower**, the invention of automobiles and airplanes, and the rise of computers, the internet, and space exploration. Despite his remarkable age, Jonathan remains relatively healthy and active. Scientists believe his longevity is linked to a **slow metabolism**, low-stress lifestyle, favorable genetics, and efficient biological systems. Researchers are studying his DNA to gain insights into **healthy aging, longevity, cellular repair, and age-related diseases**.
- **Keir Starmer** resigned as **Prime Minister of the United Kingdom** and leader of the **Labour Party**, less than two years after winning the **2024 General Election**. He informed **King Charles III** and will remain caretaker Prime Minister until a new Labour leader is elected. His resignation followed poor local election results, internal party differences, declining public support, and economic challenges. Since **Labour** holds a parliamentary majority, its next elected leader will automatically become Prime Minister. The leadership transition is expected to prioritize **economic recovery, public services**, and future electoral strategy.
- India will host the **11th BRICS Energy Ministers' Meeting** in **Gurugram, Haryana**, under its **BRICS Chairship** with the theme **"Energy for All."** Ministers will discuss **energy security, renewable energy, energy transition, smart grids, energy storage, artificial intelligence, and sustainable development**. **BRICS**, comprising **11 member countries**, represents nearly half of the global population and around **40% of world GDP**. India will showcase initiatives including the **International Solar Alliance** and **Global Biofuels Alliance**, while promoting cooperation for affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy among emerging economies.
- India hosted the **BRICS National Security Advisers Meeting** on **22–23 June 2026** under **National Security Adviser Ajit Doval**. Delegates discussed **cybersecurity, artificial intelligence risks, terrorism, information warfare, critical infrastructure protection, digital security, and transnational crime**. Representatives from **China, Russia, Iran**, and other **BRICS** members reviewed the progress of **Joint Working Groups on Counter-Terrorism**, emphasizing intelligence sharing, cyber resilience, and responsible technology use. The meeting reinforced international cooperation in addressing evolving non-traditional security threats while highlighting **India's** commitment to collaborative global security initiatives.
- Following the resignation of **Keir Starmer**, **Andy Burnham** emerged as a leading contender in the **Labour Party** leadership discussions. Born in **1970**, Burnham served as **MP for Leigh, Secretary of State for Health, Secretary of State for Culture**, and **Mayor of Greater Manchester** from **2017 to 2026**. Widely known as the **"King in the North,"** he championed regional autonomy, public service reforms, and economic development. Returning to Parliament as **MP for Makerfield**, Burnham is viewed as a strong advocate of decentralization and community-focused governance.





- Renowned American economist **Alan Greenspan** passed away on **22 June 2026** at the age of **100**. Popularly called "**The Maestro**," he served as **Chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve** from **1987 to 2006** under four presidents. Greenspan guided the American economy through the **1987 Black Monday Crash**, the **Dot-com Boom**, and the post-9/11 recovery. Famous for his cautious "**Fedspeak**" communication style, his monetary policies shaped global financial markets, though his legacy remains debated for financial deregulation preceding the **2008 Global Financial Crisis**.
- The **European Union (EU)** officially joined the **Pax Silica Initiative**, a **United States-led** strategic framework promoting cooperation in **artificial intelligence**, **semiconductors**, and critical technologies. The initiative strengthens resilient supply chains, AI infrastructure, digital connectivity, energy security, critical minerals, and export coordination among partner nations. As part of the agreement, the **EU** plans to procure at least **\$40 billion worth of AI chips** from the United States. Current participants include **India, Japan, South Korea, Australia**, and several European countries, fostering secure technology ecosystems and international industrial collaboration.
- United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres** warned of the worsening **global climate crisis**, urging immediate action to reduce **methane emissions** from **fossil fuels, agriculture, and waste management**. Speaking in **London**, he launched the **UN Call to Action on Methane**, highlighting methane's warming impact, nearly **80 times stronger than carbon dioxide** over twenty years. He also expressed concern about emissions from **artificial intelligence and data centres**. Additionally, the **Global Urban Data Centres Pact**, involving **36 cities**, was launched to promote sustainable digital infrastructure and climate-resilient urban development.
- Bangladesh** became the **27th member** of the **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)**, strengthening global cooperation for the conservation of endangered big cat species. Launched by **India** in **2023** and headquartered in **New Delhi**, the alliance focuses on protecting the **Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma**. Bangladesh's membership enhances conservation of the **Sundarbans**, promotes **transboundary wildlife management**, anti-poaching efforts, habitat protection, scientific research, and biodiversity conservation while strengthening regional collaboration for preserving endangered species.
- The **second Pax Silica Summit** was held in **Washington, D.C.**, where **35 countries**, including **India**, signed the **Joint Statement on AI Opportunity** to promote responsible and innovation-friendly artificial intelligence policies. The US-led initiative focuses on trusted AI governance, resilient semiconductor supply chains, and international technology cooperation. Key announcements included the **Pax Pass** system for secure AI trade and the **Foundry School**, supported by US funding to develop AI-skilled professionals. India participated through **Ministry of Electronics and**

- Information Technology (MeitY)** officials, reinforcing its role in global AI governance and digital policy frameworks.
- India launched **Operation Amistad**, a humanitarian mission to support Venezuela after a devastating earthquake. The **IAF deployed C-17 aircraft** carrying relief supplies, medical aid, and a rescue team of over 40 members. The mission includes hospitals, medical kits, and emergency support. It reflects India's role as a **first responder in global disasters**. India expressed solidarity and pledged continued assistance. The operation strengthens India's global humanitarian leadership under its **HADR framework**.
 - The **SCO Women's Forum 2026** was held in **Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**, focusing on women's empowerment, leadership, and gender equality. India highlighted its women-led development model through **Mission Shakti, Mission Poshan 2.0, and SHGs covering 100 million women**. Over 30 million women achieved income milestones under **Lakshpati Didi scheme**. The forum promotes cooperation on education, health, and livelihoods under **SCO 2035 Strategy**. It strengthens regional collaboration among member states on women's social and economic empowerment.
 - Japanese PM **Sanae Takaichi** will visit **India (1–3 July 2026)** for the **16th India-Japan Annual Summit**. She will meet PM **Narendra Modi** to review cooperation in defense, technology, infrastructure, energy, and trade. Japan is a major investor in India and supports projects like the bullet train and industrial corridors. Both countries cooperate under **QUAD, G20, and Indo-Pacific frameworks**. The visit strengthens strategic ties, supply chains, and regional security cooperation.
 - India conducted its first **mango promotion events in Iceland**, organized by **APEDA and Indian Embassy in Reykjavik**. Held in Reykjavik and Akureyri, the event showcased varieties like **Dasheri, Chausa, Langra, and Kesar**. It aims to expand agricultural exports in Nordic markets. Discussions highlighted opportunities under **India-EFTA TEPA agreement**. Iceland imports mangoes from countries like Thailand and Brazil, with market value of around **USD 3.3 million (2025)**. The initiative boosts India's agri-export diversification.





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- The **World Health Organization** approved the **first infant-specific malaria drug** on **World Malaria Day 2026**, targeting babies under **5 kg**. The **artemether-lumefantrine** formulation ensures **safe dosing**, reducing **toxicity risks** and improving **pediatric care**. This milestone enables faster **global distribution**, especially in **malaria-endemic regions** like **Sub-Saharan Africa**, which accounts for **90% of cases**. With **children under five** contributing nearly **70% of malaria deaths**, the drug offers critical protection. Supporting **maternal and child health**, this innovation strengthens global efforts to combat **malaria**, improve **survival rates**, and advance **equitable healthcare access**.
- **Emmanuel Macron** announced he will exit **politics after 2027**, completing his second term as **France's President**. Speaking in **Nicosia**, he ruled out any **political comeback**, ending speculation. First elected in **2017** as the youngest president and re-elected in **2022**, his tenure saw key **reforms**, including raising the **retirement age** from 62 to 64, alongside **public protests** and political challenges. With France's **two-term limit**, his decision signals a **leadership transition**, marking the close of a significant political era and shaping the country's future political landscape.
- **Annalena Baerbock**, President of the **United Nations General Assembly**, will visit **India** on **April 28, 2026**, marking her first trip in the role. The visit focuses on **global cooperation**, **multilateralism**, and addressing challenges like **climate change**, **economic instability**, and **conflict resolution**. She will hold talks with **S. Jaishankar** and other officials on **digital governance** and **UN collaboration**. The visit highlights India's growing role in **global diplomacy**, followed by her next engagement in **China**, strengthening international partnerships.
- **Symbiosis Skills and Professional University** launched Asia's first **UNESCO Chair on Gender Inclusion and Skill Development** in collaboration with **UNESCO**. The initiative aims to empower women by promoting participation in **AI**, **robotics**, and **advanced manufacturing**. Inaugurated by **Jayant Chaudhary**, it focuses on **future skills**, **gender equality**, and **employment opportunities**. With over **10,000 girls trained**, it highlights strong **industry-academia collaboration** involving global firms. This milestone strengthens India's role in bridging the **gender gap** and advancing **inclusive skill development** for emerging industries.
- The **United Arab Emirates** announced its exit from **Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries** effective **May 1, 2026**, ending nearly **60 years of membership**. The move aims to gain **greater production flexibility** and expand output beyond **OPEC quotas**. Analysts note dissatisfaction with production limits and a push for **strategic autonomy**. The decision may **weaken OPEC's influence** and increase **global oil supply**, potentially lowering prices but raising **market volatility**. Amid geopolitical tensions, including disruptions in the **Strait of Hormuz**, this shift signals a major change in **global energy dynamics**.
- **Finland** launched Europe's first **fully integrated lithium project** near **Kokkola**, covering **mining to refining**. Known as the **Keliber project**, it aims to produce **15,000 tonnes of lithium hydroxide annually**, supporting **electric vehicle (EV) batteries** and **clean energy storage**. Backed by firms like **Sibanye-Stillwater**, the initiative strengthens Europe's **energy independence** and reduces reliance on imports. Lithium, a key resource for modern technology, positions Europe as a stronger player in the **global green transition** and sustainable industrial development.
- The **Federal Reserve** kept **interest rates unchanged at 3.50%–3.75%** on April 29, 2026, signaling **policy uncertainty** amid mixed economic conditions. The decision saw a rare **8–4 split vote**, reflecting divisions over **inflation control vs economic growth**. Rising **global oil prices** and **geopolitical tensions** continue to fuel **inflation pressures**, while the **labour market remains stable**. Some policymakers favored rate cuts, highlighting uncertainty in future direction. With **Jerome Powell** nearing the end of his term and **Kevin Warsh** likely to succeed, the **US monetary policy outlook** remains uncertain.
- Health experts worldwide are raising concerns over recent **hantavirus** cases linked to **cruise ship travel**. Hantavirus is a rare but potentially deadly disease mainly spread through contact with **rodent urine, saliva, droppings, or contaminated airborne particles**. Experts warn that the enclosed environment of cruise ships may increase exposure risks and make tracing infections difficult. Early symptoms include **fever, muscle aches, fatigue, headache, nausea, and vomiting**, which can rapidly progress into **Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS)**, causing severe lung complications. There is currently **no specific antiviral cure**, making early diagnosis and supportive care critical.
- Air pollution has become a major global concern in **2026**, with several unexpected cities recording dangerously high **Air Quality Index (AQI)** levels. According to recent rankings, **Cobh (Ireland)** topped the list with an AQI of **208**, followed by **Dungarvan** and **Clonmel** in Ireland, while cities like **Kashgar (China)**, **Bikaner**, **Patna**, **Aurangabad**, and **Muzaffarpur (India)** also reported unhealthy pollution levels. Experts attribute the rise to factors such as **weather stagnation, reduced wind flow, construction dust, vehicular emissions, industrial activity, and desert dust particles**. In India, rapid urbanization and traffic congestion are worsening air quality in several cities.





- Jeremiah Manele lost a **no-confidence vote** in the Parliament of Solomon Islands on **May 7, 2026**, by **26-22 votes**, ending his coalition government amid political instability. The crisis began after cabinet resignations and coalition partners withdrew support. Opposition leader Peter Shanel Agovaka accused the government of poor governance, lack of transparency, and weak financial accountability. Parliament was adjourned for the Governor-General to begin selecting a new Prime Minister. The development is geopolitically significant due to the country's growing ties with China in the strategically important Pacific region.
- International Olympic Committee has lifted restrictions on Belarus ahead of the Los Angeles 2028 Summer Olympics, allowing Belarusian athletes and teams to participate officially in international competitions, opening ceremonies, and medal events. However, Russia remains suspended, with Russian athletes permitted only as **neutral competitors** without national symbols and under strict eligibility conditions. The suspension of the Russian Olympic Committee continues due to concerns over the Ukraine conflict and anti-doping issues raised by World Anti-Doping Agency. Meanwhile, World Athletics has decided to continue restrictions on both Russian and Belarusian athletes.
- Saudi Arabia is set to join the International Big Cat Alliance as its **26th member country**, strengthening India-led global efforts for **big cat conservation** and biodiversity protection. Launched by India, the alliance focuses on protecting seven major big cat species including **tigers, lions, leopards, cheetahs, jaguars, pumas, and snow leopards** through international cooperation and habitat conservation. The IBCA currently includes **25 member nations** and **5 observer countries**, promoting collaboration in **research, ecosystem management, climate resilience, and wildlife protection** across regions. Saudi Arabia's inclusion is expected to enhance **financial support, regional partnerships, and conservation diplomacy**, while reinforcing India's growing leadership in global environmental and wildlife initiatives.
- Shehbaz Sharif announced that **May 10** will be observed annually as "**Marka-e-Haq Day**", meaning "**Battle for Truth**" or "**Battle for Justice**," highlighting themes of national pride, unity, and political identity in Pakistan. Such symbolic national observances are often used to strengthen **collective memory, patriotism, and political narratives**, especially during periods of regional tension and geopolitical sensitivity. The announcement comes amid continuing **India-Pakistan tensions**, where symbolism and historical narratives frequently influence **public opinion, media debates, and diplomatic messaging** across South Asia. The

development shows how **symbolic politics** can shape national identity, emotional public discourse, and international perceptions, even without directly changing government policies or regional relations.

- Kevin Warsh has been confirmed by the U.S. Senate to a **14-year term on the Federal Reserve Board of Governors**, positioning him as the likely next Chair of the Federal Reserve. The Senate approved his nomination in a **51-45 vote**, while a separate confirmation vote is still required for him to officially replace Jerome Powell as Fed Chair. Warsh previously served at the Federal Reserve during the **2008 global financial crisis** and is regarded as an influential voice on monetary policy, inflation control and financial market reforms. His appointment comes at a crucial time as the U.S. economy faces **inflation pressures, political scrutiny over interest rates, and global market uncertainty**, making the Fed leadership transition closely watched worldwide.
- Yoweri Museveni has been sworn in for a **seventh term** as President of Uganda, extending one of the longest political tenures in modern African history. The 81-year-old leader, who first came to power in **1986**, took the oath in the capital city of Kampala after securing victory in the **January 2026 presidential election** with **71.65% of the vote**, according to Uganda's Electoral Commission. His main challenger, Bobi Wine, received **24.72%** of the votes. Supporters credit Museveni with stabilizing Uganda, improving infrastructure and strengthening regional security, while critics argue that his prolonged rule has weakened democratic institutions. Museveni's continued presidency was enabled by constitutional amendments that removed both **presidential term limits** and **age restrictions**, allowing him to remain eligible for office after nearly four decades in power.
- The Taliban administration in Afghanistan has signed a **\$46 million agreement** with Indian company **TCRC** to develop customs laboratory infrastructure across the country. The five-year project will establish laboratory centres in Kabul and nine customs facilities, along with installing advanced testing equipment and upgrading existing systems. The project aims to improve Afghanistan's **trade quality control**, product testing, and certification capabilities. It will also strengthen the Afghanistan Standards and Quality Authority, helping exports meet international standards and improving the country's trade credibility. The agreement includes training programs for Afghan technical staff, collaboration with foreign experts, and efforts to obtain International Organization for Standardization certification standards. For India, the deal reflects continued economic engagement with Afghanistan through private-sector participation, while for Afghanistan it supports long-term trade infrastructure and economic development.





- The **European Union (European Union)** has included **India** in its updated list of countries eligible to export **marine products**, ensuring that Indian seafood exports will continue beyond **September 2026**. This decision prevents a potential trade disruption and strengthens India's access to a high-value global market, as the EU accounts for about **19% of India's seafood exports**. Earlier, India risked exclusion due to stricter EU norms on **antimicrobial residues** and compliance standards, but it was retained after demonstrating improved monitoring systems and food safety compliance. The approval reflects growing global trust in India's export quality framework. India's marine exports reached around **\$8.43 billion in FY26**, growing by about **14% year-on-year**, making seafood a key contributor to the country's export economy and coastal livelihoods.
- Donald Trump visited China and held high-level talks with Xi Jinping in Beijing, with both leaders describing the discussions as "historic" and "successful." The summit focused on **trade, tariffs, artificial intelligence, semiconductors, and market access**, although no major formal agreements were officially confirmed. Trump claimed China could purchase **200 Boeing aircraft** and billions of dollars in U.S. agricultural products, but Beijing did not publicly verify these announcements. Technology cooperation and AI safety were key discussion areas, with participation from business leaders like Elon Musk and Jensen Huang, highlighting the strategic importance of U.S.-China relations for global trade and technology.
- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** declared the latest **Ebola outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)** after over **300 suspected cases** and **88 deaths** in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** and **Uganda** raised fears of wider spread. The outbreak involves the rare **Bundibugyo strain**, for which vaccine protection remains limited. Ebola spreads through **direct contact with infected blood or body fluids**, causing **haemorrhagic fever, vomiting, diarrhoea, organ failure, and high fatality rates**. WHO chief **Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus** called for urgent coordinated international response.
- Legendary climber **Kami Rita Sherpa**, known as the "**Everest Man**," created history by summiting **Mount Everest for the 32nd time**, extending his own world record for the most Everest ascents. The **56-year-old Nepali climber**, who began his mountaineering journey in **1994**, achieved the feat while guiding climbers during the spring expedition season. On the same day, **Lhakpa Sherpa** climbed Everest for the **11th time**, extending her own record as the woman with the most Everest ascents. Their achievements highlight Nepal's extraordinary mountaineering legacy surrounding the **8,849-metre world's highest peak**.
- The **Kremlin** has confirmed that Russian President **Vladimir Putin** will visit India for the **BRICS Summit 2026**, scheduled in **New Delhi in September**. The summit will bring together **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa** to discuss **trade, energy security, geopolitics, and global governance reforms**. Putin's visit underscores the strength of the **India–Russia strategic partnership**, especially in **defence, nuclear energy, technology, and economic cooperation**. As BRICS expands its influence in shaping the global political and economic order, the summit is expected to attract major international diplomatic attention.
- **Kevin Warsh** has officially become the new **Chair of the US Federal Reserve**, replacing **Jerome Powell** after a politically contested Senate confirmation. He takes office during a challenging economic period marked by **inflation concerns, interest rate uncertainty, and scrutiny over central bank independence**. The **Federal Reserve** plays a crucial role in shaping global financial conditions through **monetary policy, inflation control, banking regulation, and financial stability**, influencing worldwide markets. A former Fed governor during the **2008 global financial crisis**, Warsh brings strong academic and policy experience from institutions like **Stanford, Harvard Law School, and the Hoover Institution**.
- **Saudi Arabia** has officially joined the **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)**, the India-led global initiative for big cat conservation, taking total membership to **26 countries** with **five observer nations**. Launched by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2023**, the alliance works to protect seven major big cat species—**tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar, and puma**—through **knowledge sharing, habitat conservation, capacity building, and joint wildlife programmes**. Saudi Arabia's entry strengthens global biodiversity partnerships and reflects growing international recognition of India's leadership in environmental diplomacy and wildlife conservation.
- A devastating explosion at the **Liushenyu Coal Mine in Shanxi, China**, reportedly killed at least **90 people** and injured over **100 workers**, making it one of China's deadliest recent mining disasters. Around **247 workers** were inside when the blast occurred, prompting a massive rescue operation involving **345 emergency personnel, medical teams, ambulances, and evacuation units**. Preliminary reports suggest dangerous gas conditions, possibly involving **carbon monoxide accumulation**, as the likely cause, though investigations continue. President **Xi Jinping** ordered intensive rescue efforts, medical care for survivors, and strict accountability for those responsible.
- Ahead of the **Quad Foreign Ministers Meeting**, External Affairs Minister **S. Jaishankar** held important discussions with **Marco Rubio**, strengthening the **India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership**. The talks focused on cooperation in **Artificial Intelligence (AI), defence, trade, energy security, critical minerals, and counter-terrorism**. India also expressed concerns regarding recent **US visa and immigration policy changes** impacting students and professionals. Both countries reaffirmed their commitment to **Indo-Pacific security, maritime stability, and supply chain resilience**, reflecting the growing strategic significance of the **Quad grouping** comprising **India, the United States, Japan, and Australia**.





- India has emerged as the global leader in issuing **Internationally Recognised Certificates of Compliance (IRCCs)** under the **Nagoya Protocol**, accounting for nearly **60% of worldwide certificates**. According to the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**, India has issued **3,556 IRCCs**, ensuring fair **Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)** for genetic resources and traditional knowledge under the **Biological Diversity Act, 2002**. The initiative has generated around **₹263 crore** through ABS approvals, with substantial funds distributed to local communities, farmers, and Biodiversity Management Committees for conservation and livelihood support.
- Under its **BRICS Chairship 2026**, India launched the **BRICS Tourism Cooperation Agenda** during the first virtual meeting of the **BRICS Tourism Working Group (TWG)**. The agenda focuses on **resilience, innovation, sustainability**, and people-to-people connectivity among member nations. India highlighted priorities such as the use of **Artificial Intelligence in tourism**, sustainable tourism development, and tourism skill enhancement. The next **BRICS Tourism Working Group Meeting** and **BRICS Tourism Ministers Meeting** will be hosted in **Jaipur** in **August 2026**, further advancing cooperation in the tourism sector.
- India has overtaken the **United Kingdom** to become **Sri Lanka's second-largest export destination** during the **January–April 2026** period. According to the **Sri Lanka Export Development Board**, exports to India reached **USD 364.15 million**, recording an annual growth of **8.9%**. The development reflects strengthening **India–Sri Lanka economic relations** and growing regional trade integration. Sri Lanka's export performance was driven by sectors such as **coconut-based products, activated carbon, and ICT services**, despite challenges faced by traditional export sectors like apparel and tea.
- The **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad)** unveiled **five major Indo-Pacific initiatives** during its Foreign Ministers Meeting in **New Delhi**, signaling a transition from strategic discussions to practical cooperation. Key announcements focused on **maritime surveillance, energy security, critical minerals, and port infrastructure development**. A major highlight was the expansion of the **Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA)** initiative to improve vessel tracking and maritime security. The Quad also launched the **Ports of the Future Partnership**, with **Fiji** selected for the pilot project, reinforcing a free and rules-based Indo-Pacific.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** showcased India's **cultural diplomacy** by presenting world leaders with gifts reflecting the country's rich tribal and indigenous heritage. **Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden** received a traditional **Gond painting** from Madhya Pradesh, while Italian Prime Minister **Giorgia Meloni** was gifted Assam's **GI-tagged Muga Silk stole** and a **Shirui Lily-inspired stole** crafted by Manipur's **Tangkhu Naga community**. The **Queen Mother of the UAE** received **Chak-Hao (black rice)** from Manipur. These gifts highlighted India's soft power, regional diversity, and commitment to promoting indigenous craftsmanship globally.
- The **3rd India-Nordic Summit 2026** held in **Oslo** marked a significant advancement in relations between India and the Nordic nations—**Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden**. Both sides agreed to establish a **Green Technology and Innovation Strategic Partnership** focusing on **green hydrogen**, clean energy, climate action, digital innovation, Arctic research, and the blue economy. Discussions also emphasized cooperation in **Artificial Intelligence, 6G technology, cybersecurity**, sustainable development, and trade, reflecting rapidly growing economic and technological collaboration between India and the Nordic region.
- India and **Canada** are accelerating negotiations for the **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** with the objective of finalizing the deal by **2026**. The proposed agreement aims to strengthen cooperation in energy, technology, pharmaceuticals, education, agriculture, manufacturing, and services. Both countries have set a target of increasing bilateral trade from **\$17 billion to \$50 billion by 2030**. The Free Trade Agreement is expected to reduce trade barriers, improve investment flows, and deepen economic integration, strengthening long-term strategic and commercial ties between the two nations.
- At the **Canada-India Trade and Investment Forum 2026**, India and Canada reaffirmed their commitment to conclude negotiations for the **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** by the end of **2026**. Led by **Piyush Goyal** and **Maninder Sidhu**, the discussions focused on expanding trade, investment, and market access across sectors such as **technology, energy, pharmaceuticals, and agri-food products**. The agreement is expected to deepen economic cooperation, strengthen supply chains, and improve business opportunities, further enhancing the long-term strategic and commercial partnership between the two countries.
- Janez Janša** has returned as **Prime Minister of Slovenia** for a **fourth term** after securing majority support in the country's **National Assembly** through a coalition led by the **Slovenian Democratic Party**. He received backing from **51 of 87 lawmakers** following extensive post-election negotiations. His return signals the growing influence of **right-wing and nationalist politics** in Europe. The **European Union**, including Commission President **Ursula von der Leyen**, welcomed the outcome and expressed support for continued cooperation on economic stability, security, climate policy, and regional development.





- **Myanmar President Min Aung Hlaing** will undertake an official visit to India from **30 May to 3 June 2026** at the invitation of Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**. The visit aims to strengthen **India–Myanmar relations** through discussions on trade, connectivity, regional security, and cultural cooperation. Meetings in **New Delhi** will focus on economic partnerships and strategic collaboration, while visits to **Bodh Gaya** and **Mumbai** highlight cultural and economic engagement. Myanmar remains strategically important for India under its **Neighbourhood First Policy, Act East Policy, and MAHASAGAR Initiative**.
- The **United Nations** has added **Israel** to its annual list of parties linked to **Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV)**, citing allegations involving abuse of Palestinian detainees and gender-based violence during the ongoing conflict. The watchlist aims to strengthen accountability, monitor violations of international humanitarian law, and enhance civilian protection. Israel strongly rejected the allegations, with Ambassador **Danny Danon** accusing the UN of bias and announcing the suspension of engagement with the office of **UN Secretary-General António Guterres**. The UN maintained that its conclusions were based on documented evidence and established verification procedures.

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- Indonesia implemented a law in **March 2026** banning children under **16 years** from using social media platforms like **YouTube, TikTok, Instagram, and Facebook**, affecting nearly **70 million users**. The move aims to curb **cyberbullying, harmful content, scams, and digital addiction**, addressing mental health concerns. Platforms must ensure compliance, though challenges like **VPN misuse and age verification** remain. It marks a major step toward **child safety in the digital age**.
- **Costa Rica** has launched a **snake identification mobile app** developed by **Universidad de Costa Rica** and the **Clodomiro Picado Institute**. The app helps identify **25 venomous species**, provides **first aid guidance**, and offers **real-time scientific information**. Designed to reduce **panic, misinformation, and unnecessary harm**, it enhances **public safety and wildlife protection**, benefiting both locals and tourists through improved awareness and quick response during snake encounters.
- **Min Aung Hlaing** has been elected **President of Myanmar** after securing a majority in Parliament with **429 out of 584 votes**. This marks a significant **political shift amid ongoing instability**. The election was conducted through Myanmar's **Presidential Electoral College system**, involving lawmakers and military representatives. His victory raises **global concerns over democracy and governance**, reflecting continued **military influence in the country's political system**.
- **Uchral Nyam-Osor** has been appointed as the new **Prime Minister of Mongolia**, securing **88 out of 107 parliamentary votes** amid political turmoil. He replaces **Zandanshatar Gombojav**, who resigned due to **legislative deadlock and internal conflicts**. A young reform-oriented leader, **Uchral** aims to **stabilize governance and drive economic reforms**. However, ongoing **political instability and upcoming 2027 elections** may continue to challenge Mongolia's political landscape.
- India has recorded the **highest number of doping suspensions in track and field**, with **148 athletes banned**, according to the Athletics Integrity Unit, surpassing Kenya and Russia. The data raises serious concerns about **sports integrity and anti-doping enforcement**. Reports by World Anti-Doping Agency highlight high positivity rates, emphasizing the urgent need for **stricter regulations, awareness, and reforms** in Indian athletics.
- Newcastle Disease is spreading across parts of Europe, raising concerns for **poultry farmers and food supply chains**. Caused by the **avian paramyxovirus**, it is a highly contagious disease affecting birds, with severe forms causing **high mortality**. It spreads through **airborne droplets, direct contact, and contaminated materials**. Symptoms include **respiratory issues, nervous disorders, and reduced egg production**. Authorities, including those in United Kingdom, are strengthening **surveillance and biosecurity measures** to control outbreaks.
- Russia and China vetoed a **UN Security Council resolution** to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, escalating **global tensions**. The proposal, backed by 11 countries, aimed to ensure **safe oil shipping and free navigation**, but was opposed over concerns about **military implications** and focus on broader conflict resolution. As nearly **20% of global oil trade** passes through the strait, the blockade raises fears of **supply disruptions, rising oil prices**, and impacts on the **global economy**.
- India has withdrawn its bid to host the **COP33 climate summit (2028)** under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change after reviewing future commitments. Despite earlier preparations and support from **BRICS nations**, India chose to step back from hosting. However, its **climate goals remain strong**, including **60% clean energy capacity, 47% reduction in emissions intensity, and increased forest cover**. This move reflects a strategic shift while maintaining commitment to **global climate action and sustainability efforts**.
- United Arab Emirates has launched the world's first **10G internet network using U6GHz spectrum (6425–7125 MHz)**, marking a major leap in **digital connectivity**. The network offers speeds up to **10 Gbps download and 1 Gbps upload** with **low latency**, enabling smoother **streaming, gaming, and data transfer**. This "**golden band**" ensures high speed with wide coverage, supporting **AI, smart cities, and virtual technologies**. It also paves the way for future **6G development**, positioning the UAE as a global leader in **advanced telecom innovation**.





- **Preeti Saran** was **re-elected** to a key UN committee as India achieved a **clean sweep in four elections** under the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in April 2026, all won **unopposed**. The victories include representation in **CESCR, CSTD, Committee on NGOs, and CPC**, showcasing India's **rising global influence, diplomatic strength, and credibility in international governance**. Saran's re-election highlights India's growing role in **human rights, sustainable development, and global policymaking**, reinforcing its position as a **trusted and responsible global partner** in multilateral institutions.
- A major political shift occurred in Hungary as Viktor Orbán was ousted after **16 years**, with Péter Magyar leading the **Tisza party** to a **two-thirds majority** in the 2026 elections. Voters backed promises of **anti-corruption reforms** and closer **EU alignment**. The result signals potential policy shifts on **Russia-Ukraine relations**, strengthening **European unity** and reshaping Hungary's political and geopolitical direction.
- Israel appointed Roman Gofman as the new chief of Mossad on **April 13, 2026**, succeeding David Barnea from **July 2**. Appointed by Benjamin Netanyahu, Gofman's leadership comes amid rising **Middle East security challenges**, including **Gaza tensions** and intelligence threats. His military experience and strategic role highlight Israel's focus on strengthening **national security and intelligence operations**.
- Australia appointed Susan Coyle as its first **female Army Chief**, announced in **April 2026**, with charge from **July**. A senior leader in the Australian Defence Force, she brings decades of **military experience**. The move marks a historic step toward **gender equality and inclusive leadership**, addressing long-standing representation challenges. Backed by Anthony Albanese, it reflects efforts to modernize the military and inspire greater **women's participation in defence forces**.
- Donald Trump unveiled plans for the "**Arc de Trump**", a proposed **250-foot monument** in Washington, D.C., inspired by the Arc de Triomphe. Designed with **gold accents** and symbolic elements, it aims to honor **American heroes and national pride**. The project awaits approvals from authorities like the Commission of Fine Arts and faces debate over **costs, urban planning, and heritage concerns**, making its future uncertain.
- China became India's **top trading partner in FY2025-26**, overtaking the United States, with bilateral trade reaching **\$151.1 billion**. However, India's **trade deficit with China widened** to over **\$112 billion**, reflecting high imports of electronics and machinery. In contrast, India maintained a **trade surplus with the US**. The shift highlights evolving **global trade dynamics** and growing economic ties despite geopolitical tensions.
- Keir Starmer and Emmanuel Macron have launched the **Strait of Hormuz Maritime Freedom of Navigation Initiative** to secure vital global shipping routes. The virtual meeting, attended by nearly 40 countries including India, aims to ensure **safe navigation, protect energy supply chains, and maintain maritime security** amid rising Middle East tensions. The Strait of Hormuz is crucial for global oil trade, and disruptions could trigger **energy price spikes, supply chain issues, and economic instability worldwide**.
- During the State Visit of Lee Jae-myung, India and South Korea elevated ties to a "**futuristic partnership**" after talks with Narendra Modi in **New Delhi**, announcing **25 key outcomes**. Agreements cover **trade, technology, defense, climate, and cultural cooperation**. Both nations aim to boost **bilateral trade to \$50 billion by 2030** and expand collaboration in **AI, semiconductors, and maritime sectors**. New initiatives like the **India-Korea Digital Bridge** and **Economic Security Dialogue** enhance strategic ties, strengthening **economic integration, supply chains, and global cooperation** in a rapidly evolving geopolitical landscape.
- Rumen Radev won **Bulgaria's 2026 parliamentary elections**, leading **Progressive Bulgaria** to a decisive mandate, signaling a shift after years of **political instability**. Securing around **44.7% votes and majority seats**, his victory raises hopes for a **stable government** following repeated elections since 2021. Known for his **anti-corruption stance** and reform agenda, Radev aims to restore **public trust and governance stability**. In foreign policy, he promotes a **balanced approach** between the European Union, NATO, and Russia, emphasizing **pragmatic diplomacy and economic priorities**.
- Arthur Law has been named a **Young Global Leader (YGL) 2026** by the World Economic Forum, recognizing his impact on **urban living innovation**. As co-founder of Storefriendly Asia, he developed **tech-enabled space solutions** for dense cities, serving thousands of users. Selected among **118 leaders from 55 countries**, he joins a prestigious global network of **innovators and policymakers**. His work focuses on **space efficiency, smart infrastructure, and sustainable urban development**. The recognition highlights his role in addressing **urban challenges and shaping future cities through innovation and leadership**.
- United Kingdom Parliament passed the **Tobacco and Vapes Bill**, banning **tobacco sales to individuals born on or after January 1, 2009**, aiming to create a **smoke-free generation**. The law introduces a **generational ban**, gradually phasing out smoking. It also tightens rules on **vaping**, restricting **flavours, advertising, and usage in public places**. Backed by Health Secretary Wes Streeting, the policy focuses on **prevention over treatment**, reducing **smoking-related diseases and healthcare burden**. Once approved by Royal Assent, it will become one of the **strictest anti-smoking laws globally**.





- Turkey has passed a law restricting **social media access for children under 15**, aiming to enhance **online safety**. The legislation mandates **strict age verification, parental controls, and removal of harmful content** on platforms like YouTube, TikTok, and Instagram. Supported by Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the move addresses concerns over **cyberbullying, addiction, and mental health risks**. It also requires companies to ensure **local compliance and stronger moderation systems**. The law reflects a global trend toward regulating **digital platforms to protect minors and ensure safer online environments**.
- India has welcomed Japan's revised **defence export policy** as a major step toward strengthening **bilateral security cooperation**. The changes to the **"Three Principles on Transfer of Defense Equipment and Technology"** allow broader **defence exports, technology transfer, and case-by-case approvals** while maintaining strict controls. According to the Ministry of External Affairs, this will deepen the **India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership**. It is expected to boost **defence manufacturing, innovation, and Indo-Pacific security cooperation**. Under Sanae Takaichi, Japan aims to enhance **global peace, strategic alliances, and collective security capabilities** in a changing geopolitical landscape.
- India has approved a ₹30 billion **currency swap** for Maldives under the SAARC Currency Swap Framework (2024–27). Facilitated by the Reserve Bank of India, the move provides **liquidity support** to manage **foreign exchange pressures** and enhance **economic stability**. It reduces reliance on costly borrowing while supporting **balance of payments** needs. The agreement, linked to President Mohamed Muizzu's 2024 visit, strengthens **bilateral ties** and regional cooperation. The decision highlights India's role as a **reliable economic partner** and reinforces financial resilience in the region amid global uncertainties.
- The US Department of Commerce has imposed a preliminary **anti-dumping duty** of over **123%** on solar imports from India, citing allegations of selling below **fair market value**. Companies like Mundra Solar PV and Premier Energies are under scrutiny. The move aims to protect US manufacturers from **unfair competition** but may escalate **trade tensions**. It could reduce India's **solar exports** to the US and push firms toward alternative markets. However, strong domestic demand may cushion the impact. The final decision is expected within 75 days after further review.

International Current Affairs of March 2026

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 Araf.
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%)**.

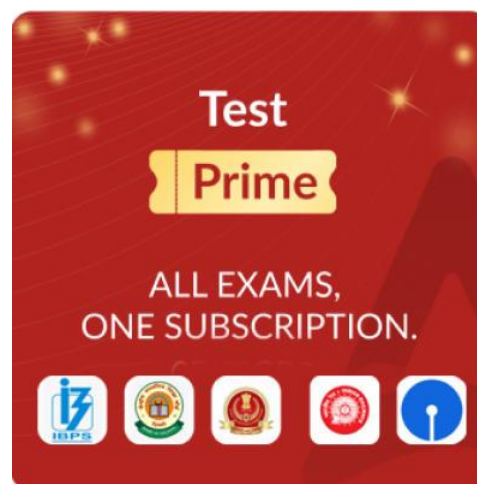
International Current Affairs of February 2026

- Walmart became the world's first retail company to cross **USD 1 trillion market capitalisation**, driven by 26% stock growth and AI-led business expansion.
- Elon Musk became the first individual to exceed **USD 800 billion net worth** following the SpaceX-xAI merger creating a USD 1.25 trillion entity.
- Spain imposed a nationwide **social media ban for children under 16 years**, becoming the first European country and second globally after Australia to do so.
- Italy hosted the **25th Winter Olympics (Milano Cortina 2026)** from 6–22 February 2026 featuring 16 winter sports, with India participating through two athletes.
- Iranian badminton player **Soraya Aghaei** was elected as the first-ever female IOC member from Iran during the 145th IOC Session in Milan.
- Digital asset firm Matrixport's Bhutan entity received **In-Principle Approval** from the Gelephu Financial Services Office for regulated operations.
- The India–USA trade deal reducing tariffs from 25% to 18% is projected to narrow India's Current Account Deficit by 0.25% of GDP.
- New Delhi emerged as the **world's most affordable student city** according to a joint report by Knight Frank, Deloitte, and QS.
- India and China recorded historic bilateral trade of **USD 155.6 billion in 2025**, with Indian exports growing by 9.7%.
- The US lifted additional tariffs on Indian goods after India pledged to stop Russian oil imports, resetting bilateral trade relations.
- PM Narendra Modi visited Malaysia, strengthening the **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** and signing MoUs in semiconductors, Ayurveda, and digital payments.





- Seychelles President Dr. Patrick Herminie visited India, adopting the **'SESEL' Joint Vision**, with India announcing a USD 175 million economic package.
- India ranked **2nd globally in LEED-certified green building space** in the USGBC LEED List 2025, with China topping the list.
- Japan's Liberal Democratic Party, led by PM **Sanae Takaichi**, secured a landslide victory in snap elections, making her Japan's first female PM.
- Anutin Charnvirakul won Thailand's 2026 General Election, marking a leadership transition.
- Tarique Rahman became Bangladesh's 11th Prime Minister after BNP secured 212 of 299 seats in the 2026 elections.
- India and Greece signed a **Joint Declaration of Intent** to enhance defence industrial cooperation.
- India ranked **45th in the Network Readiness Index 2025**, with the USA topping the rankings.
- India chaired the first **BRICS Sherpas' Meeting 2026** in New Delhi under the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability."
- India ranked **7th globally in R&D spending (2024)** as per WIPO, with China ranking first.
- India ranked **91st (score 39)** in the Corruption Perceptions Index 2025, while Denmark retained the top position.
- India ranked **131st in the Women, Peace and Security Index**, with Denmark leading globally.
- India ranked **3rd globally in number of billionaires (188)**, with the USA leading.
- Tropical Cyclone **Gezani** caused major devastation in Madagascar.
- New York City joined the WHO's **Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN)** to strengthen global health surveillance.
- Barbados PM **Mia Amor Mottley** secured a historic third consecutive victory, with the Barbados Labour Party winning all 30 parliamentary seats.
- Reliance Industries received a US general license to import Venezuelan crude oil for its Jamnagar refinery complex.
- India and France upgraded ties to a **Special Global Strategic Partnership** during President Macron's February 2026 visit, launching the India-France Year of Innovation 2026.
- India formally joined the **Pax Silica Coalition** as its 12th member to strengthen semiconductor supply chains and critical mineral cooperation.
- India and Israel elevated relations to a **Special Strategic Partnership** during PM Modi's 2026 state visit.
- India-Israel FTA negotiations commenced in New Delhi (Feb 23-26, 2026) covering goods, services, IPR, and customs procedures.
- India and GCC signed a Joint Statement to begin negotiations for a comprehensive FTA, with bilateral trade valued at USD 178.56 billion (FY25).
- India and Kenya launched a **DigiLocker pilot project**, enabling secure digital document verification in Kenya.
- India and Sweden signed a Statement of Intent launching the **SITAC AI corridor** for bilateral AI cooperation.
- India and Nepal signed an MoU on environmental cooperation covering forests, biodiversity, and climate change management.
- Former South Korean President **Yoon Suk Yeol** was sentenced to life imprisonment over the 2024 martial law crisis.
- Saudi Arabia banned poultry imports from 40 countries, including India, due to avian influenza and Newcastle disease concerns.
- Brazilian President **Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva** visited India, setting a bilateral trade target of USD 30 billion by 2030.
- Rob Jetten became the Netherlands' youngest Prime Minister at age 38, leading a minority coalition government.
- Poland withdrew from the 1997 Ottawa Convention and announced plans to deploy landmines under its "Eastern Shield" defence strategy.
- Switzerland announced it will host the **2027 AI Summit** in Geneva, with UAE scheduled to host the 2028 edition.
- The European Union launched the **European Legal Migration Gateway Office** in New Delhi to facilitate legal migration pathways for Indian professionals.
- IPC lifted its ban on Russian athletes, allowing them to compete under national flags at the Milan-Cortina 2026 Winter Paralympics.
- US President Donald Trump imposed a 10% tariff on all imports after a Supreme Court setback, escalating global trade tensions.
- India's active smartphone base reached **740 million users**, making it the world's second-largest smartphone market after China.





New Appointments: National & International

New Appointments: National & International of July 2026

- The **Central Government** reappointed **Ravi Agrawal** as **Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** for an additional **six-month** term from **1 July to 31 December 2026**, following approval by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)**. A **1988-batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS)** officer, he has served as **CBDT Chairman** since **June 2024**. The **CBDT**, under the **Ministry of Finance**, is the apex authority for direct tax administration, responsible for tax policy, implementation of the **Income-tax Act**, compliance, transparency, and combating tax evasion.
- The **Indian REITs Association (IRA)** appointed **Shirish Godbole**, **CEO of Knowledge Realty Trust**, as its new **Chairperson**, succeeding **Alok Aggarwal**. Established in **2023** under the guidance of **SEBI** and the **Ministry of Finance**, the IRA promotes the development of India's **Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT)** ecosystem. Godbole pledged to strengthen governance, transparency, investor awareness, and sustainable sector growth. **Knowledge Realty Trust**, backed by the **Sattva Group** and **Blackstone**, is currently **India's largest listed REIT** by market capitalization.
- The **Government of India** extended the tenure of **Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri** by **one year** from **1 July 2026**, ensuring continuity in the **Ministry of External Affairs**. A **1989-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS)** officer, he became **Foreign Secretary** on **15 July 2024**. With over **three decades** of diplomatic experience, he has served in **Brussels, Tunis, Islamabad, Washington D.C., Sri Lanka, Munich**, and as **Ambassador to Spain, Myanmar, and China**. He also served as **Deputy National Security Adviser (Strategic Affairs)** between **2022 and 2024**.
- **Lokhande Prashant Sitaram**, a **2001-batch IAS officer** of the **AGMUT cadre**, was appointed **Additional Secretary** in the **Department of Home, Ministry of Home Affairs**, following approval by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)**. He will oversee major policy coordination and administrative responsibilities while continuing as **Chairperson of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)** on an **additional charge** basis until a regular appointment is made. The appointment reflects the Government's confidence in his administrative experience across education and internal governance.
- The **Central Government** appointed new heads of three major police institutions after approval by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet**. **Alok Kumar Mittal** became **Director General of BPR&D**, **Amit Garg** was appointed **Director of NCRB**, and **Sujeet Pandey** became **Director of SVPNPA, Hyderabad**. These appointments aim to strengthen **police modernization**, improve **crime data management**, and enhance **IPS officer training**. **BPR&D**

functions under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, while **NCRB** manages national crime records and **SVPNPA** trains Indian Police Service officers.

- The **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** appointed **Sanjeev Jain**, a **2008-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS)** officer, as **India's Ambassador to North Korea (DPRK)**. Previously serving as **Ambassador to Cabo Verde**, Jain brings extensive diplomatic experience in strengthening India's bilateral relations. He will assume charge after completing necessary diplomatic formalities. His appointment is expected to enhance **India-North Korea diplomatic engagement**, support India's broader **foreign policy objectives**, and strengthen cooperation on regional and international issues through continued diplomatic dialogue and strategic
- **Dr. Srinivasa Kumar Tummala** has been appointed **Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**. A renowned **oceanographer**, he has contributed to **satellite oceanography, climate services, tsunami warning systems**, and **disaster risk reduction**. As **Director of INCOIS**, he helped establish the **Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre**.
- The **Government of India** appointed senior **BJP leader Harjeet Singh Grewal** as the new **Chairperson of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM)**. Established under the **National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992**, the statutory body safeguards minority rights, monitors constitutional protections, and advises the government on welfare measures. Grewal becomes the **third Sikh** and **second person from Punjab** to head the Commission and receives the status of a **Union Cabinet Minister**. A **BJP member since 1986**, he previously founded and led the **BJP Kisan Morcha**.
- Global real estate investment firm **Hines** appointed **Amit Diwan** as the **Head of Asia-Pacific and Middle East Operations**. Previously leading **Hines India**, Diwan brings nearly **25 years** of experience in real estate investment and development. He will oversee regional investments, partnerships, strategic expansion, and cross-border operations across high-growth markets. Succeeding **Jon Tanaka**, who will focus on Japan and Korea, Diwan's appointment highlights the growing influence of **Indian professionals** in global leadership and international real estate markets.
- **Rahul Himalian**, **Director (Tourism & Marketing)** of **IRCTC**, has been given additional charge as **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** following the resignation of **Sanjay Kumar Jain**. A **1999-batch Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS)** officer with over **26 years** of experience, Himalian has served on the **IRCTC Board** since **February 2024**. He will continue overseeing tourism and marketing while ensuring leadership continuity at the **Miniratna PSU** responsible for ticketing, catering, tourism, Rail Neer, and hospitality services.





- Senior IAS officer **Anurag Jain** has been appointed the new **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of **NITI Aayog** after approval by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)**. A **1989-batch Madhya Pradesh cadre** officer, Jain brings extensive experience in **governance, infrastructure, industrial policy, and public administration**. He will serve for **two years** or until further orders, supporting policy reforms under the **Viksit Bharat@2047** vision and strengthening initiatives such as the **Investment Friendliness Index 2026**.
- **Naresh Pal Gangwar**, a **1994-batch IAS officer** of the **Rajasthan cadre**, has been appointed as the new **Secretary, Department of Higher Education**, under the **Ministry of Education** as part of a major government reshuffle. Approved by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)**, he succeeds **Vineet Joshi**, who has been transferred to the **Department of Panchayati Raj**. Gangwar will oversee **higher education policy implementation, institutional reforms, university coordination, and regulatory affairs**. With extensive administrative experience at both the **state and central levels**, he is expected to strengthen governance and reforms in India's higher education sector.
- The **Union Government** appointed **Satya Pal Kumar**, a **2005-batch IRS officer**, as the new **Director of the Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-India)**. The appointment, approved by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)**, strengthens India's efforts against **money laundering, terror financing, financial fraud, and suspicious transactions**. FIU-India plays a key role in collecting and sharing **financial intelligence** with enforcement agencies.
- **Shri Keshav Chandra**, a **1995 AGMUT cadre IAS officer**, assumed charge as the **Secretary of the Ministry of Mines** on **27 July 2026**. Soon after taking office, he chaired a review meeting to assess key programmes related to **mineral exploration, auction of mineral blocks, and the development of critical and strategic minerals**. He emphasized effective implementation of mining reforms, improved coordination among stakeholders, and strengthening **India's mineral security**. The Ministry is prioritizing minerals such as **lithium, cobalt, nickel, graphite, and rare earth elements** to support **electric vehicles, renewable energy, defence, and advanced technologies**.
- The **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** appointed **Dr. K. Srikar Reddy**, currently **Consul General of India in San Francisco**, as the next **Ambassador of India to Qatar**. His appointment comes at a time when **India-Qatar relations** are expanding in **energy, trade, investment, technology, and strategic cooperation**. Qatar remains India's largest supplier of **Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)**, contributing **11.2 million tonnes, or 41% of India's LNG imports in FY 2024**–

25. Both countries elevated their ties to a **Strategic Partnership** in **February 2025** and aim to double bilateral trade from **\$14 billion to \$28 billion by 2030**, while Qatar continues to host over **8 lakh Indians**.

- **Varsha Ashok Aglawe** became the first woman to head the **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** after taking charge as its **54th Director General** on **31 July 2026**. Her appointment marked a historic moment in the **176-year history** of GSI and highlighted women's growing contribution to India's scientific leadership. She succeeded **Asit Saha** and brings over **30 years of experience** in **geoscience, geological exploration, and administration**. Aglawe joined GSI in **1992** after working with the **Indian Bureau of Mines** and previously served as **Additional Director General and Head of Department, Eastern Region, Kolkata**. A specialist in **palaeontology and palynology**, she contributed to identifying the **Salbardi-Ghorpend dinosaur nesting site** in Central India. Her leadership comes during India's expansion in **critical mineral exploration** for clean energy and advanced manufacturing.
- The Central Government extended the tenure of **K Rajaraman** as Chairperson of the **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** until **24 October 2028**. The extension was announced through a **Ministry of Finance gazette notification** dated **30 July 2026**, adding **27 months** beyond his original three-year term that began in **2023**. Rajaraman, a senior **Indian Administrative Service (IAS)** officer and former **Secretary of Department of Telecommunications**, will continue guiding the growth of the **GIFT International Financial Services Centre (GIFT IFSC)**, **Gandhinagar**. Established in **April 2020** under the **IFSCA Act, 2019**, the authority regulates international financial services including **banking, insurance, capital markets, and funds**. His continued leadership aims to attract global investment and strengthen India's position in international finance.

New Appointments: National & International of June 2026

- The Central Government approved the appointment of **five new judges** to the **Supreme Court of India** following an increase in the Court's sanctioned strength. The appointments were recommended by the **Supreme Court Collegium** and are expected to strengthen judicial capacity and reduce case pendency. A notable development is the elevation of **Senior Advocate V. Mohana**, who becomes only the second woman to be directly elevated from the Bar to the Supreme Court. The expansion aims to improve the efficiency of justice delivery and enhance the functioning of the country's highest judicial institution.





- Justice **Meenakshi Madan Rai** has been appointed as the next Chief Justice of the **Patna High Court** following Supreme Court Collegium recommendation. Currently serving in the **Sikkim High Court**, she will assume office after the retirement of Chief Justice Sangam Kumar Sahoo. She began her judicial career in 1990 and became the first woman from Sikkim appointed as Judicial Magistrate First Class-cum-Civil Judge. Elevated as a permanent judge in 2015, she has served in multiple judicial roles. Her appointment marks a significant milestone in her over three-decade-long judicial career and strengthens gender representation in the judiciary.
- Lokhande Prashant Sitaram** has been appointed as Chairperson of **CBSE**, while **Varun Bhardwaj** becomes its Secretary. Sitaram, a 2001-batch IAS officer of AGMUT cadre, replaces Rahul Singh. Bhardwaj succeeds Himanshu Gupta and will serve until September 2027. The leadership change comes amid concerns over the **On-Screen Marking system**, including evaluation issues and delays. CBSE, established in 1929, is India's largest school board conducting Class 10 and 12 examinations for over **30,000 schools**. The appointments aim to strengthen administrative efficiency and improve examination and evaluation processes in India's central education system.
- Senior diplomat **Vipul** has been appointed as India's next Ambassador to **Saudi Arabia**. A 1998-batch **Indian Foreign Service officer**, he currently serves as Ambassador to Qatar. He has earlier held key diplomatic roles in **Cairo, Colombo, Geneva, Dubai**, and MEA postings including Gulf affairs. An alumnus of **IIT Delhi and ISB**, he brings strong expertise in Gulf diplomacy. His appointment is significant as India and Saudi Arabia expand cooperation in **trade, energy, investment, defence, and technology** under their strategic partnership, strengthening India's diplomatic engagement in the West Asian region.
- Neelkanth Mishra** has been appointed as India's next **Executive Director at the World Bank**, representing the South Asian constituency including **India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka**. A noted economist and former **Axis Bank Chief Economist**, he brings extensive experience in **policy research, financial markets, and economic advisory roles**. His appointment strengthens India's representation in global financial governance institutions.
- The government extended the tenure of **Tarun Kapoor as Advisor to the Prime Minister** for one year. A former IAS officer, he plays a key role in **energy, infrastructure, and policy coordination** within the PMO. His continuation ensures stability in strategic governance and development planning.
- Saurabh Vijay** has been appointed **CEO of the IndiaAI Mission**, while Sudeep Shrivastava becomes COO. The appointments strengthen India's push in **AI innovation, computing infrastructure, indigenous models, and responsible AI development** under the **IndiaAI Mission 2024**, positioning India as a global AI leader.
- The **President of India** approved the appointment of six additional judges as **permanent judges of the Bombay High Court** under **Article 217(1)** of the Constitution. The appointed judges are **Justice Nivedita Prakash Mehta, Justice Prafulla Surendrakumar Khubalkar, Justice Ashwin Damodar Bhohe, Justice Rohit Wasudeo Joshi, Justice Advait Mahendra Sethna, and Justice Pravin Sheshrao Patil**. These appointments are expected to strengthen judicial capacity, improve case disposal efficiency, reduce pendency, and address existing vacancies. The move will enhance the functioning of one of India's busiest constitutional courts and improve access to timely justice.
- Kumar Shanker** was appointed as the new **Managing Director of Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL)** with effect from June 5, 2026. Nominated by **GAIL (India) Limited**, he brings over **31 years of experience** in the natural gas and energy sector. A **Chemical Engineering graduate from BITS Pilani**, he has played an important role in gas marketing, infrastructure expansion, tariff reforms, and policy initiatives. He succeeds **Kamal Kishore Chatiwal** and is expected to lead IGL's future growth strategy, strengthen city gas distribution networks, and support the expansion of clean energy infrastructure in India.
- Banwarilal Purohit** was unanimously elected **President of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan**, succeeding **Surendralal Mehta**, who stepped down due to health reasons. Associated with the institution for more than **22 years** as a Trustee, Executive Committee member, and Vice-President, Purohit brings extensive administrative and public service experience. He has previously served as **Governor of Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Assam, and Meghalaya**. **Deepak Parekh** was elected Vice-President. Founded in **1938** by **Kanhaiyalal Maneklal Munshi**, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan remains one of India's leading educational and cultural organizations.
- The **Ministry of External Affairs** appointed two senior **Indian Foreign Service (IFS)** officers as ambassadors to African nations. **Lakshmanan Ramesh Babu**, currently serving as Consul General in Atlanta, was appointed Ambassador to **Côte d'Ivoire**, while **Vinay Kumar** was appointed Ambassador to **São Tomé and Príncipe**. Both officers are expected to assume their responsibilities shortly. The appointments reflect India's growing engagement with Africa through cooperation in trade, investment, technology, maritime security, energy, capacity building, and development partnerships, supporting New Delhi's broader diplomatic strategy of strengthening political and economic ties across the continent.





- The **Ministry of External Affairs** appointed **Rudra Gaurav Shresth**, a **1999-batch Indian Foreign Service officer**, as India's next **Ambassador to Türkiye**. Previously serving as India's Ambassador to **Iran**, he will be based in **Ankara** and tasked with strengthening cooperation in trade, investment, connectivity, culture, and strategic affairs. Türkiye's location between **Europe and Asia** gives it considerable geopolitical significance. His appointment reflects India's continued focus on expanding diplomatic engagement with key Eurasian partners and deepening bilateral relations in areas such as commerce, regional connectivity, and strategic cooperation.
- The Government of India appointed **Dinesh Pant and Girija Subramanian** as members of the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)**. Dinesh Pant has been designated as **Member (Actuary)**, responsible for actuarial standards, insurance risk assessment, and long-term financial sustainability of insurance products. Girija Subramanian has been appointed as **Member (Distribution)**, focusing on expanding insurance penetration, strengthening distribution networks, and improving customer outreach. Both appointments carry a tenure of up to five years or until the age of 65. Additionally, the government extended the tenure of senior officials **Deepak Sood and Rajay Kumar Sinha** by two years.
- India appointed **Dinesh Trivedi**, former Union Railway Minister, as its new **High Commissioner to Bangladesh**, marking a significant diplomatic development in South Asia. He assumed charge in Dhaka on **12 June 2026** after receiving his credentials from President **Droupadi Murmu**. This is one of the rare political appointments to a high diplomatic post, reflecting the strategic importance of India-Bangladesh relations. Trivedi succeeded **Pranay Verma** and will lead India's diplomatic mission in Dhaka, focusing on strengthening cooperation in trade, connectivity, energy, border management, and regional security. His appointment aligns with India's **Neighbourhood First Policy**, aiming to deepen bilateral ties and enhance people-to-people connections between the two countries.
- The **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)** reconstituted its **Agrobiodiversity Expert Committee** for one year, appointing **Dr P. L. Gautam** as Chair under the **Biological Diversity Act, 2002**. The committee will guide conservation of **crop genetic resources, livestock breeds, and traditional knowledge**, focusing on **Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)**. It includes experts from **ICAR, PPVFRA**, and other institutions. The move aims to promote **climate-resilient agriculture**, protect **native crop varieties**, and support India's commitments under the **ITPGRFA**, strengthening **food security** and sustainable agriculture.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has appointed **Hitesh Joshi** as the **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)**

of General Insurance Corporation of India. A seasoned insurance professional and Fellow of the Insurance Institute of India, he brings expertise in **Reinsurance, Risk Management, Finance, and Digital Transformation**. His appointment is expected to strengthen GIC Re's leadership and enhance India's insurance and reinsurance sector.

- **Sundarraj Pattilingam**, a 2003-batch IPS officer, has been appointed as **Inspector General** in the National Investigation Agency. Known for his extensive experience in **Anti-Naxal Operations** in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region, he played a crucial role in coordinating security operations against Maoist insurgency. His appointment is expected to further strengthen the NIA's counter-terrorism and national security capabilities.
- **Bata India** appointed **Sanjay Rao** as its new **Managing Director and CEO**, succeeding **Gunjan Shah**. With over two decades of international retail experience, including leadership roles at **Nike** and involvement in expanding **Zara India**, Rao brings expertise in retail growth, consumer engagement, and brand management. His appointment is expected to support innovation, improve customer experience, and drive Bata India's long-term expansion strategy.
- India achieved a historic milestone with the election of **Vivek Aggarwal** as **Vice President of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**, making him the first Indian to hold this influential position. Elected at the **FATF Plenary Meeting in Paris**, he will serve from **July 2026 to June 2027**. A **1994-batch IAS officer** of the **Madhya Pradesh cadre**, Aggarwal currently serves as **Union Culture Secretary** and has extensive experience in financial intelligence and regulatory affairs. He previously served as **Director of FIU-IND, Additional Secretary in the Finance Ministry**, and head of India's FATF delegation. Established in **1989**, FATF develops global standards to combat **money laundering, terrorist financing, and emerging financial threats**, making Aggarwal's election a significant boost to India's influence in global financial governance.

New Appointments: National & International of May 2026

- **Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC)** appointed **Sanjay Jamuar** as the first CEO of **Delhi Metro International Limited (DMIL)**, marking a step toward **global expansion**. DMIL aims to take India's **metro expertise** to international markets through **consultancy** and project execution. Jamuar, a former **IRTS officer**, brings extensive global experience across **Europe and West Asia**. DMRC, already involved in projects like **Dhaka Metro**, strengthens its position in **urban transport solutions**. This move highlights India's growing role in **global metro infrastructure** and sustainable urban development.





- **Dilip Kumar** assumed charge as **Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO)** of **Steel Authority of India Limited** on **April 27, 2026**, aiming to enhance **transparency, accountability, and vigilance** in the PSU. A senior officer of the **Indian Railway Service of Mechanical Engineers**, he brings over **two decades of experience** in operations, maintenance, and management. Known for innovations like **ISO-certified trains** and **wheel replacement techniques**, he holds a degree from **IIT BHU**. His appointment strengthens governance and operational integrity in India's **steel sector**.
- Indian cricketer **Shreyas Iyer** has been named brand ambassador for the F1 programme in India by **Mumbai Falcons Racing Limited**. Alongside, the **F1 Sim Racing India Open 2026** has been launched to identify and nurture **esports racing talent**. The initiative aims to bridge **gaming and professional motorsport**, offering a national platform for young players. Iyer's involvement is expected to boost youth engagement and promote a **multi-sport ecosystem**, highlighting the growing convergence of **traditional sports, esports, and digital innovation** in India.
- **Infosys** has appointed **Nitin Paranjpe** as **Non-Executive Vice Chairman**, strengthening its **governance and strategic leadership**. Approved by the Board, he will work alongside Chairman **Nandan Nilekani** to guide long-term strategy. Paranjpe, also Chairman of **Hindustan Unilever Limited**, brings vast global experience in **corporate governance and business strategy**. The role focuses on advisory and board-level decisions, ensuring stability as Infosys navigates **digital transformation and global competition** in the evolving IT sector.
- **Vishvajit Sahay** has been appointed **Secretary (Defence Finance)** in the Ministry of Defence, bringing over **30 years of experience** in **defence finance and public administration**. A **1990-batch IDAS officer**, he earlier served as **Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA)** and held key roles across multiple ministries. An alumnus of **St. Stephen's College** with a **law degree**, he also has international exposure from the **University of Cambridge** and the **George C. Marshall Centre**. His appointment is expected to strengthen **financial governance, transparency, and strategic decision-making** in India's defence sector.
- **Anugraha Narayana Das**, a **1991-batch IDAS officer**, has assumed charge as **Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA)**, bringing over **30 years of experience** in **defence finance and public administration**. An alumnus of **Utkal University**, with international exposure at the **University of Ljubljana** and training from **IIM Bangalore** and **Duke University**, he has held key roles including **Additional Financial Adviser (MoD)** and **Principal IFA, Army HQ**.
- **Ashutosh Gowariker** has been appointed **Festival Director** for the **57th International Film Festival of India 2026**, scheduled in **Goa (November 2026)**. A renowned filmmaker with a long association with IFFI since 1984 and former Jury President (2024), he brings strong **creative vision and global experience**. Established in 1952, IFFI is among **Asia's oldest film festivals**, organized by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, NFDC, and Entertainment Society of Goa. The 2026 edition will feature **international competitions, masterclasses, and retrospectives**, aiming to boost **global cinematic collaboration and cultural exchange**.
- **Bharat Khera**, a **1995-batch IAS officer**, has been appointed **Secretary of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)**. With over **30 years of administrative experience**, he is expected to strengthen the **MSME sector**, contributing **30% to India's GDP**. He previously served as **Additional Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs**, and held key roles in the **Ministry of Defence** and **Cabinet Secretariat**. He also served in senior positions in **Himachal Pradesh**. An alumnus of **BITS Pilani, Syracuse University, and ISB**, he brings strong **policy, governance, and leadership expertise** to drive **MSME growth and economic development**.
- **Prasoon Joshi** has been appointed as the new Chairman of **Prasar Bharati** by the Government of India, with the announcement made on **May 2, 2026**. Known for his contributions to **literature, advertising, and cinema**, Joshi is expected to bring **innovation and creativity** to India's public broadcasting system. The **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting** highlighted his cultural understanding and leadership qualities. Union Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** praised him as a "rare creative spirit." Joshi previously served as **CBFC Chairperson**, CEO of **McCann World Group India**, and trustee of **IGNCA**. **Prasar Bharati**, established under the **Prasar Bharati Act, 1990**, oversees **All India Radio, Doordarshan**, and the digital **Waves OTT platform**.
- The Government of India has appointed **R Balasubramaniam** and **Joram Aniya** as full-time members of **NITI Aayog**, expanding its core team to seven members. Approved by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, the appointments aim to strengthen policymaking with expertise in **governance, grassroots development, education, and cultural studies**. **Joram Aniya**, an academican from **Arunachal Pradesh**, is the first woman from the **Nyishi community** to earn a PhD and is known for her work on tribal culture and indigenous knowledge. **R Balasubramaniam**, founder of **SVYM** and **GRAAM**, is a noted policy expert and author. **NITI Aayog**, established in **2015**, serves as India's premier public policy think tank promoting **cooperative federalism** and policy innovation.





- **Shashi Shekhar Vempati** has been appointed as the new Chairperson of the **Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)** for a **three-year term**, as announced by the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** on **May 6, 2026**. He succeeds **Prasoon Joshi**, who recently became Chairman of **Prasar Bharati**. Vempati is known for his strong background in **media, technology, broadcasting, and public communication** and previously served as the **CEO of Prasar Bharati**, where he led the modernization of **Doordarshan** and **All India Radio**. An alumnus of **IIT Bombay**, he has also contributed to initiatives in **AI, education, and science communication**, including co-founding **AI4India Org**.
- **Ramachandra Dattatray Huddar** has been appointed as the **Chairperson of the Admission Overseeing Committee (AOC)** in **Karnataka** on **May 8, 2026**. The AOC supervises admissions to **engineering, medical, dental, and other professional courses** to ensure transparency and regulatory oversight. Justice Huddar previously served as an **Additional and Permanent Judge of the Karnataka High Court**, besides holding key posts such as **Principal District and Sessions Judge** and **Director of the Karnataka Judicial Academy**. His appointment follows the completion of Justice B. Manohar's tenure and is expected to strengthen monitoring of professional education admissions in the state.
- **Dr. Ashok Kumar Panda** has taken charge as the **Chairman & Managing Director** of **Steel Authority of India Limited**, marking a key leadership transition in one of India's largest public sector steel companies. With over **three decades of experience** in SAIL, he began as a **Management Trainee in 1992** and later held senior roles including **Director (Finance)** and **Director (Commercial)**, showcasing strong internal leadership growth. During his tenure, he focused on improving **operational efficiency, product mix, sales volumes, net sales realisation, inventory management, and strategic market alignment** across the organization. His vision for SAIL includes expanding capacity to **35 MTPA**, strengthening **safety, raw material security, branding, and market growth**, supporting India's broader goal of becoming a global leader in **steel production and infrastructure development**.
- **Prashant Pise** has been appointed as India's next Ambassador to the **Oman** by the **Ministry of External Affairs**.
- A **1995-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS)** officer, he currently serves as **Additional Secretary (Emigration Policy and Welfare)** and will replace **Godavarthi Venkata Srinivas** in **Muscat**. Prashant Pise has extensive diplomatic experience, including postings in **Cairo, Tripoli**, and roles related to **Russia, Central Asia, CIS affairs, and UN economic matters**, along with leadership in international migration and labour diplomacy. His appointment is strategically significant as **Oman** remains a key Indian partner in the **Gulf region for energy security, maritime cooperation, trade, and welfare of the large Indian diaspora**.
- **R Mukundan** has assumed office as President of the **Confederation of Indian Industry** for the **2026–27 term**, succeeding **Rajiv Memani**. A senior **Tata Group** executive with over **three decades of leadership experience**, Mukundan has worked across sectors including **chemicals, automotive, hospitality, and corporate strategy**, and currently leads **Tata Chemicals**. The CII also announced **Suchitra K Ella** as **President-Designate** and **Shashwat Goenka** as **Vice-President** for 2026–27. As one of India's most influential industry bodies, CII plays a key role in **economic reforms, policy advocacy, investment promotion, manufacturing competitiveness, and public-private dialogue**.
- **Susan Elias** has been appointed as the **first female Principal** of **St Stephen's College**, marking a historic milestone in the institution's **145-year history**. She will assume office as the **14th principal from 1 June 2026**, succeeding **John Varghese**. A seasoned academic with over **three decades of experience**, Elias has worked in teaching, research and university administration, and previously served as **Pro Vice Chancellor (Research)** at **Chandigarh University** **Uttar Pradesh**. Her vision includes preserving the college's legacy while introducing **modern, future-ready courses** in areas such as **artificial intelligence and quantum computing**, aligning the institution with emerging global education trends.
- **IAS officer Saurabh Vijay**, a **1998-batch Maharashtra cadre officer**, assumed charge as the new **CEO of UIDAI** on **18 May 2026**. The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** manages **Aadhaar**, the world's largest biometric identity system, under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**, functioning under the **Aadhaar Act, 2016**. An **IIT Delhi alumnus**, he has served in senior roles across finance, planning, tourism, education, and medical administration in **Maharashtra**. He also held positions at the **President's Secretariat** and the **World Bank**, bringing broad governance experience.
- **Raghav Chadha** has been appointed **Chairman of the Rajya Sabha Committee on Petitions** following its reconstitution by **C. P. Radhakrishnan**. The committee plays an important role in examining **citizen petitions**, addressing **public grievances**, and reviewing legislative concerns brought before **Parliament**. Effective from **20 May 2026**, the panel includes ten members from different political backgrounds. As chairman, Chadha will oversee recommendations aimed at improving governance, strengthening **democratic accountability**, and encouraging public participation in parliamentary affairs, thereby enhancing transparency and responsiveness within India's legislative and policy-making framework.





- The **Supreme Court Collegium**, headed by **Chief Justice Surya Kant**, has recommended the appointment of **five new judges** to the Supreme Court following the expansion of its sanctioned strength from **34 to 38 judges**. The recommendations include **Justice Sheel Nagu, Justice Shree Chandrashekhar, Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva, Justice Arun Palli**, and senior advocate **V. Mohana**. If approved, the appointments will significantly reduce vacancies and help address case pendency. Notably, **V. Mohana** is set to become only the **second woman directly elevated from the Bar** to the Supreme Court after **Justice Indu Malhotra**.

New Appointments: National & International of April 2026

- Dr. Thomas Pucadyil has been appointed Director of BRIC-National Centre for Cell Science. A renowned cell biologist and former professor at IISER Pune, he is known for research on **membrane biology** and is a Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize recipient (2018). He succeeds interim director Manisha Inamdar, with expectations to strengthen **biomedical research, innovation, and global scientific collaboration** in India.
- Senior IAS officer Vir Vikram Yadav has been appointed as the new Director General of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, replacing Faiz Ahmed Kidwai. The move comes amid rising aviation safety concerns, operational disruptions, and regulatory challenges. Yadav is expected to strengthen safety frameworks, address staff shortages, and ensure compliance with FDTL norms. The appointment is part of a wider bureaucratic reshuffle aimed at improving governance in India's rapidly expanding aviation sector.
- India's largest airline **IndiGo** has appointed aviation veteran **Willie Walsh** as its new **CEO**, marking a major **leadership shift**. Former Director General of **International Air Transport Association**, he brings strong **global aviation experience**. His appointment comes as IndiGo targets **global expansion**, introduces **long-haul aircraft**, and addresses **operational challenges**, reflecting India's rising role in **global aviation** and the airline's ambition to become a **world-class carrier**.
- Sudarshan Pattnaik has been appointed as the **brand ambassador for Census 2027** by the Government of India to promote participation in India's first **digital census**. A **Padma Shri awardee**, he is known for spreading awareness through art. The census will feature **mobile-based data collection** and a **self-enumeration portal**. Conducted in two phases—**Houselisting (2026)** and **Population Enumeration (2027)**—it aims to improve **accuracy, efficiency, and public participation** nationwide.
- Chanchal Kumar has taken charge as **Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** on April 1, 2026, succeeding Sanjay Jaju. A **1992-batch IAS officer**, he brings vast experience in infrastructure and governance. The ministry oversees **media regulation, digital communication, and public broadcasters** like Doordarshan and All India Radio. His appointment is expected to strengthen **policy implementation, digital media governance, and government communication**, shaping India's evolving **media and broadcasting sector**.
- Narendra Bhooshan has assumed charge as **Secretary of the Department of Land Resources** (under the **Ministry of Rural Development**) on April 6, 2026. A **1992-batch UP cadre IAS officer**, he brings over **30 years of administrative experience** across sectors like **infrastructure, energy, and agriculture**. The department focuses on **land reforms, digitization of land records, and sustainable land use**. His prior roles include positions in **UIDAI, ITPO**, and as **District Magistrate**, highlighting strong **policy and field experience** for improving **rural development and governance**.
- Deep Jariwala has been appointed to the prestigious **UT-ORNL Governor's Chair for Quantum Devices**, a top research role in the United States. Associated with University of Tennessee and Oak Ridge National Laboratory, he will lead work in **quantum materials, microelectronics, and future computing technologies**. Currently a professor at the University of Pennsylvania, he has **180+ research papers** and patents. This appointment highlights global recognition of his work and strengthens **innovation in quantum technology and advanced research**.
- **Sanjay Khanna** has been appointed as Chairman and Managing Director of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)**, with tenure till May 2029. A chemical engineer from National Institute of Technology Tiruchirappalli and finance postgraduate from University of Mumbai, he brings over 30 years of experience in refinery operations. Previously Director (Refineries), he led key projects like the PDPP. Under his leadership, BPCL aims to boost refining capacity, expand petrochemicals, and execute a ₹75,000 crore investment plan, including the Bina Refinery expansion.
- **Sajja Praveen Chowdary** has been appointed as the new **CEO and Principal Officer** of Policybazaar Insurance Brokers, following the resignation of **Tarun Mathur**. His appointment, approved by the insurance regulator, also includes the role of **Whole-Time Director**, marking a key **leadership transition**. A long-time member of PB Fintech since 2011, Chowdary brings over **15 years of experience** in **fintech and insurance**, having led multiple business verticals, including the **Policybazaar for Business** and SME insurance segment, strengthening the company's strategic growth.





- **Vibhor Jain** has been appointed as the **Managing Director and CEO** of Open Network for Digital Commerce, after serving as acting CEO. His appointment marks a key **leadership transition** as ONDC expands its presence across India. With over **18 years of experience** in technology and consulting, Jain aims to build an **open, inclusive, and interoperable digital commerce ecosystem**, empowering **small retailers, farmers, artisans, and gig workers**. His leadership is expected to accelerate India's **open network-based e-commerce model**, reducing dependence on large platforms and boosting **digital commerce growth** nationwide.
- Sunil Bajpai assumed charge as **Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax** for Tamil Nadu and Puducherry on **April 10, 2026**. A **1990-batch IRS officer**, he brings extensive experience from key roles in the Income Tax Department. With strong academic credentials from IITs and IIM, his appointment reflects expertise in **tax administration, governance, and policy implementation**, strengthening revenue management in the region.
- Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry appointed Anant Swarup as **Secretary General**, effective **April 14, 2026**. With over **30 years of experience** in **public policy, trade, and regulatory affairs**, he brings expertise from roles in the Department of Commerce and World Trade Organization. His leadership comes at a crucial time, aiming to strengthen **industry-government collaboration**, boost **trade growth**, and support India's evolving **economic and business landscape**.
- Infosys has partnered with Carlos Alcaraz, appointing him as **global brand ambassador** to promote **AI-driven sports performance solutions**. Using the Infosys Topaz platform, the collaboration will deliver **advanced match analytics, real-time insights, and personalized training tools**. This partnership highlights the growing role of **artificial intelligence in sports**, enhancing **performance, strategy, and decision-making**, while strengthening Infosys' presence in the **global sports-tech ecosystem**.
- Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao received the **9th Prof. M.S. Swaminathan Award 2026** in **Hyderabad** for contributions to **climate-resilient agriculture** and **natural resource management**. Currently leading Indian Agricultural Research Institute, he advanced **sustainable farming, soil health, and water management**. The award, marking the **birth centenary** of M. S. Swaminathan, highlights the shift from **Green Revolution to climate-resilient agriculture**. His work improved **food security** and **climate adaptation**. The event, attended by leaders like M. Venkaiah Naidu, underscores the importance of **agricultural innovation for national development**.
- Apple Inc. has appointed John Ternus as its next **CEO**, succeeding Tim Cook from **September 1, 2026**, marking a

major **leadership transition**. A veteran engineer with over **20 years at Apple**, Ternus led development of key products like **iPhone, Mac, iPad, and Apple Watch**. His appointment signals a shift toward **engineering-driven leadership** as Apple enters an **AI-driven technology era**. Cook, who led since **2011**, will become **Executive Chairman**. Ternus faces challenges including **AI integration, innovation, and global competition**, shaping Apple's future in next-generation technologies.

- HDFC Life has reappointed Vibha Padalkar as **MD & CEO** for another **five-year term**, following a board decision on **April 21, 2026**, subject to approvals from **shareholders** and Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India. Padalkar, with the company since **2008**, has led key milestones including its **2017 IPO and strategic expansion**. Her continued leadership ensures **stability, growth, and strategic continuity** in India's insurance sector. The move reflects confidence in her **financial expertise, governance, and long-term vision** for strengthening HDFC Life's market position.
- Rajesh Kumar Agarwal has taken charge as **Director** at Power Finance Corporation, bringing over **30 years of experience** in **power and financial services**. Having served long at PFC, he specializes in **project financing, credit appraisal, and loan portfolio management**. In his new role, he will oversee **lending strategies, risk assessment, and project execution**, supporting the organization's growth. PFC, a **Maharatna PSU** under the Ministry of Power, plays a key role in **financing power infrastructure**, including **generation, transmission, and renewable energy projects** across India.
- Srikanth Velamakanni has been appointed Chairman of NASSCOM, bringing strong expertise in **artificial intelligence and analytics**. Co-founder of **Fractal Analytics**, he has over **two decades of experience** in data science and business strategy. His leadership comes as India's **digital economy expands**, with focus on **AI adoption, innovation, and global competitiveness**. NASSCOM plays a key role in promoting the **IT and digital services sector**, policy advocacy, and industry collaboration. Velamakanni's appointment is expected to drive **technology-led growth and strengthen India's position in the global IT landscape**.
- Parminder Singh has been appointed CEO of Reliance Enterprise Intelligence Limited (REIL), marking a major boost to India's **enterprise AI ecosystem**. Backed by Reliance Industries and Meta Platforms, REIL focuses on **AI-driven business solutions** and digital transformation. Singh brings leadership experience from Google, Apple, Twitter, and IBM. His role will drive **AI adoption**, build **industry partnerships**, and develop **AI infrastructure**, including data centres. His appointment is expected to accelerate **innovation**, strengthen India's **digital economy**, and position the country as a leader in **enterprise artificial intelligence solutions** globally.





- Dabur has appointed Herjit S Bhalla as CEO of its **India Business**, effective April 23, 2026. He will report to Global CEO Mohit Malhotra, strengthening leadership for domestic operations. With over 25 years of experience, Bhalla has worked with Unilever, Metro Cash & Carry, and The Hershey Company. His appointment comes amid rapid changes in India's **FMCG sector**, driven by digital growth and evolving consumer preferences. He will lead **domestic strategy, brand expansion, and market competitiveness**, supporting Dabur's growth in both rural and urban markets.
- Nitu Samra has been appointed interim CEO of Noida International Airport, replacing Christoph Schnellmann to comply with **Indian aviation regulations**. The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security mandates that airport CEOs must be **Indian nationals**, prompting this leadership change. Samra, previously CFO, brings strong **financial and administrative expertise** and will serve until a permanent CEO is appointed. Schnellmann will continue as **Executive Vice Chairman**, ensuring strategic continuity. The move supports **regulatory compliance** as the airport nears operational readiness, strengthening its role as a major **infrastructure project** expected to boost **connectivity and economic growth** in India.
- Veteran economist **Ashok Lahiri** is set to become **Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog**, succeeding **Suman Bery**. A former **Chief Economic Adviser (2002–2007)**, he has worked under **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** and **Manmohan Singh**. With vast experience in **economic policy, public finance, and global institutions** like the **World Bank** and **International Monetary Fund**, his appointment is crucial. He will guide **economic reforms, policy planning, and state coordination**, playing a key role in shaping India's **future growth strategy and development roadmap**.

New Appointments: National & International of March 2026

- **Ayatollah Alireza Arafai Named Iran's Interim Supreme Leader:** On 1 March 2026, senior Iranian cleric Ayatollah Alireza Arafai 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 Arafai 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 WTM 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 Niranjana Jyoti Assumes NCBC Chairperson Position** Sadhvi Niranjana 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.

New Appointments: National & International of February 2026

GOVERNMENT & ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

1. **Sunetra Pawar - Deputy Chief Minister** Sunetra Pawar appointed as Maharashtra's first woman Deputy Chief Minister following political transition.
2. **Yumnam Khemchand Singh - Chief Minister** Yumnam Khemchand Singh elected as BJP legislature party leader as Chief Minister of Manipur, ending President's Rule.
3. **Nidhi Chhibber - NITI Aayog CEO** IAS officer Nidhi Chhibber given additional charge as Chief Executive Officer, NITI Aayog (Feb 24, 2026) following B.V.R. Subrahmanyam tenure completion.

BANKING & FINANCIAL SECTOR APPOINTMENTS

4. **Vinay Muralidhar Tonse - YES Bank MD & CEO** Vinay Muralidhar Tonse appointed as Managing Director & CEO, YES Bank with RBI approval.
5. **R. Vijay Anandh - City Union Bank MD & CEO** R. Vijay Anandh appointed as Managing Director & CEO, City Union Bank with RBI approval.
6. **Rohit Rishi - IIFCL Managing Director** Rohit Rishi appointed as Managing Director, IIFCL (Indian Infrastructure Finance Company Limited).

DEFENSE & AEROSPACE SECTOR APPOINTMENTS

7. **Divakar Jayant - Naval Armament Director General** Divakar Jayant took charge as Director General, Naval Armament in defense sector.
8. **Kota Ravi - HAL Chairman and Managing Director** Kota Ravi appointed as Chairman and Managing Director, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for aerospace & defense leadership.

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS

9. **Thanya Nathan C. - Kerala High Court Judge** Thanya Nathan C. set to become Kerala's first visually challenged woman judge at Kerala High Court.
10. **Ramalingam Sudhakar - NCLT President Tenure Completion** Ramalingam Sudhakar demitted office as NCLT President; during tenure: ~54,800 cases instituted, 48,000+ disposed (85%+ resolution rate).

PROFESSIONAL & INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS

11. **CA Prasanna Kumar D - ICAI 74th President** CA Prasanna Kumar D elected as 74th President of ICAI (from Visakhapatnam, AP); VP: CA Mangesh Pandurang Kinare.

CENTRAL PUBLIC SECTOR UNDERTAKINGS

12. **Deepak Gupta - GAIL CMD** Deepak Gupta (Director-Projects, GAIL) appointed CMD from 1 March 2026 till 28 February 2029, succeeding Sandeep Kumar Gupta.
13. **Uday Suresh Kotak - GIFT City Chairman** Uday Suresh Kotak (founder, Kotak Mahindra Bank) appointed GIFT City Chairman by Gujarat Government; awarded Padma Bhushan 2026.

INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS & GLOBAL POSITIONS

14. **Tarique Rahman - Bangladesh Prime Minister** Tarique Rahman sworn in as 11th Prime Minister of Bangladesh (BNP) with 212/299 seats, ending Muhammad Yunus' 18-month interim government.
15. **Andrey Gyurov - Bulgaria Interim Prime Minister** Andrey Gyurov (Deputy Governor, Bulgarian National Bank) appointed Interim PM, following previous PM resignation after street protests; April 2026 elections planned.
16. **Mia Amor Mottley - Barbados Prime Minister** Mia Amor Mottley re-elected for 3rd term; BLP swept all 30 seats (69.83%); defeated DLP leader Ralph Thorne.





TECHNOLOGY & CORPORATE SECTOR APPOINTMENTS

17. Asha Sharma - Microsoft Gaming & Xbox CEO Asha Sharma (Indian-origin) appointed **CEO of Microsoft Gaming & Xbox**, focusing on **AI integration** and **game innovation**; praised by Satya Nadella.

POWER SECTOR APPOINTMENTS

18. Harsharan Kaur Trehan - PSPCL Director (Commercial) Harsharan Kaur Trehan appointed as **first woman Director (Commercial)** at PSPCL, overseeing **transmission, substation planning, procurement operations**.

SPORTS & GLOBAL AMBASSADORSHIPS

19. Shikhar Dhawan - Delhi Khel Mahakumbh Brand Ambassador Shikhar Dhawan (former India cricketer, Arjuna Awardee) appointed as **Brand Ambassador of Delhi Khel Mahakumbh**.

20. Sachin Tendulkar - UN Global Road Safety Champion Sachin Tendulkar designated **Global Champion for Road Safety by United Nations**; released video under UN-JCDecaux

#MakeASafetyStatement campaign with digital billboards in New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru.

21. Abhinav Bindra - IOC Athletes Commission Completion Abhinav Bindra (India's first individual Olympic gold medallist) completed **8-year tenure (2018-2026)** as **Vice-Chair, International Olympic Committee Athletes Commission**; succeeded by **Humphrey Kayange (Kenya)**; IOC membership continues till **2028**.

ACADEMIC & RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS

22. Prof. B. Ravindran - UN AI Panel Prof. B. Ravindran (IIT Madras) appointed to **United Nations Independent International Scientific Panel in Artificial Intelligence**; represents **India and Global South** among **40 global experts**; currently Head **Wadhvani School of Data Science & AI (WSAI)** with **30+ years AI experience**.

DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

23. Om Birla - Bangladesh Swearing-In Representation Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla represented India at **Tarique Rahman's oath-taking on 17 February 2026** in Bangladesh.

Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings

Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings of July 2026

- The **Ministry of Ayush** and the **IndiaAI Mission** under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** on **31 July 2026** to integrate **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** into India's traditional healthcare systems. The collaboration will promote **AI-driven research, digital healthcare, medicinal plant studies, drug administration, and innovation across Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy**. Key initiatives include the **AIKosh platform, GPU-based high-performance computing, and the IndiaAI Innovation Challenge 2026**, supporting researchers, startups, and evidence-based healthcare.
- India and Saudi Arabia** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** during **Saudi Water Week** in Jeddah to strengthen cooperation in **water resource management and sustainable irrigation**. Signed by **Suhel Khan and Abdulrahman Abdulmohsen AlFadley**, the agreement promotes irrigation efficiency, technology exchange, institutional capacity building, and sharing of best practices. It addresses water challenges arising from **climate change, urbanization, and growing demand**. The partnership expands bilateral ties beyond energy and trade while supporting long-term **water security, climate resilience, agricultural sustainability, and collaborative research**.
- On **26 June 2026**, the **United States, Israel, and Lebanon** signed a **Trilateral Framework Agreement** to reduce border tensions and promote long-term regional stability. The **US-mediated** agreement provides for **phased Israeli military redeployment**, greater deployment of the **Lebanese Armed**

Forces (LAF), verified **disarmament of Hezbollah**, **pilot security zones**, and a **US-backed coordination mechanism**. It also includes **100 million US dollars** in humanitarian assistance for Lebanon. While **Lebanon and the United States** welcomed the initiative, **Israel** linked troop withdrawal to Hezbollah's disarmament, whereas **Hezbollah** rejected the agreement entirely.

- India and Japan** strengthened their **Special Strategic and Global Partnership** during **Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's** visit to India. The two countries signed agreements on **Economic Security, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Energy Resilience**, while launching a roadmap covering **semiconductors, quantum technologies, critical minerals, advanced materials, and resilient supply chains**. They also announced an **AI partnership** promoting responsible innovation and plans to establish around **1,000 biogas and organic fertiliser plants** under the **GOBARdhan** initiative. Defence cooperation, naval exercises, and **Indo-Pacific** maritime collaboration will also be significantly expanded.
- India and Rwanda** strengthened defence relations during the **2nd Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC)** meeting in **New Delhi**. Building on the **2018 Defence Cooperation Agreement**, both nations adopted an implementation plan covering **military training, joint exercises, defence manufacturing, military medicine, and institutional capacity building**. The Rwandan delegation also interacted with **India's defence industry** and visited the **Army Hospital (Referral & Research)**. The meeting reinforces **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**, expands defence technology collaboration, strengthens military healthcare cooperation, and reflects India's growing strategic engagement with African partners.





- India and Australia signed an agreement granting **IP Australia** access to the **Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL)** developed by **CSIR** and the **Ministry of AYUSH**. Australian patent examiners will use TKDL as **prior art** to prevent wrongful patents on traditional knowledge. Established in **2001**, the database contains over **5.2 lakh formulations** from **Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Sowa Rigpa, and Yoga**. Australia becomes the **18th patent office** with access to TKDL.
- India and Romania** signed multiple **MoUs** to strengthen cooperation in **science, technology, and sports** during **President Droupadi Murmu's** visit to **Bucharest**. Discussions with **President Nicusor Dan** also covered **trade, investment, defence, IT, renewable energy, education, and innovation**. President Murmu received a ceremonial welcome at **Cotroceni Palace** and participated in the **India-Romania Business Forum** and interactions with the Indian diaspora. The agreements are expected to deepen bilateral ties, expand economic cooperation, and further strengthen **India's engagement with Romania and the European Union**.
- India and Seychelles strengthened their bilateral relationship during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's three-day visit to Seychelles by unveiling **19 major initiatives** covering maritime security, defence, digital payments, healthcare, education, space cooperation, infrastructure, agriculture, and financial assistance. During bilateral talks with President Patrick Herminie in Victoria, both countries reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing cooperation under India's **MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions)** vision. Key agreements include maritime security cooperation, an Extradition Treaty, UPI-based digital payments, peaceful use of outer space, healthcare infrastructure, education, agriculture, and an Exim Bank Line of Credit. India also announced defence assistance by gifting an indigenously built **Fast Patrol Vessel, 10 utility vehicles, five Laser Radial sailing boats**, upgrading the **Dornier maritime surveillance aircraft**, and completing the refit of **PS Zoroaster** for the Seychelles Coast Guard.
- India and New Zealand elevated their bilateral ties to a **Strategic Partnership** by launching the **Strategic Partnership Roadmap to 2030** and signing **10 agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)** during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's official visit to New Zealand. The roadmap focuses on strengthening cooperation in defence and security, trade and investment, maritime partnership, agriculture, tourism, sports, culture, education, scientific research, and global cooperation. The agreements include maritime cooperation between the defence forces, hydrography and nautical cartography, mutual logistics support between the Indian Navy and the New Zealand Defence Force, a Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism, disaster management, animal husbandry and dairying, tourism, sports, development of the **National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) at Lothal, Gujarat**, and cultural cooperation.

Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings of June 2026

India and United States Sign Bilateral Framework for Critical Minerals and Rare Earth Elements Cooperation

India and the **United States** signed a **Bilateral Framework on Critical Minerals and Rare Earth Elements Cooperation** on the sidelines of the **11th Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting** to strengthen collaboration across the entire critical minerals value chain. The agreement focuses on **exploration, mining, processing, refining, recycling, technology transfer, and investments** related to critical minerals that are essential for **electric vehicles (EVs), semiconductors, clean energy technologies, aerospace, defence systems, telecommunications, and high-tech electronics**. The framework builds upon India's participation in the **US-led Pax Silica Initiative**, which India joined on **20 February 2026**, and aims to diversify global supply chains at a time when **China controls nearly 90% of global critical mineral processing**. The partnership is expected to enhance **economic security, supply chain resilience, technological cooperation, strategic investments, and energy transition**, while reducing dependence on a single supplier for minerals that are vital for future industries and national security.

National Skill Development Corporation Partners with Fourth Valley Concierge Corporation

The **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** signed a strategic partnership with **Fourth Valley Concierge Corporation (FVCC)**, **Japan**, to facilitate safe and transparent employment opportunities for skilled Indian professionals in Japan. Under the collaboration, **NSDC Trust's Credibility Check Framework** will verify candidates' identities, educational qualifications, employment history, criminal background (where legally permissible), and document authenticity before they are deployed overseas. The initiative supports the **India-Japan Action Plan for Human Resource Exchange and Cooperation**, which aims to facilitate the movement of at least **50,000 skilled Indian professionals to Japan over the next five years**. The partnership seeks to improve **global skill recognition, workforce mobility, international recruitment standards, and employment transparency**, while addressing Japan's growing demand for skilled manpower in sectors such as manufacturing, healthcare, construction, hospitality, and information technology.

Gujarat Government Signs MoU with Meta Platforms

The **Government of Gujarat** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Meta Platforms Inc.** to provide **WhatsApp-based government services** through the **Sugam Digital Gujarat Platform**, making citizen services more accessible through a single digital interface. Under the initiative, nearly **20 public services** from five major government departments will be integrated into a multilingual **WhatsApp chatbot** available in **Gujarati and English**. Citizens will be able to access services such as **Income Certificates, Caste Certificates, Economically Weaker Section (EWS) Certificates, Ration Card updates, Revenue Records, Official Affidavits, and Grievance Redressal**, while also tracking their application status in real time. The partnership aims to strengthen **digital governance, ease of access, transparency, citizen convenience, and last-mile service delivery**, especially in rural and remote areas, supporting Gujarat's vision of becoming a digitally empowered state.





Odisha, Intel Corporation and 3D Glass Solutions Sign \$3.3 Billion Semiconductor Agreement

The Government of Odisha, Intel Corporation, and 3D Glass Solutions Inc. (3DGS) signed a \$3.3 billion Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish an **Advanced Packaging Glass Core Substrate Manufacturing Facility** in the **Bhubaneswar-Khurda region**, making it one of the largest semiconductor investments in India. The facility will manufacture **Advanced Packaging Glass Core Substrates, High-Density Interconnect (HDI) Substrates, and Next-Generation Semiconductor Components**, while Intel will provide advanced manufacturing expertise and technological support. Glass core substrates offer significant advantages, including **higher chip density, better thermal performance, improved electrical efficiency, enhanced signal integrity, and lower power consumption**, making them ideal for **Artificial Intelligence (AI), High-Performance Computing (HPC), and advanced semiconductor applications**. The project aligns with the **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)** and is expected to strengthen India's semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem, reduce import dependence, attract global investments, and position India as a major player in the global semiconductor supply chain.

India and Myanmar Strengthen Strategic Partnership

During the official visit of **Myanmar President Min Aung Hlaing** to India from **30 May to 3 June 2026**, India and Myanmar agreed to deepen bilateral cooperation across strategic sectors including **trade, connectivity, security, agriculture, energy, banking, information technology, infrastructure, education, and cultural exchanges**. India reaffirmed Myanmar's importance under its **Neighbourhood First Policy, Act East Policy, and the MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions) Initiative**. Both countries emphasized the early completion of key connectivity projects such as the **Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project** and the **India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway**, which are expected to enhance regional trade and connectivity. The leaders also highlighted the operational **Rupee-Kyat Settlement Mechanism**, expanded **ICCR scholarships** for Myanmar students from **36 to 100 annually**, and reaffirmed cooperation on border security, regional stability, and economic development, further strengthening India's engagement with Southeast Asia.

RITES Limited Signs MoU with CRISIL

RITES Limited signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **CRISIL (Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited)** to jointly provide **data-driven infrastructure consultancy solutions** for projects in India and abroad. The collaboration combines **RITES' engineering and transport infrastructure expertise** with **CRISIL's research, analytics, financial advisory, and market intelligence capabilities** to improve planning and

execution of major infrastructure projects. The partnership will support sectors such as **railways, metro systems, highways, airports, ports, ropeways, bridges, tunnels, urban transport, hydropower, water resources, wastewater management, and industrial infrastructure**. Through advanced **data analytics, valuation support, due diligence, market research, and financial modelling**, the initiative aims to enhance evidence-based decision-making, improve project efficiency, strengthen infrastructure planning, and promote sustainable development across multiple sectors.

Tata Consultancy Services Partners with Mistral AI for Enterprise Artificial Intelligence Solutions

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) entered into a strategic partnership with **Mistral AI**, a leading French artificial intelligence company, to accelerate the adoption of **enterprise-grade Artificial Intelligence (AI)** solutions across industries. Through this collaboration, TCS became the **first Global Systems Integrator (GSI)** for **Mistral Forge**, an enterprise AI platform that enables organizations to develop secure and customized AI models using proprietary business data. TCS will leverage the platform to build AI-powered solutions for sectors such as **Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI), Manufacturing, Healthcare, and the Public Sector**. As part of the agreement, TCS will establish a dedicated **Centre of Excellence (CoE)** to develop industry-specific AI applications, train professionals, support project implementation, and accelerate AI adoption among global enterprises. The partnership is expected to strengthen digital transformation, enhance productivity, and position India as a key contributor to the global AI ecosystem.

India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) Comes into Force

The **India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** officially came into force on **1 June 2026**, marking a significant milestone in strengthening bilateral trade and economic cooperation. The agreement provides **zero-duty market access on 98.08% of Oman's tariff lines**, covering nearly **99.38% of India's exports**, thereby creating new opportunities for Indian exporters in sectors such as **engineering goods, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, marine products, textiles, leather, chemicals, electronics, automobiles, and gems & jewellery**. CEPA also facilitates **100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** by Indian companies in several service sectors in Oman and includes provisions related to **investment, professional mobility, traditional medicine (AYUSH), Halal certification, organic product recognition, pharmaceutical approvals, and regulatory cooperation**. The agreement is expected to boost bilateral trade, deepen investment flows, generate employment, and further strengthen India's strategic economic engagement with the Gulf region.





Centre Signs MoUs with Five States and One Union Territory under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0

The Central Government signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with Arunachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, Nagaland, Puducherry, and later Sikkim under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 (JJM 2.0) to strengthen rural drinking water infrastructure across the country. The reform-linked agreements promote a **Gram Panchayat-led, community-based, and service-oriented approach** for ensuring sustainable water supply management. The mission aims to provide **Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs)** to all **19.36 crore rural households** by **December 2028** while certifying every Gram Panchayat as a "Har Ghar Jal" village. With an enhanced financial outlay of **₹8.69 lakh crore**, the second phase of the mission focuses on regular supply of safe drinking water, community participation, operation and maintenance of water supply systems, and long-term sustainability, thereby improving public health and rural quality of life.

India and United Kingdom Launch Critical Minerals Global Supply Chain Observatory

India and the United Kingdom jointly launched the **India-UK Critical Minerals Global Supply Chain Observatory (GSCO)** in **New Delhi** to strengthen cooperation in securing global supply chains for critical minerals. The initiative was launched by **Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy** and **UK Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper** and has been developed through collaboration between **TEXMiN at IIT (ISM) Dhanbad** and the **University of Cambridge**. The observatory will monitor global supply chains using **data analytics, research, and intelligence**, helping governments identify supply disruptions, geopolitical risks, market trends, and emerging opportunities related to critical minerals. Since these minerals are essential for **electric vehicles, semiconductors, renewable energy, defence systems, telecommunications, and advanced manufacturing**, the initiative is expected to strengthen strategic planning, support the **National Critical Mineral Mission**, diversify supply sources, and enhance India's long-term resource security.

West Bengal Legislative Assembly Joins National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)

The **West Bengal Legislative Assembly** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to implement the **National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)**, becoming the **33rd Legislature** in India to adopt the digital platform. Developed as a **Mission Mode Project** by the **Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs**, NeVA aims to modernize legislative functioning through the vision of "**One Nation – One Application**." The platform enables paperless management of legislative business, including **questions, bills, notices, committee proceedings, House debates, bulletins, legislative records, and official documents**, while allowing Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs) to access information digitally from anywhere. The initiative supports the **Digital India Mission** by improving transparency, efficiency, accessibility, record management, citizen engagement, and reducing administrative costs through a fully digital legislative ecosystem.

Reliance Industries and Meta Partner to Develop AI-Enabled Hyperscale Data Centre

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and **Meta Platforms** announced a strategic partnership to establish an **AI-enabled Hyperscale Data Centre** in **Jamnagar, Gujarat**, with an initial capacity of **168 Megawatts (MW)**. The facility, expected to become one of India's largest AI infrastructure projects, will serve as **Meta's first built-to-suit data centre in India**, supporting its rapidly expanding **Artificial Intelligence, cloud computing, and high-performance computing (HPC)** requirements. The project will leverage **renewable energy, desalinated seawater-based cooling systems, and Jio's fibre connectivity** to ensure sustainable operations while reducing carbon emissions and freshwater consumption. Reliance will develop and operate the infrastructure, while Meta will lease capacity for AI workloads. The partnership is expected to strengthen India's AI ecosystem, attract advanced technology investments, and position the country as a major global hub for digital infrastructure and artificial intelligence.

Himachal Pradesh Signs MoU with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The **Government of Himachal Pradesh** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** to promote **climate-resilient, inclusive, and sustainable development** across the state. The partnership focuses on key sectors including **circular economy, biodiversity conservation, waste management, ecosystem restoration, sustainable livelihoods, and electric mobility for waste collection**. The initiative also emphasizes the participation of **women, marginalized communities, and informal workers** in environmental governance and sustainable development. Alongside the agreement, the state launched the **Safai Mitra Scheme** to improve the dignity, safety, and socio-economic conditions of sanitation workers engaged in waste management. The collaboration is expected to strengthen ecological conservation, promote green development, and support Himachal Pradesh's long-term environmental sustainability goals.

Air India and Riyadh Air Sign Strategic Partnership

Air India and **Riyadh Air** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to strengthen air connectivity between **India, Saudi Arabia, and other international destinations**. Subject to regulatory approvals, the airlines will introduce **codeshare and interline agreements**, enabling passengers to travel on a single ticket with seamless connectivity across their combined networks through hubs in **Delhi, Mumbai, and Riyadh**. The partnership will also explore cooperation in **cargo services, loyalty programmes, operational support, digital technologies, and customer experience enhancement**. The agreement is expected to boost tourism, facilitate business travel, improve bilateral connectivity, and strengthen aviation cooperation between India and Saudi Arabia, while supporting Air India's ongoing global expansion strategy.





Rapido Partners with Ministry of Road Transport & Highways to Promote Rahveer Scheme

Rapido partnered with the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** to promote nationwide awareness of the **Rahveer Scheme**, a Government of India initiative that encourages citizens to assist road accident victims during the critical **Golden Hour**. As part of the campaign, more than **4 lakh Rapido captains** took the **Rahveer Pledge**, creating a **Guinness World Record** for the largest road safety pledge. Through digital campaigns, community outreach, and in-app awareness programmes, Rapido will educate citizens about providing timely assistance to accident victims without fear. The initiative aims to improve emergency response, increase public participation in saving lives, strengthen road safety awareness, and support the Government's vision of reducing fatalities caused by road accidents across India.

Invest India and Invest UP Sign Strategic Partnership to Boost Foreign Direct Investment

Invest India and **Invest UP** signed a strategic partnership to accelerate **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** and promote industrial development in Uttar Pradesh. The collaboration focuses on improving investor facilitation, faster implementation of investment proposals, project monitoring, grievance redressal, and global investment outreach. It also aims to strengthen **ease of doing business**, improve regulatory clearances, facilitate land acquisition, and encourage investments in **technology-driven and employment-intensive sectors**. The partnership supports Uttar Pradesh's vision of becoming a **\$1 trillion economy** by attracting domestic and foreign investments, generating employment opportunities, and strengthening the state's position as one of India's leading investment destinations.

Assam and Nagaland Sign Tripartite MoU for Joint Oil and Natural Gas Exploration

The Governments of **Assam** and **Nagaland** signed a **tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** in the presence of the **Union Home Minister** and the **Union Petroleum Minister** for the joint exploration and production of crude oil and natural gas along their shared border. The agreement covers **six hydrocarbon-rich disputed fields** spread across more than **1,000 square kilometres** and establishes a formal framework for coordinated petroleum exploration after decades of limited activity due to boundary disputes. Under the agreement, revenue generated from oil and gas production will be shared equally through a **50:50 revenue-sharing model**. The initiative is expected to unlock significant hydrocarbon reserves, strengthen India's energy security, attract investments, create employment opportunities, and promote economic development in the North-Eastern region.

BSNL and IIT Kanpur Collaborate on Next-Generation Telecom Technologies

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur** to jointly develop next-generation telecom technologies. The collaboration focuses on **research, development, testing, deployment, and commercialization** of advanced communication technologies such as **Direct-to-Mobile (D2M) broadcasting, indigenous 4G technology, and advanced spectrum research**. The partnership seeks to promote innovation, strengthen indigenous telecom capabilities, improve digital connectivity in rural areas, and contribute to **Digital India** and **Atmanirbhar Bharat** initiatives. The collaboration is expected to accelerate India's self-reliance in telecommunications while enhancing future-ready digital infrastructure.

Tata Consultancy Services Signs Digital Transformation Agreement with Canada Life

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) signed a **multi-year digital transformation and managed services agreement** with **Canada Life**, one of Europe's leading life insurance and pension companies. Under the agreement, TCS will modernize Canada Life's **IT infrastructure, data centres, end-user computing environment, and software lifecycle management** by leveraging its **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered Cognix platform**. The partnership also includes expanding TCS's infrastructure services talent across the **United Kingdom, Ireland, Germany, and the Isle of Man**, while investing in employee training and certification. The collaboration is expected to strengthen TCS's presence in the European **Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance (BFSI)** sector and support compliance with the **Digital Operational Resilience Act (DORA)** of the European Union.

India and Slovakia Elevate Bilateral Relations to Comprehensive Partnership

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** became the **first Indian Prime Minister** to visit **Slovakia** since its independence in 1993, marking a historic milestone in bilateral relations. During the visit, India and Slovakia elevated their ties to a **Comprehensive Partnership** and signed **11 Agreements and Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)** covering **defence cooperation, labour migration, higher education, digital technologies, healthcare, tourism, scientific research, cultural exchanges, and quantum communication**. A significant outcome was the establishment of the **first Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) Chair in Artificial Intelligence (AI)** at the **Technical University of Kosice**. Both countries also agreed to establish a **Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism** and a **Consular Dialogue Mechanism**, further strengthening cooperation in strategic, technological, educational, and security sectors.





India–United Kingdom CETA and Double Contribution Convention Come into Force

The **Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)** and the **Double Contribution Convention (DCC)** between **India** and the **United Kingdom** came into force on **15 June 2026**, significantly strengthening bilateral trade and investment relations. CETA provides **zero-duty market access on nearly 99% of India's tariff lines** and covers sectors such as **goods, services, investment, digital trade, financial services, intellectual property rights, government procurement, innovation, and sustainability**. It also offers enhanced mobility opportunities for Indian professionals, including IT experts, engineers, healthcare professionals, chefs, yoga instructors, and musicians. Under the **Double Contribution Convention**, Indian employees on temporary assignments in the UK are exempt from making dual social security contributions for up to **five years**, benefiting over **75,000 professionals** and reducing costs for more than **900 Indian companies** operating in the UK.

MoRTH Signs Agreements with Vehicle Manufacturers for Delhi-NCR Fleet Modernisation

The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** signed **Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)** with **Ashok Leyland, Switch Mobility, and Tata Motors** to implement the Government's **Delhi-NCR Fleet Modernisation Scheme** aimed at reducing vehicular pollution. The initiative encourages owners of **BS-IV and older trucks and buses** to replace them with **BS-VI or electric vehicles** by offering multiple incentives, including an **8% manufacturer discount, 5% interest subsidy on vehicle loans, monthly fuel vouchers, motor vehicle tax concessions, and waiver of registration fees**. Together, the participating manufacturers account for nearly **50% of India's truck and bus market**, making the programme a major step toward cleaner transportation, improved air quality, and sustainable urban mobility in the National Capital Region.

Gujarat Signs ₹1 Lakh Crore Infrastructure Financing Agreement with HUDCO

The **Government of Gujarat** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO)** for financial assistance of up to **₹1 lakh crore** over two years to accelerate infrastructure development across the state. The funding will support major projects including **Gujarat Metro Rail Phase-II and Phase-III, expressways, sports infrastructure**, and the development of **Dholera Smart City**. HUDCO will provide flexible financing with repayment moratoriums, while the state government will facilitate approvals for smooth implementation. Additionally, Gujarat signed another MoU with **IIM Ahmedabad** for conducting feasibility studies, preparing Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), and evaluating projects under the **Viksit Gujarat 2047** vision.

IITM and ARIES Collaborate to Establish Himalayan Climate Observation Station

The **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)**, Pune, and the **Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES)**, Nainital, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to establish a **long-term Climate Observation Station** at **Devasthal, Uttarakhand**, under the **Bharat Climate Observation Network (BCON)**. The station will monitor **meteorological parameters, greenhouse gases, atmospheric chemistry, soil moisture, and short-lived climate pollutants** over a period exceeding **50 years**. Developed under **Mission Mausam**, the initiative aims to strengthen climate research, improve **Earth System Models (ESMs)**, enhance climate forecasting, and deepen scientific understanding of the fragile Himalayan ecosystem, thereby supporting India's long-term climate resilience and environmental planning.

Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings of May 2026

- IndiaAI has signed an MoU with Indian Council of Medical Research to promote **AI-driven healthcare innovation** in India. The partnership will integrate IndiaAI's digital infrastructure with ICMR's biomedical research expertise to develop **ethical, scalable, and research-based healthcare AI solutions**. Under the agreement, anonymised healthcare datasets and AI tools developed through the **MIDAS framework** will be hosted on the **AIKosh platform**, improving access for researchers and startups. IndiaAI will also provide **high-performance computing infrastructure** to support AI applications in **disease prediction, medical imaging, healthcare analytics, and drug research**, strengthening India's push for responsible AI governance in healthcare.
- Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre signed an MoU with the Reserve Bank of India to strengthen cyber fraud prevention and tackle the growing threat of **mule accounts** in India's banking system. The partnership aims to improve **fraud-risk intelligence sharing**, enhance coordination between agencies and use **AI-driven systems** to detect suspicious financial transactions in real time. Mule accounts, often used in **online scams, phishing attacks and money laundering**, have become a major challenge in controlling cybercrime and digital payment fraud. The initiative will integrate data from the **I4C Suspect Registry** and deploy advanced analytics to quickly identify and block fraudulent accounts, improving security in India's digital payments ecosystem.





- India and **Ethiopia** signed a bilateral **WTO accession protocol in Geneva**, supporting Ethiopia's long-running effort to join the **World Trade Organization**. The agreement reflects India's support for integrating **developing and least-developed countries** into the global trading system through fair market access and stronger economic cooperation. Ethiopia's accession requires reforms in **trade regulation, tariffs, customs administration, and market access commitments**. India already remains one of Ethiopia's major trading partners and investors, with economic engagement across **manufacturing, healthcare, agriculture, infrastructure, and education**, strengthening broader India-Africa strategic and economic relations.
- India and Norway elevated bilateral relations to a **Green Strategic Partnership** during PM **Narendra Modi's historic visit to Oslo**, marking a major expansion in cooperation. The partnership focuses on **clean energy, climate action, digital innovation, artificial intelligence, green shipping, blue economy, and maritime collaboration**. A key development is enhanced **ISRO-Norway space cooperation** and Norway's stronger Indo-Pacific engagement. Both nations also signed a **Triangular Cooperation Agreement** to support development initiatives in the **Global South** using India's **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** model, strengthening sustainable diplomacy and international development cooperation.
- India and **Cyprus** upgraded bilateral ties to a **Strategic Partnership** during the visit of President **Nikos Christodoulides** to New Delhi. The two countries signed **six agreements** covering **defence, cybersecurity, innovation, education, maritime cooperation, culture, and counter-terrorism**, including a **Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism**. A **Defence Cooperation Roadmap (2026-2031)** and maritime rescue collaboration were also announced, while Cyprus joined India's **Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative**. Additional plans include the **first India-Cyprus Space Day** and a **Cyprus Trade Center in Mumbai**, aimed at boosting investment, connectivity, and strategic engagement.
- India and Italy elevated bilateral relations to a **Special Strategic Partnership** during Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's visit** and talks with Italian PM **Giorgia Meloni**, marking a major diplomatic upgrade. Both countries set a target of **€20 billion bilateral trade by 2029**, focusing on **semiconductors, artificial intelligence, defence, infrastructure, clean energy, and critical minerals**. Cooperation will expand in **IMEC connectivity, maritime transport, counterterrorism, defence manufacturing, and space research**, alongside innovation platforms like **INNOVIT India**. Both nations also announced a **Year of Culture and Tourism in 2027**, strengthening cultural diplomacy and people-to-people ties.

Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings of April 2026

- India has launched an AI-driven initiative to make Ayurveda research accessible in **13 languages**, led by Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences in partnership with Anuvadini AI under the Ministry of Ayush. The move aims to **bridge language gaps**, expand **evidence-based Ayurveda awareness**, and reduce misinformation. AI will translate scientific publications for wider public access, leveraging CCRAS's network across 25 states, ensuring traditional healthcare knowledge reaches grassroots communities effectively.
- The **Meghalaya** government has signed an MoU with **Starlink India** to provide **high-speed satellite internet** in remote areas. Announced by Chief Minister **Conrad K Sangma**, the initiative aims to bridge the **digital divide** using **low-Earth orbit satellites**. It is expected to improve **education, healthcare, e-governance, and rural livelihoods**, strengthening **digital infrastructure** and connectivity in geographically challenging regions.
- The **US-Iran Peace Talks in Islamabad** collapsed without agreement, escalating **Middle East tensions**. Mediated by Pakistan, the talks failed due to disputes over **Iran's nuclear program, navigation rights in the Strait of Hormuz**, and **mutual distrust**. The breakdown threatens **global energy supply**, as the Strait handles major oil flow. Rising **military risks** and **global concern** highlight growing instability, with nations urging **de-escalation and renewed diplomatic efforts**.
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and GE Aerospace signed a key agreement to co-develop **F414 jet engines** in India, boosting **defence self-reliance**. The deal includes **technology transfer** and local manufacturing to power **next-generation indigenous fighter jets**. It supports initiatives like **Make in India**, reduces import dependence, and strengthens **India-US defence cooperation**. This collaboration enhances India's **air power capabilities** and marks a major step toward building a robust **domestic aerospace ecosystem**.
- India and New Zealand will sign a **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** on **April 27, 2026**, aimed at boosting **trade, exports, and investment**. The deal is expected to attract **\$20 billion investment over 15 years** and improve **market access** across sectors like textiles and pharmaceuticals. It also offers **work opportunities for Indian professionals** and may double bilateral trade to \$5 billion. Overall, the FTA strengthens **economic ties and Indo-Pacific cooperation**.





- India and Russia operationalized the **RELOS (Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement)** in April 2026, strengthening **military logistics cooperation**. Signed in 2025, the pact allows **mutual access to bases, ports, and airfields**, enabling deployment of **troops, warships, and aircraft**. It enhances **interoperability, rapid response, and defense coordination**. A key advantage is India's access to strategic Russian ports like Murmansk, boosting presence in the **Arctic region**. The agreement deepens **India-Russia strategic ties**, supports **joint operations**, and expands India's **global military reach and geopolitical influence**.

Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings of March 2026

- **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 Sashastha 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**.

Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings of February 2026

INTERNATIONAL MoUs WITH COUNTRIES

1. **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) - Free Trade Agreement** Terms of Reference signed with India to restart **FTA negotiations** for trade expansion between GCC and India.
2. **Russia - Aircraft Manufacturing** Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL) partnering with Russia for production of **Superjet 100 regional aircraft** in India with long-term defense collaboration.
3. **Japan - Financial Services State Bank of India (SBI)** partnering with **Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation** for financing sunrise sectors including renewable energy.
4. **Japan - LNG Shipping GAIL India** signed long-term charter agreement for LNG carrier "**GAIL BHUWAN**" during India Energy Week 2026.
5. **Singapore - Space Technology (Digantara) Digantara Industries** developing **Space Situational Awareness tools** with Singapore for satellite protection and space security.
6. **Singapore - Space Infrastructure DSTA** partnering with Singapore for satellite and space infrastructure monitoring collaboration.
7. **Netherlands - Green Energy Research University of Groningen & 19 IITs** collaborating on **renewable energy and sustainable technologies** research.
8. **Netherlands - Green Technology Department of Science & Technology** with Netherlands for joint green technology research through IIT partnerships.
9. **Italy - Helicopter Manufacturing Adani Defence & Aerospace** partnering with **Leonardo** for fully integrated helicopter manufacturing ecosystem with technology transfer.
10. **Italy - Aerospace & Defense Leonardo** partnership with Italy for advanced manufacturing and aerospace defense technology transfer.
11. **United Kingdom - Social Security Agreement** India-UK agreement to prevent **double social security contributions** for cross-border workers.
12. **European Union - Digital Signatures MeitY** signed Administrative Arrangement with EU on **advanced electronic signatures** for cross-border digital trade.
13. **France - Critical Minerals Joint Declaration of Intent** between India and France on Critical Minerals Cooperation and Advanced Materials research.

14. **France - HAMMER Missiles India & France MoU** for joint manufacturing of **HAMMER precision missiles** signed during 6th India-France Annual Defence Dialogue.

15. **UK - Offshore Wind Taskforce Offshore Wind Taskforce launched** under India-UK Vision 2035 with zones identified: **Gujarat and Tamil Nadu**.

16. **UK - Military Training IAF QFIs to train British fast jet pilots** at RAF Valley (Anglesey) – first time ever on Hawk T2/Texan T1 trainers.

17. **Germany - Aerospace Education Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya** established **Airbus Centre of Excellence** for aerospace studies with **Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)** research focus.

NATIONAL INTER-STATE MoUs

18. **Tripura - Banking & RRB Credit Card Tripura Gramin Bank** with **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** launched **India's first RRB co-branded RuPay Credit Card** during Golden Jubilee year.
19. **Telangana - Aerospace Education Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya** inaugurated **Airbus Centre of Excellence** for aerospace studies and **SAF research** in Telangana.
20. **National - Highway Cybersecurity Indian Highways Management Company** partnering with **National Forensic Sciences University** for **cybersecurity** and digital infrastructure protection.

INTER-ORGANIZATIONAL MoUs - ENERGY & OIL & GAS

21. **GAIL India - LNG Shipping GAIL India & Mitsui O.S.K. Lines** signed long-term charter agreement for LNG carrier "**GAIL BHUWAN**" during India Energy Week 2026.
22. **ONGC - Oil India Limited ONGC & Oil India Limited (OIL)** MoU to explore collaboration in **oil and gas exploration** and resource development.
23. **BPCL - Tata Motors BPCL & Tata Motors** joint development of **India's largest Mega EV Charging and Engagement Hubs** across the country.

INTER-ORGANIZATIONAL MoUs - DEFENSE & AEROSPACE

24. **HAL - United Aircraft Corporation HAL (India) with United Aircraft Corporation (Russia)** for production of **Superjet 100 regional aircraft** in India.
25. **HAL - Pawan Hans HAL contracted by Pawan Hans** for supply of **10 Dhruv New Generation helicopters** worth ₹1,800 crore.
26. **Adani Defence & Aerospace - Leonardo Adani Defence & Aerospace & Leonardo (Italy)** MoU for fully integrated helicopter manufacturing with **technology transfer** in India.
27. **BEML - IISc Research BEML, Indian Institute of Science (IISc) & FSID** signed **Tripartite Master Research Agreement** for advanced R&D collaboration.
28. **Indian Army - Agneevasthraa Indian Army** MoU with **Agneevasthraa** for supply of **advanced carbon fabrics and composite materials** for defense applications.
29. **Indian Army - IDFC FIRST Bank Indian Army** partnering with **IDFC FIRST Bank** for **specialized banking services** and financial inclusion for defense sector.
30. **GRSE - Hindustan Shipyard GRSE & Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL)** formed consortium for **national shipbuilding programme** and defense maritime expansion.





INTER-ORGANIZATIONAL MoUs - BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES

31. **SBI - Sumitomo Mitsui Banking SBI MoU with Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (Japan)** for financing sunrise sectors including renewable energy and innovation.
32. **Central Bank of India - HSBC Asset Management Central Bank of India & HSBC Asset Management** distribution agreement for Mutual Fund products and wealth management.
33. **Equitas Small Finance Bank - Bharti AXA Life Insurance Equitas Small Finance Bank & Bharti AXA Life Insurance** partnership for life insurance reach expansion and financial services integration.
34. **Tripura Gramin Bank - PNB Tripura Gramin Bank & Punjab National Bank** launched India's first RRB co-branded RuPay Credit Card.
35. **NPCI International - PayNet Malaysia NPCI International & PayNet Malaysia** agreement enabling QR-based merchant payments between India and Malaysia; Phase 1: UPI apps at DuitNow QR points.
36. **GIFT City - AJNIFM GIFT City MoU with Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management (AJNIFM)** promoting postgraduate/executive programmes in international finance and FinTech.

INTER-ORGANIZATIONAL MoUs - HEALTHCARE & INSURANCE

37. **AIIA - General Insurance Council All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) & General Insurance Council (GIC)** partnership for cashless Ayurvedic treatment across 32 insurance companies.
38. **Indo-French AI Health Centre Union Health Minister & French President Macron** jointly inaugurated Indo-French Centre for Artificial Intelligence in Health at AIIMS New Delhi with IIT Delhi and Sorbonne University partnership.

INTER-ORGANIZATIONAL MoUs - TECHNOLOGY & CYBERSECURITY

39. **IHMCL - National Forensic Sciences University IHMCL & NFSU** signed 3-year MoU for highway cybersecurity and digital infrastructure protection.
40. **MeitY - EU DG CONNECT MeitY & EU DG CONNECT** Administrative Arrangement for advanced electronic signatures and cross-border digital trade facilitation.
41. **National Test House - STQC-ERTL National Test House & STQC-ERTL (North)** Government-to-Government partnership for EMI/EMC testing of drones; quality assurance for aerospace.
42. **DRDO - CSIR DRDO & CSIR** collaborative agreement for joint R&D activities in extreme environments; defense technology development.
43. **TEC - IIT Kharagpur Telecommunication Engineering Centre & IIT-Kharagpur** MoU for advanced telecom research and global standardization; focus on 6G architecture, AI-based EMF monitoring, satellite systems.

INTER-ORGANIZATIONAL MoUs - EDUCATION & RESEARCH

44. **DST - University of Groningen & 19 IITs Department of Science & Technology & University of Groningen** green energy research collaboration across 19 IIT ecosystem.
45. **Airbus - Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya Airbus & Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV)** inauguration of Centre of Excellence for aerospace studies with SAF research focus.
46. **INSA - CSIR-NIScPR Indian National Science Academy (INSA) & CSIR-NIScPR** MoU to strengthen science communication and policy research.
47. **IIT Bombay - Columbia University IIT Bombay & Columbia University** MoU to establish Columbia-IIT Bombay Center of AI for Manufacturing at Bharat Mandapam.
48. **IOB - IIM Kozhikode Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) & IIM Kozhikode** MoU signed on IOB's 90th Foundation Day for customized leadership training programmes.
49. **NIELIT - Andhra Pradesh NIELIT & Andhra Pradesh government** signed MoU establishing India's first Quantum and AI University campus in Amaravati with focus on Quantum Computing, AI/ML, Quantum Communication & Cybersecurity.
50. **ICIRA - NLU Jodhpur IIRIS Consulting & National Law University Jodhpur** MoU establishing India's first dedicated Chair in Information Security and Forensic Science at law university.
51. **NDMA - AcSIR & CSIR-NIScPR NDMA, AcSIR & CSIR-NIScPR** signed MoU strengthening disaster management research; PhD programme launching in disaster risk reduction.
52. **NIPER - Boehringer Ingelheim NIPER Raebareli & Boehringer Ingelheim India** MoU enhancing pharmaceutical education and research collaboration; AMRITVA Cohort 2 launched with 5 innovators.

INTER-ORGANIZATIONAL MoUs - AVIATION & TRANSPORTATION

53. **AAI - Bharat Taxi Airports Authority of India (AAI) & Bharat Taxi** MoU to improve last-mile connectivity at airports; ground transportation integration.
54. **Air India - Lufthansa Group Air India & Lufthansa Group** MoU to explore joint business partnership for enhanced India-Europe air connectivity; both Star Alliance members.
55. **Kempegowda Airport - Frankfurt Airport Kempegowda International Airport Bengaluru & Frankfurt Airport Germany** MoU strengthening air cargo connectivity; focus on digital cargo corridor and pharma integrity standards.
56. **Embraer - Mahindra Embraer (Brazil) & Mahindra Group** collaboration for Maintenance, Repair & Overhaul (MRO) facility in India for C-390 Millennium military transport aircraft.

INTER-ORGANIZATIONAL MoUs - FINTECH & INNOVATION

57. **GFTN - Startup Policy Forum Global Finance & Technology Network (GFTN) & Startup Policy Forum (SPF)** partnership to accelerate FinTech innovation; startup ecosystem support.
58. **NABARD - NCDEX NABARD & NCDEX** Price Protection Scheme with put options in turmeric, jeera, coriander for FPOs in 7 states; covered 80 FPOs, 1.34 lakh farmers.





INTER-ORGANIZATIONAL MoUs - INTERNATIONAL TRADE & COMMERCE

59. FCI - World Food Programme Food Corporation of India (FCI) & World Food Programme signed 5-year MoU supplying 2 lakh metric tonnes rice annually (₹2,800/quintal till March 31, 2026).

60. Reliance Consumer Products - TGI Group Reliance Consumer Products & TGI Group (Nigeria) Majority-owned JV to introduce FMCG products in Nigeria using TGI's manufacturing and distribution network.

61. CMA CGM - Cochin Shipyard CMA CGM (France) & Cochin Shipyard USD 360 million deal for six 1,700 TEU LNG-fuelled container vessels – India's first 'Made in India' container ship order from global shipping major.

62. GalaxEye - NSIL GalaxEye & NSIL (ISRO's commercial arm) Data Reseller Partnership; NSIL to resell GalaxEye's SyncFused OptoSAR imagery globally; first private Indian satellite operator with NSIL.

INTER-ORGANIZATIONAL MoUs - INFRASTRUCTURE & TECHNOLOGY

63. L&T Vyoma - Gujarat L&T Vyoma & Gujarat government MoU for feasibility study on 250 MW green AI-ready data centre at

Dholera Special Investment Region (₹25,000 crore investment, operational 2028).

INTER-ORGANIZATIONAL MoUs - TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER & RESEARCH

64. Tata Consumer - CSIR-NIIST Tata Consumer Products & CSIR-National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science & Technology formalized transfer of two food technologies: "Smarter Rice" (nutritionally enhanced, lower GI) and "Coffee Crema Technology" (enhanced crema stability).

MULTILATERAL & WORLD BANK PARTNERSHIPS

65. World Bank MIGA - SBI Solar Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (World Bank) issued USD 197.67 million 5-year guarantee to Citibank for SBI non-shareholder loan refinancing for grid-connected rooftop solar systems.

DEFENSE & STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

66. India-Israel Defence MoU India & Israel signed defence MoU for joint seminars, industrial collaboration, technology sharing; SIBAT facilitated B2B meetings between 30 Indian and 26 Israeli defence companies.

Banking Current Affairs

Banking Current Affairs of July 2026

- **Eurobank** launched a **UPI-based cross-border remittance service** enabling customers in **Greece** to transfer money instantly to **India** through collaboration with **NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL)**. **Union Minister Piyush Goyal** welcomed the initiative, highlighting reduced transaction costs and stronger digital payment connectivity. During his Greece visit, he also met **Eurobank CEO Fokion Karavias** to discuss investments, manufacturing, infrastructure, and bilateral cooperation. The initiative expands the global reach of **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**, enhances financial connectivity, promotes seamless remittances, and reinforces India's leadership in digital payment innovation.
- **HDFC Bank** appointed former **Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar** as its **Part-Time Chairman** for three years, subject to **RBI** approval. He was also appointed **Independent Director** for four years beginning **30 June 2026**, pending shareholder approval. He succeeds the interim arrangement after **Atanu Chakraborty's** resignation, while **Keki Mistry** continues as interim chairman until approvals are completed. A **1984-batch IAS officer**, Rajiv Kumar previously served as **Secretary, Department of Financial Services**. His expertise in governance, banking reforms, and public finance is expected to strengthen corporate governance.
- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** partnered with **HSBC India** and **JP Morgan Payments** to introduce **real-time foreign exchange (FX) conversion** and settlement for **cross-border UPI** transactions. The system enables instant currency conversion, faster payment

confirmation, real-time settlement, and transparent exchange rates while reducing intermediaries and settlement delays. The initiative improves security, customer experience, and operational efficiency in international payments. By addressing major cross-border payment challenges, the partnership expands the global reach of **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** and reinforces India's leadership in digital payment innovation.

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** implemented the revamped **Integrated Ombudsman Scheme** from **1 July 2026**, replacing the **2021 framework** under the principle of "**One Nation, One Ombudsman**." The scheme provides a free, faster, and transparent grievance redressal mechanism covering **scheduled commercial banks**, eligible **NBFCs**, **prepaid payment instrument issuers**, and **credit information companies**. Customers can approach the RBI if complaints remain unresolved after **30 days**. It offers **online filing**, non-adversarial dispute resolution, and compensation up to **₹30 lakh** for financial losses and **₹3 lakh** for harassment.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** appointed **Ravi Shankar** as its new **Executive Director** with effect from **1 July 2026**. Previously serving as **Adviser-in-Charge of the Department of Statistics and Information Management (DSIM)**, he brings over **30 years** of experience in banking statistics, government securities, settlement systems, public debt management, and economic research. He has contributed to several RBI committees on **macroeconomic statistics**, **financial sector analysis**, **economic policy**, and **data governance**, reflecting the central bank's confidence in his expertise and leadership.





- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** approved the appointment of **Maresh Muralidhar Pai** as the **Managing Director & CEO** of **South Indian Bank** for a **three-year term** beginning **1 October 2026**. Currently serving as **Chief General Manager** at **Canara Bank**, Pai has nearly **30 years of banking experience** across **digital banking, treasury, foreign exchange, retail banking, MSME finance**, and corporate strategy. He will succeed **P. R. Seshadri**, strengthening leadership at the Thrissur-based private sector bank.
- **Federal Bank** received its first international **investment-grade credit rating** from **S&P Global Ratings**, earning **BBB-/Stable** long-term and **A-3** short-term ratings. The recognition reflects strong capitalization, disciplined **risk management**, diversified funding, healthy financial performance, and stable business operations. An investment-grade rating improves investor confidence, lowers funding costs, enhances international credibility, and provides better access to global capital markets. The milestone strengthens Federal Bank's competitive position among internationally recognized financial institutions while supporting future business expansion and sustainable financial growth.
- The Government exempted eligible **GIFT City IFSC** maritime units from obtaining licences under **Section 11 of the Coastal Shipping Act, 2025** for chartering foreign vessels used in **EXIM trade**. The reform aims to promote **maritime leasing, ship financing, and maritime services**, while improving the **ease of doing business**. Existing **cabotage rules** remain unchanged. The move is expected to attract global investment and strengthen **GIFT City** as an international maritime and financial services hub.
- **Policybazaar** appointed **Amitabh Bachchan** as its **Insurance Awareness Ambassador** to promote **health and term insurance** across India. The campaign supports **IRDAI's Insurance for All by 2047** vision and encourages families to prioritise financial protection. Under the theme '**Parivaar Sabse Pehle**', the initiative aims to increase insurance awareness in both urban and rural areas. Bachchan's trusted image will help promote **financial planning, insurance penetration**, and social security, encouraging timely insurance decisions for Indian households.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** introduced a prudential framework for **Specified Non-Financial Assets (SNFAs)**, effective **1 October 2026**. Applicable to **banks, NBFCs, RRBs, SFBs, and AIFIs**, the framework standardizes **asset acquisition, valuation, recovery, and disposal**, improving **transparency and financial governance**.
- The Digital India BHASHINI Division signed an MoU with **Punjab National Bank** to introduce AI-powered multilingual banking services. Under the **BHASHINI for Seva/Sanchalan** initiative, customers will access banking services in their preferred Indian languages using AI translation, speech technologies, and language models. The integration aims to improve digital banking accessibility, particularly in rural and regional areas, while supporting Digital Public Infrastructure and advancing financial inclusion through language-friendly banking solutions.
- The **RBI Financial Inclusion Index** increased from **67 (FY25)** to **70 (FY26)**, reflecting wider access to **banking, digital payments, insurance, pensions, investments, and postal financial services**. Introduced in **2021**, the index measures **Access, Usage, and Quality**. Growth was driven by increased adoption of formal financial services, supporting **financial inclusion, digital finance**, inclusive growth, and efficient delivery of government welfare benefits.
- The **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** launched **Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs)**, a **SEBI-regulated** digital system for trading physical gold electronically. **EGRs** represent ownership of standardized, high-purity gold stored with approved **vault managers**, allowing investors to buy, sell, hold, and redeem gold through **demat accounts** without physical storage. The system offers **secure storage, transparent pricing**, standardized quality, and improved liquidity. This initiative modernizes India's bullion market, strengthens organized gold trading, enhances price discovery, and boosts investor confidence in digital gold investments.
- **EnKash** launched **India's first UPI-enabled Digital Meal Card**, integrating employee meal benefits with the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**. Available in both physical and virtual formats on the **RuPay network**, the prepaid card supports **tap, swipe, scan, and online payments** at over **5 lakh food and grocery outlets**, including **Swiggy, Zomato, and Blinkit**. Following revised **Income Tax Rules** effective **1 April 2026**, employees can receive tax-free meal benefits up to **₹8,800 per month**, promoting digital payments and cashless transactions.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** revived its **polymer banknotes initiative** by inviting a global **Expression of Interest (Eoi)** through **BRBNMPL** for security-grade polymer substrate sheets. The proposal focuses on introducing durable **₹10 and ₹20 polymer notes**, offering improved resistance to moisture, dirt, and tearing while incorporating advanced **anti-counterfeit features** such as transparent windows, holograms, and colour-shifting inks. Although more expensive initially, polymer notes have longer lifespans, reducing replacement costs and supporting currency modernization.
- **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** recorded **24,161.69 crore transactions** worth **₹314.23 lakh crore** during **FY 2025–26**, according to the **Ministry of Finance**. Operated by **NPCI**, the platform had **55.49 crore users** by **June 2026**, significantly improving upon the previous financial year. To strengthen cybersecurity, authorities introduced **risk-based transaction limits**, enhanced authentication, and the **Comprehensive UPI Information Security Framework (CUISF) 2025**. UPI also expanded internationally, enabling merchant payments in countries including **Bhutan, Singapore, and the UAE**.





- **NRI deposit inflows** declined **29.25%** to **\$1.33 billion** during **April–May FY27**, according to **RBI** data, mainly due to slower growth in **FCNR(B)** and **NRE deposits**. Outstanding NRI deposits stood at **\$165.96 billion** in **May 2026**, while **NRO deposits** recorded a modest increase. Following the decline, the RBI introduced a **concessional swap facility** for fresh **FCNR(B)** deposits, resulting in **\$17.4 billion** of fresh inflows between **8 June and 17 July 2026**, strengthening foreign currency reserves.
- The **Government of India** has approved the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** proposal to conduct field trials of **one billion ₹10** and **one billion ₹20 polymer banknotes** to modernize the country's currency system. Announced by **Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary**, the initiative will evaluate the notes' **durability, security, and performance** under different climatic and usage conditions. Made from a **special plastic polymer**, these notes are more resistant to **moisture, dirt, and wear**, offer stronger **anti-counterfeiting features**, and reduce replacement costs. **Paper currency** will continue alongside polymer notes, while **digital payment systems** remain unaffected.
- **SBI Life Insurance Company Limited** has become the **Principal Partner** of the **Paralympic Committee of India (PCI)** for the **2026 Para Sports Season**, reinforcing its commitment to promoting **inclusive sports** and supporting **para-athletes**. Under the partnership, SBI Life will serve as the **Official Life Insurance Partner** for the **Commonwealth Para Games 2026** in **Glasgow** and the **Asian Para Games 2026** in **Aichi–Nagoya**. The collaboration aims to celebrate athletes' achievements, raise awareness about **para sports**, and encourage wider participation. It also continues the company's support following its association with Indian para-athletes during the **2024 Paris Paralympic Games**.
- The **Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA)** launched the **Favara–UPI Cross-Border Payment Corridor** on **30 July 2026**, enabling instant money transfers from **Maldivian mobile banking applications** to **UPI-linked bank accounts** in India. The system integrates the **Favara Instant Payment System** with **India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**, automatically converting **Maldivian Rufiyaa (MVR)** into **Indian Rupees (INR)**. Initially available through **Bank of Maldives Plc** and **Maldives Islamic Bank Plc**, the initiative was developed with the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and **NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL)**, strengthening **digital financial connectivity** and **India–Maldives economic cooperation**.
- **OmniCard**, developed by **Eroute Technologies Pvt. Ltd.**, has launched **India's first UPI-based Flexi Benefits Wallet**, called the **Flexi Benefits Basket**, built on an **RBI-licensed Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI)** platform. The wallet enables employees to manage **tax-efficient benefits** through a **single digital wallet** and make **UPI Scan-and-Pay** transactions at nearly **60 million UPI-enabled merchants**. Supporting categories like **meals, fuel, telecom, books, and gadgets**, it uses **Merchant Category Code (MCC)** controls for compliance. Aligned with the **Income-tax Rules, 2026** (effective **1 April 2026**), it offers tax-free benefits exceeding **₹2 lakh annually**, including **₹1,05,600** for meals.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued **draft amendments** requiring all **Securitisation Notes (SNs)** to be issued, held, and transferred only in **dematerialised (demat) form** to improve **transparency, liquidity, efficiency, and investor protection**. The RBI has also retained the **minimum investment limit of ₹1 crore** at both **issuance and subsequent transfers**. The proposal mandates compliance agreements between **lenders and Special Purpose Entities (SPEs)** and aligns **public issue criteria** with **SEBI regulations**. The reforms aim to modernise India's **securitisation market**, strengthen the **debt market**, and boost investor confidence.
- **DBS Bank**, headquartered in **Singapore**, became the **first Southeast Asian bank** to win the **“World's Best Corporate Bank”** title at the **Global Finance Global Bank Awards 2026**, marking the first regional winner since the category was introduced in **2005**. The bank also received **“Asia's Best Bank”** and **“Singapore's Best Bank”** awards for its excellence in **corporate banking, digital innovation, and financial services**. Operating across **19 international markets**, DBS offers **AI-driven solutions** in **corporate finance, trade finance, cash management, and treasury services**, reinforcing **Singapore's global financial leadership** and **Asia's growing prominence in banking**.
- India's **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** has gained global recognition, with **24 countries** partnering to adopt **India Stack**, including **UPI, DigiLocker, Aadhaar, e-KYC, eSign**, and the **Account Aggregator** framework. **UPI** is now available for merchant payments in **10 international markets**, while **Kenya and Cuba** have begun implementing **DigiLocker**. India is also in discussions with **Laos, Seychelles, Venezuela, Armenia, Fiji, Guyana, and Colombia** to deploy digital platforms like **e-Sanjeevani, e-Office, and e-Hospital**, strengthening its leadership in **digital governance, financial inclusion, and global Digital Public Infrastructure** initiatives.
- Indian banks collected **₹7,086.63 crore** as penalties for non-maintenance of **Minimum Average Balance (MAB)** in **FY 2025–26**, according to the **Ministry of Finance** data presented in the **Rajya Sabha**. **Private sector banks** collected **₹4,948.71 crore**, accounting for nearly **70%** of total charges, while **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)** collected **₹2,137.92 crore**. **HDFC Bank** and **Axis Bank** were the highest private-sector contributors. Meanwhile, **10 out of 12 PSBs** discontinued savings account penalties. **Basic Savings Bank Deposit Accounts (BSBDAs)**, including **PM Jan Dhan Yojana accounts**, remain exempt from minimum balance requirements. RBI allows such charges under **transparent and board-approved policies**.





- **State Bank of India (SBI)** is set to become the **first Indian bank in 2026** to issue **Basel III-compliant Additional Tier-I (AT-1) Perpetual Bonds**, aiming to strengthen its capital base. The bank plans to raise **₹5,000 crore** through the bond issue with a **five-year call option**, subject to approval from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and regulators. The issuance is part of SBI's larger **₹60,000 crore capital-raising plan** for **FY 2026–27** through **Infrastructure Bonds, AT-1 Bonds, and Tier-II Bonds**. AT-1 Perpetual Bonds help banks improve **Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR)**, meet **Basel III norms**, absorb losses, and support future lending growth. **SBI**, founded in **1955**, is headquartered in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.
- **Axis Finance Limited (AFL)**, a wholly owned subsidiary of **Axis Bank**, launched '**Axis Finance Drishti**', an in-house **Business Rules Engine (BRE)** and digital credit decision platform to enhance **retail and MSME lending**. The platform uses **advanced analytics, statistical scorecards, and multiple data sources** for faster, data-driven credit assessment and supports **real-time decision-making and Straight-Through Processing (STP)**. In **Phase-I**, Drishti was rolled out for **Personal Loans, Business Loans, Loan Against Property (LAP), and Disha Home Loans**. **AFL** is a **non-deposit-taking NBFC**, incorporated in **1995**, headquartered in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** announced the winding up of **Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL)** after approval from the **Delhi High Court**. RBI appointed **Girikumar Nair**, former **Chief General Manager of State Bank of India (SBI)**, as the **Official Liquidator** to manage the process. The action follows RBI's cancellation of PPBL's licence due to **serious regulatory violations**. The winding-up process will be conducted under the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949** and **Companies Act, 2013**. RBI assured that **depositors' funds are safe** and PPBL has sufficient liquidity to repay liabilities.

Banking Current Affairs of June 2026

UPI Achieves Record 23.20 Billion Transactions in May 2026

India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) recorded its highest-ever monthly performance in **May 2026**, processing **23.20 billion transactions** worth **₹29.90 trillion**. Compared to April 2026, transaction volume and value witnessed steady growth, with the platform averaging nearly **748 million transactions per day**. UPI continues to dominate India's digital payment ecosystem by enabling instant, secure, and cashless transactions across sectors such as retail shopping, food delivery, utility bill payments, transportation, e-commerce, and peer-to-peer transfers. The remarkable growth reflects increasing consumer confidence, wider merchant acceptance, and the government's continued push towards a digital economy and financial inclusion.

GST Collections Reach ₹1.94 Lakh Crore in May 2026

India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections reached **₹1.94 lakh crore** in **May 2026**, reflecting sustained economic growth and robust domestic demand. The increase was driven by higher taxable supplies, improved tax compliance, and a significant rise in import-related GST revenues. Strong collections indicate healthy industrial production, rising consumption, and expanding business activity across sectors. During the month, the government also issued substantial GST refunds, improving liquidity for exporters and businesses. The performance demonstrates the growing efficiency of India's indirect tax system and its contribution to strengthening government revenues.

Project Shikhar Launched to Help MSMEs Raise Capital

E-commerce platform **Meesho**, in partnership with the **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)**, launched **Project Shikhar** to help MSMEs and digital-first businesses access capital markets. The initiative provides guidance on corporate restructuring, regulatory compliance, governance standards, financial reporting, and listing procedures required for the **BSE SME Platform**. By preparing emerging enterprises for public listing, Project Shikhar aims to improve access to long-term capital, increase business transparency, enhance investor confidence, and support India's growing startup and MSME ecosystem.

India Records Highest-Ever Seafood Exports

India achieved its **highest-ever seafood exports** during **FY 2025–26**, exporting **19.72 lakh metric tonnes** worth **₹73,890 crore**. Frozen shrimp remained the largest export product, contributing the highest share of export earnings, while the **United States** emerged as the largest export destination by value and **China** by quantity. Other major export items included frozen fish, squid, cuttlefish, fishmeal, and fish oil. The record performance reflects India's growing competitiveness in global seafood markets and highlights the importance of the marine products sector in generating foreign exchange earnings and supporting coastal livelihoods.

Index of Industrial Production (IIP) Grows 4.9%

India's **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** registered a **4.9% growth** in **April 2026**, primarily driven by strong manufacturing sector performance. The Government also introduced a new **base year (2022–23)** for the IIP, replacing the earlier **2011–12** series to better capture structural changes in the economy. The revised index includes emerging sectors such as renewable energy, gas distribution, water supply, rare earth minerals, vaccines, aircraft components, and medical devices, providing a more accurate picture of India's industrial and manufacturing landscape.





Indian Banks Among Asia-Pacific's Best Capitalised

According to **S&P Global Market Intelligence**, Indian banks rank among the most well-capitalised banks in the Asia-Pacific region. **Kotak Mahindra Bank** topped the list with a leverage ratio of **16.56%**, followed by **HDFC Bank (11.14%)**, **ICICI Bank (10.84%)**, and **Axis Bank (9.28%)**. **Union Bank of India** recorded the highest improvement among public sector banks. The report highlights India's strong banking regulations, improved asset quality, Basel III compliance, and prudent risk management practices, demonstrating the resilience and stability of the Indian banking sector.

MoSPI Releases District Domestic Product Guidelines

The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** released the final guidelines for estimating the **District Domestic Product (DDP)** with **2022–23** as the base year. The framework standardizes the calculation of **Gross District Domestic Product (GDDP)**, **Net District Domestic Product (NDDP)**, and **Per Capita Income** across districts using a bottom-up approach. The initiative will improve the accuracy and comparability of district-level economic data, supporting evidence-based policymaking, decentralized planning, and efficient allocation of development resources.

India Becomes World's Fifth Most Digitalised Economy

According to the **SIDE 2026 Report**, India became the **world's fifth most digitalised economy**, improving from **eighth position in 2025**. The ranking is based on the **CHIPS Framework (Connect, Harness, Innovate, Protect and Sustain)**. India also secured the **fourth position globally in AI Readiness**, reflecting rapid growth in digital infrastructure, fintech innovation, digital public infrastructure, artificial intelligence, and technology adoption. The report highlights India's emergence as a global leader in digital transformation and innovation.

UPI Launched in Cambodia

The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, in partnership with **ACLEDA Bank**, launched **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** services in **Cambodia**, making it the **ninth country** to adopt India's digital payment system. Indian travellers can now make QR-code-based payments at over **4.5 million merchants** integrated with Cambodia's **KHQR** and **Bakong** payment networks. The initiative strengthens cross-border digital payments, promotes tourism, enhances financial connectivity, and expands India's global fintech footprint.

RBI Keeps Repo Rate Unchanged at 5.25%

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** kept the **repo rate unchanged at 5.25%** during the **June 2026 Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** meeting. The central bank cited concerns over inflationary pressures arising from volatile crude oil prices, geopolitical tensions in West Asia, and supply chain disruptions. RBI projected **6.6% GDP growth** for FY27 and **5.1% CPI inflation**,

while maintaining a neutral monetary policy stance. The decision reflects a balanced approach to controlling inflation without adversely affecting economic growth.

RBI Monetary Policy Maintains Neutral Stance

The **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** maintained its **neutral policy stance**, emphasizing a data-driven approach to monetary management amid uncertain global economic conditions. The RBI reiterated its commitment to balancing inflation control with sustainable economic growth while ensuring adequate liquidity and financial stability. The decision reflects India's prudent macroeconomic management in the face of external risks and volatile global markets.

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Wins Finacle Innovation Award 2026

Jammu & Kashmir Bank received the **Gold Award** at the **Finacle Innovation Awards 2026** for developing an AI-powered analytics platform that integrates machine learning, predictive analytics, and business intelligence. The platform enables the bank to improve customer insights, strengthen fraud detection, enhance risk management, and optimize operational efficiency. The recognition highlights the bank's commitment to digital transformation and the adoption of advanced technologies to deliver customer-centric banking services.

India's Foreign Exchange Reserves Rise to \$682.32 Billion

India's foreign exchange reserves increased to **\$682.32 billion**, mainly due to a rise in foreign currency assets despite a decline in gold reserves. The large reserve position strengthens India's ability to manage external shocks, stabilize the rupee during global volatility, finance imports, and maintain investor confidence. It also enhances the country's macroeconomic stability and provides a strong buffer against geopolitical uncertainties and fluctuations in global crude oil prices.

India Targets \$30 Billion Seafood Exports by 2031

The Government of India has set an ambitious target of increasing seafood exports from **\$8.5 billion to \$30 billion by 2031**. The strategy focuses on value addition, improved processing facilities, quality certification, branding, sustainable aquaculture, and expanding exports of high-value products such as frozen shrimp. The initiative aims to enhance India's global competitiveness while increasing the income of fishermen, aquaculture farmers, and seafood processing industries.

India Records Current Account Surplus in Q4 FY26

India recorded a **Current Account Surplus of \$7.1 billion (0.7% of GDP)** during the fourth quarter of FY26. The improvement was primarily driven by robust growth in services exports, which generated net receipts of **\$60.4 billion**, and record inward remittances of **\$43.5 billion** from overseas Indians. Despite a merchandise trade deficit of **\$83.4 billion**, the country's overall Balance of Payments (BoP) remained in surplus, reflecting the resilience of India's external sector.





India-Nepal Launch Cross-Border UPI Remittance Service

India and Nepal jointly launched a **cross-border remittance service** by linking India's **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** with Nepal's **National Payments Interface (NPI)**. Developed by **NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL)** and **Nepal Clearing House Limited (NCHL)**, the service enables instant, secure, and low-cost money transfers between the two countries. The initiative is expected to benefit migrant workers, tourists, students, and businesses while strengthening regional financial integration.

Sanjay Lohiya Appointed to RBI and SBI Boards

The Government appointed **Sanjay Lohiya**, Secretary of the Department of Financial Services (DFS), as a Director on the Boards of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and the **State Bank of India (SBI)**. A 1994-batch IAS officer, Lohiya replaced Nagaraju Maddirala on the RBI Central Board. His appointment is expected to strengthen coordination between the government and key financial institutions while supporting banking reforms, financial inclusion, and modernization of India's financial sector.

World Bank Raises India's GDP Growth Forecast

The **World Bank** revised India's GDP growth forecast upward to **6.6% for FY2026–27** and **7.2% for FY2027–28**, citing strong domestic demand, improving rural consumption, rising urban spending, and increasing foreign investment. The report also highlighted ongoing trade negotiations with countries such as the European Union, Oman, and New Zealand, which are expected to boost exports and attract additional investments despite global economic uncertainties.

India's CPI Inflation Rises to 3.93%

India's **Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation** increased to **3.93% in May 2026**, primarily due to higher food prices, particularly tomatoes and ginger, along with rising fuel costs. Rural inflation remained higher than urban inflation because of supply-side challenges and consumption patterns. Although inflation remained within the RBI's target range, food and energy prices continue to be closely monitored due to their impact on household expenditure.

India Leads Global Digital Wallet Downloads

India ranked **first globally** in digital wallet downloads during **2025**, recording more than **440 million app downloads**. Platforms such as **PhonePe**, **Paytm**, and **BHIM** continued to dominate the market, while UPI processed over **228.5 billion transactions worth ₹299.7 trillion** during the year. The achievement reflects India's leadership in digital payments, fintech innovation, and financial inclusion.

India Introduces New Wholesale Price Index Series

The Government introduced a revised **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** with **2022–23** as the new base year, replacing the earlier **2011–12** series. The updated index expands the commodity

basket from **697 to 957 items** and introduces **Producer Price Indices (PPIs)** to improve inflation measurement. New sectors such as solar energy, wind energy, and nuclear energy have also been incorporated, making the index more representative of India's evolving economy.

RBI Simplifies Investment Rules for NRIs and OCIs

The Reserve Bank of India introduced **Designated Repatriable Rupee Accounts** to simplify investment procedures for **Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)**, **Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs)**, and other overseas investors. The reforms reduce compliance requirements, simplify dividend and sale proceeds, facilitate easier fund repatriation, and expand investment opportunities under FEMA regulations. The initiative is expected to attract higher foreign investment into India's capital markets.

CAG Flags Fiscal Deficit Concerns

A report by the **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)** revealed that **18 out of 28 states** exceeded the prescribed **3% fiscal deficit ceiling** during FY25. Rising expenditure on salaries, pensions, subsidies, and interest payments contributed to higher borrowing requirements. The report emphasized the need for fiscal discipline, subsidy rationalization, improved revenue generation, and prudent expenditure management to ensure long-term financial sustainability.

Sarvam AI Enters Unicorn Club

Bengaluru-based startup **Sarvam AI** became a **Unicorn** after raising **\$234 million** in a Series-B funding round, reaching a valuation of approximately **\$1.5 billion**. Founded in **2023**, the company develops sovereign AI solutions tailored to India's multilingual and enterprise requirements. The fresh funding will be used to build advanced AI models, computing infrastructure, and enterprise AI products, strengthening India's growing artificial intelligence ecosystem.

India's Net Direct Tax Collections Rise 14.64%

India's **net direct tax collections** increased by **14.64%** year-on-year to **₹5.21 trillion** during April–June 2026. Growth was driven by higher corporate tax collections, improved advance tax payments, stronger business profitability, and better tax compliance. The robust collections indicate continued formalization of the economy and improved efficiency in tax administration.

RBI Cancels Licence of Shree Mahalaxmi Urban Co-operative Credit Bank

The **Reserve Bank of India** cancelled the banking licence of **Shree Mahalaxmi Urban Co-operative Credit Bank** in Karnataka due to weak financial health, inadequate capital, and inability to repay depositors. Around **97.9% of depositors** are expected to receive their deposits up to **₹5 lakh** under the **Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)** insurance scheme, ensuring protection of small depositors.





Asian Development Bank to Invest Nearly \$1 Billion in India's Private Sector

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) announced plans to invest nearly **\$1 billion** in India's private sector during 2026 to accelerate infrastructure development, renewable energy projects, urban transport, healthcare, financial services, and digital infrastructure. The investment aims to mobilize additional private capital, promote sustainable economic growth, and support India's long-term development goals. ADB also reiterated its commitment to strengthening climate resilience and financing green infrastructure projects across the country.

Chennai Petroleum Corporation Granted Navratna Status

The Government of India conferred **Navratna status** on **Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL)**, making it one of India's leading Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs). The upgraded status provides greater financial and operational autonomy, allowing the company to undertake larger investments, form joint ventures, establish overseas subsidiaries, and make strategic business decisions without prior government approval. The recognition is expected to strengthen CPCL's competitiveness in the petroleum and energy sector.

SEBI Launches GARUDA Framework for Alternative Investment Funds

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) introduced the **GARUDA (Governance, Accountability, Reporting, Uniformity, Disclosure and Audit)** framework to improve transparency and governance in the Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) industry. The framework standardizes reporting requirements, strengthens disclosure norms, enhances investor protection, and promotes better risk management practices. It also seeks to improve regulatory oversight while encouraging greater participation in India's alternative investment ecosystem.

RBI Introduces Digital Fraud Compensation Framework

The Reserve Bank of India introduced a new **Digital Fraud Compensation Framework** to strengthen customer protection against unauthorized digital banking transactions. Under the revised guidelines, banks and regulated entities are required to establish faster complaint resolution mechanisms and ensure timely compensation for eligible victims of digital fraud. The framework also mandates stronger cybersecurity measures, real-time fraud monitoring, and enhanced customer awareness to reduce cyber-related financial risks.

BHIM App Records Over 206% Growth in UPI Transactions

The **BHIM (Bharat Interface for Money)** application recorded a remarkable **206% year-on-year growth** in transaction volume during FY2025–26. The growth was driven by increasing adoption of UPI payments in rural and semi-urban areas, expansion of merchant acceptance, and improvements in digital payment infrastructure. The continued success of BHIM highlights the government's efforts to promote financial inclusion, digital payments, and cashless transactions across the country.

RBI Extends Keki Mistry's Tenure as Interim Chairman of HDFC Bank

The Reserve Bank of India approved the extension of **Keki Mistry's** tenure as the **Part-Time Chairman** of **HDFC Bank**. The extension ensures continuity in leadership while the bank continues its post-merger integration following the merger of HDFC Ltd. with HDFC Bank. Under his leadership, the bank is expected to focus on strengthening governance, expanding digital banking services, improving operational efficiency, and maintaining strong corporate governance standards.

RBI Revises Kisan Credit Card Guidelines

The Reserve Bank of India revised the operational guidelines for the **Kisan Credit Card (KCC)** scheme to improve credit access for farmers, dairy farmers, fisheries, and allied agricultural activities. The revised norms simplify loan processing, encourage greater financial inclusion in rural areas, and support timely availability of institutional credit. The initiative is expected to reduce farmers' dependence on informal moneylenders and strengthen agricultural productivity.

RBI Revises Scale-Based Regulation Framework for NBFCs

The Reserve Bank of India updated the **Scale-Based Regulation (SBR)** framework for **Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)** to strengthen financial stability and improve risk management. The revised framework introduces stricter governance norms, enhanced disclosure requirements, improved capital adequacy standards, and stronger supervisory mechanisms based on the size and risk profile of NBFCs. The move aims to build a more resilient and transparent non-banking financial sector.

RBI Injects ₹1.41 Lakh Crore Through Variable Rate Repo Auction

The Reserve Bank of India infused **₹1.41 lakh crore** into the banking system through a **Variable Rate Repo (VRR)** auction to address temporary liquidity shortages. The liquidity injection was aimed at ensuring sufficient availability of funds in the banking system, stabilizing short-term interest rates, and supporting smooth credit flow to businesses and consumers. Such operations are part of RBI's liquidity management strategy to maintain financial market stability.

REC Limited to Merge with Power Finance Corporation

The Government approved the merger of **REC Limited** with **Power Finance Corporation (PFC)** to create a stronger public sector financial institution dedicated to infrastructure financing. The merger is expected to improve operational efficiency, reduce costs, enhance lending capacity, and strengthen financing support for India's power, renewable energy, and infrastructure sectors. The combined entity will play a key role in financing large-scale energy transition projects and supporting the country's infrastructure development goals.





India Becomes World's Largest Ship Recycling Nation

India became the **world's largest ship recycling nation**, achieving the target under the **Maritime India Vision 2030** five years ahead of schedule. Major ship recycling activities are concentrated at **Alang Ship Breaking Yard** in Gujarat, which has adopted environmentally sustainable and globally compliant recycling practices. The achievement strengthens India's position in the global maritime sector while promoting resource recovery, employment generation, and circular economy principles.

India Generates US\$110 Billion in Green Revenues

According to the **London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG)**, India generated nearly **US\$110 billion** in green revenues during 2025, placing it among the world's leading countries in sustainable business activities. Renewable energy, electric mobility, clean technology, waste management, and energy-efficient manufacturing emerged as major contributors. The report highlights India's growing role in the global green economy and its commitment to achieving climate goals and net-zero emissions.

India's Trade Pattern Shifts Towards Asia and Africa

Recent trade data indicates that India's merchandise exports are increasingly shifting towards **Asia, Africa, and emerging markets**, reducing dependence on traditional markets such as Europe and North America. The diversification has been supported by expanding trade agreements, stronger regional partnerships, and increasing exports of engineering goods, pharmaceuticals, petroleum products, electronics, and agricultural commodities. The shift is expected to improve export resilience and strengthen India's global trade competitiveness.

NITI Aayog Releases 8th Trade Watch Quarterly

NITI Aayog released the **8th edition of Trade Watch Quarterly**, highlighting trends in India's international trade, export diversification, import dependence, and emerging global market opportunities. The report emphasizes the importance of expanding manufacturing exports, improving logistics efficiency, strengthening supply chains, and leveraging Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) to achieve India's long-term export targets. It also identifies sectors with high export potential, including electronics, renewable energy equipment, pharmaceuticals, textiles, and food processing.

India's Banking Sector Continues to Strengthen

India's banking sector continued to demonstrate strong financial resilience during FY2025–26, supported by improved asset quality, higher profitability, robust capital adequacy, and steady credit growth. Public and private sector banks reported healthy earnings, while digital banking services witnessed rapid expansion. Continued regulatory reforms by the RBI, stronger corporate governance, and increased adoption of financial technology have further strengthened the stability and competitiveness of India's banking ecosystem.

Banking Current Affairs of May 2026

- One MobiKwik Systems received **NBFC approval** from the **Reserve Bank of India**, enabling entry into the **regulated digital lending space**. The company will launch **MobiKwik Financial Services Pvt. Ltd.** to offer **loans** and expand its **credit portfolio**. With over **18.6 crore users** and strong **technology infrastructure**, this move marks a shift from payments to full-scale **financial services**. The approval boosts **credibility**, supports **financial inclusion**, and strengthens India's **fintech ecosystem**, especially in extending **credit access** to underserved segments.
- **Visa Inc.** appointed **Suresh Sethi** as **Group Country Manager for India & South Asia**, aiming to boost **digital payments** and **financial innovation**. Based in **Mumbai**, he will oversee operations across **India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Maldives, and Bhutan**. Sethi succeeds **Sandeep Ghosh** and brings experience from **Protean e-Gov Technologies Ltd.**, where he advanced **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)**. His leadership aligns with Visa's vision of expanding **fintech innovation, financial inclusion**, and strengthening the **digital economy** in South Asia.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** launched **Mission SAKSHAM (Sahkari Bank Kshamta Nirman)** to strengthen **Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs)** through large-scale **capacity building**. The initiative will train around **1.4 lakh participants**, including **board members, senior management, and technical staff**, via **e-learning and offline programs**. It focuses on improving **governance, risk management, compliance, and operational efficiency**. Addressing issues like weak governance and skill gaps, the mission aims to enhance **financial stability** and transparency. This step reinforces RBI's commitment to modernising the UCB sector and improving banking services for **local communities and small businesses**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** introduced new **loan restructuring guidelines** for **disaster-hit areas**, effective **July 1, 2026**. Banks and NBFCs can now **proactively restructure loans** without borrower requests, ensuring **faster financial relief**. A **5% provisioning norm** is mandated to balance **risk and stability**. Only **standard accounts** (≤ 30 days overdue) are eligible, with a **135-day opt-out option** for borrowers. The framework requires action within **45 days** and completion in **90 days**. This move strengthens **financial resilience**, supports affected borrowers, and enhances the banking system's **crisis response capability**.





- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India** has operationalised the **PaRRVA (Past Risk and Return Verification Agency)** system from **May 4, 2026**, enhancing **market transparency** and **investor protection**. Managed by **CARE Ratings Limited** with support from **National Stock Exchange of India**, it verifies performance claims of **investment advisers, research analysts**, and others. The platform ensures **accurate, standardized data**, reducing misleading claims and enabling **informed investment decisions**. This initiative strengthens **accountability**, boosts investor confidence, and improves the credibility of India's **financial ecosystem**.
- India's **Unified Payments Interface**, launched in 2016 by the **National Payments Corporation of India** under the **Reserve Bank of India**, has completed a decade, becoming the **world's largest real-time payment system**. Transactions surged from **2 crore to 24,000+ crore**, with value reaching **₹314 lakh crore**, contributing **85% of India's digital payments** and **49% globally**. Its success lies in **instant transfers, interoperability, low cost, and ease of use**. Widely used for **P2P and P2M payments**, UPI also expanded globally, strengthening India's leadership in **digital public infrastructure and financial inclusion**.
- The **India Post Payments Bank** has launched **zero-balance SHG Savings Accounts** to empower **women-led Self Help Groups (SHGs)** in rural areas. Announced under the **Ministry of Communications**, the initiative offers **no minimum balance, zero initial deposit, and ₹2 lakh limit**, making banking accessible. It aims to boost **financial inclusion, savings habits, and digital banking access**, while reducing dependence on informal credit. By integrating SHGs into the **formal banking system**, this move strengthens **women empowerment, grassroots economic development, and inclusive growth** across India.
- The **National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited** reported strong recovery performance in FY 2025–26, recovering **₹4,364 crore**, taking total recoveries to **₹6,345 crore**. It has acquired **33 stressed borrower accounts** with exposure nearing **₹1.65 lakh crore**, moving toward its **₹2 lakh crore target**. Working alongside **India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL)** and under the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)**, NARCL plays a key role in resolving **NPAs**, improving **bank balance sheets**, and boosting **credit flow and economic growth** by enabling faster and more efficient asset recovery.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** reported that **98.47% of ₹2,000 notes** withdrawn in **May 2023** have returned to the banking system, marking a major **currency management milestone**. The total circulation dropped from **₹3.56 lakh crore to ₹5,451 crore (April 2026)**. The withdrawal was not demonetisation—notes remain **legal tender** but are no longer actively circulated. Smooth exchange through **RBI offices and banks** ensured minimal disruption. The move aimed to promote **cleaner currency circulation, reduce high-value cash usage, and encourage digital payments**, reflecting India's shift towards a more **transparent and efficient financial system**.
- Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** has warned that advanced AI models like **Anthropic's Mythos** could create serious **cybersecurity threats for financial institutions**. These AI systems can rapidly identify and exploit vulnerabilities in banking infrastructure, reducing the response time available to banks. Modern banking systems, including **core banking software, mobile apps, APIs, cloud services, and payment systems**, are highly interconnected, making them vulnerable to AI-driven attacks. The government has advised banks to strengthen **IT security**, improve **data protection**, and coordinate with **CERT-In** and the **Indian Banks Association**. Globally, institutions like **JPMorgan Chase, Microsoft, and Google** are developing AI-based defenses. Despite risks, AI tools also offer benefits such as **faster threat detection** and automated **security testing**.
- India has allowed **100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** in the **insurance sector** under the **automatic route** through amendments to the **Foreign Exchange Management (Non-debt Instruments) Rules, 2019**, notified on **May 2, 2026**. The reform permits foreign investors to fully own insurance companies and intermediaries without prior government approval. Eligible entities include **insurance brokers, TPAs, consultants, surveyors, and insurance repositories**. The move aims to attract **global capital, technology, and expertise** while strengthening India's insurance ecosystem. Investments will remain regulated by the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** and companies must comply with the **Insurance Act, 1938**. However, the **LIC** will continue to have a separate **20% FDI cap** under the automatic route.
- **Rohit Jain** has assumed charge as the new **Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** for a **three-year term**, following approval by the **Government of India** and the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** on **May 2, 2026**. He succeeds **T. Rabi Sankar** and brings over **34 years of central banking experience**, having joined RBI in **1991**. Jain previously served as **Executive Director, Chief General Manager of the Department of Supervision**, and held senior positions at RBI's New Delhi office. He has also represented India in global institutions like the **Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS)** and the **Financial Stability Board (FSB)**.





- The **National Stock Exchange of India (NSE)** has launched **Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs)**, offering investors a regulated and digital way to invest in gold. EGRs are electronic securities issued against physical gold stored in **SEBI-accredited vaults**, combining the security of physical gold with the convenience of electronic trading. Recently, NSE announced the successful **dematerialization of a 1,000-gram gold bar** into an EGR. These receipts can be traded on stock exchanges like shares and are backed by actual gold meeting standards set by the **London Bullion Market Association (LBMA)** and the **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**. Key benefits include **safe storage, easy liquidity, lower risk of theft, and accessibility for retail investors**. Unlike **Gold ETFs**, EGR holders can also choose to take **physical delivery of gold** by surrendering their receipts.
- Securities and Exchange Board of India has proposed a major reform called the **GARUDA mechanism (Green-Channel: AIF Rollout Upon Document Acknowledgement)** to speed up the launch process of Alternative Investment Funds and improve ease of doing business in India's fast-growing investment ecosystem. Currently, AIF schemes take around **30 days** after filing a placement memorandum, but under GARUDA, eligible schemes may launch in as little as **10 working days**, significantly improving **capital deployment speed and efficiency**. The reform also simplifies processes for **accredited investor-only funds and angel funds**, allowing direct filings and reduced compliance requirements while still maintaining regulatory oversight through post-review checks. With AIF commitments reaching **₹15.74 lakh crore**, SEBI's proposal aims to boost **startups, private equity, infrastructure funding, and investor confidence**, while strengthening India's alternative investment market.
- **BSE** has launched **F&O contracts** on the **Focused IT Index**, becoming India's first exchange to offer **IT sector-specific derivatives** for trading and hedging. The index tracks **14 major IT companies** and aims to improve **risk management** amid global factors like **currency fluctuations** and **AI-driven trends**. On launch day, it recorded **172 participants** and about **₹148 crore turnover**, showing strong investor interest. The product enables **sectoral trading**, enhances **price discovery**, and supports **institutional portfolio hedging** in the volatile IT sector.
- India's **public sector banks (PSBs)** have reported their strongest-ever performance, posting a record **₹1.98 lakh crore net profit in FY 2025–26**, marking the **fourth consecutive year of profitability**. According to the Ministry of Finance, the combined **operating profit rose to ₹3.21 lakh crore**, supported by strong credit growth, improved asset quality and higher income levels across banks. PSBs also showed robust expansion, with total business reaching **₹283.3 lakh crore**, deposits at **₹156.3 lakh crore**, and gross advances growing **15.7% year-on-year**, reflecting strong demand for credit. Asset quality improved significantly, with gross NPAs falling to **1.93%** and net NPAs to **0.39%**, while strong recoveries and provisioning strength highlight a major turnaround in India's public banking sector and its role in supporting economic growth.
- The Reserve Bank of India has cancelled the banking licence of Sarvodaya Cooperative Bank with immediate effect, citing weak financial health, poor earnings potential and risks to depositors' interests. Following the order, the bank can no longer accept deposits, allow withdrawals, issue loans or conduct regular banking operations, effectively freezing customer accounts after May 12, 2026. The RBI clarified that around **98.36% of depositors** are protected under the **Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)** insurance framework, which covers deposits up to **₹5 lakh per depositor per bank**, including savings accounts, fixed deposits and accrued interest. However, depositors with balances above ₹5 lakh may face delays and uncertainty, as recovery beyond the insured limit will depend on the liquidation process, sale of bank assets and claims settlement overseen by the appointed liquidator.
- FinBox has launched **Atlas**, an AI-native lending platform to speed up loan processing and reduce borrower drop-offs in India's digital lending ecosystem. The platform automates onboarding and document handling through two modules—**Atlas Flow** and **Atlas Origin**, using conversational and AI-driven verification tools.
- It reduces loan approval time from nearly **21 days to 24 hours**, with reported improvements like **85% application completion** and fewer manual errors. Powered by **agentic AI**, Atlas helps banks and NBFCs streamline underwriting and fraud detection, supporting faster, more efficient, and scalable credit delivery.
- HDB Financial Services has appointed Natarajan Srinivasan as its **Independent Director and Non-Executive Chairman**. The appointment comes as the company expands operations and focuses on its long-term growth strategy. Srinivasan brings extensive leadership experience from the Murugappa Group, where he held several senior management roles. Meanwhile, Capri Global Capital announced that its lending arm, **Capri Loans**, has crossed **1,000 gold loan branches** across India. The expansion strengthens access to quick and transparent gold-backed credit in urban, semi-urban, and rural markets. Since launching its gold loan business in 2022, Capri Loans has grown rapidly, with assets under management (AUM) exceeding **₹16,960 crore**, supporting the company's broader financial inclusion goals.





- Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority has relaxed the annuity exit rules under the National Pension System, allowing limited surrender of annuity plans in specific hardship situations. The revised framework mainly benefits retirees facing **critical medical emergencies** or those holding older annuity policies that already included surrender provisions. Earlier, once retirees used their NPS corpus to purchase an annuity, exiting the plan was almost impossible except during the short “free look” cancellation period. Under the updated rules, Annuity Service Providers (ASPs) may now permit surrender if the annuitant or a family member suffers from a critical illness. Certain pre-October 24, 2024 annuity plans with existing surrender clauses may also qualify.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced a **\$5 billion USD-INR buy/sell swap auction** to inject long-term liquidity into the banking system amid **global market volatility and rupee pressure**. Under the **three-year forex swap arrangement**, banks will temporarily sell US dollars to the RBI in exchange for rupee liquidity, improving banking system funding conditions. The move addresses risks from **capital flow volatility, inflation pressures, stronger US dollar trends, and financial uncertainty**. Scheduled for **26 May**, the measure reflects RBI’s broader strategy of maintaining **stable credit flow, liquidity management, and financial market stability**.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced a record **₹2.87 lakh crore surplus transfer** to the Government of India for **FY26**, marking the highest-ever dividend payout by the central bank. The transfer strengthens **government non-tax revenue**, reduces borrowing pressure, and supports fiscal management amid global uncertainty. Higher **foreign exchange gains, rising gold prices, investment income, and expansion of RBI’s balance sheet** contributed to the record surplus. RBI also allocated **₹1.09 lakh crore to its Contingent Risk Buffer** for financial stability, balancing fiscal support with prudent risk management and broader macroeconomic resilience.
- The Reserve Bank of India approved the reappointment of **Sandeep Bakhshi** as **Managing Director and CEO of ICICI Bank** for another **two-year term, from 4 October 2026 to 3 October 2028**. The extension ensures leadership continuity at one of India’s largest private banks. Since taking charge in **2018**, Bakhshi has been credited with improving **profitability, digital transformation, operational efficiency, investor confidence, and overall business performance**. ICICI Bank remains a leading institution in **retail banking, corporate finance, loans, deposits, wealth management, and digital financial services**, reinforcing its strong market position.
- A Reserve Bank of India (RBI) report shows a major consumer shift toward **credit cards, UPI, and digital wallets**, reflecting India’s accelerating cashless economy transformation. Credit card transactions surged from **216 crore in 2021 to 570 crore in 2025**, while transaction value rose from **₹8.9 lakh crore to ₹23.2 lakh crore**. In contrast, debit card usage sharply declined from **408.7 crore to 133.6 crore transactions**. Growth is driven by **e-commerce expansion, cashback offers, EMI schemes, rewards, and UPI integration**, while private banks increasingly dominate India’s rapidly expanding digital payments ecosystem.
- Karnataka Grameena Bank has received an award from the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) for exceptional performance under the Atal Pension Yojana (APY). The bank achieved **2,49,185 enrolments** against a target of **1,75,500**, registering an impressive **142% achievement rate**, the highest among banks in Karnataka. The award was presented in **New Delhi** by **M. Nagaraju** and **S. Ramann** to **Shreekanth M. Bhandiwad**. The recognition highlights the bank’s contribution toward **financial inclusion**, pension awareness, and social security coverage in rural India.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced stricter governance norms for **Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs)** through the **Urban Co-operative Banks Governance Amendment Directions, 2026**. Under the new framework, directors can serve a maximum of **10 consecutive years**, followed by a mandatory **three-year cooling-off period** before rejoining the same board. The amendment aims to improve **corporate governance**, ensure leadership rotation, and prevent misuse of loopholes through temporary resignations and reappointments. Effective immediately, the reform aligns with the **Banking Laws (Amendment) Act, 2025** and strengthens accountability within the co-operative banking sector.
- India’s **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)** has completed **10 years** since its introduction in **2016**, marking a decade of significant reforms in debt resolution and financial discipline. The legislation replaced lengthy insolvency procedures with a **time-bound, creditor-driven framework** aimed at reviving stressed companies and maximizing asset value. By **March 2026**, over **8,987 cases** had been admitted, with more than **7,100 closures** and numerous successful corporate resolutions. The IBC has contributed to reducing **Non-Performing Assets (NPAs)**, improving recovery rates, strengthening creditor rights, and enhancing India’s overall credit culture and financial stability.





- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** is considering the introduction of **polymer-based currency notes** through a pilot project aimed at improving the durability and efficiency of Indian banknotes. Compared with traditional paper currency, polymer notes offer greater resistance to moisture, tearing, and wear, resulting in lower replacement and printing costs. The initiative comes amid rising cash circulation despite the rapid expansion of digital payment systems such as **UPI**. The proposed move is also expected to improve security features, reduce disposal of soiled notes, and strengthen overall currency management.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and the **State Bank of Vietnam** have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to strengthen cooperation in **digital payments, fintech innovation, and cross-border payment systems**. The agreement focuses on promoting **QR code-based payment connectivity**, enabling seamless transactions for tourists, businesses, and consumers in both countries. It also covers regulatory cooperation, information sharing, and payment infrastructure development. The partnership is expected to improve payment efficiency, lower transaction costs, and deepen economic and financial relations between **India and Vietnam**.

Banking Current Affairs of April 2026

- The Reserve Bank of India capped banks' **Net Open Forex Position (NOP)** at **\$100 million per day**, effective **April 10, 2026**, replacing capital-based limits with a uniform cap. With banks holding **\$30–40 billion in forex positions**, large unwinding is expected. The move aims to **reduce systemic risk, curb speculative trading, and stabilize the rupee**. However, it may cause **short-term volatility, liquidity stress, and mark-to-market (MTM) losses** due to rapid position closures.
- India's fiscal deficit narrowed to **₹12.5 trillion** during April–February FY26, as per Controller General of Accounts, marking a **7% decline** from last year and reaching **80.4% of revised estimates**. Strong **tax (6% growth)** and **non-tax revenues (18% growth)**, along with steady **capital expenditure (₹9.3 trillion)**, supported fiscal stability. The deficit is estimated at **4.5% of GDP**. However, **global risks**, especially rising crude oil prices due to geopolitical tensions, may impact India's fiscal outlook in FY27.
- According to ICRA, India's GDP growth may slow to **6.5% in FY27** from **7.6%** in the current fiscal year due to **rising crude oil prices, West Asia tensions**, and global supply disruptions. Higher energy costs could increase **inflation**, reduce consumer spending, and raise production expenses.

Additionally, the **current account deficit** is projected to widen to **1.7% of GDP**, reflecting increased import bills and external economic pressures.

- India's industrial output grew **5.2% in February 2026**, according to National Statistics Office, driven by **6% growth in manufacturing**, which remains the core of the IIP. **Capital goods surged 12.5%**, signaling rising investment and industrial confidence. However, **electricity (2.3%)** and **mining (3.1%)** showed slower growth. Despite improving momentum, challenges like **rising crude oil prices** and global uncertainties may impact sustained industrial expansion and overall economic outlook.
- India's GST collections reached **₹1.78 lakh crore in March 2026**, reflecting strong economic activity and improved compliance, as per Goods and Services Tax Network. Gross revenue touched **₹2 lakh crore**, driven by **17.8% growth in imports** and steady domestic demand. Refunds rose to **₹0.22 lakh crore**, enhancing business liquidity. States like Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Gujarat led collections, indicating broad-based growth, while efficient tax systems and digital tracking boosted revenue trends.
- India recorded an all-time high in **UPI transactions** in March 2026, reaching **₹29.52 trillion** with **22.64 billion transactions**, as per **National Payments Corporation of India**. The surge reflects strong **digital payment adoption**, improved **infrastructure**, and enhanced **security systems**. Annual figures also showed robust growth, highlighting UPI's expansion into **rural areas**. With rising **daily transactions** and widespread usage, UPI continues to strengthen India's **digital economy** and global leadership in **real-time payments**.
- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India has retained Life Insurance Corporation of India, General Insurance Corporation of India, and New India Assurance Company Limited as **Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs)** for FY26. These firms are considered "**Too Big To Fail**", playing a critical role in **financial stability and risk coverage**. Their status ensures **strict regulatory oversight, strong governance, and robust risk management**, as any disruption could significantly impact India's **economy and insurance sector stability**.
- India's **forex reserves declined by \$30.5 billion in March 2026** to **\$688.05 billion**, mainly due to intervention by the Reserve Bank of India to stabilize the **rupee amid global uncertainty and geopolitical tensions**. The fall was driven by **currency volatility, capital outflows, and dollar demand**. Despite this drop, India maintains a **strong external position with ~11 months import cover**, ensuring **economic stability and resilience** against global shocks.





- The Income Tax Department of India has launched 'Kar Saathi', an AI-powered platform to simplify tax filing and provide 24x7 assistance. It acts as a one-stop digital hub for ITR filing, refund tracking, tax queries, and e-services, improving user experience and accessibility. Led by Central Board of Direct Taxes under reforms like PRARAMBH, it supports the upcoming Income Tax Act, 2025, reducing rules (510→333) and forms (399→190). Overall, it enhances digital governance, reduces dependency on consultants, and promotes easy, transparent tax compliance.
- Moody's has cut India's FY27 GDP growth forecast to 6% (from 6.8%) due to West Asia tensions disrupting energy imports. As India depends heavily on the region for crude oil (55%) and LPG (90%), rising fuel costs are increasing inflation (4.8%) and weakening household consumption. This may slow industrial activity and investment. The Reserve Bank of India may adjust interest rates, while the government could raise subsidies. Overall, higher costs and fiscal pressure may impact economic stability and growth.
- The Indian Railways has completed the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC), a 1,506 km high-capacity freight route from JNPT (Maharashtra) to Dadri (Uttar Pradesh). Executed by Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited, it enables faster, cost-efficient freight movement, improves port connectivity, and reduces logistics costs. Along with the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC), it modernizes India's freight network, reduces congestion, and boosts industrial growth, exports, and overall economic development.
- India's maritime sector achieved a record 915.17 million tonnes (MT) cargo handling at major ports in FY 2025–26, surpassing the 904 MT target with 7.06% growth. Led by Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, top performers included Deendayal Port (160.11 MT), Paradip Port (156.45 MT), and JNPA (102.01 MT). Growth was driven by infrastructure upgrades, better connectivity, digitalization, and faster turnaround times. Supported by initiatives like Sagarmala, this milestone strengthens India's global trade capacity, logistics efficiency, and maritime competitiveness.
- Vinay Tonse has taken charge as MD & CEO of YES Bank, bringing over 30 years of banking experience across retail, corporate, and international sectors. His leadership marks a new phase focused on growth acceleration and financial strengthening. He introduced a four-pillar strategy—People, Product, Processes, Technology—aimed at improving customer experience, boosting performance, and enhancing operational efficiency. This move is expected to strengthen investor confidence and position the bank for long-term stability and competitiveness.
- Campbell Wilson has resigned as CEO & MD of Air India before completing his five-year term, marking a key leadership transition. Since taking charge in July 2022 after the Tata Group takeover, he led the Vihaan.AI

transformation plan, focusing on fleet expansion, modernization, and improving customer experience. His exit comes during a crucial restructuring phase, signaling a new strategic direction amid broader leadership changes in India's aviation sector.

- India's digital payments ecosystem is rapidly expanding, with UPI QR codes growing 15% in 2025 to 731.38 million, while transaction volumes surged 33% to 228.5 billion. Driven by merchant adoption, especially among small businesses, QR payments offer low cost, ease of use, and instant transfers. Compared to slower growth in POS terminals, UPI reflects a shift toward mobile-based, cashless payments. With an average ticket size of ₹1,314, UPI dominates daily transactions, reinforcing India's position as a global leader in real-time digital payments.
- Bank of Baroda launched AI-powered 'bob SAMVAD' in Mumbai to enhance multilingual communication at bank branches. The platform enables real-time translation in 22 languages through text and voice, improving customer-staff interaction and reducing language barriers. Launched by M. Nagaraju, it promotes inclusive banking, better service delivery, and ease of access, especially for diverse users. Initially rolled out in 250 branches, it reflects the bank's focus on AI-driven innovation and customer-centric services.

Banking Current Affairs of March 2026

BANKING NEWS

RBI Actions & Directives

- 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
- 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
- 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 Dhyani 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, InvTs, ETCs, 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 InvTs
- 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 Govt, 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 CEEA (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





Banking Current Affairs of February 2026

BANKING INITIATIVES & PARTNERSHIPS

- 1. Axis Bank Rooftop Solar Finance** Axis Bank launched Rooftop Solar Finance scheme offering collateral-free loans up to ₹2 crores for MSMEs to adopt rooftop solar systems.
- 2. Kotak Mahindra Bank - GIFT City Leadership** Uday Kotak appointed GIFT City Chairman with banking assets of \$100.14 billion and 35 IFSC Banking Units operational.
- 3. IOCL & Akasa Air - Sustainable Aviation Fuel Partnership** Letter of Intent signed between IOCL and Akasa Air during Wings India 2026 to jointly explore Sustainable Aviation Fuel supply.
- 4. NSE & Department of Posts - Mutual Fund Distribution** MoU signed between NSE and Department of Posts enabling distribution of Mutual Fund products through post offices.
- 5. Biological E Limited - nOPV2 Vaccine Production** Biological E Limited produced WHO prequalified nOPV2 vaccine in Hyderabad for global polio eradication.

RBI REGULATORY UPDATES & GUIDELINES

- 6. Digital Payments Index Surge** Digital Payments Index surged to 516.76 in September 2025 with UPI reaching 80% share.
- 7. UPI Global Expansion** UPI now operational in 8 countries: UAE, Singapore, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, France, Mauritius, Qatar.
- 8. Base Year Revision for Economic Data** National statistics revised to 2022-23 for GDP & IIP; 2024 for CPI.
- 9. FASTag Annual Pass Success** FASTag achieved 50 lakh users in six months with 26.55 crore toll crossings.
- 10. Insurance for All by 2047 Initiative** Alwar district, Rajasthan achieved 100% insurance coverage – India's first fully insured district.
- 11. RBI - NBFC DLG Restoration** Default Loss Guarantees (DLGs, capped at 5%) restored for NBFCs after reversing May 2025 provisioning norms.
- 12. RBI - Bank Loans to NCDC as PSL** Loans to National Cooperative Development Corporation classified as Priority Sector Lending from 19 Jan 2026.
- 13. RBI - ECB Guidelines Revised** ECB limit raised from \$750 mn to \$1 billion with minimum average maturity of 3 years.
- 14. RBI - OTC Forex Derivatives Reporting** Mandatory reporting to CCIL: 70% in 12 months, 80% in 18 months, 90% in 24 months.
- 15. RBI - UTI for OTC Derivatives** Unique Transaction Identifier (UTI) mandated from 1 January 2027 – up to 52 characters including LEI.
- 16. RBI Penalties on 5 Institutions** RBI imposed ₹1.35 crore penalties: CSB Bank (₹63.6L), BoM (₹32.5L), DCB Bank (₹29.6L), IIFL Finance (₹5.3L), Navi Finserv (₹3.8L).
- 17. RBI - Airtel Money as NBFC** Airtel Money granted Certificate of Registration as Type II NBFC-ND (ICC) – restriction on public deposits.
- 18. RBI - Acquisition Financing Limit Raised** Aggregate exposure limit raised from 10% to 20% of Tier-1 capital – banks can finance up to 75% acquisition value.
- 19. RBI Issues NBFC Amendment Directions 2026** "Unregistered Type I NBFC" category introduced April 1, 2026 for entities with <₹1,000 crore assets.

- 20. RBI Revised Lead Bank Scheme** 3-tier structure introduced with designated Lead Bank per district maintaining 60% CD Ratio for rural/semi-urban branches.
- 21. RBI Proposes Stricter Loan Recovery Agent Norms** Recovery agents required: IIBF certification, valid ID, contact 8AM-7PM – effective July 1, 2026.
- 22. RBI Revises Kisan Credit Card Guidelines** KCC expanded: crop seasons 12-18 months, loan tenure 6 years, 20% extra credit for technology-driven agriculture.
- 23. RBI Tightens Responsible Business Conduct Rules** DSA/DMA require separate application forms with full refund + compensation for mis-selling – effective July 1, 2026.
- 24. RBI REIT Lending Guidelines** Banks permitted lending to SEBI-registered REITs with 3-year+ operational history, aggregate exposure capped 49%.
- 25. RBI Releases Secure Data Centre in Odisha** RBI launched Tier IV data centre in Bhubaneswar at Info Valley-II, Khordha (18.55 acres); primary centre in Kharghar, Navi Mumbai.

SEBI REGULATORY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 26. Startup India Framework Expansion** Deep technology startups formally included for 20 years effective 2026 onwards.
- 27. DPI Cooperation - 23 Countries** SEBI signed MoUs with 23 countries to share Digital Public Infrastructure and India Stack framework.
- 28. GIFT City Expansion** GIFT City (Gujarat) operational with 35 IFSC Banking Units managing banking assets of \$100.14 billion.
- 29. FASTag Integration with RailOne** UTS app discontinued, shift to RailOne super app on March 1, 2026 for unified digital ecosystem.
- 30. NSE - Natural Gas Futures** SEBI approved NSE to launch Indian Natural Gas Futures with monthly contracts, up to 12 active.
- 31. ASK Asset & Wealth Management - 52nd Fund House** SEBI approved ASK Asset & Wealth Management as 52nd fund house; MF industry AUM: ₹81 lakh crore (Jan 2026).
- 32. NSE IX Global Access Platform** NSE IX launched Global Access platform for Indian retail investors to trade USA-listed stocks, debt, ETFs directly.





Economy/Business Current Affairs

Economy/Business Current Affairs of July 2026

- **India's Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** grew **5.1%** in **May 2026**, marking its highest growth in five months. **Manufacturing** expanded **5.5%**, while **electricity and gas supply** rose **9.9%** due to summer demand and renewable energy generation. **Capital goods** output surged **12.9%**, indicating stronger investment, whereas **mining** contracted. The release introduced the **2022–23 base year** and replaced the **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** with the **Output Producer Price Index (PPI)** for better measurement of industrial output. The figures reflect strengthening industrial activity and economic recovery.
- According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), **India's external debt** increased to **\$762.8 billion** at the end of **FY26**, rising by **\$26.3 billion** from the previous year. The **external debt-to-GDP ratio** rose from **19.8%** to **20.8%**. Appreciation of the **US dollar** reduced the reported increase by **\$24.6 billion**. The debt remains diversified, with the **US dollar** accounting for the largest share, followed by the **Indian rupee**, **Japanese yen**, and **euro**. Strong foreign exchange reserves continue supporting overall external sector stability.
- According to the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, **India's external debt** rose to **\$762.8 billion** by the end of **FY26**, increasing by **\$26.3 billion** over the previous year, with the **debt-to-GDP ratio** rising to **20.8%**. Appreciation of the **US dollar** reduced the reported increase by **\$24.6 billion**, while the debt composition remained diversified across the **US dollar**, **Indian rupee**, **Japanese yen**, and **euro**. Despite faster growth in short-term borrowings, India's strong foreign exchange reserves continue to maintain overall external sector resilience and stability.
- **OpenAI** appointed **Prabhjeet Singh**, former **Uber India and South Asia President**, as its **Managing Director for India**, effective **September 2026**. Reporting to **Kiran Mani**, he will oversee **strategy**, **operations**, **partnerships**, and **expansion** across India's rapidly growing **artificial intelligence ecosystem**. Singh's experience in scaling technology businesses and leading Uber's growth makes him well suited for the role. His appointment reflects India's strategic importance because of its large **digital user base**, thriving **startup ecosystem**, increasing **enterprise AI adoption**, and strong government focus on **artificial intelligence**, strengthening OpenAI's long-term expansion plans in the country.
- According to the **National Statistics Office (NSO)**, **India's unemployment rate** declined to **3.1%** in **2025**, the lowest in **eight years**, reflecting stronger job creation, economic recovery, and increased labour force participation. The

improvement supports **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** targeting productive employment by **2030**. Although **urban female unemployment** declined from **10.8%** in **2017–18** to **6.4%** in **2025**, states like **Bihar**, **Himachal Pradesh**, and **Rajasthan** continue reporting higher joblessness. **Gujarat** demonstrated notable gender parity, while **Kerala** and **Maharashtra** also recorded significant improvements.

- India's **fiscal deficit** widened to **₹1.62 lakh crore** during **April–May FY2026–27**, reaching **9.6%** of the annual **Budget Estimate** of **₹16.96 lakh crore**, according to the **Controller General of Accounts (CGA)**. Total receipts declined to **₹7.19 lakh crore**, mainly due to weaker tax collections and a nearly **20%** fall in **excise duty** after fuel tax cuts. Government expenditure increased **18%** to **₹8.81 lakh crore**, with capital expenditure rising over **13%**. A record **RBI dividend** of **₹2.87 lakh crore** partially offset the deficit.
- India's **gross GST collections** reached **₹1,94,812 crore** in **June 2026**, registering a **13.9%** annual increase, while **net GST collections** after refunds stood at **₹1,62,377 crore**, up **11.2%**. **Import-related GST** surged **34.6%** to **₹60,038 crore**, becoming the primary growth driver, while domestic collections increased **6.5%**. Refunds rose **29.1%** to **₹32,436 crore**. **Maharashtra** recorded the highest collections, followed by **Karnataka** and **Gujarat**, whereas **Sikkim**, **Puducherry**, **Himachal Pradesh**, **Uttarakhand**, and **Tamil Nadu** reported declining GST revenues.
- **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** completed **nine years** on **1 July 2026**, marking a milestone in India's "**One Nation, One Tax**" reform launched in **2017**. GST replaced multiple indirect taxes, established a unified national market, reduced cascading taxation, and improved compliance through digital systems. **GST 2.0** introduced simplified **5%**, **18%**, and **40%** tax slabs for luxury and sin goods, along with easier registration, refunds, and return filing. Registered taxpayers increased from **66.5 lakh** to **1.65 crore**, reflecting greater formalization, transparency, and stronger revenue collection.
- The **Ministry of Steel** granted **Miniratna Category-I** status to **MECON Limited**, recognizing its consistent profitability and operational excellence. Established in **1959** and headquartered in **Ranchi, Jharkhand**, MECON is a **Schedule 'A' Central Public Sector Enterprise** providing engineering, consultancy, project management, and contracting services. The company achieved a **net worth of ₹535.42 crore** as of **31 March 2026** after recording profits for **three consecutive financial years**. The new status provides greater financial autonomy, enabling faster decision-making, technology modernization, business expansion, and enhanced competitiveness across key infrastructure sectors.





- **Microsoft and Lightstorm** partnered to develop the **I-2SEA (India–2–Southeast Asia)** undersea cable, a **3,600-km** submarine fibre-optic network connecting **India, Malaysia, and Singapore**. The consortium includes **Tata Communications, Singtel, ASEAN Cableship, and NEC Corporation**, with a landing station at **Machilipatnam, Andhra Pradesh**. Expected to become operational by **Q4 2029**, the cable will strengthen AI infrastructure, cloud computing, hyperscale data centres, and high-capacity digital connectivity. Carrying part of the **95% of global internet traffic** transmitted through submarine cables, it significantly enhances regional digital resilience.
- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** will launch the **Index of Services Production (ISP)** with **2024–25** as the base year, providing India's first monthly indicator for measuring the **formal services sector**, which contributes nearly **53% of Gross Value Added (GVA)**. Using the **Laspeyres Volume Index** methodology, the index will complement the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** and support timely policy decisions. Compiled using **GST data**, administrative records, and sectoral statistics, the ISP will significantly strengthen India's economic monitoring framework.
- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** revised India's **FY2026–27 GDP growth forecast** to **6.4%**, slightly lower than its earlier estimate, while raising the **FY2027–28** forecast to **6.7%**. The revision reflects higher **global energy prices**, geopolitical tensions, and increased import costs. Despite these challenges, India remains the **fastest-growing major economy**, supported by strong **domestic demand** and a resilient **services sector**. The IMF also lowered its **global growth forecast** to **3.0%**, citing elevated commodity and energy prices.
- The **World Bank** approved **\$890 million** for **PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana**, including an **\$820 million IBRD loan**, **\$60 million Clean Technology Fund loan**, and **\$10 million grant**. The programme targets rooftop solar installations in **one crore households**, mobilizing **\$4.2 billion** in private investment and creating **1.7 million jobs**. It also strengthens **DISCOMs**, financial institutions, and vendors for large-scale implementation. The initiative supports India's **net-zero 2070** target, renewable energy expansion, energy security, and affordable electricity through residential solar power adoption.
- India extended the **anti-dumping duty** on **seamless steel tubes and pipes** imported from **China** until **27 January 2027**. The decision followed a **sunset review** by the **Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR)**, which concluded that removing the duty could harm domestic manufacturers. Applicable to products under **Customs Tariff Heading 7304**, the measure protects the Indian steel industry from **unfairly priced imports** and supports fair competition.
- **Indian Potash Limited (IPL)** and **Jain Irrigation Systems Limited** signed an MoU to promote **drip irrigation** for **sugarcane cultivation** in **Gujarat**. The partnership covers **field surveys, system design, installation, farmer training, and fertigation support**. Farmers will receive assistance for adopting **Micro Irrigation Systems**, including access to **credit and government grants**. The initiative aims to improve **water-use efficiency**, increase **crop productivity**, promote **sustainable agriculture**, and strengthen India's **biofuel feedstock** ecosystem.
- **Jio Platforms Ltd.** appointed **Pankaj Pawar** as its new **Chief Executive Officer**, replacing **Kiran Thomas**, ahead of its proposed **IPO**. Pawar, a Reliance veteran since **2000** and Managing Director of **Reliance Jio Infocomm**, brings over **30 years** of telecom experience. The leadership change was disclosed in the **Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP)** filed with **SEBI**. The company plans to raise nearly **USD 4 billion (₹37,700 crore)**, potentially making it **India's largest IPO**.
- India's **merchandise trade deficit** widened to **\$30.43 billion** in **June 2026**, rising from **\$28.21 billion** in May and **\$19.10 billion** a year earlier. Merchandise exports declined to **\$40.41 billion**, while imports stood at **\$70.84 billion**. The widening deficit was driven by high imports of **crude oil, machinery, electronics**, and precious metals alongside slower export growth. The trend may increase pressure on the **current account deficit, rupee stability**, and inflation, highlighting the need to strengthen exports and manufacturing competitiveness.
- India's **Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation** increased to **9.87%** in **June 2026** from **9.68%** in May due to rising prices of **food products, basic metals, chemicals**, and mineral oils. **Retail inflation** also rose to **4.38%**, while the **Consumer Food Price Index** reached **5.32%**. Although **fuel inflation** moderated due to lower crude oil prices, manufacturing inflation remained elevated. Persistent food and commodity price pressures continue to pose inflation risks for the Indian economy.
- **EaseMyTrip** signed an **MoU** with the **Jharkhand Tourism Department** to promote the state's **religious, cultural, eco-tourism**, and tribal heritage. The partnership will market destinations including **Baidyanath Dham, waterfalls, forests, wildlife parks**, and heritage sites through digital campaigns and the **EasyDarshan** platform. The initiative aims to increase tourist arrivals, generate employment, support local businesses, and strengthen Jharkhand's tourism economy by showcasing authentic travel experiences and improving digital visibility across India.





- **MRF Ltd.** was named **India's Most Valuable and Strongest Tyre Brand** in the **Brand Finance India 100 – 2026** report. It also ranked as the **third strongest tyre brand globally** with a **Brand Strength Index (BSI) score of 87.7/100**. The recognition reflects MRF's strong financial performance, market leadership, customer trust, and brand value. Established in **1946**, MRF manufactures tyres for automobiles, aircraft, agricultural machinery, and commercial vehicles, reinforcing its leadership in India's automotive sector.
- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** launched India's first **Index of Services Production (ISP)** with **2024–25** as the base year. Covering **19 formal service sectors**, the index will provide monthly data for policymaking and economic monitoring. The first report showed **14 sectors** recording double-digit growth in **April 2026**, led by **Accommodation & Food Services (37.2%)**, **Retail (30.8%)**, and **Administrative Services (28.7%)**. The index uses **GST data, administrative records**, and surveys, with monthly releases scheduled on the **29th**.
- India's **net direct tax collections** increased by **16.4%** to **₹6.51 lakh crore** as of **13 July 2026**, according to the **Income Tax Department**. **Corporate tax** collections reached **₹2.40 lakh crore**, while **non-corporate taxes** rose to **₹3.85 lakh crore**. **Gross direct tax collections** stood at **₹7.74 lakh crore**, with refunds increasing to **₹1.22 lakh crore**. Rising tax compliance, stronger corporate earnings, and higher market activity contributed to the increase, strengthening India's fiscal position.
- The Government revised the **Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED)** on petroleum product exports with effect from **16 July 2026**. Export duty on diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF) was increased, while petrol duty was reduced. The changes aim to ensure adequate domestic fuel availability, discourage excessive exports during periods of high crude oil prices, and strengthen India's energy security amid global geopolitical uncertainties. Domestic excise duties on petrol and diesel remain unchanged.
- A **FICCI-Deloitte** report projects India's **Food Processing Industry** to reach **USD 600 billion by 2030**. With only **12–13%** of agricultural produce currently processed, the sector offers major opportunities for **value addition**, reducing post-harvest losses, and increasing farmer incomes. Growth will be supported by **AI, smart logistics, precision agriculture**, exports, urbanization, and government initiatives, strengthening India's global competitiveness and food processing ecosystem.
- India's **Index of Core Industries (ICI)** recorded **5% year-on-year growth** in **June 2026**, according to the **Office of Economic Adviser (OEA), DPIIT**. The government introduced a revised **2022–23 base year** and added **Iron Ore** as the **ninth core industry**. **Iron Ore** recorded the highest growth at **43.9%**, followed by **Electricity** and **Cement** at **9.8%** each, while **Steel** grew **4.6%**. The April–June 2026 period registered **3.6% growth**, indicating stronger industrial momentum.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** attracted **\$20.72 billion** in foreign capital between **8 June and 17 July 2026** through temporary forex measures aimed at strengthening the **balance of payments**, supporting the **rupee**, and increasing **foreign exchange reserves**. The inflows comprised **\$17.41 billion** in **FCNR deposits**, **\$1.34 billion** through **External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs)**, and **\$1.97 billion** via **Overseas Foreign Currency Borrowings (OFCBs)**. India's forex reserves stood at **\$675.1 billion** as of **10 July 2026**.
- India's **fertiliser exports** increased by nearly **52%** between **FY24 and FY26**, rising from **0.31 million tonnes** to **0.47 million tonnes**, driven mainly by exports of **potassium sulphate, superphosphates, organic fertilisers, and specialised products**. **Brazil** emerged as the largest importer during this period. Despite export growth, India continues to rely heavily on imports of **urea, DAP, and MOP**, with total imports reaching **28.17 million tonnes** in FY26, highlighting the need to reduce import dependence for long-term agricultural security.
- **Infosys** has appointed **Ashiss Dash** as its next **Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD)**, effective **1 April 2027**, after **Salil Parekh's** second term concludes. Dash, who joined Infosys in **1995**, becomes the company's **first internally promoted CEO** and brings nearly **three decades of experience** across global business operations. His appointment comes as the IT industry undergoes rapid transformation driven by **artificial intelligence, automation, and digital innovation**. The leadership transition is expected to support Infosys' continued growth, technological advancement, and long-term competitiveness.
- **India** is emerging as a **fast-growing consumer market** for **European investors**, driven by its **rapid economic growth, expanding middle class, skilled workforce, and business-friendly reforms**. According to **Euractiv**, sectors such as **technology, renewable energy, healthcare, manufacturing, automobiles, and financial services** present significant investment opportunities. Compared with challenges faced in **China**, India offers stronger long-term growth potential through infrastructure expansion, digital transformation, and policy reforms. The trend is expected to strengthen **India-Europe trade, investment, technology partnerships**, and India's position as a leading global investment destination.





- India successfully exported 12.5 tonnes of Dashehari and Langra mangoes from Uttar Pradesh to Dubai through the sea route, marking a breakthrough in agricultural exports. Developed by ICAR-CISH and APEDA, the export used METWASH treatment, advanced post-harvest technology, and uninterrupted cold-chain logistics, ensuring nearly 90% marketable quality after a 25-day journey. The sea-based protocol reduces dependence on expensive air freight and increased farmers' earnings by ₹15–20 per kg, creating new opportunities for expanding Indian mango exports to international markets.
- India's foreign exchange reserves increased by \$1.08 billion to \$676.24 billion for the week ending 17 July 2026, according to the RBI. The rise was driven mainly by higher Foreign Currency Assets (FCAs), although gold reserves declined. Strong reserves enhance rupee stability, support imports, strengthen investor confidence, and help India withstand global financial uncertainties.
- India will launch its first benchmark-based Natural Gas Futures Contract on the NSE from 27 July 2026 after SEBI approval. Traded under NATGASIND, the contract is linked to the IGX Dahej Hub benchmark and enables producers, traders, and consumers to hedge against gas price volatility. The initiative improves price discovery, transparency, risk management, and supports India's transition towards a gas-based economy.
- India has emerged as one of Red Hat's top five global growth markets, driven by rapid adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI), open-source software, cloud computing, and digital transformation. According to Navtej Singh Bal, Vice President and General Manager for India and South Asia, the country has become a major business, engineering, and innovation hub for Red Hat and IBM. He emphasized that AI will enhance productivity rather than replace jobs, increasing demand for skills in AI, cybersecurity, data science, and cloud technologies, while highlighting challenges such as infrastructure costs, AI deployment, and talent shortages.
- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has decided to replace the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) with the Output Producer Price Index (PPI) as the GDP deflator for quarterly and annual GDP estimates, wherever applicable. Released by DPIIT in June 2026, the PPI better reflects producer prices and aligns India with international statistical standards. The reform introduces the Double Deflation Method, updates the GDP base year from 2011–12 to 2022–23, and will be implemented from Q1 FY 2026–27, improving real GDP, GVA estimation, and economic policymaking.
- India's Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections reached ₹2.11 lakh crore in July 2026, registering a 15.4% year-on-year growth due to improved tax compliance, strong economic activity, and better business performance.

Domestic GST collections increased by 10.1% to ₹1.45 lakh crore, while GST from imports grew by 28.8% to ₹66,511 crore. After refunds of ₹29,968 crore, net GST revenue stood at ₹1.81 lakh crore, rising 15.8% annually. During April–July FY 2026–27, total GST collections reached ₹8.43 lakh crore. Haryana recorded the highest growth at 25%, followed by Gujarat and Telangana at 19%. The strong revenue performance reflects healthy consumption, increased imports, efficient tax administration, and improved government fiscal capacity.

- India's fiscal deficit reached ₹3.1 trillion during the April–June quarter of FY 2026–27, accounting for 18.2% of the government's annual target of ₹16.96 trillion. The increase was mainly due to higher government spending on capital expenditure and infrastructure projects. Compared with ₹2.8 trillion during the same period last year, the deficit remained within the planned fiscal framework. Government finances received support from stronger revenue collections, with net tax receipts increasing to ₹6.4 trillion from ₹5.4 trillion, while non-tax revenue rose to ₹3.8 trillion. Total government expenditure reached ₹13.6 trillion during the quarter. The data indicates continued focus on investment-led growth while maintaining the FY27 fiscal deficit target of 4.3% of GDP.
- India's foreign exchange reserves increased by \$6.12 billion to reach \$682.35 billion during the week ending 24 July 2026, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The rise was mainly supported by growth in Foreign Currency Assets (FCAs) and higher gold reserves. FCAs increased by \$4.87 billion to \$555.93 billion, while gold reserves rose by \$1.31 billion. However, Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) declined by \$53 million to \$18.62 billion, and India's IMF reserve position fell by \$11 million to \$4.75 billion. Strong forex reserves help maintain rupee stability, support import payments, manage external obligations, and protect the economy from global financial uncertainties.

Economy/Business Current Affairs of June 2026

India's Economy Grows 7.8% in Q4 FY26; FY26 Growth Revised to 7.7%

India's economy recorded a robust 7.8% GDP growth during the fourth quarter (January–March) of FY2025–26, driven by strong performance in manufacturing, construction, financial services, and agriculture. With this, the country's overall GDP growth for FY2025–26 was revised upward to 7.7%, making India one of the fastest-growing major economies in the world. Higher government capital expenditure, resilient domestic consumption, increasing exports of services, and improved investment activity contributed significantly to economic expansion. The strong growth reinforces India's position as a key global growth engine despite geopolitical uncertainties and global economic slowdown.





World Bank Raises India's GDP Growth Forecast

The **World Bank** revised India's GDP growth forecast upward to **6.6% for FY2026–27** and **7.2% for FY2027–28**, citing strong domestic demand, rising public and private investments, and sustained infrastructure development. The report highlighted India's resilience despite global economic challenges and emphasized that continued structural reforms, digital transformation, and manufacturing expansion will support long-term economic growth. The World Bank also noted that India remains one of the fastest-growing large economies globally.

Fitch Ratings Revises India's Growth Outlook

Global rating agency **Fitch Ratings** revised India's GDP growth forecast for FY2026–27, citing geopolitical tensions, higher crude oil prices, and global trade uncertainties. However, Fitch maintained that India's economy remains relatively resilient due to strong domestic demand, improving banking sector health, government capital expenditure, and rising investments. The agency also highlighted India's stable macroeconomic fundamentals and healthy fiscal management despite external challenges.

S&P Global Projects Strong Economic Growth

S&P Global Ratings projected India's GDP to grow at **6.6% in FY2026–27**, supported by strong domestic consumption, improving investment climate, healthy banking sector performance, and government-led infrastructure spending. The agency stated that India's relatively lower dependence on exports compared to several Asian economies provides protection against global economic volatility. Continued reforms, digitalization, and rising manufacturing activity are expected to sustain long-term growth.

GST Collections Reach ₹1.94 Lakh Crore

India's **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** collections reached **₹1.94 lakh crore in May 2026**, reflecting improved tax compliance, rising domestic consumption, and higher economic activity. Growth in GST revenues was supported by increased imports, expansion in manufacturing and services, and stronger digital tax administration. Higher collections improve the government's fiscal position and provide greater resources for infrastructure development and welfare programmes.

Consumer Price Inflation Rises to 3.93%

India's **Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation** increased to **3.93%** in May 2026, mainly due to higher food prices, particularly vegetables and pulses, along with increased fuel costs. Although inflation remained within the Reserve Bank of India's target range, policymakers continue to closely monitor food inflation and global crude oil prices. Stable inflation supports consumer purchasing power while allowing the RBI greater flexibility in monetary policy decisions.

Government Introduces New Wholesale Price Index Series

The Government introduced a revised **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** with **2022–23** as the new base year, replacing the previous **2011–12** series. The updated index expands the commodity basket from **697 to 957 items** and includes emerging sectors such as renewable energy, electric vehicles, and advanced manufacturing. The revision provides a more accurate measure of wholesale inflation and reflects structural changes in India's economy.

India's Net Direct Tax Collections Rise 14.64%

India's **net direct tax collections** increased by **14.64%** during the first quarter of FY2026–27, reaching **₹5.21 lakh crore**. Growth was driven by higher corporate tax collections, advance tax payments, and improved compliance among taxpayers. The increase reflects stronger corporate profitability, expanding formalization of the economy, and improved efficiency of tax administration through digital initiatives.

India Records Current Account Surplus

India recorded a **Current Account Surplus of \$7.1 billion (0.7% of GDP)** during the fourth quarter of FY2025–26. The surplus was primarily driven by record services exports, higher software earnings, and strong inward remittances from overseas Indians. Despite a significant merchandise trade deficit, India's external sector remained resilient due to healthy growth in service exports and rising foreign exchange inflows.

India's Foreign Exchange Reserves Rise to \$682.32 Billion

India's foreign exchange reserves increased to **\$682.32 billion**, providing a strong buffer against global financial volatility and external economic shocks. The increase was mainly driven by higher foreign currency assets despite fluctuations in gold reserves. Large forex reserves strengthen the Indian Rupee, improve investor confidence, enhance import financing capacity, and provide stability during periods of global uncertainty.

India Becomes World's Fifth Most Digitalised Economy

According to the **SIDE 2026 Report**, India became the **fifth most digitalised economy** globally, improving from eighth position in the previous year. The country's rapid expansion in digital public infrastructure, fintech, artificial intelligence, broadband connectivity, and digital governance contributed to the improved ranking. India also secured fourth place globally in AI readiness, highlighting its growing leadership in digital innovation.

India Leads Global Digital Wallet Downloads

India ranked **first globally** in digital wallet downloads during 2025, recording more than **440 million downloads**. The growth was driven by widespread adoption of UPI-enabled applications such as PhonePe, Google Pay, Paytm, and BHIM. The achievement reflects increasing digital payment adoption, financial inclusion, and India's emergence as a global leader in digital financial services.





Index of Industrial Production Grows 4.9%

India's **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** registered a **4.9% growth** in April 2026, led by strong manufacturing output, mining activity, and electricity generation. The Government also introduced a revised IIP series with **2022–23** as the base year, incorporating new industries such as renewable energy equipment, electric vehicles, medical devices, and advanced electronics. The revised index provides a more comprehensive picture of India's evolving industrial economy.

Government Releases District Domestic Product Guidelines

The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** released national guidelines for estimating **District Domestic Product (DDP)** using **2022–23** as the base year. The framework standardizes the calculation of Gross District Domestic Product (GDDP), Net District Domestic Product (NDDP), and Per Capita Income across all districts. The initiative will strengthen district-level planning, improve policy formulation, and support balanced regional economic development.

India Generates US\$110 Billion in Green Revenues

According to the **London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG)**, India generated approximately **US\$110 billion** in green revenues during 2025, making it one of the world's leading green economies. Renewable energy, electric mobility, clean technology, sustainable manufacturing, and waste management emerged as major contributors. The report reflects India's growing commitment to climate action, clean energy transition, and sustainable economic development.

India's Trade Pattern Shifts Towards Asia and Africa

India's export strategy increasingly shifted towards **Asia, Africa, and emerging markets**, reducing dependence on traditional markets such as Europe and North America. Rising exports of engineering goods, pharmaceuticals, petroleum products, electronics, and agricultural commodities supported this diversification. The changing trade pattern is expected to improve export resilience, strengthen supply chains, and expand India's presence in high-growth global markets.

NITI Aayog Releases 8th Trade Watch Quarterly

NITI Aayog released the **8th edition of Trade Watch Quarterly**, highlighting key trends in India's exports, imports, trade agreements, and global competitiveness. The report emphasized strengthening manufacturing exports, improving logistics infrastructure, expanding Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), and promoting high-value sectors such as electronics, pharmaceuticals, renewable energy equipment, and food processing. It also outlined strategies to help India achieve its long-term export and economic growth targets.

CAG Flags Rising Fiscal Deficit in States

The **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)** reported that **18 states** exceeded the recommended fiscal deficit limit of **3% of**

Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) during FY2024–25. Rising expenditure on salaries, pensions, subsidies, and interest payments contributed to higher borrowing requirements. The report stressed the importance of fiscal discipline, efficient expenditure management, and enhanced revenue mobilization to ensure sustainable public finances and long-term economic stability.

BUSINESS NEWS

Project Shikhar Launched to Help MSMEs Raise Capital

Meesho, in collaboration with the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), launched **Project Shikhar** to help Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and digital-first businesses access capital markets. The initiative provides guidance on financial reporting, corporate governance, regulatory compliance, and listing procedures for the **BSE SME Platform**. By preparing eligible businesses for public listing, Project Shikhar aims to improve access to long-term capital, enhance transparency, strengthen investor confidence, and accelerate the growth of India's startup and MSME ecosystem.

India Records Highest-Ever Seafood Exports

India achieved its **highest-ever seafood exports** during FY2025–26 by exporting **19.72 lakh metric tonnes** of marine products valued at **₹73,890 crore (around US\$8.78 billion)**. Frozen shrimp remained the largest export commodity, contributing the highest share of export earnings, while the **United States** emerged as the largest export destination by value and **China** by quantity. The record performance reflects India's growing competitiveness in global seafood markets and supports employment, foreign exchange earnings, and the livelihoods of millions associated with the fisheries sector.

India Sets Target of \$30 Billion Seafood Exports by 2031

The Government of India has set an ambitious target of increasing seafood exports to **US\$30 billion by 2031**. To achieve this objective, the government plans to expand sustainable aquaculture, modernize seafood processing infrastructure, promote value-added marine products, improve quality certification, and strengthen cold-chain logistics. The initiative is expected to enhance India's global market share, boost exports, increase fishermen's incomes, and generate additional employment across the fisheries value chain.

Adani Ports Wins Argentina LNG Marine Services Contract

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) secured a long-term marine services contract for a major **Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)** project in Argentina. Under the agreement, the company will provide comprehensive port management, pilotage, towage, and marine logistics services for the LNG export terminal. The contract marks Adani Ports' continued global expansion and strengthens India's presence in international port infrastructure and maritime logistics services.





REC Limited to Merge with Power Finance Corporation

The Government approved the merger of **REC Limited** with **Power Finance Corporation (PFC)** to create one of India's largest infrastructure financing institutions. The merger aims to improve operational efficiency, reduce duplication, enhance lending capacity, and strengthen financing support for power generation, renewable energy, transmission, distribution, and other infrastructure projects. The combined entity will play a significant role in supporting India's clean energy transition and infrastructure development.

Sarvam AI Becomes Unicorn

Bengaluru-based artificial intelligence startup **Sarvam AI** entered the Unicorn Club after raising **US\$234 million** in a Series-B funding round, taking its valuation to around **US\$1.5 billion**. Founded in **2023**, the company focuses on building sovereign AI models tailored to Indian languages and enterprise applications. The fresh investment will be used to develop advanced AI infrastructure, large language models, and enterprise AI solutions, strengthening India's artificial intelligence ecosystem and technological innovation.

Asian Development Bank to Invest Nearly \$1 Billion in India's Private Sector

The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** announced plans to invest nearly **US\$1 billion** in India's private sector during 2026. The investment will support renewable energy, transport, healthcare, financial services, digital infrastructure, and climate-resilient projects. The funding aims to mobilize additional private investment, promote sustainable economic growth, create employment opportunities, and accelerate India's infrastructure development while supporting its net-zero and climate commitments.

Chennai Petroleum Corporation Granted Navratna Status

The Government of India granted **Navratna** status to **Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL)**, making it one of the country's premier Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs). The upgraded status provides CPCL with greater operational and financial autonomy, enabling it to undertake larger investments, establish joint ventures, expand overseas operations, and make strategic business decisions without prior government approval. The move is expected to strengthen India's petroleum refining sector and improve the company's competitiveness.

India Becomes World's Largest Ship Recycling Nation

India became the **world's largest ship recycling nation**, achieving the target under **Maritime India Vision 2030** five years ahead of schedule. The achievement is largely driven by the **Alang Ship Recycling Yard** in Gujarat, one of the world's largest ship-breaking facilities. Adoption of environmentally sustainable recycling practices, improved worker safety standards, and compliance with international regulations have significantly strengthened India's position in the global maritime recycling industry while promoting the circular economy.

India Generates US\$110 Billion in Green Revenues

According to the **London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG)**, India generated nearly **US\$110 billion** in green revenues during 2025, making it one of the leading contributors to the global green economy. Renewable energy, electric mobility, clean technology, sustainable manufacturing, energy-efficient buildings, and waste management emerged as the primary drivers of green revenue generation. The report highlights India's growing commitment to sustainable development, climate action, and clean energy transition.

India's Trade Pattern Shifts Towards Asia and Africa

India's merchandise exports are increasingly shifting towards **Asia, Africa, and other emerging markets**, reducing dependence on traditional export destinations such as Europe and North America. Rising exports of engineering goods, pharmaceuticals, electronics, petroleum products, chemicals, and agricultural commodities have supported this diversification. The evolving trade strategy is expected to improve export resilience, strengthen regional trade partnerships, and enhance India's competitiveness in global markets.

Kunal Shah Appointed Global Head of WhatsApp at Meta

Meta appointed **Kunal Shah** as the **Global Head of WhatsApp**, strengthening the company's leadership in one of its fastest-growing communication platforms. In his new role, he will oversee product strategy, business expansion, user engagement, and innovation across global markets. His appointment reflects Meta's focus on expanding WhatsApp's ecosystem, including business messaging, digital payments, and AI-powered communication services.

India's Corporate Sector Shows Strong Growth Momentum

India's corporate sector continued to witness robust growth during FY2025–26, supported by rising domestic demand, higher private investments, improved corporate profitability, and increasing adoption of digital technologies. Growth in manufacturing, infrastructure, renewable energy, financial services, and technology sectors has strengthened business confidence and attracted both domestic and foreign investments. Government initiatives such as **Make in India**, **Digital India**, **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme**, and **Ease of Doing Business** reforms continue to drive corporate expansion and enhance India's position as a global investment destination.

Economy/Business Current Affairs of May 2026

- **Sun Pharmaceutical Industries** has proposed a **\$11.75 billion acquisition** of **Organon & Co.**, marking one of India's **largest overseas deals**. The all-cash transaction, expected by **2027**, will expand Sun Pharma's presence across **150 countries**. Organon's portfolio of **70+ products** and focus on **women's health** and **biosimilars** will strengthen future growth. The combined entity may achieve **\$12.4 billion revenue**, placing it among the **top global pharma companies**. This strategic move boosts India's position in **global healthcare markets** and promotes **affordable medicines** through **biosimilars**.





- **Piyush Goyal** announced a **3-year waiver on Intellectual Property (IP) fees** during **World Intellectual Property Day** in **New Delhi**, aiming to promote **sports innovation**. The waiver covers **patents, trademarks, copyrights, and GI tags**, encouraging **startups, athletes, and students** to protect their ideas. The initiative supports **"Innovate, Patent, Produce, Prosper"** and highlights products like **Kashmir willow bats**. Plans include **sports manufacturing clusters** and a **wearables hackathon** with **IIT Delhi**, boosting **global competitiveness** and strengthening India's **sports economy**.
- India's **industrial output (IIP)** growth slowed to **4.1% in March 2026**, the lowest in five months, as per the **National Statistical Office**. The decline was driven by weak **manufacturing (4.3%)** and **power sector (0.8%)** performance, while **mining** showed resilience with **5.5% growth**. The **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** reflects overall **economic activity**, and the slowdown signals **weaker demand** and sectoral challenges. Despite this, annual growth remained stable at **4.1%**, indicating **moderate but uneven industrial recovery** and highlighting the need for stronger momentum in key sectors.
- The **Employees Provident Fund Organisation** will launch the **E-PRAAPTI portal** to help users trace and reactivate **dormant PF accounts** without a **UAN**. Announced by **Mansukh Mandaviya**, the platform uses **Aadhaar-based authentication** for secure access and allows users to manage accounts independently. It enhances **transparency, digital governance, and user empowerment**, especially for individuals with multiple job changes. With rising **digital claim settlements** and faster processing, this initiative strengthens EPFO's modernization efforts, ensuring **efficient, accessible, and paperless services** for millions of subscribers.
- India's **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** collections hit a **record ₹2.42 lakh crore in April 2026**, registering an **8.7% year-on-year growth**—the highest ever monthly collection. The surge was largely driven by **strong import growth**, contributing over **₹57,000 crore (up 25.8%)**, and **year-end stock clearance** by businesses, which increased tax payments. Domestic GST remained steady at **₹1.85 lakh crore (4.3% growth)**. After refunds, net collections stood at **₹2.11 lakh crore**. However, **rising refunds (up 19.3%)**, especially due to the **inverted duty structure**, remain a key concern for policymakers despite strong revenue performance.
- India's **net direct tax collections** increased by **5.12%** to over **₹23.40 trillion in FY26**, according to data released by the **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)**. The growth reflects a resilient tax base supported by both **corporate tax** and **personal income tax** collections, despite falling short of the government's revised estimate of **₹24.21 trillion**. Corporate tax collections stood at around **₹10.99 lakh crore**, while **personal income tax**, including **Securities Transaction Tax (STT)**, contributed **₹12.41 trillion**, remaining the largest revenue source. Meanwhile, **gross direct tax collections** rose to **₹28.12 lakh crore**, and refunds declined to **₹4.71 trillion**.
- **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw** has reportedly identified her niece **Claire Mazumdar** as the future successor of **Biocon**, signaling a planned leadership transition at one of India's leading **biopharmaceutical companies**. Claire, currently the founder and CEO of **Bicara Therapeutics**, has extensive experience in global biotechnology and has previously worked with **Third Rock Ventures** and **Rheos Medicines**. The move reflects Biocon's focus on future-ready leadership amid rapid advancements in **biosimilars, biotechnology, and artificial intelligence**. Biocon has also announced leadership restructuring, with **Shreehas Tambe** becoming CEO of **Biocon Biologics** and **Siddharth Mittal** set to lead **Syngene International** from July 2026.
- **Kumar Mangalam Birla** has been appointed as the new **Non-Executive Chairman of Vodafone Idea Limited (Vi)**, effective from **May 5, 2026**. The appointment marks a major leadership transition as the telecom company focuses on strengthening its business operations and long-term revival strategy. Former Chairman **Ravinder Takkar** has stepped down from the role and will continue as the **Non-Executive Vice Chairman** of the company. Birla, Chairman of the **Aditya Birla Group**, has been closely associated with Vodafone Idea since its formation and is expected to boost investor confidence through his leadership.
- S&P Global has reduced India's **FY27 GDP growth forecast** from **7.1% to 6.6%** in the joint **"India Forward"** report with CRISIL, citing **global economic uncertainty, rising crude oil prices, rupee volatility, inflationary pressure, and the West Asia conflict**. The report warned that Brent crude surged to nearly **\$126 per barrel**, increasing risks to India's import bill and inflation outlook. Dharmakirti Joshi described rising oil prices and a weakening rupee as a **"double whammy"** for the economy, while the Reserve Bank of India projected FY27 inflation at **4.6%**.
- Rolls-Royce plc has announced a major expansion in India across **defence, civil aviation, and energy**, including fighter jet engines and nuclear power solutions, aligning with India's industrial and defence modernisation goals. In defence, the company plans to co-develop a **120 kN-class next-generation fighter engine** to support India's indigenous fifth-generation programme, the **Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)**, along with deep localisation and potential technology transfer. The expansion also focuses on strengthening Indian supply chains, boosting local manufacturing, and expanding support for the Army, Navy and Coast Guard with advanced propulsion systems, while exploring nuclear and industrial energy solutions.





- Moody's Ratings has lowered India's **GDP growth forecast for 2026 to 6%**, citing weak consumption, slower investments, declining industrial activity and rising energy costs. According to the **Moody's Global Macro Outlook May 2026 Update**, growth projections for both **2026 and 2027** were revised downward, indicating moderation after India's strong post-pandemic recovery. A major concern highlighted is India's heavy dependence on imported energy, with rising crude oil prices and global supply disruptions increasing risks related to inflation, government spending and industrial production. Moody's also warned that **geopolitical tensions**, global shipping risks and energy supply uncertainties could impact India's investment climate, corporate profits and overall economic growth momentum.
- India's **CPI-based retail inflation** rose slightly to **3.48% in April 2026**, up from **3.4% in March**, mainly driven by higher **food prices**, according to recent data trends. Despite the increase, inflation remains **below the Reserve Bank of India's 4% target**, though new risks are emerging from **global crude oil price rises**, **geopolitical tensions in West Asia**, and a **weaker Indian rupee**. Food inflation climbed to **4.20%**, with sharp volatility in vegetables—**tomato prices surged 35.28%**, while **potato and onion prices fell significantly**, showing uneven price pressures across essential goods. Economists warn that rising import costs and energy prices could keep inflationary pressure elevated in the coming months, even though current levels remain within the RBI's tolerance band of **2%–6%**.
- India has launched the **\$1.5 billion Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMI Pool)** to strengthen the country's shipping and trade ecosystem and reduce dependence on foreign insurers. The initiative, backed by a **\$1.4 billion sovereign guarantee**, aims to provide stable and continuous insurance coverage for vessels operating to and from India, including global maritime routes and high-risk regions. The pool offers comprehensive coverage such as **Hull & Machinery**, **cargo insurance**, **protection & indemnity (P&I)**, and **war risk insurance**, ensuring protection across all stages of international shipping. Approved by the **Union Cabinet in April 2026**, the BMI Pool is designed to lower insurance costs, improve risk management, and safeguard India's maritime trade during global disruptions and geopolitical uncertainties.
- India has raised the **import duty on gold and silver to 15%**, a move aimed at strengthening **foreign exchange reserves** and reducing pressure on the **Indian rupee** amid global economic uncertainty. The revised structure under the Ministry of Finance includes **10% Basic Customs Duty (BCD)** and **5% Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC)**, pushing the effective duty from 6% to 15% for gold and silver, and 15.4% for platinum. The decision comes as India faces rising import pressures from **crude oil costs**, **geopolitical tensions in West Asia**, and **global market volatility**, which are widening the current account deficit. Economists expect the higher duty to reduce gold demand by 10–15%, making jewellery and investment purchases more expensive while helping curb non-essential foreign exchange outflows.
- Uber has partnered with the **Adani Group** to build its **first data centre in India**, marking a major expansion of its **digital infrastructure** in one of its key global markets. The announcement followed a meeting between **Dara Khosrowshahi** and **Gautam Adani** in **Ahmedabad**. The facility will strengthen Uber's ability to **test, scale, and deploy technology** for global operations, leveraging India's strong **engineering talent**, **digital economy**, and growing **AI and cloud ecosystem**. Data centres support **real-time app services**, **AI systems**, and **payment infrastructure**. The move also aligns with Adani's push into **AI-ready, green-powered digital infrastructure** development.
- India's **Wholesale Price Index (Wholesale Price Index)** surged to **8.3% in April 2026**, its highest level in nearly **3.5 years**, mainly driven by a sharp rise in **fuel and energy prices** due to West Asia tensions and global crude oil disruptions. The **fuel & power segment** saw inflation jump to **24.71%**, with major spikes in **petrol (32.40%)**, **diesel (25.19%)**, and **LPG (10.92%)**, reflecting rising global crude costs and supply uncertainty. **Primary articles inflation** also rose to **9.17%**, while **manufactured products inflation** increased to **4.62%**, showing broad-based price pressures across the economy. Since WPI tracks producer-level costs, sustained high inflation may eventually pass through to consumers, raising retail prices and increasing pressure on India's overall inflation outlook.
- India's **gems and jewellery exports** fell by **9.07% in April 2026**, dropping to **\$2.23 billion (₹20,825 crore)**, mainly due to the **West Asia conflict**, which disrupted shipping routes, increased insurance costs, and weakened buyer confidence. **Gold jewellery exports** declined by **21.77%**, while **plain gold jewellery exports** plunged **47.06%**, reflecting weak global demand. **Cut and polished diamond exports** also dropped **19.65%**. However, **silver jewellery exports** surged by an impressive **444% to \$268.38 million**, emerging as the sector's strongest performer amid the broader slowdown.
- Google and Blackstone** have launched a **\$5 billion AI cloud venture** focused on **Tensor Processing Units (TPUs)** and large-scale artificial intelligence infrastructure, aiming to challenge **Nvidia's dominance** in AI computing. The project will provide **Compute-as-a-Service (CaaS)**, enabling businesses to rent powerful AI computing resources without building expensive infrastructure. The first phase includes nearly **500 megawatts of data centre capacity**, reflecting booming demand for AI chips and cloud systems. Google strengthens its AI hardware ecosystem, while Blackstone expands aggressively into future-focused digital infrastructure investments.





- **Jio Platforms** has appointed **Akash Ambani** as its **Managing Director** for a five-year term beginning **9 April 2026**, marking a major leadership transition ahead of the company's anticipated **IPO**. Associated with Jio since **2014**, Akash has played a central role in its telecom expansion and digital ecosystem growth, previously serving as **Chairman of Reliance Jio Infocomm**. The appointment signals strategic continuity and may strengthen investor confidence ahead of public listing. Jio remains one of India's largest digital businesses spanning **telecom, enterprise services, cloud computing, and technology platforms**.
- Domestic rating agency **ICRA** has reduced India's **FY27 GDP growth forecast** from **6.5% to 6.2%**, citing rising **crude oil prices** and global uncertainty. Oil prices nearing **\$95 per barrel** could increase **inflation, transport costs, and India's import bill**, affecting economic momentum. Despite the downgrade, India is still expected to grow around **7.5% in FY26**, though quarterly expansion may slow. Key downside risks include **West Asia tensions, rupee depreciation, weakening exports, and higher commodity prices**, which could pressure fiscal management and broader macroeconomic stability.
- The **United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)** has slightly lowered India's **2026 GDP growth forecast** from **6.6% to 6.4%**, citing **global economic uncertainty, geopolitical tensions, crude oil price risks, inflation, and tighter financial conditions**. Despite the revision, India remains among the **world's fastest-growing major economies**, supported by strong **domestic demand, infrastructure spending, and services exports**. The UN projects growth to recover to **6.6% in 2027**, suggesting the slowdown may be temporary rather than structural. External shocks, especially from **West Asia**, remain important downside risks.
- **Bharti Airtel** briefly became India's **second most valuable listed company**, surpassing **HDFC Bank** during intra-day trading with a market capitalisation of nearly **₹11.91 trillion**. Investor optimism was driven by **strong earnings visibility, telecom sector recovery, healthy cash flows, and solid performance from Airtel's Africa business**. Meanwhile, **HDFC Bank** faced pressure from **foreign investor selling, weaker sentiment, and sector rotation**, despite stable fundamentals. The development reflects changing investor preferences toward **growth-driven digital infrastructure businesses** over traditionally dominant financial sector stocks in the evolving Indian equity market.
- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** has proposed a major overhaul of the **Index of**

Industrial Production (IIP) to improve measurement of industrial growth. The reforms include changing the **base year from 2011–12 to 2022–23**, introducing a **chain-linked methodology**, and expanding the industrial basket from **407 to 463 item groups**. New sectors such as **gas supply, water supply, waste management, and renewable energy** will also be incorporated. The proposed changes aim to better reflect India's evolving industrial structure and provide more accurate economic data.

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has projected India's **real GDP growth** at **6.9% for FY27**, reaffirming confidence in the country's strong macroeconomic fundamentals despite global uncertainties. According to the RBI, factors such as robust domestic demand, increasing private investment, and sustained government infrastructure expenditure will continue to drive economic growth. However, the central bank cautioned that geopolitical tensions, particularly in **West Asia**, could lead to higher crude oil prices, inflationary pressures, and supply-chain disruptions. The RBI also projected **CPI inflation** at **4.6%**, maintaining India's position among the fastest-growing major economies.

Economy/Business Current Affairs of April 2026

- The World Bank projects India to lead **South Asia's growth** with **7.6% GDP expansion in FY26**, remaining the region's **economic driver** despite global challenges. Regional growth may slow to **6.3%** due to **rising energy prices, Middle East tensions, and market uncertainties**, but is expected to recover later. Risks include **inflation, energy dependence, and currency pressures**. While India's economy stays strong, the report emphasizes **structural reforms, job creation, and resilience** to sustain long-term **economic stability and growth**.
- The World Bank has raised India's **FY27 GDP growth forecast** to **6.6%** (up by **30 basis points**), citing strong **domestic demand** and **consumer spending**. However, growth is slightly lower than **7.6% in FY26** due to **global uncertainties, West Asia tensions, and rising energy prices**. Challenges include **inflation pressures, slower investments, and export risks**, while support comes from **tax reforms** and **retail demand**. Overall, India remains one of the **fastest-growing major economies** despite global headwinds.
- KreditBee has entered the **unicorn club** after raising **\$280 million**, reaching a valuation of **\$1.5 billion**. The funding, led by major global investors, will support **business expansion** and **technology upgrades**, including **Generative AI (GenAI)**. The company plans an upcoming **IPO** after regulatory approvals and restructuring. With strong growth—**₹30,000 crore loans disbursed** and **₹15,000 crore AUM**—KreditBee is expanding into **secured lending** and **digital payments**, strengthening its position in India's **fintech ecosystem**.





- The Reserve Bank of India has proposed easing **TReDS (Trade Receivable Discounting System)** onboarding for **MSMEs** by removing **due diligence requirements**, making registration **faster and simpler**. TReDS helps small businesses convert **unpaid invoices into immediate cash** through banks and NBFCs, improving **working capital**. The move aims to boost **MSME participation**, reduce **payment delays**, and enhance **ease of doing business**. While onboarding is simplified, safeguards like **invoice verification** ensure **transparency and security**, supporting smoother **business operations** across India.
- The Reserve Bank of India has proposed a **1-hour delay on UPI and bank transfers above ₹10,000** to tackle rising **digital payment fraud**, especially **Authorized Push Payment (APP) scams** where users are tricked into sending money. Under this **"lagged credit mechanism,"** users can **review, verify, or cancel transactions** within an hour, improving security. The move comes as high-value transactions account for a major share of fraud losses. Additional measures include **trusted person approval for large transfers**, a **credit cap system**, and a **kill switch** to block transactions. The aim is to balance **user safety with convenience** in digital payments.
- The Reserve Bank of India has launched '**Utkarsh 2029**', a **medium-term strategy (2026–2029)** aimed at making India's financial system more **efficient, inclusive, and future-ready**. The framework focuses on **digital finance expansion**, including **CBDC (digital rupee)**, and improving **financial inclusion** through initiatives like the **Unified Lending Interface (ULI)** for easier credit access. It also emphasizes **rupee internationalization**, **cross-border payments**, and adoption of **emerging technologies like AI and quantum computing**. Built on **six key pillars**, the strategy aims to strengthen **regulation, innovation, global integration, and customer-centric financial services** in India.
- The World Bank released **\$340 million** for Phase-I of Amaravati, with additional funds expected, supporting Andhra Pradesh's **capital city development**. Backed by the Asian Development Bank, the project follows a **result-based funding model (AIUDP)** ensuring **accountability and efficiency**. It focuses on **urban infrastructure, flood management, and job creation**, reflecting strong global support for India's **sustainable urban development and governance reforms**.
- India recorded a **30.2% surge in patent filings to 1,43,729 in FY 2025–26**, marking a historic high, as announced by Piyush Goyal. The growth reflects a strong push toward **innovation and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)**, with **69% domestic filings** signaling "Invented in India." Supported by policy reforms under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India is emerging as a **global innovation hub** with sustained growth in research and technology.
- India's **retail inflation** rose to **3.4% in March 2026** from 3.21% in February, as reported by the National Statistics Office. Measured via the **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**, the increase was driven mainly by **food inflation (3.87%)**, including rising prices of vegetables and commodities. Global factors like **West Asia tensions** also impacted supply chains. Despite the uptick, inflation remains within the Reserve Bank of India target range, indicating **moderate price stability** and manageable economic conditions.
- PPFAS Asset Management has received approval from Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority to manage funds under the National Pension System, marking its entry into India's **retirement investment sector**. The firm will launch pension schemes and manage long-term savings with a **disciplined investment approach**. With NPS gaining popularity due to **tax benefits and market-linked returns**, this move enhances **competition, transparency, and investor choice**, strengthening India's growing **pension ecosystem**.
- India's **unemployment rate** rose to **5.1% in March 2026**, a five-month high, as per the National Statistics Office and **PLFS data**. The increase was mainly driven by **urban unemployment (6.8%)**, while **rural unemployment** edged up to 4.3%. Both **male and female unemployment** saw a rise, indicating broader job market stress. Key indicators like **Labour Force Participation Rate (55.4%)** and **Worker Population Ratio (52.6%)** declined, reflecting reduced workforce participation and slower job creation across the economy.
- Tata Semiconductor Manufacturing has received approval for a **Special Economic Zone (SEZ)** in Dholera, backed by a **₹91,000 crore investment**. The project aims to establish India's **first chip fabrication unit**, boosting **domestic semiconductor production** and reducing import dependence. Approved by the Department of Commerce, the initiative will generate **jobs, strengthen electronics manufacturing**, and position India as a **global semiconductor hub** under its self-reliance strategy.
- ITC Limited became the first in India to achieve **Farm Sustainability Assessment (FSA) 3.0 certification** for **wheat and paddy**, awarded by the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative Platform. The milestone highlights **sustainable farming practices, traceable sourcing, and farmer empowerment**, covering thousands of farmers across multiple states. The initiative improves **crop productivity, income, and environmental sustainability**, strengthening India's position in **global agri-markets** and promoting responsible agriculture aligned with international standards.
- India is planning a **long-term Cocoa Mission** to achieve **self-sufficiency in cocoa production by 2040**, reducing heavy imports worth over **\$866 million annually**. The roadmap, developed by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry with Grant Thornton Bharat, focuses on boosting **domestic production, farmer incomes, and agri-economy growth**. It proposes a **National Mission on Cocoa**, R&D support, and digital traceability. With rising demand from the chocolate industry, the plan aims to make India a **self-reliant and globally competitive cocoa producer**.





- Life Insurance Corporation of India launched two mobile apps—**MyLIC** for customers and **Super Sales Saathi** for agents—on **April 15, 2026**, boosting **digital insurance services**. The apps enable **policy management, premium payments, e-KYC, and paperless services**, while empowering agents with **AI-driven tools and performance tracking**. Built on the DIVE platform, this initiative enhances **efficiency, accessibility, and customer experience**, reflecting India's push toward **technology-driven and inclusive financial services**.
- Bank of Baroda partnered with Reliance Jio to launch "**bob World Lite**" on **JioPhone devices**, enabling **feature phone users** to access mobile banking. The app offers **UPI payments, money transfers, bill payments, and recharges** with a **simple interface and low data usage**. Supporting the vision of the Reserve Bank of India, this initiative promotes **financial inclusion**, reduces reliance on physical branches, and bridges the **digital divide** in India's banking ecosystem.
- Gautam Adani has overtaken Mukesh Ambani to become **Asia's richest person**, with a net worth of **\$92.6 billion**, surpassing Ambani's **\$90.8 billion**. This rise is driven by strong growth in **Adani Group companies**, especially in **infrastructure, ports, and renewable energy** sectors. While Ambani's wealth is linked to Reliance Industries, Adani's rapid expansion has reshaped billionaire rankings. According to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, he now ranks among the **top global billionaires**, reflecting India's growing focus on **infrastructure development and energy transition**.
- BSE Index Services launched the **BSE Housing Finance Index** on **April 20, 2026**, to track the performance of **housing finance companies**. Derived from the **BSE 1000 Index**, it serves as a **sector-specific benchmark** for India's growing **home loan market**. The index will be **rebalanced twice yearly** and supports **ETFs, mutual funds, and portfolio strategies**. It helps investors build **targeted investment portfolios** in the housing sector. With rising **urbanization, middle-class demand, and affordable housing initiatives**, the index enhances **market transparency, investor participation, and sector-focused financial growth**.
- India's seafood exports reached a record **₹72,325.82 crore** in **FY 2025–26**, with volumes hitting **19.32 lakh tonnes**, according to Marine Products Export Development Authority. **Frozen shrimp** remained the key driver, contributing over **two-thirds of export value**. Despite a decline in exports to the United States due to tariffs, India expanded into markets like China, European Union, and Southeast Asia, showing strong growth. This diversification highlights India's **resilience, global demand strength, and strategic market expansion**, reinforcing its position as a **leading global seafood exporter**.
- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific projects India's **GDP growth at 6.4% in 2026 and 6.6% in 2027**, reinforcing its role as a key **Asia-Pacific growth engine**. Growth is driven by **strong domestic demand, services expansion, and policy support**. Despite challenges like reduced exports to the United States, India remains resilient with **stable inflation and rising green investments**. Initiatives like **PLI schemes** support **manufacturing and clean energy jobs**. The report highlights India's importance in **regional stability, economic growth, and global supply chains**.
- India's government proposed increasing the **minimum distance between sugar mills** from **15 km to 25 km** under the **Draft Sugarcane Control Order 2026** to improve **resource distribution and farmer protection**. The move aims to prevent **overcrowding of mills**, ensure **fair access to sugarcane**, and regulate **capacity expansion**. With **declining sugar consumption** and rising demand for **alternatives like jaggery**, the policy seeks to balance **production and demand**. It also brings **Khandsari units** under regulation, promoting **transparency, fair competition, and sustainable growth** in India's evolving sugar industry.
- Moody's has cut India's **GDP growth forecast to 6% for FY27** from **6.8%**, citing **geopolitical tensions, rising energy prices, and weak domestic demand**. Disruptions in **West Asia**, especially around key oil routes, have increased **import costs and inflation**. India's dependence on **imported energy** may impact **consumption, industrial growth, and fiscal balance**. Risks also include **fertilizer shortages, agricultural slowdown, and reduced remittances from Gulf countries**. The downgrade highlights challenges to maintaining **economic stability and growth momentum** amid global uncertainties.
- India's **textile exports** grew **2.1%** to **₹3.16 lakh crore** in **FY 2025–26**, reflecting strong **global demand and competitiveness**. **Ready-Made Garments (RMG)** led growth, followed by **man-made textiles and handicrafts**, the fastest-growing segment. Exports expanded to over **120 countries**, with notable growth in markets like the **UAE, UK, Germany, and Japan**. The sector shows **balanced performance across traditional and modern segments**, reducing market dependency. This steady rise highlights India's **resilience, diversified export base, and strong position in the global textile industry**.
- Reserve Bank of India kept the **repo rate unchanged at 5.25%** after the **April 2026 MPC meeting**, maintaining a **neutral policy stance** amid global uncertainties. The decision, supported unanimously, reflects a **cautious 'wait-and-watch' approach** due to **West Asia tensions, rising oil prices, and supply disruptions**. Led by Governor Sanjay Malhotra, the RBI aims to balance **inflation control and economic growth**. While **core inflation remains stable**, external shocks may pose risks. The move ensures **policy flexibility, economic stability, and preparedness** for future global and domestic challenges.





- Reserve Bank of India has approved the appointment of Vivek Tripathi as **Executive Director (ED)** and **Whole-time Director (WTD)** of AU Small Finance Bank for **three years**, effective **April 24, 2026**, subject to shareholder approval. Currently the bank's **Chief Credit Officer**, he brings strong expertise in **credit and risk management**. His elevation strengthens the bank's **leadership and governance**, ensuring better **strategic decision-making and operational efficiency**. The move reflects RBI's role in maintaining **financial stability and leadership quality** in India's banking sector.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved **three-year extensions** for CEOs of Bank of India and Bank of Baroda, ensuring **leadership continuity**. Rajneesh Karnatak will continue as MD & CEO of Bank of India from April 29, 2026 to 2029, while Debadatta Chand gets a fresh three-year term starting July 1, 2026. The decision reflects confidence in their **performance, stability, and strategic direction**. Meanwhile, a decision on Ashwani Kumar of UCO Bank is pending. The move strengthens **governance, operational stability, and growth prospects** in India's public sector banking system.
- Brazil has overtaken India as the leading maize exporter to Bangladesh, marking a key shift in regional trade. India's exports declined due to rising domestic demand for maize, driven by its **ethanol blending programme**, which reduced export availability and increased prices. This weakened India's traditional advantages of **low cost** and **geographical proximity**. Brazil capitalized with **large-scale production, competitive pricing**, and reliable supply. The shift highlights the growing impact of **biofuel policies** on agricultural trade and reflects changing dynamics in the **global corn market and food-fuel balance**.
- The Reserve Bank of India has cancelled the licence of Paytm Payments Bank due to persistent **regulatory non-compliance** and **governance failures**. The central bank cited risks to **depositors' interests** and **public trust**, and plans to approach the High Court for **winding-up proceedings**. Earlier restrictions included bans on **new customers, deposits, and transactions**. The bank can now only allow **withdrawal of existing funds**. Founded by Vijay Shekhar Sharma, it had millions of users but faced repeated compliance issues. The move highlights the importance of **regulatory discipline, financial oversight**, and strengthens scrutiny in India's **fintech ecosystem**.
- India's foreign exchange reserves rose to **\$703.3 billion** for the week ending April 17, 2026, according to the Reserve Bank of India, marking a **\$2.3 billion increase**. The rise signals improving **external stability** and easing pressure on the **rupee** after recent declines caused by **global**

uncertainties and West Asia tensions. Key components like **foreign currency assets, gold reserves, and SDRs** showed gains. RBI interventions helped stabilize currency markets despite earlier capital outflows. Overall, the increase reflects strengthening **economic resilience**, better liquidity conditions, and a gradual recovery in India's external financial position.

Economy/Business Current Affairs of March 2026

Economic Forecasts & Analysis

- 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)
- 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%)
- 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
- 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)
- 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%)
- ASSOCHAM Projects India GDP Growth Above 7% for FY27**
 - Drivers: Strong demand and rising investments
 - Outlook: Economic resilience despite global uncertainties





Inflation & Monetary Indicators

7. **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%)
8. **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
9. **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

10. **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
11. **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
12. **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

13. **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

14. **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)
15. **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
16. **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

17. 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

18. 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

19. 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

Economy/Business Current Affairs of February 2026

KEY FINANCIAL INITIATIVES & SCHEMES

1. **Lakshpati Bitiya Yojana (Delhi)** Girls in Delhi eligible for maturity value over Rs 1 lakh.
2. **Sthree Suraksha Scheme (Kerala)** Unemployed Women & Transgender Women receive Rs 1,000 monthly pension.
3. **White Revolution 2.0** Ministry of Cooperation targeting 50% increase in milk procurement over 5 years (2026-2031).
4. **Uttar Pradesh Budget 2026-27** UP Government allocated Rs 9.12 trillion (12.9% increase) for infrastructure & employment.
5. **Rajasthan Budget 2026-27** Rajasthan allocated ₹6.11 lakh crore with ₹32,000 crore for Yamuna water project.

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIPS

6. **World Bank Partnership Framework** Government of India & World Bank partnering with USD 8-10 billion annual financing over 5 years.
7. **India-USA Interim Trade Agreement** India & USA signed trade agreement with India to buy USD 500 billion over 5 years.
8. **DPI Cooperation - 23 Countries** India & 23 countries collaborating to share Digital Public Infrastructure.
9. **ADB Loan for Assam** ADB extended USD 182 million loan to Assam Government for flooding resilience.
10. **Starlink Partnership (Gujarat)** Gujarat Government & Starlink partnering to provide high-speed satellite internet to remote areas.
11. **India-Netherlands Hydrogen Fellowship** DST & Netherlands collaborating on green hydrogen research for PhD scholars.
12. **IRFC ECB from Japanese Banks** Indian Railway Finance Corporation signed USD 400 million ECB with Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation and MUFG Bank.

FINTECH & DIGITAL PAYMENTS ECOSYSTEM

13. **RuPay-UPI Incentive Scheme Report** Total outlay ₹8,276 crore (FY22-FY25); UPI preferred by 57% over cash; digital transactions grew 11x; UPI QR codes: 3 cr → 65.8 cr.
14. **DBS × Visa - Intelligent Commerce** DBS became 1st Asia-Pacific issuer to pilot Visa Intelligent Commerce (VIC) for agentic AI-driven payments.
15. **Mastercard - Agentic Commerce** India's first fully authenticated agentic commerce transaction at India AI Summit using Model Context Protocol (MCP).
16. **In-Solutions Global (ISG) - Payment Aggregator** RBI granted full three-category payment aggregator authorization: PA-O, PA-P, PA-CB licenses.

BANK-SPECIFIC ANNOUNCEMENTS & APPOINTMENTS

17. **IDFC First Bank - Hello Cashback Card** FD-backed credit card launched with min FD ₹10,000; 3% cashback on first ₹10,000; 5% beyond.
18. **Axis Bank × IndiGo Co-branded Cards** Two cards launched: IndiGo Axis Bank Credit Card (₹799) and Premium (₹5,000).
19. **AU Small Finance Bank - MD Reappointment** Sanjay Agarwal reappointed as MD & CEO for 3 years from 19 April 2026; first SFB approved to transition to Universal Bank.
20. **Slice Small Finance Bank - Rajan Bajaj as MD & CEO** Rajan Bajaj appointed MD & CEO effective Feb 17, 2026; serves 20+ million users, raised USD 250+ million.
21. **New India Co-operative Bank Removal** New India Co-operative Bank removed from RBI Act 1934 Second Schedule effective Feb 2026 after voluntary amalgamation with Saraswat Co-operative Bank.
22. **Bain Capital × Manappuram Finance** RBI approved Bain Capital's acquisition of up to 41.66% stake at ₹236/share.





INSURANCE & WEALTH MANAGEMENT

23. ICICI Prudential - Swasthya Pension Scheme ICICI Prudential launched **Swasthya Pension Scheme** blending retirement savings with healthcare access.

24. FSIB Recommends Hitesh Joshi as GIC Re CMD Hitesh Rameshchandra Joshi recommended for **Chairman-cum-Managing Director, General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re)**.

MACROECONOMIC INDICATORS & ECONOMIC DATA

25. WPI Inflation Surge WPI rose to **1.81%** in January 2026 (10-month high) from 0.83% in December 2025.

26. 16th Finance Commission - Urban Grants Urban Local Government grants increased **230% to ₹3.56 trillion**; record **45% share**.

27. India Unemployment Rate PLFS: 5% in January 2026 (3-month high); Urban: 7%, Rural: 4.2%.

28. ICRA GDP Growth Projection GDP growth easing to **7.2% in Q3 FY26** from 8.2% Q2; Services: 7.8%; Industrial: 8.3%.

29. India Power Capacity Record **52,537 MW** added in 10 months of FY26; total installed: **~521 GW**; non-fossil surpassed fossil fuel capacity.

30. India Sugar Exports **2,01,547 tonnes** exported till February (2025–26 marketing year); UAE top destination (**47,006 MT**).

31. India Core Industries Growth Eight core industries grew **4%** in January 2026; steel: **+9.9%**, cement: **+10.7%**; industrial output: **7.8% YoY**.

32. India Merchandise Trade Indices Revision DGCI&S revised base year from **2012-13 to 2022-23** for trade indices.

GOVERNMENT POLICY & INITIATIVES

33. National Monetisation Pipeline 2.0 (NMP 2.0) Union Finance Minister launched **NMP 2.0** targeting **₹16.72 lakh crore monetisation potential** (FY25-26 to FY29-30).

34. Ministry of Finance - CPR Registration Revoked Ministry of Home Affairs revoked **FCRA registration of Centre for Policy Research (New Delhi)** alleging FCRA violations.

35. Ministry of Commerce - Merchandise Trade Indices DGCI&S completed base year revision recommended by committee headed by **Nachiketa Chattopadhyay (ISI, Kolkata)**.

ENERGY & INFRASTRUCTURE SECTOR

36. SING Submarine Cable Project du (UAE) × Datawave Networks connecting: Kalba, Muscat, Mumbai, Chennai, Kedah, Singapore; **16 fibre pairs, 18 Tbps/pair**.

37. Cochin Shipyard - CMA CGM Order CMA CGM (France) ordered **6 LNG-fuelled 1,700 TEU vessels** for **USD 360 mn** – first-ever Made in India container ship order.

38. Hindustan Oil Exploration Company CEO Transition **Baroruchi Mishra** approved as new **Chief Executive Officer** effective **April 1, 2026**.

GLOBAL CORPORATE MILESTONE

39. Amazon Becomes World's Largest by Revenue Amazon surpassed Walmart with **FY2025 revenue of USD 717 billion** vs Walmart **USD 713.2 billion**; AWS cloud computing drives growth.

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIPS (CONTINUED)

40. Asian Development Bank USD 108 Million Financing ADB signed senior secured debt financing package **USD 108 million** (₹983 crore) with Aavas Financiers Limited; **USD 8 million concessional debt via CANPA**.

Defense Current Affairs

Defense Current Affairs of July 2026

- **General Dhiraj Seth** assumed charge as the **31st Chief of the Army Staff (COAS)** on **30 June 2026**, succeeding **General Upendra Dwivedi**. His tenure will continue until **31 August 2028**. Previously serving as the **49th Vice Chief of the Army Staff**, he was commissioned into the **Armoured Corps** in **December 1986** after graduating from the **National Defence Academy (NDA)**. With nearly four decades of service, he has commanded key formations and became the **first Armoured Corps officer** to become Army Chief since **General Shankar Roy Chowdhary** in **1997**.
- **The Bureau of Port Security (BoPS)** has been established under the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways** as the apex authority for **port and ship security**. Functioning under the **Directorate General of Maritime Administration (DGMA)** and modeled on **BCAS**, BoPS will oversee

surveillance, intelligence sharing, cyber security, compliance, and risk management. The **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)** will conduct security assessments, prepare security plans, and provide training. The initiative modernizes India's maritime security architecture and strengthens protection against physical and cyber threats to port infrastructure.

- **Project BRAHMANK**, a flagship initiative of the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)**, celebrated its **16th Raising Day** in **Arunachal Pradesh**, marking fifteen years of strategic border infrastructure development. Since **2011**, it has constructed and maintained hundreds of kilometres of roads and key bridges across difficult Himalayan terrain. The project has enhanced border connectivity, military mobility, disaster response capability, and socio-economic development in remote regions. By providing all-weather access to border areas, it strengthens India's defence preparedness while improving healthcare, education, and essential services for local communities.





- The **Ministry of Defence** introduced the **Delegation of Financial Powers to DRDO 2026 (DFP-2026)** to improve the efficiency and transparency of defence research. The framework grants greater financial autonomy across different levels of the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**, enabling faster approvals for procurement, research, innovation, and testing. It strengthens programmes including the **Technology Development Fund (TDF)**, **Extra-Mural Research (EMR)**, and **Defence Innovation Accelerator**. The reform reduces procedural delays, promotes collaboration with industry, startups, MSMEs, academia, and supports **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** in defence technology.
- India commissioned **ICGS Akshay**, a new-generation **Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV)**, into the **Bharatiya Tatrakshak (Indian Coast Guard)** fleet on **27 June 2026** at **Goa Shipyard Limited**. Built under **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**, the vessel is designed for **coastal surveillance, maritime law enforcement, search and rescue, anti-smuggling operations, disaster response, and environmental protection**. Named after the Sanskrit word "Akshay" meaning **Indestructible**, it enhances maritime security across India's **7,500-km coastline** and **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)**. The vessel strengthens India's capability to combat maritime crime while safeguarding marine ecosystems and national interests.
- The **Indian Army** will operationalise its first **Integrated Battle Groups (IBGs)** on **1 July 2026** under the **XVII Corps (Mountain Strike Corps)** at **Panagarh**. Each IBG is a brigade-sized, self-sufficient formation with over **5,000 troops**, integrating **infantry, artillery, armour, engineers, air defence, signals, logistics, and medical support** under a **Major General**. Designed for deployment within **48 hours**, the concept was proposed by **General Bipin Rawat** and tested during **Exercise HimVijay (2019)**. The reform significantly enhances India's readiness for **multi-domain warfare**, particularly along the **India-China border**.
- **General Dhiraj Seth**, the **31st Chief of the Army Staff**, unveiled the **VIJAY** vision to build a technology-driven, future-ready **Indian Army**. The framework focuses on **Vigilance and Readiness, Innovation and Transformation, Jointness and Integration, Aatmanirbharta**, and **Yoddha First**, emphasizing border security, modernization, indigenous defence capabilities, and soldier welfare. An alumnus of the **National Defence Academy (NDA)** with nearly four decades of service, General Seth aims to accelerate military modernization, strengthen tri-service integration, and align the Army with the national vision of **Viksit Bharat 2047**.
- The **K9 Vajra-T** self-propelled howitzer programme highlights strategic defence cooperation between **India** and **South Korea** under **Make in India**. Developed through collaboration between **Hanwha Aerospace** and **Larsen & Toubro (L&T)**, the **155 mm/52-calibre** artillery system is manufactured at **Hazira, Gujarat**, with **50–60% indigenous content**. India inducted **100 units** by **2021**, ordered another **100** in **2024**, and plans **300 additional guns** under a **₹23,000 crore** modernization programme. The system significantly enhances long-range artillery capability and border preparedness in challenging terrains.
- **Air Marshal Jasvir Singh Mann, AVSM, VSM**, assumed charge as the **Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief (AOC-in-C)** of the **Southern Air Command** on **1 July 2026**, succeeding **Air Marshal Manish Khanna**. Commissioned into the **fighter stream** in **1989**, he is a **Pilot Attack Instructor** with over **3,000 flying hours** on aircraft including the **Apache, MiG-21, Jaguar, MiG-29, Su-30, and Rafale**. He previously served as **Assistant Chief of Air Staff (Operations–Offensive)**, **Director General (Weapon Systems)**, and **Senior Air Staff Officer**, bringing extensive operational and leadership experience.
- **Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit** assumed charge as the **Vice Chief of the Air Staff (VCAS)** on **1 July 2026**, succeeding **Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor**. A fighter pilot commissioned in **1986**, he has accumulated over **3,300 flying hours** on more than **20 aircraft types**. His distinguished career includes commanding a **Mirage-2000 squadron**, a frontline fighter base, and serving as **Air Defence Commander, Director of Air Staff Requirements**, and **Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (CISC)**. Simultaneously, **Air Marshal Tejinder Singh** assumed charge as the new **CISC**.
- **Lieutenant General Rajesh Pushkar, AVSM, VSM**, assumed charge as the **General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C)** of the **Southern Command** on **1 July 2026**, succeeding **Lieutenant General Sandeep Jain**. A **National Defence Academy (NDA)** alumnus commissioned into the **74 Armoured Regiment** in **1988**, he has nearly **four decades** of military service. He has commanded an **Armoured Regiment, Independent Armoured Brigade, Infantry Division, and 2 Corps (Kharga Corps)**. Headquartered in **Pune**, the Southern Command oversees operational preparedness, logistics, disaster relief, and defence across southern and central India.
- **Air Marshal Tejinder Singh** assumed charge as the **Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC)**. After paying tribute at the **National War Memorial**, he received a ceremonial **tri-service Guard of Honour**. Commissioned into the **Indian Air Force** in **1987**, he is a **Category 'A' Qualified Flying Instructor** with over **4,500 flying hours**. He has commanded a **Fighter Squadron, Radar Station, Fighter Base, and Jammu & Kashmir Air Command**, and is a recipient of the **Vayu Sena Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal**, and **Param Vishisht Seva Medal**.
- The **Indian Navy** deployed a **P-8I** long-range maritime reconnaissance and anti-submarine warfare aircraft to **Hawaii** for **RIMPAC 2026**, the world's largest multinational naval exercise. Hosted by the **US Pacific Fleet**, the exercise runs from **24 June–31 July 2026**, involving over **30 countries**, warships, submarines, aircraft, and personnel. India has participated since **2014**, reinforcing maritime cooperation in the **Indo-Pacific**. The deployment strengthens surveillance, anti-submarine capabilities, interoperability, collective readiness, and supports a **Free and Open Indo-Pacific** vision.





- The **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)** approved **₹52,000 crore** worth of defence procurement proposals to modernize India's armed forces and strengthen indigenous capabilities. The approvals support **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** by encouraging domestic manufacturing of advanced defence equipment while enhancing operational preparedness across the Army, Navy, and Air Force. The procurement package focuses on improving combat readiness, technology induction, self-reliance, defence industrial growth, and national security. The decision also promotes indigenous defence production, reduces import dependence, and accelerates military modernization under India's long-term strategic capability development plans.
- **Adani Defence & Aerospace** began foundation work for a **₹2,500 crore missile manufacturing facility** at **Pali, Shivpuri district, Madhya Pradesh**. The project will manufacture **medium and long-range missile systems**, along with **composite propellants, TNT, and other explosive materials**. Scheduled for completion within **three years**, it is expected to create around **5,000 direct and indirect jobs** while engaging more than **50 MSMEs**. The facility strengthens India's defence manufacturing ecosystem, supports **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**, and enhances the country's indigenous missile production capabilities.
- **INS Mahendragiri (F38)**, the **sixth indigenous stealth frigate** under **Project 17A (Nilgiri-class)**, will be commissioned into the **Indian Navy** on **11 July 2026** at **Visakhapatnam**. Built by **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited** with over **75% indigenous content**, the warship features **surface-to-air missiles, surface-to-surface missiles, electronic warfare systems, anti-submarine capabilities, and a CODOG propulsion system**. It will join the **Eastern Fleet**, strengthening India's maritime security and supporting the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** initiative in defence manufacturing.
- Indonesia decided to import India's indigenous **Astra Beyond-Visual-Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM)** during bilateral discussions between **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and **President Prabowo Subianto**. Developed by **DRDO** and manufactured by **Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)**, **Astra** is India's first indigenous long-range air-to-air missile. The agreement also includes expanded cooperation through **BrahMos missile supplies, Indonesia-specific Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs)**, and development of **Sabang Port**. The deal strengthens India's defence exports, supports **Make in India**, and enhances strategic cooperation in the **Indo-Pacific region**.
- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully flight-tested the **Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket (LRGR)** at the **Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha**. The rocket accurately demonstrated its **minimum operational range of 60 km**, successfully completing all planned manoeuvres and hitting the target with high precision. Developed by **ARDE, HEMRL, DRDL, and RCI**, the LRGR enhances the **Pinaka Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher (MBRL)** system with advanced **guidance, navigation, and precision strike capabilities**, strengthening India's **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** defence programme.
- The **CSIR-NAL** completed the design phase of the indigenous **Saras MkII 19-seater twin-turboprop aircraft**, marking a major milestone in India's aviation programme. Designed for **regional connectivity** under the **UDAN Scheme**, it features a **pressurised cabin, glass cockpit, digital avionics, autopilot, and command-by-wire flight controls**. **HAL** will support prototype manufacturing and component production, while the **maiden flight** is scheduled for **December 2027**. The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has indicated an initial requirement of **15 aircraft**, strengthening indigenous aerospace capability, civil aviation, and defence transport operations across India.
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** deployed **Rafale fighter jets** to Australia for **Exercise Pitch Black 2026**. Hosted by the **Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF)**, the exercise enhances **interoperability, air combat training, and Indo-Pacific defence cooperation**.
- **Operation Southern Readiness 26-2** is jointly conducted by the **Indian Navy** and the **Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)** to improve **maritime security, interoperability, and combat piracy, terrorism, and illegal trafficking**, reinforcing a **rules-based maritime order**.
- The Indian Navy will commission **INS Malvan**, the second **Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)** built by **Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)** with **80% indigenous content**. It strengthens **coastal surveillance, anti-submarine warfare, maritime security, and supports Aatmanirbhar Bharat**.
- **Paras Semiconductors Pvt. Ltd.**, a subsidiary of **Paras Defence and Space Technologies**, signed an **MoU** with the **MP State Electronics Development Corporation** to establish a **₹6,200 crore OSAT (Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test) facility** in the **Indore-Ujjain region**. Supporting the **India Semiconductor Mission**, the project will use advanced technologies including **3D integration, chiplet integration, hybrid bonding, wafer bumping, and flip-chip assembly**. Expected to create over **2,500 direct jobs**, the facility will initially serve the **defence, space, sensor, and optical sectors** before expanding into **AI chip packaging**.
- The **Indian Navy** launched **Operation Southern Readiness 26-2** at the **Southern Naval Command, Kochi**, marking the **first time** the multinational maritime exercise has been hosted in India. Conducted under **Combined Task Force 154 (CTF 154)** of the **Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)**, the exercise involves **254 participants from 26 countries**. Through practical training, simulator exercises, and discussions, it aims to enhance **maritime cooperation, interoperability, operational readiness, and regional security in the Indian Ocean Region**.





- **National Security Advisor Ajit Doval** has been selected for the **Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2026** by the **Tilak Smarak Trust** for his exceptional contributions to **India's national security**. The award will be presented on **1 August 2026** in **Pune** by **Union Home Minister Amit Shah**. A former **Indian Police Service (IPS)** officer and veteran of the **Intelligence Bureau**, Doval is being honoured for his leadership in **counter-terrorism, intelligence coordination, strategic planning**, and safeguarding India's national interests through decades of distinguished public service.
- **India scripted history** with **Samudra Pradakshina**, the country's **first tri-service all-women circumnavigation sailing expedition**, completed by **nine women officers** from the **Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force** aboard the indigenous **IASV Triveni**. The **314-day voyage** covered nearly **25,500 nautical miles**, crossed the **Equator twice**, the **International Date Line**, all meridians, and rounded **Cape Leeuwin, Cape Horn, and the Cape of Good Hope**. The mission showcased **Aatmanirbhar Bharat, Nari Shakti**, indigenous shipbuilding, maritime excellence, and seamless tri-service cooperation.
- The **Indian Navy** commissioned **INS Malvan**, the **second Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)**, at **Karwar Naval Base** under the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** initiative. Built by **Cochin Shipyard Limited** with **over 80% indigenous content**, the vessel is designed for **anti-submarine warfare, underwater surveillance, mine warfare, and coastal security operations**. Named after **Malvan** in Maharashtra, the warship strengthens **maritime domain awareness**, enhances shallow-water operational capability, and reinforces India's growing **self-reliance in defence manufacturing**.
- **DRDO** signed two major contracts to advance the **indigenous AEW&C Mk-II Programme**, boosting India's air defence capabilities under **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**. **CABS** partnered with **AI Engineering Services Limited (AIESL)** to convert **six Airbus A321 aircraft** into airborne surveillance platforms, while **Adani Defence Systems and Technologies Limited (ADSTL)** will develop advanced mission systems. The project will provide **long-range surveillance, early warning, secure communications, and command-and-control capabilities**, strengthening **indigenous aerospace manufacturing** and the **Indian Air Force's operational readiness**.
- **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** and **Safran Aircraft Engines** signed a long-term agreement to manufacture **superalloy turbine ring forgings** for the globally used **CFM LEAP aircraft engine**. Production will take place at HAL's **Foundry and Forge Division in Bengaluru**, supplying components for aircraft such as the **Airbus A320neo, Boeing 737 MAX, and COMAC C919**. The partnership enhances **India's aerospace manufacturing ecosystem**, expands exports of high-value components, strengthens **global supply chain integration**, and supports India's ambition to become a **global aerospace manufacturing hub**.
- **DRDO** successfully conducted the maiden flight test of the **indigenous Kusha Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LR-SAM)** from **Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha**, on **23 July 2026**. The missile accurately intercepted a high-speed aerial target, proving its advanced **air defence** capability. Equipped with **advanced radars, command-and-control systems, and indigenous technologies**, the system can counter aircraft, missiles, and UAVs. The successful trial strengthens **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**, enhances India's integrated air defence network, and marks significant progress toward operational deployment.
- India developed its first **indigenous expendable turbojet engine** in the **350 kg thrust category**, designed by **GTRE-DRDO** and manufactured by **Azad Engineering**. Delivered within **24 months**, the engine is intended for **missiles, UAVs, and anti-drone systems**. The achievement boosts India's **indigenous propulsion technology**, reduces dependence on foreign engines, and highlights successful collaboration between the **public and private sectors**. It is a major milestone in strengthening **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** and India's advanced aerospace and defence capabilities.
- **Bhargavastra** is an indigenously developed **anti-swarm drone defence system** designed to neutralize **enemy drones and loitering munitions**. It was showcased to the **Indian Army** on **24 July 2026** during the **Make-II project** launch in **Nagpur**. The mobile and cost-effective system integrates **radar, EO/IR sensors, passive RF detectors, and C4I systems** for real-time threat detection and tracking. It employs a **two-layer defence mechanism**, using **mini-rockets** against drone swarms and **smart mini-missiles** for precision strikes up to **2.5 km**. The system can detect **large UAVs** from **10 km** and **small drones** from **6 km**, while combining **soft-kill electronic warfare** with **hard-kill weapons** to strengthen India's layered air defence.
- **Chief of the Army Staff General Dhiraj Seth** launched the indigenously developed **Xtreme Weather Grade (XWG) Diesel** in **New Delhi** on **31 July 2026** to improve military mobility in **high-altitude and snowbound regions**. Jointly developed by the **Indian Army** and **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)**, the specialized fuel operates efficiently at temperatures as low as **-42°C**, preventing **engine failures and fuel filter blockages**. Compatible with the Army's existing vehicle fleet, the fuel complies with **BS-VI emission norms** and **IS 1460:2025 standards**, strengthening **defence logistics, operational readiness, and Aatmanirbhar Bharat** in strategic border areas.





- The **Indian Navy** launched **Machilipatnam**, the **seventh** of eight **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC)** built by **Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)**, enhancing India's **coastal security** and **maritime defence** capabilities. With over **80% indigenous content**, the vessel supports the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** initiative and is designed for **Underwater Surveillance, Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), Low Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO), and Mine Warfare**. Named after the historic port city of **Machilipatnam, Andhra Pradesh**, the craft will strengthen **maritime domain awareness**, protect strategic sea lanes, and improve operational readiness in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.
- The **Government of India** notified the **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) Recruitment Rules, 2026**, reserving **50% of Constable (General Duty) vacancies** for **ex-Agniveers** who complete their service under the **Agnipath Scheme**. The new rules provide major recruitment relaxations, including exemption from the **Written Examination, Physical Standard Test (PST), and Physical Efficiency Test (PET)**, while retaining **document verification and medical examination** requirements. Former Agniveers will receive **5 years age relaxation** for the first batch and **3 years** for subsequent batches. The reform aims to support post-service employment opportunities and strengthen the **Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)**. SSB operates under the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** and guards India's borders with **Nepal and Bhutan**.
- **Air Marshal Sandeep Thareja** has been appointed as the **Director General Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAFMS)**, the highest medical position in the **Indian Armed Forces**, effective from **31 August 2026**. He will succeed **Surgeon Vice Admiral Arti Sarin** after her retirement. Thareja previously served as **Director General Medical Services (Air)** and brings nearly **four decades of experience** in **military medicine, healthcare administration, and operational medical support**. A graduate of **AFMC Pune**, he holds an **MD in Medicine** and a **DM in Gastroenterology from AIIMS New Delhi**, where he received the **Best DM Student Award**. He has commanded major military hospitals, served as **Commandant of AFMC**, and contributed to healthcare preparedness for missions like **Gaganyaan** and the **BHISHM Cube initiative**. As DGAFMS, he will oversee healthcare policies, medical readiness, and services across the **Army, Navy, and Air Force**.
- **Air Marshal A K Bharti, Deputy Chief of Air Staff (DCAS)** of the **Indian Air Force**, retired on **31 July 2026** after a distinguished military career spanning several decades. He gained national recognition as the public face of India's tri-service media briefings during **Operation Sindoor**, launched after the **2025 Pahalgam terror attack**. During his tenure as **Director General Air Operations (DGAO)**, he played a significant role in planning and executing important air

operations and strengthening operational preparedness. He represented the **Indian Air Force** during joint briefings with senior officers from the **Army and Navy**, explaining strategic developments and military operations. Before retirement, he served in one of the IAF's highest leadership positions as **DCAS**. As part of his farewell ceremony, he paid tribute to fallen soldiers at the **National War Memorial, New Delhi**, honouring the values of service and sacrifice.

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- **Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan** assumed charge as the **Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Naval Command**. With over three decades of service in the **Indian Navy**, he brings extensive operational and strategic experience to one of the country's most important naval commands. A specialist in **Gunnery and Missile Systems**, he has commanded several frontline naval platforms and held key leadership positions related to defence planning, modernization, and force development. His appointment is expected to strengthen operational readiness and contribute to India's maritime security objectives.
- **Admiral Krishna Swaminathan** assumed office as the **27th Chief of the Naval Staff**, succeeding Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi. A specialist in **Communication and Electronic Warfare**, he brings nearly four decades of experience across operational, training, and strategic assignments. He has commanded major warships, including **INS Vikramaditya**, and previously led the **Western Naval Command**. Recognized with prestigious military honours, his leadership is expected to support naval modernization, capability enhancement, and the advancement of India's maritime interests in an increasingly complex security environment.
- **General N.S. Raja Subramani** assumed charge as India's new **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)**. As the senior-most military officer and principal military adviser to the Government of India, he will oversee joint military planning, defence reforms, and coordination among the **Army, Navy, and Air Force**. Known for his expertise in regional security matters, he has served in several important military and strategic positions. His appointment is expected to accelerate defence modernization, strengthen integrated military structures, and enhance national security preparedness in response to evolving challenges.
- **Project UDAYAK** of the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** completed **37 years** of service, marking its contribution to infrastructure development in India's strategic North-East region. The project is responsible for maintaining extensive road networks and strategic bridges in **Arunachal Pradesh** and parts of **Assam**, enhancing connectivity near the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)** and the **Indo-Myanmar border**. Its efforts support both national security and regional development by improving transportation, accessibility, and military logistics in remote border areas.





- **Air Marshal Tarun Chaudhry** assumed charge as the **Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Central Air Command**. With over three decades of experience in operational, strategic, and diplomatic roles, he has contributed significantly to defence acquisitions, modernization initiatives, and capability development within the **Indian Air Force**. His appointment is expected to strengthen operational preparedness and strategic planning within one of the country's most important air commands.
 - **Vice Admiral Vineet McCarty** assumed charge as the **Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC)**, India's only integrated tri-service command. Located near the strategically important **Strait of Malacca**, the command plays a vital role in maritime security and Indo-Pacific stability. With extensive experience in naval operations and tri-service coordination, he will oversee joint operations involving the **Army, Navy, and Air Force**, further strengthening India's strategic presence in the region.
 - India successfully tested the **RudraM-II air-to-surface missile** developed by **DRDO and the Indian Air Force**. The missile accurately struck its target during flight trials under operational conditions, validating its **guidance, navigation, and targeting systems**. Developed by **RCI Hyderabad and multiple DRDO labs**, it enhances India's long-range precision strike capability. The system strengthens **standoff attack capability, reduces dependence on foreign weapons**, and supports **Atmanirbhar Bharat** in defence manufacturing. This advancement significantly boosts India's indigenous defence technology and operational strength in modern warfare scenarios.
 - **INS Sudarshini** departed Antigua and Barbuda under the **Lokayan-26 expedition**, strengthening India's maritime outreach. During its port call, it engaged with local leadership including **Gaston Browne** and military officials to enhance cooperation. The ship showcased India's **maritime heritage and cultural diplomacy**. The mission supports India's **MAHASAGAR vision and Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam philosophy**. It will next participate in the **International Naval Review and SAIL 250 celebrations in the United States**, marking 250 years of American independence, strengthening global naval cooperation and maritime partnerships.
 - **Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit** has been appointed as the next **Vice Chief of the Air Staff (IAF)**, assuming office on **1 July 2026**. A highly experienced officer commissioned in 1986, he has over **3,300 flying hours** and expertise in **experimental testing, fighter modernization, and indigenous defence projects**. His leadership strengthens India's **air power modernization and strategic air operations capability**.
 - According to the **SIPRI Yearbook 2026**, India's nuclear arsenal increased to an estimated **190 warheads**, compared to Pakistan's **170 warheads**. The report highlighted India's continued modernization of strategic capabilities, particularly through the development of **long-range missile systems**. SIPRI also noted that India is increasingly focusing on strategic challenges posed by regional security dynamics.
- Additionally, India's **defence expenditure** increased by **8.9% to \$92.1 billion** in 2025, making it the world's **fifth-largest military spender**. The findings reflect India's growing emphasis on strengthening national security and defence preparedness.
- The **Indian Navy** invited domestic defence manufacturers to develop and produce **indigenous 80-mm aero rockets** for **MiG-29K and MiG-29KUB** carrier-based fighter aircraft deployed on **INS Vikramaditya** and **INS Vikrant**. Through an **Expression of Intent** issued by the Naval Armament Inspectorate, the Navy aims to replace imported rockets with locally developed alternatives. These dual-purpose weapons are designed to target armoured vehicles, military infrastructure, and troop concentrations. The initiative supports the **Atmanirbhar Bharat** programme, enhances defence indigenisation, strengthens domestic manufacturing capabilities, and improves operational readiness of naval aviation assets.
 - **Lieutenant Commander Suraj Prashar** of the **Marine Commandos (MARCOS)** was awarded the **Shaurya Chakra**, India's third-highest peacetime gallantry award, by President **Droupadi Murmu** during the **Defence Investiture Ceremony 2026** at **Rashtrapati Bhavan**. He received the honor for displaying exceptional courage and professionalism during **Operation Chuntawadi**, a joint anti-terror operation conducted in **Bandipora district** in November 2024. The award recognizes his bravery, devotion to duty, and outstanding contribution while serving in one of India's most elite special operations forces, highlighting the professionalism of the Indian Armed Forces.
 - The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** signed a **₹449 crore** contract with **Accord Software and Systems Private Limited** for the procurement of **20 Enhanced Capability Global Navigation Satellite System (ECGNSS) Jammers** for the **Indian Navy**. Signed under the **Buy (Indian-IDDm)** category, the project mandates at least **75% indigenous content**, reinforcing **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** and **Make in India** initiatives. These advanced electronic warfare systems can disrupt enemy satellite navigation through signal interference, spoofing, and deceptive jamming techniques. The acquisition will significantly enhance India's maritime security, operational effectiveness, and naval electronic warfare capabilities.
 - The **Ministry of Defence** signed a **₹449 crore contract** for procurement of **Enhanced Capability Global Navigation Satellite System (ECGNSS) Jammers** for the **Indian Navy** under the **Buy (Indian-IDDm)** category. Developed with at least **75% indigenous content**, the system aligns with the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** initiative. These advanced electronic warfare systems are designed to disrupt enemy satellite navigation by interfering with signals, spoofing, and deceptive jamming techniques. The deployment of these systems will significantly enhance India's maritime surveillance, operational security, and electronic warfare capabilities, strengthening naval readiness in sensitive maritime zones and reinforcing India's indigenous defence manufacturing ecosystem.





- **Rajnath Singh**, Defence Minister, inaugurated the **Advanced Weapon System Complex** at the **Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL)** in **Hyderabad**, under the **Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Missile Complex**, strengthening India's **indigenous missile technology** and defence innovation. He praised **DRDO** scientists for their role in national security and highlighted indigenous systems like the **Akash Missile System** and **BrahMos Missile**, showcased during **Operation Sindoor**. He also stressed **Mission Sudarshan Chakra**, aimed at building a three-layer **missile defence shield**, and called for advancement in **AI, hypersonic weapons**, and **autonomous systems** under **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** in defence manufacturing.
- In a landmark step towards **Gender Inclusion** in the armed forces, the first batch of **17 Women NDA Cadets** was commissioned as officers in June 2026 after completing rigorous training alongside male cadets. Of these, **9 joined the Indian Army, 5 joined the Indian Air Force, and 3 joined the Indian Navy**. Inducted into the **National Defence Academy (NDA)** in 2022, the cadets successfully completed the same training standards and leadership programmes. The milestone reflects India's commitment to **Equality, Merit-Based Selection**, and the modernization of its military structure.
- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully flight-tested the indigenous **Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM)** from **Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha** on 15 June 2026. Developed under the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** initiative, the missile is designed to strike strategic land targets with high precision over long distances. Unlike ballistic missiles, it follows a **low-altitude guided flight path**, making detection and interception difficult. The successful trial enhances India's **Long-Range Precision Strike Capability**, strengthens indigenous defence technology, and highlights the growing role of cruise missiles in modern warfare.
- The Indian Navy inducted **INS Agray**, the fifth vessel of the **Arnala-Class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)** programme. Built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers, the vessel is equipped with **Hull-Mounted Sonar, Variable Depth Sonar (VDS)**, anti-submarine torpedoes, and rockets. Featuring over **80% Indigenous Content**, **INS Agray** supports the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** mission and enhances coastal surveillance, mine warfare, and anti-submarine operations. The induction strengthens India's maritime security, coastal defence, and strategic presence in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** will participate in **Exercise Pitch Black 2026**, scheduled from **20 July to 7 August 2026** in Australia. Hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force, the multinational exercise will involve more than **100 Aircraft** and personnel from **19 Countries**. The event focuses on advanced air combat operations, interoperability, tactical integration, and multinational coordination. Participation will strengthen India's defence cooperation with partner nations and enhance operational readiness in complex combat environments.
- An Indian Army contingent will participate in **Exercise Khaan Quest 2026** in **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**, from **20 June to 3 July 2026**. The multinational exercise focuses on **United Nations peacekeeping operations**, including joint planning, patrolling, civilian evacuation, counter-IED drills, and casualty evacuation. Participation enhances interoperability with partner militaries and reflects India's commitment to global peacekeeping and international security cooperation.
- The **Ministry of Defence** signed a **₹425-crore contract** with **Bharat Forge Limited** for the procurement of **12 sets of 1.25 MW Marine Gas Turbine Generators (MG TGs)** for the **Indian Navy**. Signed in the presence of **Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh**, the contract falls under the **Buy (Indian)** category and mandates more than **60% indigenous content**. MG TGs are critical onboard power-generation systems that provide electricity to **combat management systems, radar and surveillance equipment, communication networks, electronic warfare systems, and advanced weapon platforms**. The project supports the government's **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** and **Make in India** initiatives, strengthens indigenous defence manufacturing capabilities, reduces dependence on imports, and enhances the operational effectiveness of modern Indian naval warships.
- India achieved a major milestone in maritime defence with the induction of **H-561**, the first indigenously built **Air Cushion Vehicle (ACV)**, into the **Indian Coast Guard** on **18 June 2026**. Developed by **Chowgule & Company Private Limited** in Goa, the hovercraft is the first of six ACVs ordered by the Coast Guard. Unlike conventional vessels, it operates on a **cushion of air** generated by powerful lift fans, enabling movement over **shallow waters, mudflats, marshlands, sandy beaches, estuaries, and wetlands**. This capability makes it ideal for securing India's **7,500-kilometre coastline**. Built under the **Make in India** initiative, H-561 will strengthen coastal surveillance, rapid-response operations, and maritime security while showcasing India's growing indigenous shipbuilding capabilities.
- The **Indian Navy** will commission three indigenously built warships—**INS Dunagiri, INS Agray, and INS Sanshodhak**—on **21 June 2026** in Kolkata. Designed by the **Indian Navy Warship Design Bureau** and built by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)**, these vessels represent India's growing self-reliance in defence manufacturing. **INS Dunagiri**, a **Project 17A stealth-guided missile frigate**, is capable of surface, air, and anti-submarine warfare and can deploy **BrahMos missiles**. **INS Agray** is equipped with advanced sonar systems, torpedoes, and anti-submarine rockets for underwater threat detection. **INS Sanshodhak**, the final vessel of the **Sandhayak-class programme**, is designed for hydrographic surveys, seabed mapping, and underwater data collection using **Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUVs)** and **Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs)**.





- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** will acquire **nine retired SEPECAT Jaguar** fighter aircraft from the **United Kingdom** to obtain spare parts, engines, and avionics for its existing fleet. The aircraft will not enter operational service but will support maintenance of India's aging **Jaguar** squadrons. India remains the only country operating Jaguars in frontline service, making spare parts scarce. The acquisition will sustain operational readiness until newer platforms, including **Tejas**, additional **Rafale** fighters, and future indigenous aircraft, are inducted in greater numbers.
- India will receive its first **indigenously assembled Airbus C295 transport aircraft** in **September 2026**, marking a major milestone under **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**. Manufactured by **Tata Advanced Systems Limited** in partnership with **Airbus**, it is India's first privately produced military aircraft. Under the **₹21,935-crore** contract, **56 aircraft** will be procured, with **40 manufactured in Vadodara**. The **C295** can transport **71 troops** or **9 tonnes of cargo** and will replace the aging **Avro fleet**, enhancing troop transport, disaster relief, medical evacuation, and indigenous aerospace manufacturing capabilities.
- DRDO-developed **HELINA anti-tank guided missile** is being integrated with the **Light Combat Helicopter (Prachand)**. It is a third-generation **fire-and-forget missile** with an infrared seeker and 7 km range. HAL is conducting live trials after earlier tests on ALH in 2022. Bharat Dynamics Limited received contracts worth over **₹1,100 crore** for systems and launchers. HELINA enhances India's anti-armour capability with precision strike ability. It strengthens indigenous defence production and supports operational readiness of the Indian Army and Air Force.
- India successfully performed its first **GAGAN-based jet landing** using an **IndiGo Airbus A320 at Udaipur**. GAGAN is an **ISRO-AAI developed SBAS system** that improves GPS accuracy and enables precise landing guidance. It supports **LPV approaches**, especially at airports without Instrument Landing Systems. DGCA has mandated GAGAN compatibility for new aircraft since 2021. This achievement enhances aviation safety, reduces dependency on foreign navigation systems, and strengthens India's position in satellite-based aviation technology in the Asia-Pacific region.
- HELINA missile integration is advancing with **Su-30MKI and LCH platforms**. Around 40 Su-30MKIs now carry **BrahMos**, while HELINA strengthens helicopter-based anti-tank capability. Developed by **DRDO**, it uses imaging infrared guidance and fire-and-forget technology. It can strike armored targets at up to 7 km. HAL is conducting trials with LCH Prachand. The system improves battlefield precision and supports India's defense modernization and self-reliance goals under **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**.
- IAF integrated **BrahMos supersonic missile** with around **40 Su-30MKI aircraft**, enhancing long-range strike capability. The missile, jointly developed by India and Russia, has a range of **450 km** and speed of Mach 3. The system enables stand-off precision attacks on land and naval targets. Su-

30MKI, built by HAL, forms the backbone of IAF. Future integration will expand fleet capability. **BrahMos-NG** is under development with AI-based guidance and improved precision.

Defense Current Affairs of May 2026

- India and Cambodia will begin the **2nd edition of the joint military exercise CINBAX-II** on **May 4, 2026**, in **Kampong Speu Province, Cambodia**, to strengthen bilateral defense cooperation. The two-week exercise will involve **120 personnel from the Indian Army**, mainly from the **Maratha Light Infantry Regiment**, and **160 troops from the Royal Cambodian Army**. The exercise focuses on enhancing **counter-terrorism capabilities, modern warfare skills, and joint operational readiness** under conditions similar to **UN peacekeeping missions**. Key training areas include **tactical combat drills, drone operations, sniper training, and mortar handling**.
- The **Indian Army** released a commemorative video on **May 7, 2026**, marking the first anniversary of **Operation Sindoor**, one of India's major cross-border counter-terror operations. Conducted on **May 7, 2025**, the operation targeted **nine terror camps** in **Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK)** linked to groups such as **Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, and Hizbul Mujahideen**. The strikes were launched in response to the **Pahalgam terror attack** of **April 22, 2025**, in which **26 Indian nationals** were killed. According to official reports, over **100 terrorists** were neutralized within about **25 minutes**. The anniversary video highlighted India's **zero-tolerance policy against terrorism**, showcasing coordinated military planning, precision strikes, and the evolving counter-terror doctrine involving the **Army, Navy, and Air Force**.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation and Indian Air Force successfully conducted the maiden flight trial of the **Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation (TARA)** weapon system off the Odisha coast using a SEPECAT Jaguar aircraft. Developed by Research Centre Imarat, TARA is India's first indigenous **glide weapon system** that converts conventional bombs into **precision-guided stand-off weapons**. The trial validated its **guidance, navigation, aerodynamic performance, and control systems**, enhancing India's precision strike capability, reducing dependence on imported weapons, and supporting the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** defence initiative.
- NS Raja Subramani has been appointed as India's next Chief of Defence Staff and will assume office on **May 30**, succeeding Anil Chauhan. A former Vice Chief of Army Staff and current Military Adviser in the National Security Advisory Board, he served nearly **39 years in the Indian Army** after being commissioned into the Garhwal Rifles in 1985. His appointment is significant for ongoing **military reforms, theatreisation, defence modernisation, and stronger coordination among the Army, Navy, and Air Force**.





- Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan has been appointed as the next **Chief of the Naval Staff** and will assume office on **May 31, 2026**, succeeding Dinesh K Tripathi. Currently heading the **Western Naval Command**, he was commissioned into the Indian Navy in **1987** and is a specialist in **communication and electronic warfare**. He previously served as **Vice Chief of Naval Staff** and commanded major warships including **INS Vikramaditya** and **INS Mysore**. His appointment comes as India strengthens **maritime security, Indo-Pacific strategy, naval modernisation, and indigenous defence capabilities**.
- The Defence Research and Development Organisation successfully tested a **scramjet combustor** in **Hyderabad**, achieving a runtime of over **1,200 seconds**, boosting India's **hypersonic cruise missile** program and aerospace capabilities. Developed by Defence Research and Development Laboratory, the system uses **indigenous technology**, including Indian-made fuel, advanced coatings, and modern manufacturing methods for high-temperature operations. The **scramjet engine** enables missiles to travel above **Mach 5**, using atmospheric oxygen for lighter and more efficient **hypersonic propulsion** compared to conventional rocket systems.
- This achievement strengthens India's position in **next-generation defense technology**, reducing foreign dependence while advancing capabilities in **missile defense evasion, high-speed warfare**, and strategic security.
- India's first **privately manufactured military aircraft**, the Airbus C-295, is nearing final rollout from the Tata-Airbus facility in Vadodara. Built through a partnership between Airbus and Tata Advanced Systems, the project marks a major milestone for India's **Make in India** and **Atmanirbhar Bharat** defence goals. Under the 2021 defence deal, India will receive **56 C-295 aircraft**, with **16 imported from Spain** and **40 manufactured in India**. The final assembly line in Gujarat was inaugurated in 2024 by Narendra Modi and Pedro Sánchez.
- The C-295 is a medium tactical transport aircraft used for **troop transport, cargo movement, medical evacuation, and special operations**. It can operate from short and rugged airstrips and carry over **9,000 kg payload** or around **71 personnel**. The project is expected to strengthen India's aerospace ecosystem, expand private-sector defence manufacturing, reduce import dependence, and build advanced domestic supply chains.
- India achieved a major defence innovation milestone with the AI-powered combat aircraft '**Kaal Bhairava**', developed by Flying Wedge Defence & Aerospace, set to be manufactured in Portugal. It is India's first overseas production of an autonomous combat aircraft and part of the broader **Operation 777** initiative. The **MALE (Medium Altitude Long Endurance)** aircraft features a **3,000 km range, 30+ hours endurance**, AI-based target recognition, swarm coordination, and secure encrypted communication systems. It is designed for surveillance, intelligence gathering, and precision combat missions in modern warfare. Production in Portugal will take place through a partnership with SKETCHPIXEL LDA, while FWDA will handle design and autonomous systems. Operation 777 aims to expand Indian defence manufacturing across **77 countries and 7 continents**, strengthening India's global defence technology presence.
- Rajnath Singh and N. Chandrababu Naidu launched the **₹15,803 crore Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) project** in the Sri Sathya Sai district. The project is a major step toward India's goal of developing an indigenous **fifth-generation stealth fighter aircraft**. The AMCA programme is being led by the Aeronautical Development Agency under the Defence Research and Development Organisation. The aircraft will feature advanced stealth technology, next-generation avionics, high survivability, and modern combat capabilities, placing India among a select group of nations with advanced fighter aircraft development expertise. The facility, spread across nearly **650 acres in Puttaparthi**, will include an **Aircraft Integration and Advanced Flight Testing Centre** for assembly, systems testing, flight validation, and prototype evaluation. The project is also expected to generate around **7,500 jobs** and strengthen India's aerospace manufacturing ecosystem.
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** achieved a historic milestone as **Squadron Leader Saanya** became the first woman officer to earn the prestigious **Cat-A Qualified Flying Instructor (QFI)** certification, one of the highest instructional qualifications in military aviation. The certification recognises exceptional flying skill, operational excellence, and advanced instructor capability, enabling officers to train future **fighter and transport pilots**. The achievement was officially acknowledged on **18 May 2026**, and she was felicitated by **Air Chief Marshal A. P. Singh**. The milestone reflects growing gender inclusion and merit-based advancement in India's armed forces.
- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully tested the indigenous **ULPGM-V3 (UAV-Launched Precision Guided Missile)**, strengthening India's drone warfare capabilities. Tested near **Kurnool**, the missile can operate in both **air-to-ground and air-to-air combat roles**, targeting **tanks, drones, helicopters, and aerial threats**. The project involved DRDO labs including **RCI, DRDL, TBRL, and HEMRL**, with UAV integration support from **NewSpace Research and Technologies**. Production backing from **Bharat Dynamics Limited** and **Adani Defence & Aerospace** reflects India's push for **self-reliant advanced defence manufacturing**.





- **Bharat Forge** has signed an agreement with the **Andhra Pradesh government** to establish India's first **private-sector marine gas turbine facility** in **Visakhapatnam**. The facility will offer **repair, overhaul, rotor balancing, blade restoration, and advanced testing services** for naval propulsion systems. Located near the **Eastern Naval Command and Naval Dockyard**, the project will enhance the **Indian Navy's operational readiness** while reducing dependence on foreign servicing ecosystems. The initiative strongly supports the **Atmanirbhar Bharat mission**, boosting indigenous defence manufacturing, strategic propulsion capability, and marine technology research.
- India launched the multinational military exercise **PRAGATI 2026** at **Umroi Military Station, Meghalaya**, with participation from armed forces of **12 friendly nations**. The two-week exercise focuses on **counter-terrorism operations, jungle warfare, interoperability, tactical coordination, and joint operational readiness** in difficult terrain conditions. Participating countries include **Bhutan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam**. **PRAGATI** stands for **Partnership of Regional Armies for Growth and Transformation in the Indian Ocean Region**, highlighting India's expanding role in **regional defence cooperation, Indo-Pacific security engagement, and multinational military collaboration**.
- India successfully test-fired the **Agni-I ballistic missile** from the **Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, Odisha**, on **22 May 2026** under the supervision of the **Strategic Forces Command**. The successful test confirmed achievement of all mission objectives, reinforcing India's strategic deterrence and defence preparedness. **Agni-I** is a **short-range ballistic missile** designed for quick deployment via **road and rail mobile launch platforms**, making it an important component of India's nuclear-capable deterrence architecture. The test highlights continued progress in India's **indigenous missile programme, defence modernisation, and strategic security capabilities**.
- India achieved a major defence milestone with the launch of **Suryastra**, the country's first indigenous **300-km Universal Rocket Launching System**, by Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh**. The launch coincided with the inauguration of a major defence manufacturing complex by **NIBE Limited** in **Shirdi, Maharashtra**. Designed to enhance **long-range precision strike capability**, **Suryastra** strengthens India's military preparedness and strategic autonomy. Supported by initiatives such as **Make in India, Aatmanirbhar Bharat**, and **iDEX**, the project promotes self-reliance in defence production while advancing innovation in **missile systems, artillery platforms, and autonomous defence technologies**.
- The **Indian Army** has launched two advanced digital platforms, **Kautilya** and **Q-FORCE**, to enhance **AI-driven warfare capabilities**, battlefield intelligence, and logistics management. **Kautilya** is an AI-enabled decision support system utilizing **data analytics** and **Natural Language Processing (NLP)** to improve situational awareness and military decision-making. **Q-FORCE** focuses on inventory management, operational logistics, and supply-chain optimization. These initiatives align with the Army's vision of **2026 as the "Year of Networking and Data Centricity"** and **2027 as the year of full AI-integrated military operations**, supporting modern network-centric warfare.
- **Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar** assumed charge as the **48th Vice Chief of the Naval Staff (VCNS)** of the **Indian Navy** on **29 May 2026**. With more than **37 years of distinguished service**, he has extensive experience in naval warfare, strategic planning, and fleet operations. Previously serving as **Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman and Nicobar Command**, he is a specialist in **Gunnery and Missile Systems** and has commanded major naval platforms, including **INS Vikramaditya**. He has been honoured with the **PVSM, AVSM, and Nau Sena Medal** for his exceptional service.
- Following the retirement of **Dr. Samir V. Kamat**, the Government of India has appointed **Rajesh Kumar Singh** as the additional **Secretary, Department of Defence Research and Development**, and **Chairman of DRDO** with effect from **31 May 2026**. Approved by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)**, Singh will continue to serve as **Defence Secretary** while overseeing India's premier defence research organization. During Kamat's tenure, **DRDO** made significant advancements in **quantum technologies, stealth UCAVs, EMALS, electric propulsion systems, and space-based intelligence and surveillance capabilities**.

Defense Current Affairs of April 2026

- **Adani Defence and Aerospace** delivered the first batch of **2,000 'Prahar' Light Machine Guns (7.62 mm)** to the Indian Army from its **Gwalior facility**, part of a **40,000-unit order** under **Make in India**. Developed with **Israel Weapon Industries**, the LMG (Negev NG7) weighs **7.6 kg**, uses an **open bolt system**, and was delivered **11 months early**. It enhances **infantry firepower, mobility, and precision**, boosting India's **indigenous defence manufacturing and combat readiness**.
- The **Indian Navy** hosted the **IONS Maritime Exercise (IMEX) TTX 2026** in **Kochi** at the Maritime Warfare Centre under Southern Naval Command, involving navies from countries like **France, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh**. Conducted under the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium, the **Tabletop Exercise (TTX)** focused on **non-traditional threats** like piracy and maritime terrorism. It enhanced **decision-making, coordination, and cooperation**, highlighting India's leadership as it prepares for **IONS Chairmanship (2026–28)**.





- The **Indian Air Force** will equip MiG-29 jets with **ASRAAM (Advanced Short Range Air-to-Air Missiles)**, replacing older **R-73 missiles (10–15 km range)**. Developed by MBDA, ASRAAM has **25+ km range, Mach 3 speed, infrared guidance, and fire-and-forget capability**, enhancing dogfight performance. Integrated with **LCA Tejas and Jaguar**, and assembled in India with **BDL**, it boosts **air combat capability, precision, and self-reliance in defence**.
- Indian Navy inducted indigenous stealth frigate **INS Dunagiri** on March 30, 2026, built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers under **Project 17A**. Featuring **75% indigenisation**, advanced stealth, automation, and systems like **BrahMos missiles, MF-STAR radar, and MRSAM**, it enhances multi-role combat capabilities. As the fifth Nilgiri-class frigate, it strengthens India's naval power and supports the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** initiative in defence manufacturing.
- Indian Navy inducted **INS Sanshodhak**, the final ship of a four-vessel project, built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers with over **80% indigenous content**. Delivered on March 30, 2026, it enhances **hydrographic survey, seabed mapping, and navigation safety** using advanced systems like **AUVs, ROVs, and sonar**. The vessel strengthens maritime research, coastal planning, and defence capabilities, supporting **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** and modern naval operations.
- **Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth** has assumed charge as **Vice Chief of the Army Staff**, bringing nearly **four decades of military experience**. An alumnus of the **National Defence Academy**, he has held key **command and strategic roles** across desert warfare, **Jammu & Kashmir**, and international missions like the **United Nations** in Angola. His appointment strengthens India's focus on **military modernization, operational readiness, and strategic leadership** at the highest level.
- The **Indian Army** has appointed new commanders for key operational formations. **Lt Gen Sandeep Jain** leads **Southern Command**, **Lt Gen VMB Krishnan** heads **Eastern Command**, and **Lt Gen Pushpendra Pal Singh** commands **Western Command**. These leadership changes aim to boost **operational readiness, strategic preparedness, and technological integration**. All three officers bring extensive experience in **counter-insurgency, high-altitude warfare, and logistics**, strengthening India's defence capabilities across critical regions.
- The **Indian Navy** has received **INS Malwan**, a next-generation **anti-submarine warfare vessel**, built by **Cochin Shipyard Limited** with over **80% indigenous content**. Designed for **shallow water operations**, it features advanced **sonar, torpedoes, and surveillance systems** to counter underwater threats. Part of an eight-vessel ASW fleet, it will replace ageing ships and enhance **coastal defence, maritime security, and self-reliance**, strengthening India's naval capabilities.
- India achieved a **record defence export of ₹38,424 crore in FY2025-26**, marking a sharp **62.66% growth** from the previous year. The surge reflects a shift toward **self-reliance and global defence manufacturing leadership**. **DPSUs** contributed over half of exports with significant growth, while the **private sector** also played a key role. This milestone highlights India's transformation from a **defence importer to a major exporter**, driven by reforms and rising global demand.
- **INS Taragiri** has been commissioned by the Indian Navy in Visakhapatnam in the presence of Rajnath Singh. Built under **Project 17A** by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, it is a **stealth frigate** with advanced **radar-evading design** and multi-role combat capability. Equipped with **modern missiles, anti-submarine systems, and CODOG propulsion**, it enhances India's **maritime strength, self-reliance, and naval power**.
- **Project Chetak** of the Border Roads Organisation marked its **47th Raising Day**, highlighting its role since **1980** in strengthening **border infrastructure** in western India. Operating in **Rajasthan, Punjab, and Gujarat**, it has built over **4,000 km roads** and improved **all-weather connectivity** in remote areas. The project supports **defence logistics**, enabling faster troop movement near the **India–Pakistan border**, thus enhancing **national security**. Guided by the motto "**Chetak ka Prayas, Desh ka Vikas**", it promotes **regional development, connectivity, and strategic preparedness**.
- **INS Sunayna** reached Malé on **April 6, 2026** under the **IOS SAGAR Mission**, strengthening **India–Maldives maritime cooperation**. Welcomed by the Maldives National Defence Force, the deployment features a **multinational crew from 16 countries** and joint **training exercises**. Activities include **professional exchanges, social interactions, and a PASSEX naval exercise**, enhancing **operational coordination**. This mission supports India's **Neighbourhood First policy**, promoting **regional security, friendship, and collaborative maritime engagement** in the Indian Ocean region.
- **INS Aridhaman**, India's **third nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN)**, has joined the Indian Navy fleet, boosting **maritime defence and strategic capability**. Commissioned in **Visakhapatnam**, it is more advanced than earlier submarines, with higher **missile capacity** and ability to carry **K-15, K-4, and future K-5 missiles**. As part of the **nuclear triad (land, air, sea)**, it enhances **second-strike capability and deterrence power**, placing India among top global military powers and strengthening its **underwater strategic dominance**.





- **Indian Army** has deployed a contingent to Egypt for the 4th edition of the **India-Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise 'Cyclone-IV'**, being held from April 9–17, 2026, at **Anshas**. This **bilateral military exercise** involves **elite special forces** from both countries, focusing on **interoperability, counter-terrorism operations, and combat training in desert conditions**. Around **25 Indian personnel** are participating alongside Egyptian troops, engaging in **joint mission planning, tactical drills, and survival exercises**. The exercise highlights the **growing defence cooperation** between India and Egypt, strengthening **strategic ties, mutual trust, and operational coordination** in regional security.
- **Indian Army** successfully conducted **Operation HimSetu**, rescuing over **1,400 stranded tourists and locals** in **North Sikkim** within **48 hours** after landslides and a bridge collapse near **Lachen** disrupted connectivity near the India-China border. Led by the **Trishakti Corps**, the mission evacuated **1,321 tourists and 84 residents** despite **extreme snowfall and harsh terrain**. The Army built **temporary bridges**, ensured **medical support**, and coordinated with the Border Roads Organisation for road restoration. The operation highlights the Army's **swift response, disaster management capability, and commitment to civilian safety** in critical situations.
- The Indian Navy will host the **Commanders' Conference 2026**, a three-day event to review **operational readiness**, strengthen **maritime security**, and align strategies with **national security goals**. Discussions will cover **emerging threats, secure sea lanes**, and lessons from **Operation Sindoor**, focusing on **joint military coordination**. Senior leaders, including the Chief of Defence Staff, will participate, emphasizing **technology-driven capabilities** and enhanced **civil-military collaboration** amid evolving regional challenges.
- The **7th edition of Exercise Dustlik** began on **April 13, 2026**, between India and Uzbekistan in the **Namangan region**. The exercise focuses on **counter-terrorism operations, semi-mountain warfare**, and improving **interoperability** between forces. With participation from the **Indian Army and Air Force**, it strengthens **defence cooperation** and reflects growing **strategic ties with Central Asia**, enhancing joint operational readiness and military coordination.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair the first-ever high-level conference of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) to strengthen **internal security** and enhance **strategic coordination**. The initiative aims to create a **unified security framework** by bringing together top leadership to address challenges like **insurgency, extremism, cyber threats, and**

border security. It will also focus on improving **intelligence sharing** and joint operations with agencies like the Intelligence Bureau. Overall, the conference marks a significant step toward a **technology-driven, coordinated national security approach** in India.

- Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of Army Staff of India, has been inducted into the **US Army War College International Hall of Fame** in Pennsylvania. He becomes the **third Indian Army Chief** to receive this honour after V K Singh and Bikram Singh. The recognition highlights India's **growing global military stature, professional excellence**, and contributions to **strategic leadership**. It also reflects stronger **India-US defence cooperation**, especially in the **Indo-Pacific region**. The honour enhances India's image as a **key global security partner** and strengthens **military collaboration**, including joint training, interoperability, and long-term strategic ties between the two nations.
- The **7th edition of Exercise 'Dustlik'** between India and Uzbekistan concluded in **Namangan**, strengthening **defence cooperation**. Around **120 personnel** (60 each) participated, including **Indian Army and Air Force troops**. The exercise focused on **counter-terrorism operations, semi-mountain warfare, and tactical coordination**. Key activities included **reconnaissance missions, strike operations, and neutralization of armed groups**. "Dustlik," meaning **friendship**, is held annually to enhance **interoperability and military readiness**. It highlights India's growing **strategic engagement in Central Asia** and reinforces bilateral ties through **joint training, knowledge sharing, and operational preparedness** in complex security environments.

Defense Current Affairs of March 2026

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 Pushendra 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-IDDMM) 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 (TNDIC)**.

Defense Current Affairs of February 2026

MILITARY EXERCISES & OPERATIONS

1. **Exercise KHANJAR-XIII** 13th joint military exercise **KHANJAR-XIII** conducted in **Missamari, Assam (4–17 Feb 2026)** between **India & Kyrgyzstan** to enhance **counter-terror cooperation**.
2. **India–Thailand Air Exercise** Joint in-situ air exercise between **IAF & Royal Thai Air Force** to strengthen **air combat coordination**.
3. **IMACC 2026 (Indian Military Adventure Challenge Cup)** First edition of **IMACC 2026** hosted by Indian Army in **Eastern Himalayas (18–23 Feb 2026)** with participation from **7 nations**: **Bhutan, Brazil, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Saudi Arabia**; focused on **endurance and adventure tasks**.
4. **Exercise Vayushakti-26** IAF exercise **Vayushakti-26** conducted on **27 February 2026** at **Pokhran Air-to-Ground Range, Jaisalmer** with aircraft: **Tejas, Rafale, Jaguar, Mirage-2000, Su-30MKI, MiG-29, Hawk**; guided by **'Achook, Abhedya aur Sateek'**; demonstrated **Akash SAM, SpyDer ADS, SRLM, and CUAS** systems.
5. **Exercise MILAN 2026** Exercise **MILAN 2026** (biennial multilateral naval exercise) held at **Visakhapatnam (15–25 February, 19-25 Feb operations)** with **74 nations (largest ever)** participating; theme: **'Camaraderie, Cooperation, Collaboration'**; **MILAN Village** inaugurated by **Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla**; **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** inaugurated alongside **International Fleet Review 2026 (Feb 18)** presided by **President Droupadi Murmu**.
6. **9th Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)** 9th Indian Ocean Naval Symposium **Conclave** held Feb 20 at **Visakhapatnam** during **MILAN 2026**; **India assuming IONS Chairmanship 2026–2028** (second tenure since 2008 forum launch); **Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi (Chief Naval Staff)** assumed chairmanship from **Royal Thai Navy**.
7. **Exercise DHARMA GUARDIAN 7th Edition** 7th edition **India-Japan Joint Military Exercise DHARMA GUARDIAN** commenced at **Foreign Training Node, Chaubattia, Uttarakhand (Feb 24-Mar 9, 2026)**; **120-member contingent each**: **Indian Army (Ladakh Scouts)** and **Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (32nd Infantry Regiment)**; aimed to strengthen military cooperation in semi-urban environments.





8. Exercise VAJRA PRAHAR 16th Edition 16th India-USA Joint Special Forces Exercise VAJRA PRAHAR commenced at Special Forces Training School, Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh (**Feb 23-Mar 15, 2026**); **45 Indian special forces personnel** and **12 Green Berets** exchanged **advanced special operations tactics**.

9. Exercise Agni Varsha Exercise Agni Varsha conducted by Indian Army's Southern Command at Pokhran Field Firing Ranges (**Feb 24, 2026**); validated **coordinated combined arms, precision long-range firepower, network-enabled command/control**; tested **T-90 Main Battle Tanks, Infantry Combat Vehicles, K-9 Vajra howitzers, Sharang/Bofors artillery, Apache attack helicopters, UAS/drones**.

10. Kalari Leap Maritime Exercise Kalari Leap high-tempo joint maritime exercise conducted by Southern Air Command in Lakshadweep/Minicoy archipelago validating **rapid force projection, joint operational planning, precision strikes** in complex maritime conditions; **120-member contingent: Armed Forces Special Operations Division, Indian Coast Guard, IAF** conducting **anti-ship strike drills and maritime SAR operations**.

11. Strela-10 Air Defence System Test Indian Army's Konark Corps conducted **high-intensity live firing test of Strela-10 Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS)** at Pokhran Field Firing Range (**Feb 2026**); successfully demonstrated **precision targeting aerial targets, enhanced crew coordination**, validated **6-10 km engagement range** against low-altitude threats (helicopters, UAVs).

12. Bharat RanBhoomi Darshan Expedition Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi flagged in **Bharat RanBhoomi Darshan Expedition** starting National War Memorial, **3,400-km expedition** covering key battlefields from Dwarka, Gujarat to New Delhi; **35-member contingent: Regiment of Artillery, Indian Navy, Border Security Force** honoring war heroes and highlighting border infrastructure development.

MISSILE TESTING & WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT

13. Agni-III (Agni-3) Missile Test Agni-III Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM) tested in Odisha; validated **operational readiness and strengthened nuclear deterrence capability**.

14. SFDR Technology (Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet) SFDR Technology demonstrated by **Defence Research and Development Organisation** at ITR Chandipur, Odisha; places **India among elite nations with advanced ramjet propulsion capability**.

15. DRDO Drogue Parachute Qualification Test DRDO successfully conducted **qualification-level load test** of Drogue Parachute (Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme) at Rail Track Rocket Sled facility, Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory, Chandipur (**Feb 18, 2026**); test validated design safety margins; parachute to stabilize/decelerate crew module during re-entry for **3-member Indian crew Low Earth Orbit (400 km) 3-day mission**.

DEFENSE PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTS

16. HAL-UAC Agreement (Superjet 100) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) & United Aircraft Corporation (Russia) signed production agreement for **Superjet 100 aircraft**.

17. DAC Approval - 114 Rafale Jets Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved Acceptance of Necessity for **114 Rafale Jets** valued at **₹3.25 lakh crore (≈USD 40 bn)**; **18 fly-away + 96 Make in India**; total Rafale fleet → **176 jets**; Dassault Aviation CEO: Eric Trappier.

18. BEML Research Partnership Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML), Indian Institute of Science (IISc) & FSID signed Tripartite research agreement for defence and heavy equipment innovation.

19. AMCA Shortlisted Firms DRDO shortlisted Tata Advanced Systems Ltd and L&T-Bharat Forge consortium for **5th-generation stealth fighter prototype (AMCA)**; production target: **125+ jets**; **IAF induction ~2035**.

20. MRFA Programme Indian Air Force MRFA Programme procurement process progressing for **114 multirole fighter aircraft**.

21. Amphibian Aircraft Order Apogee Aerospace & AAI (Australia) order placed for **15 amphibian aircraft**.

NAVAL OPERATIONS & SHIP COMMISSIONING

22. INS Tarangini - Fleet Review Participation INS Tarangini (India's sail training ship, commissioned 1997, first to circumnavigate globe 2003-04) participating in **IFR 2026 and MILAN** at Visakhapatnam.

23. CTS Krishna - Cadet Training Ship Launch First indigenous Cadet Training Ship (CTS Krishna) launched at **L&T Kattupalli, Chennai**; **122m length, 4,700 tonnes, 20 knots speed, 60-day endurance**; named after **River Krishna** (India's 3rd longest river).

24. INS Sudarshini - Historic Egypt Visit Indian Navy's Sail Training Ship INS Sudarshini arrived Safaga, Egypt during **Lokayan-26 deployment** covering **1,832 nautical miles in 16 days**; welcomed by **Egyptian Navy officials**, met **Rear Admiral Ramy Ahmed Ismail Mohamed**, strengthening naval cooperation through professional exchanges and community outreach.

25. INS Anjadip Commissioning Indian Navy to commission INS Anjadip (3rd Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft of **8-ship ASW-SWC project**) on **Feb 27, 2026** at Chennai Port presided by **Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi (Chief Naval Staff)**; **77-metre vessel** built by **GRSE, Kolkata** with **water-jet propulsion (25 knots max speed)**, equipped with **indigenous Hull Mounted Sonar Abhay, Lightweight Torpedoes, ASW Rockets**.

26. Sagar Defence USVs Sagar Defence delivered first two **AI-enabled Unmanned Surface Vessels (70% indigenous)** to **Indian Navy**.

27. CTF-154 Command Indian Navy assumed command of **Combined Task Force 154** under **Combined Maritime Forces** for the first time.

COAST GUARD & MARITIME INFRASTRUCTURE

28. MJP Waterjet Facility (Goa) ICG DG Paramesh Sivamani inaugurated **MJP Waterjet Facility** in Goa; **India becomes world's 3rd country** (after USA and South Korea) to host **waterjet production & testing facility**.





ARMY, NAVY & AIR FORCE NEWS

29. LNG-Diesel DEMU Train Indian Railways launched first dual-fuel DEMU train with **40% diesel substitution capability** using LNG-Diesel hybrid technology.

30. Yantra India Miniratna Status Yantra India Limited granted Miniratna Category-I status by Defence Ministry.

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY COOPERATION

31. India-UK Military Training Program IAF Qualified Flying Instructors (QFIs) to train RAF fast jet pilots at RAF Valley (Anglesey) – first ever; Indian officers now in all 3 British military academies strengthening bilateral military cooperation.

CIVILIAN SPACE & DEFENSE INITIATIVES

32. US Micro Nuclear Reactor Airlift First air transport of Ward microreactor (Valar Atomics) by C-17 from California to Hill AFB, Utah; capacity: **up to 5 MW**.

33. CBDC-Based PDS Launch Union Minister Amit Shah launched India's first CBDC (₹) based Public Distribution System in Gujarat (Ahmedabad, Anand, Valsad, Surat) demonstrating digital currency integration in essential services.

DEFENSE PERSONNEL & EVENTS

34. Indian Navy Half Marathon 2nd edition Indian Navy Half Marathon held in New Delhi; flagged off by CNS with **10 km run** by Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya; partner: IDFC First Bank.

Awards & Recognition

Awards & Recognition of July 2026

- **Sunil Bharti Mittal, Founder and Chairman of Bharti Enterprises**, received the **2026 Leadership Award** from the **US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF)** during its **Annual Leadership Summit** in **Washington, D.C.** The honour recognizes his outstanding contribution to strengthening **India-US economic relations** and transforming India's telecommunications sector. Mittal emphasized the importance of **digital connectivity, innovation, and investment**, while expressing confidence in the early conclusion of the proposed **India-US trade agreement**. The award also acknowledges his role in promoting globally competitive businesses and bilateral commercial cooperation.
- From **2027**, the **International Booker Prize** will be renamed the **Bukhman International Booker Prize** under a **10-year** partnership with **Bukhman Philanthropies**. The annual prize money will double to **£100,000**, shared equally between the **author and translator**, while shortlisted entries will continue receiving **£5,000** each. Founded by **Daria and Dmitri Bukhman**, the philanthropic organization supports literature, education, and healthcare. Chaired by **Katie Kitamura** in **2027**, the award continues recognizing outstanding translated fiction published in the **UK or Ireland**.
- The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** received the **Gold Award** at the **National Awards for e-Governance 2026** for its **AI-powered mental health platform, ICMR-MINDS**. The award recognized innovation in delivering **citizen-centric healthcare services** through **Artificial Intelligence**. The platform uses an **AI-based Clinical Decision Support System (CDSS)** to assist frontline healthcare workers with **mental health screening, assessment, treatment recommendations, and follow-up care**. Featuring **multilingual support, offline functionality, and real-time dashboards**, ICMR-MINDS aims to improve accessible and evidence-based mental healthcare across India.
- **Acharya Ranchhodlal Goswami** of **Ahmedabad** was selected for the **Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar 2025** by the

Sangeet Natak Akademi for preserving **Haveli Sangeet**. The **16th-generation Acharya** of the historic **Goswami Haveli** has composed over **2,200 devotional verses**, authored **eight books**, contributed to **Gujarat University's Haveli Sangeet curriculum**, and continues doctoral research in music. The award recognizes his efforts in preserving the **550-year-old Pushtimarg devotional music tradition**, an important component of India's classical musical heritage.

- The **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** won the prestigious **WSIS Prize 2026** for **Samriddh Gram**, an integrated **phygital** rural service delivery model powered by **BharatNet**. Awarded under **Action Line C6**, the initiative establishes **Samriddhi Kendras** delivering healthcare, education, agriculture, financial inclusion, governance, and digital services through village-level centres. Supported by BharatNet's connectivity to over **2.17 lakh Gram Panchayats**, the project was selected after evaluation by the **ITU** and over **2.2 million global votes**, showcasing India's leadership in **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** and inclusive rural digital transformation.
- India achieved a historic feat at the **56th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) 2026** in **Colombia**, with all five team members winning **gold medals**. India jointly topped the medal tally with **China, Kazakhstan, Russia, South Korea, and Taiwan**. The medalists were **Kanishk Jain, Riddhesh Bendale, Rishit Garg, Shresth Suraiya, and Svarit Joshi**. Trained by **HBCSE**, the team continued India's decade-long record of winning only **gold or silver medals**, reinforcing India's excellence in international science education.
- Renowned **Tamil poet and lyricist R. Vairamuthu** received the **60th Jnanpith Award (2025)**, India's highest literary honour, becoming the **third Tamil writer** to receive the award after **Akilan and Jayakanthan**. Presented in **New Delhi** by **Dr. Karan Singh**, the award includes **₹11 lakh**, a **bronze statue of Goddess Vagdevi**, and a citation. Vairamuthu was recognised for his exceptional contribution to **Tamil literature**, including works such as **Kallikattu Ithikasam**, which won the **Sahitya Akademi Award**.





- India achieved a historic milestone at the **58th International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) 2026** in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, with all four participants winning **gold medals** for the first time. **Debadatta Priyadarshi, Harshit Singla, Kabeer Chillar, and Sandeep Kuchi** secured golds, placing India among the top-performing nations alongside **China, Vietnam, and Russia's Individual Participants Group B**. Organized with **363 students from 93 countries**, the competition tested advanced chemistry concepts and laboratory skills. The achievement reflects the excellence of **HBCSE's** rigorous scientific training.
- India won **one gold and three silver medals** at the **37th International Biology Olympiad (IBO) 2026** held in Vilnius, Lithuania. **Bhavya Gunwal** earned the **gold medal**, while **Soumil Maity, Nishit Kalani, and Anmol Kumar** secured **silver medals**, ensuring every Indian participant won an award. The event featured **307 students from 78 countries**, assessing theoretical and practical knowledge in **genetics, molecular biology, ecology, and physiology**. Guided by **HBCSE-TIFR**, India further strengthened its reputation in global science competitions.
- Renowned American filmmaker **James Gray** will receive the **Pardo alla Carriera (Honorary Career Pardo Award)** at the **79th Locarno Film Festival** on **9 August 2026**. The honour recognizes his outstanding contribution to world cinema and will be presented before the screening of his latest film, **Paper Tiger**. Gray is acclaimed for films including **Little Odessa, We Own the Night, The Immigrant, The Lost City of Z, Ad Astra, and Armageddon Time**, celebrated for exploring identity, family, immigration, and human values.
- Former **DRDO Chairman Dr. G. Satheesh Reddy** received the prestigious **EMESCO-Dr. B.V. Pattabhiram Changemaker-2026 Award** in Hyderabad for his exceptional contributions to **defence research, scientific innovation, and technological self-reliance**. The award was presented by actor and politician **Chiranjeevi**. Dr. Reddy highlighted India's growing capabilities in **indigenous defence technologies**, which have significantly reduced dependence on foreign nations for critical military systems. As a member of the **National Security Advisory Board (NSAB)**, he continues to inspire students and young scientists through **science outreach, lectures, and innovation-driven initiatives**.
- Prem K. Vora**, President of the **Electric Merchants Association (EMA)** for **2025-26**, was honoured with the prestigious **Rashtriya Ashok Samman (Bharat Samman)** during the **National Leadership Conclave** held in **New Delhi** in **July 2026**. The award recognizes his outstanding contribution to the **electrical trade sector, ethical business practices, MSME development, and sustainable industrial growth**. Under his leadership, EMA has promoted **digital transformation, the Green Electricals initiative, innovation, and modernization** within the industry. He has previously received honours such as the **Global Youth Ambassador Award** and the **Iconic Emerging Leader in the Electrical Industry Award**.
- The **Fields Medal 2026**, considered the **highest honour in mathematics**, was awarded to **Hong Wang, Yu Deng, John Pardon, and Jacob Tsimerman** at the **International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM) 2026**. The award recognizes exceptional mathematical achievements and future potential. **Hong Wang** was honoured for contributions to **harmonic analysis and geometric measure theory**, while **Yu Deng** received it for work in **partial differential equations (PDEs)**. **John Pardon** was recognized for **symplectic geometry and topology**, and **Jacob Tsimerman** for advances in **arithmetic geometry**. The **Fields Medal** is awarded every four years by the **International Mathematical Union (IMU)** to mathematicians **under 40 years of age**.
- National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval** received the **Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2026** on **1 August 2026** in **Pune, Maharashtra** for his outstanding contribution to **national security and strategic affairs**. The award was presented by **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** during a ceremony organized by the **Lokmanya Tilak Smarak Trust** on the **106th death anniversary of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak**. Doval was recognized for his decades-long service in **intelligence operations, counter-terrorism, border security, and security policymaking**. A **1968-batch Indian Police Service (IPS)** officer, he is India's longest-serving **National Security Adviser**. The honour included a **memento, citation, and ₹1 lakh cash prize**, recognizing his role in strengthening India's security framework and protecting national interests.

Awards & Recognition of June 2026

- Soma Mandal**, a science teacher from **GD Goenka Public School**, became the first Indian to win the global **Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Award 2026**. She was recognized for developing a climate-focused and inquiry-based science curriculum that promotes environmental awareness, problem-solving, and sustainable thinking among students. The award celebrates outstanding educators worldwide and acknowledges innovative teaching practices that positively impact student learning. Her achievement highlights the growing global recognition of Indian educators and their contributions to shaping future generations through quality education and environmental consciousness.
- Valluvan**, a farmer from **Pollachi, Tamil Nadu**, was recognized as a **FAO Soil Farmer Hero** for successfully transforming his coconut farm into a profitable multi-crop agroforestry enterprise. By adopting crop diversification and sustainable farming practices, he significantly improved both income levels and soil health. His model demonstrates the benefits of agroforestry, environmental conservation, and climate-resilient agriculture. The recognition showcases how innovative farming techniques can improve productivity, increase farmer earnings, and contribute to long-term sustainability while preserving natural resources.





- Indian students **Vivaan Chhawchharia, Ariana Agarwal, and Avyana Mehta** became the first Indian team to win **The Earth Prize** for developing **Plas-Stick**, an innovative biodegradable material made from tamarind seed powder. The solution helps remove **microplastics** from contaminated water by binding plastic particles into larger clumps that can be easily separated. Designed as a low-cost and eco-friendly technology, it addresses the growing challenge of water pollution and environmental degradation. Their achievement highlights the role of youth innovation in developing sustainable solutions for global environmental problems.
- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj will present the **National Panchayat Awards 2025** to 42 Panchayats in New Delhi. The awards under **Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan** recognise excellence in **local governance, sustainable development, infrastructure, and social inclusion**. Selection is based on **Panchayat Advancement Index 2.0**, evaluating transparency, women empowerment, and environmental sustainability. Awards include categories covering **SDG-linked themes and best-performing Panchayats**. The initiative promotes grassroots democracy, citizen participation, and good governance, strengthening rural development systems and encouraging innovation in local self-governance across India.
- David Beckham** will receive a star on the **Hollywood Walk of Fame** on 12 June 2026. The recognition honours his outstanding contributions to **football and global sports culture**. Beckham played for clubs including **Manchester United, Real Madrid, LA Galaxy, AC Milan, and PSG**, winning multiple titles. He also earned **115 international caps for England**, captaining the team 59 times. The honour comes ahead of the **FIFA World Cup 2026**, highlighting his lasting influence on global football and sports icon status across generations.
- British actor and activist **Idris Elba** was knighted by King Charles III at Windsor Castle for services to **youth development and community work**. He was honoured for his efforts through the **Elba Hope Foundation** and association with **The King's Trust**, which supported his early career. Known for roles in **The Wire and Luther**, he has contributed significantly to entertainment and philanthropy. The knighthood recognises his commitment to **education, empowerment, and social upliftment**, making him one of the prominent cultural figures combining arts and social impact.
- Dalai Lama** received his **Grammy Award for the audiobook "Meditations"** at his residence in Dharamshala. The project featured collaboration with **sarod maestro Amjad Ali Khan and his sons Amaan and Ayaan Ali Bangash**. The audiobook had won in the **Best Audiobook category**. The recognition highlights themes of **peace, compassion, and unity**, promoting spiritual and cultural harmony. The award ceremony emphasised artistic collaboration and global appreciation of spiritual teachings through modern media formats, reinforcing the Dalai Lama's message of non-violence and universal well-being.
- Lionel Messi** has become the first footballer to receive the **Princess of Asturias Sports Award 2026**. The award recognises his excellence in football and contributions to **humanitarian work, leadership, and sportsmanship**. His achievements include the **FIFA World Cup 2022, Copa América titles, Olympic gold medal, and eight Ballon d'Or awards**. The honour highlights his global influence in sport and society, celebrating both his athletic success and social impact.
- India's youth platform **MY Bharat** entered the **Guinness World Records** for the highest number of users completing an online quiz in a week. Over **3.9 lakh participants** completed the **Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue Quiz**, promoting youth engagement in the vision of **Viksit Bharat@2047**. The initiative reflects strong participation of young citizens in national development and digital learning.
- The **Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI)** won a **Gold Award at the National e-Governance Awards 2026** for promoting **data-driven governance and digital transformation** in rural administration. It strengthens **transparency, accountability, and evidence-based planning** in Panchayats.
- The **Uttar Pradesh Sangeet Natak Akademi** honored **51 artistes** for contributions to **music, dance, theatre, and folk arts**. The recognition highlights efforts to preserve **India's cultural heritage, traditional arts, and performing art documentation**.
- The **e-Jagriti** platform, developed by the **Department of Consumer Affairs**, won the **Silver Award at the National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG) 2026** under the category of Government Process Re-engineering through Digital Transformation. Launched in January 2025, the AI-powered platform integrates four legacy consumer dispute systems into a single paperless ecosystem. It has registered more than **4.15 lakh users**, handled **2.29 lakh cases**, and achieved a **90.75% disposal rate**. Features such as **AI chatbots**, multilingual support, real-time tracking, and online hearings have significantly improved consumer grievance redressal and access to justice.
- Sudarsan Pattnaik**, a renowned sand artist from **Puri, Odisha**, became the first Indian to win the prestigious **Russia Grand Sand Master Cup 2026**, held at the **II International Festival of Sand Sculpture in Russia** on 11 June 2026. The event featured 12 international sculptors, where Pattnaik was honored for his outstanding contribution to **sand art** and his impactful sculpture on **global warming**. His three-metre artwork depicted Earth's contrasting faces of **environmental degradation and conservation efforts**. The award was presented by **Alena Aleksandrovna**, recognizing his global influence in promoting **climate awareness, sustainability, and humanitarian messages** through art.





- Prime Minister Narendra Modi received the prestigious Order of the White Double Cross (1st Class) from Slovak President Peter Pellegrini during his visit to Bratislava. The honour recognizes his contribution to strengthening **India-Slovakia Relations** and promoting international cooperation. This became the **33rd International Honour** conferred on PM Modi by a foreign nation, reflecting India's growing diplomatic influence and global engagement.
- The **Navi Mumbai International Airport** and **Terminal 2 of Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport** were included in the prestigious **Prix Versailles World's Most Beautiful Airports List 2026**. The recognition was awarded for outstanding **Architecture, Sustainability, Innovation, and Passenger Experience**. Navi Mumbai Airport impressed with its **Lotus-Inspired Design**, while the Guwahati terminal was recognized for its **Bamboo Orchid-Inspired Architecture** reflecting Northeast India's cultural heritage. The achievement highlights India's growing focus on world-class, environmentally sustainable airport infrastructure.
- Indian-origin theoretical physicist **Jainendra K. Jain** became the first person of Indian origin to receive the prestigious **Wolf Prize in Physics** for his pioneering discovery of **composite fermions**, which transformed the understanding of the **fractional quantum Hall effect**. The award was presented in **Jerusalem** by **Isaac Herzog**. In **1989**, while at **Yale University**, Jain proposed that electrons could combine with quantum vortices to form composite fermions, providing a unified explanation for previously unexplained fractional conductivity states. His theory led to the prediction of the famous "**Jain States**" and became a cornerstone of **condensed matter physics**. Born in **Sambhar, Rajasthan**, he studied at **IIT Kanpur**, earned a PhD from **Stony Brook University**, and is currently a professor at **Pennsylvania State University**.
- Indian conservationists **Parveen Shaikh** and **Dr. Barkha Subba** received the **2026 Whitley Awards**, popularly known as the '**Green Oscars**', presented by the **Whitley Fund for Nature** in London. Each recipient received **£50,000** to support conservation projects. Parveen Shaikh was recognised for protecting the **Indian Skimmer** along the Chambal River through community-based conservation initiatives. Dr. Barkha Subba was honoured for conserving the **Himalayan Salamander** in Darjeeling through habitat restoration and scientific monitoring. The awards recognise outstanding grassroots environmental leadership worldwide.
- India achieved a record by securing **7 schools in Top 10 finalists** of the **World's Best School Prizes 2026** by T4 Education. Schools from Pune and Jammu & Kashmir were shortlisted in innovation and community categories. The awards recognize excellence in leadership, sustainability, and education innovation. Winners will be announced in November 2026. The achievement highlights India's global leadership in transformative education and inclusive learning practices.

Awards & Recognition of May 2026

- Botanist **N. Alim Yusuf** was honoured by the **World Wide Fund for Nature** for developing an **AI-powered app** to detect **invasive plant species** in Kerala. The app identifies nearly **100 species**, aiding **biodiversity conservation** and enabling **early detection** of ecological threats. Developed at the **Malabar Botanical Garden and Institute for Plant Sciences**, it empowers **researchers, forest officials**, and the public. This innovation highlights the role of **artificial intelligence** in **environmental monitoring**, bridging **technology and ecology**. The recognition underscores efforts toward **sustainable development, climate action**, and strengthening **ecosystem protection** globally.
- The **Sur Jyotsna National Music Awards 2026**, held in **New Delhi**, honoured eminent artists **Sumitra Guha** and **Laxman Krishnarao Pandit** for their lifelong contribution to **Indian classical music**. The awards celebrate excellence and aim to preserve **cultural heritage** while encouraging young talent. Hosted at the **Dr Ambedkar International Centre**, the event featured dignitaries and performances by artists like **Kailash Kher**. Expanding to multiple cities, the initiative promotes wider appreciation of **traditional music** across India.
- The Indian scientist **Parveen Shaikh** has won the **Whitley Award 2026** for protecting the endangered **Indian Skimmer** in the Ganga Basin. Her **community-led conservation model**, involving local "nest guardians," improved survival rates and increased bird population significantly. Supported by the **Bombay Natural History Society**, the project will now expand to **Prayagraj**, addressing challenges like pollution and human disturbance. This recognition highlights the importance of **community participation, biodiversity conservation, and grassroots environmental efforts** in protecting endangered species.
- Two Indian journalists, **R.K. Anand** and **Suparna Sharma**, won the **Pulitzer Prize 2026** in the category of **Illustrated Reporting and Commentary** for their investigative work on **cyber fraud and digital surveillance**. They shared the award with **Natalie Obiko Pearson** for the Bloomberg project titled "**trAPPed**." The report exposed the story of an Indian neurologist trapped in a "**digital arrest**" scam, highlighting how cybercriminals misuse technology to manipulate victims remotely. The project combined **visual storytelling, data analysis, and investigative journalism** to reveal the growing dangers of **online scams, digital exploitation, and surveillance abuse**. The award, announced on **May 4, 2026**, recognizes excellence in journalism and is administered by **Columbia University** through the prestigious **Pulitzer Prize** program.





- Soma Mandal has won the **South Asia regional title** at the **Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Awards 2026**, organized by Cambridge University Press & Assessment. She was recognized for her outstanding work in **environmental education, climate change awareness**, and promoting sustainability among students. The awards received over **12,000 nominations from 126 countries**, with only **nine regional winners** selected globally. Mandal's teaching approach focuses on practical climate solutions, student leadership, and environmental responsibility. As a winner, she will receive **£500 worth of books**, a trophy, global recognition, and inclusion in future Cambridge textbooks.
- Droupadi Murmu presented the **National Florence Nightingale Awards 2026** at Rashtrapati Bhavan on **International Nurses Day**. The awards, instituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, honor outstanding nursing professionals for their dedication, compassion and healthcare service. Awardees included **Kulwinder Parhi, Ujwala Mahadev Soyam, Lalenthangi Hnamte, Gita Karmakar** and **Maj Gen Lissamma PV** from various states and institutions across India. The 2026 theme, **"Our Nurses. Our Future. Empowered Nurses Save Lives,"** highlights better working conditions, leadership opportunities and quality training for nurses nationwide.
- India's **Chandrayaan-3 mission** received the prestigious **2026 AIAA Goddard Astronautics Award** in **Washington, D.C.**, recognising India's historic achievement in lunar exploration. The mission made global history when India became the **first country to successfully soft-land near the Moon's south pole**, a region of major scientific interest due to possible **water ice and resource potential**. The award was accepted on behalf of **ISRO** by India's Ambassador to the United States, **Vinay Kwatra**. The honour strengthens India's global standing in **space technology, lunar exploration, and advanced scientific capability**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** received Sweden's prestigious **Royal Order of the Polar Star – Commander Grand Cross**, one of the country's highest civilian honours. Established in **1748 by King Frederick I**, the award recognises distinguished contributions to **international cooperation, diplomacy, and leadership**. The honour reflects strengthening **India–Sweden relations** across **green transition, AI, innovation, defence, climate action, trade, and space cooperation**. This adds to PM Modi's growing list of international recognitions and symbolises India's expanding diplomatic footprint and strategic global partnerships in emerging sectors.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** received Norway's highest civilian honour, the **Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit**, during his official visit to **Oslo**, marking his **32nd international honour** from a foreign country. Established in **1985 by King Olav V**, the award recognises exceptional contributions to **international relations and services connected to Norway**, and is conferred under **King Harald V**. The visit is historically significant as the **first by an Indian Prime Minister to Norway in 43 years**, highlighting stronger **India–Nordic cooperation** in diplomacy, trade, technology, and strategic engagement.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** received the prestigious **FAO Agricola Medal** during his visit to **Rome**, recognising contributions to **sustainable agriculture, food security, and rural development**. The **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** acknowledged India's efforts in **climate-resilient farming, farmer welfare, agricultural innovation, and sustainable food systems** under his leadership. PM Modi dedicated the honour to India's **farmers, livestock rearers, fishers, scientists, and agricultural workers**, describing them as the backbone of national food security. He emphasised that agriculture in India is deeply linked to **culture, nature, and human welfare**, not merely economic production.
- Renowned **Kantha embroidery artist Tripti Mukherjee** will receive the **Padma Shri** on **25 May 2026** from President **Droupadi Murmu** for preserving West Bengal's traditional textile heritage and empowering rural women through handicrafts. With over **37 years of experience**, she trained numerous women through her centre in **Suri**, helping them achieve financial independence through embroidery work. She also promoted Indian handicrafts internationally at exhibitions in **Birmingham and Tokyo**. Her earlier honours include the **Shilp Guru Award, Bangashree Award, and National Award Certificate**, recognising her exceptional contribution to traditional Indian craftsmanship.
- Indian public health scientist **Dr. Soumya Swaminathan** has been elected a **Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS)**, one of the world's most prestigious scientific honours. The recognition celebrates her decades of contributions to **infectious disease research, public health leadership, and global health policy**, including roles as **former WHO Chief Scientist** and **former Director General of ICMR**. She becomes only the **second Indian woman after Gagandeep Kang** to receive the honour. The achievement also marks a notable father-daughter milestone, as her father, agricultural scientist **M. S. Swaminathan**, was also an **FRS Fellow**.
- **Taiwan Travelogue** by **Yang Shuang-zi**, translated by **Lin King**, won the **International Booker Prize 2026**, becoming the first **Mandarin Chinese-translated novel** to receive the prestigious literary honour. Set in **1930s colonial Taiwan**, the novel explores themes of **identity, friendship, colonial tensions, food culture, and metafictional storytelling** through the journey of a Japanese writer and her interpreter. The win highlights the rising global recognition of **Taiwanese literature** and the importance of literary translation in cultural exchange. The shortlist broadly reflected themes of **resilience, exile, struggle, and human connection**.





- **Major Abhilasha Barak** has been honoured with the **2025 United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award** for her exceptional contribution to **women empowerment, gender sensitization**, and community outreach during her service with the **United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)**. As Commander of the **Female Engagement Team**, she worked closely with women and girls in conflict-affected communities while promoting inclusive peacebuilding efforts. A pioneering **combat helicopter pilot** in the Indian Army, she became **India's third recipient** of this prestigious award, highlighting India's growing contribution to **gender-inclusive peacekeeping operations** worldwide.
- The **Sansad Ratna Awards 2026** recognized outstanding contributions by Members of Parliament and Parliamentary Committees in legislative work and public service. This year, **10 Lok Sabha MPs, 2 Rajya Sabha MPs, and 4 Parliamentary Standing Committees** received the honour. Notable awardees included **Medha Kulkarni** and **Smita Uday Wagh**. Established in **2010** by the **Prime Point Foundation** and inspired by **Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam**, the awards are based on measurable parliamentary indicators such as **attendance, debates, questions raised, and committee participation**, encouraging greater accountability and effectiveness in parliamentary functioning.
- President **Droupadi Murmu** conferred the **Padma Awards 2026** on **66 distinguished personalities** during the first Civil Investiture Ceremony at **Rashtrapati Bhavan**. The awards included **2 Padma Vibhushan, 6 Padma Bhushan, and 58 Padma Shri** honours across fields such as arts, sports, medicine, public affairs, and industry. Legendary actor **Dharmendra** received the **Padma Vibhushan posthumously**, while celebrated violinist **N. Rajam** was honoured for her contribution to Indian classical music. Other notable recipients included **Harmanpreet Kaur, Uday Kotak, and Bhagat Singh Koshyari**.
- The **United Nations** will posthumously honour Indian peacekeepers **Harbhajan Singh** and **Sujit Kumar Pradhan** with the prestigious **Dag Hammarskjöld Medal** for sacrificing their lives during peacekeeping missions in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** and **South Sudan**. Additionally, **Major Abhilasha Barak** will receive the **2025 Military Gender Advocate Award** for promoting gender inclusion and women's participation in peacekeeping operations in **Lebanon**. India remains one of the largest contributors to UN peacekeeping efforts, with more than **4,200 personnel** currently serving in missions across the world.

Awards & Recognition of April 2026

- The **International Booker Prize 2026** shortlist features **six global novels** exploring themes of **identity, exile, and human resilience**. The award honours **translated fiction** published in the UK and Ireland. According to judge **Natasha Brown**, the selected works reflect "burning humanity" through stories of **political unrest, cultural belonging, and survival**. The shortlist highlights **diverse voices and histories**, reinforcing the prize's role in promoting **global literature and cross-cultural understanding**.
- Indian Institute of Management Rohtak won **BIMTECH's 'Hermes' Dialogue 6.0**, a national-level debate hosted by Birla Institute of Management Technology, featuring participants from **12 countries**. The theme focused on **energy independence and global energy security amid geopolitical uncertainty**. With over **250 participants**, the event included **online tests, case studies, and a final debate simulating global forums like G20/UN**. Team **LeBroom (IIM Rohtak)** secured first place, highlighting strong **analytical thinking, policy understanding, and global perspective**.
- Anita Chaudhary, a forest officer at Shergarh Wildlife Sanctuary, is known for her **wildlife conservation and anti-poaching efforts**. Since 2021, she has rescued nearly **500 animals** and taken strict action against **poachers, smugglers, and illegal mining**. Her work includes managing **human-wildlife conflict** and protecting endangered species. For her dedication, she received the **WWF Machchli National Award** from World Wide Fund for Nature, recognizing her role in safeguarding ecosystems and inspiring grassroots conservation.
- Banaras Hindu University won the **AIU National Moot Court Competition 2026** held at Integral University, securing **₹25,000, trophies, and medals**. The event saw participation from **40 teams nationwide**, testing **legal research, advocacy, and courtroom skills**. Chandigarh University finished runner-up. The competition highlighted the importance of **practical legal training, enhancing students' argumentation, confidence, and understanding of judicial processes**.
- Sayani Gupta has been honoured with the **Harvard South Asian "Person of the Year" 2026** award by the Harvard South Asian Association. This prestigious recognition celebrates her **impactful storytelling, bold performances, and contribution to global South Asian representation**. Known for projects like *Four More Shots Please!* and *Article 15*, she has consistently promoted **inclusive narratives** and challenged stereotypes. Following **Vikas Khanna (2025 awardee)**, her achievement highlights the rising influence of **content-driven cinema** and her evolving role as both **actor and filmmaker** on the global stage.





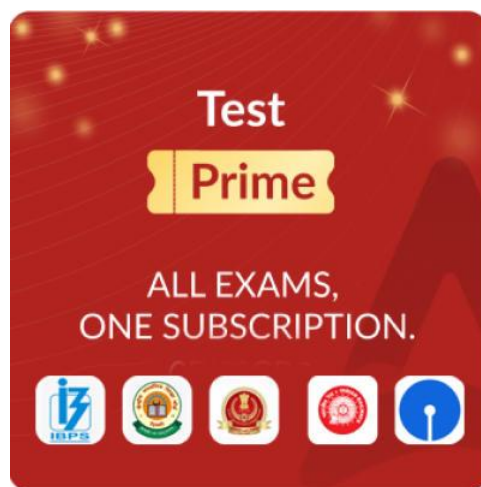
Awards & Recognition of March 2026

- Nishita Yogesh Antarkar was crowned **Miss Sake India 2026** at an event in Mumbai on April 17, 2026, organized by Hirohama India Pvt. Ltd.. More than a pageant, the platform promotes **Japanese sake culture and Indo-Japanese cultural ties**. Nishita, a **business owner and Kathak dancer**, brings strong cultural representation. The event, attended by dignitaries like Toshihiro Kaneko, emphasized **cultural diplomacy and collaboration**. Winners serve as **cultural ambassadors**, fostering **cross-cultural understanding and global friendship** between India and Japan.
- Sadhvi Satish Sail** from **Goa** was crowned **Femina Miss India World 2026** at the grand finale in **Bhubaneswar**, marking a proud milestone. In the **61st edition**, **Rajnandini Pawar** from **Maharashtra** secured **first runner-up**. Crowned by **Nikita Porwal**, Sadhvi will represent **India at Miss World 2027**. A **model and entrepreneur**, she highlighted **gratitude, unity, and purpose** after her win. The pageant evaluates **personality, communication, talent, and social awareness**. Rajnandini stood out with her **sports and artistic excellence**. The platform continues to nurture **confident, socially aware women**, preparing them for **global representation and leadership**.
- Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao received the **9th Prof. M.S. Swaminathan Award 2026** in **Hyderabad** for contributions to **climate-resilient agriculture and natural resource management**. Currently leading Indian Agricultural Research Institute, he advanced **sustainable farming, soil health, and water management**. The award, marking the **birth centenary** of M. S. Swaminathan, highlights the shift from **Green Revolution to climate-resilient agriculture**. His work improved **food security and climate adaptation**. The event, attended by leaders like M. Venkaiah Naidu, underscores the importance of **agricultural innovation for national development**.
- India's **Samridhh Gram Initiative**, led by the Department of Telecommunications, has been nominated for the **WSIS Prizes 2026** under the **Enabling Environment** category. Built on BharatNet, it uses a **'phygital' approach** to combine **digital infrastructure with physical service centers**. Through **Samridhhi Kendras**, it provides **healthcare, education, banking, and e-governance services** in rural areas. The initiative boosts **connectivity, digital inclusion, and livelihoods**, reducing the rural-urban divide. This recognition highlights India's leadership in **ICT-driven rural development** and its commitment to **inclusive digital transformation**.
- 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 Gol (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 – IS 440 LA, IS 470 LA, IS 510 LA, IS 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'honneur - 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**.

Awards & Recognition of February 2026

ENVIRONMENTAL & CONSERVATION AWARDS

1. **Patna Bird Sanctuary - Ramsar Site Designation** **Patna Bird Sanctuary (Uttar Pradesh)** designated as **India's 97th Ramsar wetland site**.
2. **Chhari-Dhand - Ramsar Site Designation** **Chhari-Dhand (Gujarat)** designated as **India's 98th Ramsar wetland site**.

CORPORATE & ORGANIZATIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

3. **SAIL - Great Place to Work Certification** **Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)** certified for **third consecutive year** by **Great Place to Work**.
4. **HMG Stone LLP - ISO & 5S Certification** **HMG Stone LLP** earned **ISO 9001:2015 & 5S Gold Grade** – first in **Indian natural stone industry**.
5. **VOC Port Authority - IGBC Platinum Rating** **VOC Port Authority** became **first Major Port** with **IGBC Platinum Rating**; also received **Shunya and Shunya Plus** certifications from **BEE**.
6. **Paradip Port Authority - Swachhata Award** **Paradip Port Authority** won **First Prize** in **Swachhata Pakhwada Award 2025**.

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC & RESEARCH AWARDS

7. **Veerabhadran Ramanathan - Crafoord Prize** **Veerabhadran Ramanathan** awarded **Crafoord Prize** in **Geosciences 2026** for **pioneering climate research**.
8. **Oil India Limited - FIPI Award** **Oil India Limited** won **FIPI Award 2025 – 'Oil & Gas Production Company of the Year' (>1 MTOE)** at **India Energy Week**.

HUMANITARIAN & SOCIAL IMPACT AWARDS

9. **Dr. Haripriya Aravind & Dr. R. Venkatesh - Humanitarian Award** **Dr. Haripriya Aravind & Dr. R. Venkatesh** (Aravind Eye Care System, Puducherry) selected for **Chang-Crandall Humanitarian Award 2026**; **USD 100,000 grant** donated back to the system.
10. **Gyalyum Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck - Brahma Award** **Gyalyum Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck** awarded **22nd Upendra Nath Brahma Award 2025 – 'Soldier of Humanity' Award**.





EDUCATION & ACADEMIC RECOGNITION

11. Rouble Nagi - Global Teacher Prize Rouble Nagi awarded Global Teacher Prize 2026.

12. Shashi Tharoor - Honorary Doctorate Shashi Tharoor (MP Thiruvananthapuram) conferred **Honorary Doctor of Letters (Honoris Causa)** at **St Xavier's University Kolkata** 7th convocation; first honorary doctorate for former Xaverian.

CULTURAL HERITAGE & UNESCO RECOGNITION

13. Vasai Cathedral - UNESCO Asia-Pacific Award Our Lady of Grace Cathedral, Vasai (Maharashtra) (475 years old) received **Award of Merit, UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation 2025**; sole Indian religious site receiving recognition 2025 edition.

FILM & ENTERTAINMENT AWARDS

14. Boong - BAFTA Award Manipuri-language film "Boong" became **first Indian film winning Best Children's & Family Film category** at **79th BAFTA Awards** (Royal Festival Hall, London); director **Lakshmi Priya Devi** production (Farhan Akhtar, Ritesh Sidhwani, Excel Entertainment).

15. Dalai Lama & Bad Bunny - Grammy Awards 2026 Dalai Lama won **first Grammy Award**; Bad Bunny won **Album of the Year**; K-Pop achieved **first Grammy win**.

SPORTS & ATHLETIC AWARDS

16. Elena Rybakina - Australian Open 2026 Elena Rybakina crowned **Australian Open 2026 Women's Singles Champion**.

17. India - Asian Shooting Championship India won **94 medals** at **Asian Shooting Championship 2026**: **51 Gold, 23 Silver, 20 Bronze**.

18. Stefanos Sakellaridis - Delhi Open 2026 Stefanos Sakellaridis (Greece, 21-year-old) won **maiden ATP Challenger Singles title** at **Delhi Open 2026**, defeating Oliver Crawford 7-5, 5-6, 7-6; **Siddhant Banthia-Alexander Donski** won doubles.

19. Smriti Mandhana - BBC Sportswoman Award Smriti Mandhana awarded **BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year 2025**;

Divya Deshmukh – Emerging Player; **Preethi Pal** – Para-Sportswoman; **Anjali Bhagwat** – Lifetime Achievement.

20. Norway Winter Olympics 2026 Norway created history winning **17 gold medals** (highest single Winter Games), breaking previous **16 gold record**; **Johannes Dale-Skjevdal** achieved gold in men's **15-km biathlon mass start** with perfect **20/20 shooting**.

INDUSTRY & SECTORAL AWARDS

21. India - BIOFACH 2026 Country of the Year India awarded **Country of the Year** at **BIOFACH 2026** (Organic trade fair, Germany).

22. Mangaluru Airport - ASQ Best Arrivals Award Mangaluru International Airport (Karnataka) honoured **2025 Airports Service Quality Customer Experience Award "Best Airport at Arrivals"** category, **second consecutive win**; **4 Indian airports** among **6 global winners** in arrivals category.

GLOBAL RANKINGS & RECOGNITION

23. Delhi - Most Affordable Student City Delhi ranked **1st globally** as **Most Affordable Student City**.

SPECIAL HONORS & RECOGNITION

24. Bhavya Bharat Bhushan Award 2026 Bhavya Bharat Bhushan Award 2026 launched by Isha Foundation (Sadhguru) with **7 categories**; **2026 awardees**: **Nambi Narayanan, Saina Nehwal, Vikram Sampath, Alarmel Valli, N. Rajam, and Indian Armed Forces (Operation Sindoor)**.

25. Kabak Yano - Mountaineering Achievement Kabak Yano successfully summited **Mount Aconcagua (Argentina)**.

TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION RECORDS

26. India - Guinness World Record (AI Pledges) India created **Guinness World Record** collecting **2,50,946 valid pledges** for responsible Artificial Intelligence use within **24 hours** (Feb 16-17, 2026) announced at **India AI Impact Summit 2026** by Union Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw**; campaign exceeded **5,000 initial target**; **5+ lakh students** and educational institutions participated.

Summits | Events | Festivals (National/International)

Summits | Events | Festivals (National/International) of July 2026

- Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav** inaugurated **ASSOCHAM's National Conference** on **"Electric Mobility: Building India an Electric Mobility Hub for Viksit Bharat"** in **New Delhi**. He emphasized that India's **electric vehicle (EV)** transition should prioritize **green growth**, resilient infrastructure, transparent governance, and a **circular economy**. Discussions covered charging infrastructure, battery supply chains, localization, financing, and innovation. The Minister highlighted the **PARIVESH portal**, battery recycling, critical mineral security, and sustainable manufacturing, reinforcing India's ambition to become a

global leader in **clean mobility** under the **Viksit Bharat 2047** vision.

- The **Ministry of Jal Shakti** organised the **All India Conference of Senior Most Secretaries of Water Resources Departments** in **New Delhi** under the chairmanship of **C. R. Patil**. The conference focuses on **water governance, irrigation efficiency, dam safety, reservoir management, Catch the Rain campaign, State Water Reforms Framework, and Model State Water Awards**. Senior officials from States, Union Territories, the **Central Water Commission**, and the **National Dam Safety Authority** participated to strengthen **Centre-State coordination** and accelerate reforms for sustainable **water conservation and long-term water security**.





- **Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia** unveiled the theme “**Scale without Boundaries**” for the **10th India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2026**, to be held from **7–10 October 2026** in **New Delhi**. Organised by the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** and the **Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI)**, Asia’s largest digital technology forum will focus on four pillars—**Srishti, Suraksha, Sashakt, and Samvardhan**. The event will showcase **5G, 6G, AI, IoT, Satellite Communications, Quantum Technologies**, and **Green Technologies**, while highlighting initiatives like the **Bharat 6G Alliance, PLI Scheme**, and **Sanchar Saathi Portal**, reinforcing India’s vision as a global digital technology leader.

Summits | Events | Festivals (National/International) of June 2026

India to Host Five-Day BRICS Agriculture Meeting in Indore

India, under its **BRICS Presidency 2026**, host a **five-day BRICS Agriculture Meeting** in **Indore, Madhya Pradesh**, from **9–13 June 2026**. The event comprises the **BRICS Agriculture Working Group Meeting (9–11 June)** followed by the **BRICS Agriculture Ministers’ Meeting (12–13 June)**. Announced by **Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan**, the meeting will bring together agriculture ministers, policymakers, and senior officials from BRICS member nations to strengthen cooperation in agriculture and food security. Discussions will focus on **food security, farmer welfare, nutrition security, climate-resilient agriculture, smart farming, artificial intelligence, robotics, digital agriculture, agricultural research, international agricultural trade, and resilient supply chains**. As BRICS countries account for nearly **42% of global agricultural land**, over **42% of agricultural production**, and around **70% of the world’s small and marginal farmers**, the meeting is expected to play a key role in shaping future agricultural cooperation. A **Joint Declaration** outlining shared priorities for sustainable agriculture, innovation, and farmer welfare is expected to be adopted at the conclusion of the meeting.

Highlights

- Venue: Indore, Madhya Pradesh
- Dates: 9–13 June 2026
- Host: India under BRICS Presidency 2026
- Key Focus: Food security, climate-resilient agriculture, AI, robotics, digital farming, farmer welfare
- Expected Outcome: Joint Declaration on agricultural cooperation

India Reaffirms Commitment to Inclusive Labour Reforms at 114th International Labour Conference

Union Minister of State for Labour and Employment and MSME, Shobha Karandlaje, represented India at the **114th International**

Labour Conference (ILC) held in **Geneva, Switzerland**, on **9 June 2026**. Organized by the **International Labour Organization (ILO)**, the conference brought together governments, employers, and workers from **187 member countries** to discuss global labour standards and employment policies. During the conference, India highlighted its achievements in **inclusive economic growth, gender equality, workforce welfare, digital labour platforms, skill development, and social dialogue**. On the sidelines of the event, India held bilateral meetings with **Nepal, Angola, Mauritius, France, the United Kingdom, South Korea, the United States, and Canada** to strengthen cooperation in **labour mobility, skill recognition, vocational training, digital governance, legal migration pathways, and employment opportunities** for Indian professionals. India also reaffirmed its **Neighbourhood First Policy** while expanding labour cooperation with Nepal and supporting Mauritius in developing digital public infrastructure for employment services.

Highlights

- Event: 114th International Labour Conference (ILC)
- Venue: Geneva, Switzerland
- Organized by: International Labour Organization (ILO)
- Indian Representative: Shobha Karandlaje
- Focus Areas: Labour reforms, skill development, gender equality, digital employment, worker welfare
- Key Bilateral Partners: Nepal, Mauritius, Angola, UK, USA, France, South Korea, Canada

India to Host BRICS National Security Advisers’ Meeting Under BRICS Chairship 2026

India will host the **two-day BRICS National Security Advisers (NSA) Meeting** on **22–23 June 2026** under its **BRICS Chairship 2026**. The meeting, chaired by **National Security Adviser Ajit Doval**, will bring together National Security Advisers and senior security officials from BRICS member countries to strengthen cooperation on emerging global security challenges. The central theme of the meeting is “**Non-Traditional Security Challenges Confronting the World Today**.” Discussions will focus on **cybersecurity, artificial intelligence-related risks, information warfare, terrorism, cross-border organized crime, critical infrastructure protection, digital security, and emerging technologies**. The meeting will also review the outcomes of the **BRICS Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism**, with emphasis on intelligence sharing, combating terror financing, preventing radicalization, and enhancing cybersecurity cooperation. Senior leaders, including **Ajit Doval (India), Wang Yi (China), Sergei Shoigu (Russia), and Nezamipour (Iran)**, are expected to participate. The meeting reflects India’s growing leadership in strengthening BRICS cooperation on regional and global security issues.





Highlights

- Dates: 22–23 June 2026
- Chair: Ajit Doval
- Theme: Non-Traditional Security Challenges
- Focus Areas: Cybersecurity, AI, terrorism, digital security, information warfare
- Key Outcome: Enhanced BRICS security and counter-terrorism cooperation

India Hosts 11th BRICS Energy Ministers' Meeting in Gurugram

India successfully hosted the **11th BRICS Energy Ministers' Meeting** on **25 June 2026** in **Gurugram, Haryana**, under its **BRICS Chairship 2026**. Held under the theme "**Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability**" and the Energy Track theme "**सर्वेषां ऊर्जम् (Energy for All)**", the meeting brought together Energy Ministers, senior officials, the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**, **Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA)**, and the **New Development Bank (NDB)**. Discussions focused on **energy security, renewable energy, hydrogen value chains, smart grids, energy storage, digitalization, artificial intelligence, critical minerals, and affordable clean energy**. India highlighted major achievements such as becoming the **world's third-largest producer and consumer of electricity**, crossing **540 GW installed power capacity**, achieving **over 50% non-fossil fuel capacity**, and expanding solar capacity to **154 GW**. The meeting concluded with the adoption of the **11th BRICS Energy Ministers' Joint Communiqué**, the launch of the **BRICS Digital Centre of Excellence (DCoE) for Smart Grids and Energy Storage**, and the adoption of the **BRICS Guiding Principles on Smart Grids and Energy Storage**.

Highlights

- Venue: Gurugram, Haryana
- Date: 25 June 2026
- Theme: Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability
- Major Launch: BRICS Digital Centre of Excellence (DCoE)

- Key Focus: Renewable energy, hydrogen, smart grids, AI, energy storage
- Outcome: Joint Communiqué adopted

35 Countries Sign Joint Statement on AI Opportunity at Second Pax Silica Summit

The **Second Pax Silica Summit** was held in **Washington, D.C., USA**, on **25–26 June 2026**, bringing together representatives from **35 countries**, including India, to strengthen international cooperation in **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**. The summit concluded with the adoption of the **Joint Statement on AI Opportunity**, reaffirming commitments to **trusted AI governance, resilient supply chains, industrial cooperation, innovation-friendly regulation, and secure AI ecosystems**. The **Pax Silica Initiative**, launched by the **United States in December 2025**, seeks to build secure and resilient AI supply chains and promote international collaboration in AI technologies. India, represented by **S. Krishnan (Secretary, MeitY)** and **Nagraj Naidu (Ministry of External Affairs)**, highlighted its commitment to responsible AI governance and global digital cooperation. Major announcements included the launch of the **Pax Pass** platform to facilitate secure movement of AI-related technologies and the **Stanford-led Foundry School**, supported by a **US\$50 million commitment**, to develop advanced manufacturing skills for AI industries. The summit reinforced India's growing role in shaping global AI governance and emerging technology partnerships.

Highlights

- Event: Second Pax Silica Summit
- Venue: Washington, D.C., USA
- Dates: 25–26 June 2026
- Participating Countries: 35
- Key Outcome: Joint Statement on AI Opportunity
- Major Initiatives: Pax Pass, Stanford-led Foundry School
- India's Representatives: S. Krishnan and Nagraj Naidu
- Focus Areas: AI governance, trusted supply chains, innovation, digital cooperation

Summits | Events | Festivals (National/International) of May 2026

Category	Event	Venue	Key Points
Summits	International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Summit 2026	New Delhi	India will host the first-ever IBCA Summit on 1–2 June 2026 . The summit focuses on conservation of tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar, and puma . Theme: " Save Big Cats, Save Humanity, Save Ecosystem ". Expected outcome: Delhi Declaration on Big Cat Conservation .
Summits	Santa Marta Climate Conference 2026	Santa Marta, Colombia	Jointly hosted by Colombia and the Netherlands , the conference focused on reducing fossil fuel dependence, accelerating clean energy transition, renewable energy cooperation, and climate action.
Summits	BRICS Foreign Ministers Meeting 2026	New Delhi	Chaired by S. Jaishankar , discussions covered global geopolitics, regional security, economic cooperation, multilateral reforms , and the BRICS@20 agenda .
Summits	BRICS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting 2026	Indore, Madhya Pradesh	Focus areas include food security, climate-resilient agriculture, AI in farming, digital agriculture, sustainable irrigation, and farmer welfare .





Category	Event	Venue	Key Points
Summits	4th India–Africa Forum Summit 2026	New Delhi	Focus on trade, defence, technology, energy, healthcare, climate action, maritime security, and digital cooperation . India–Africa trade currently stands at nearly \$85 billion .
Conference	68th Session of APO Governing Body	Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi	Hosted by India from 20–22 May 2026 . Discussions focused on APO Vision 2030, productivity-led growth, governance reforms, budget planning, and leadership elections .
Events	Postponement of IBCA Summit	New Delhi	The inaugural IBCA Summit was postponed following the rescheduling of the India–Africa Forum Summit to ensure stronger participation from African nations involved in big cat conservation.
Events	Postponement of 4th India–Africa Forum Summit	New Delhi	India postponed the summit due to the worsening Ebola outbreak in Africa after WHO declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) .

Summits | Events | Festivals (National/International) of April 2026

- **India Pharma 2026**, the 9th edition, will be held on **April 13–14, 2026** in New Delhi, organized by Department of Pharmaceuticals with FICCI and Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance. The conference focuses on **drug innovation, biosimilars, and global supply chains** under the theme “Discover in India.” It aims to strengthen India’s role as the ‘**Pharmacy of the World**’, promoting research, collaboration, and advanced healthcare solutions globally.
- The 14th Ministerial Conference of World Trade Organization concluded on March 30, 2026, in Yaoundé, with India led by Piyush Goyal emphasizing **fair trade, food security, and inclusive reforms**. Key discussions covered **fisheries subsidies, e-commerce, and agriculture**, though limited consensus was reached. India advocated **consensus-based decisions**, protection of small fishermen, and resolution of **public stockholding issues**, highlighting the need for a balanced global trading system.
- The **One Health Summit 2026**, held in Lyon (April 5–7) under France’s **G7 Presidency**, brings together **global leaders, scientists, and organizations** to address interconnected **human, animal, and ecosystem health**. The summit promotes the **One Health approach**, focusing on **zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance, pollution, and sustainable food systems**. Supported by bodies like World Health Organization, it emphasizes **science-based policies, global cooperation, and pandemic preparedness**, aiming to strengthen **health systems** and prevent future crises worldwide.
- Rajnath Singh will visit Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan on April 28, 2026 to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) **Defence Ministers Meeting**. The discussions will focus on **terrorism, regional security threats, and military cooperation** among member states. For India, the visit strengthens **defence diplomacy**, enhances **strategic presence in Central Asia**, and promotes **joint exercises and intelligence sharing**. It also boosts **India–Kyrgyzstan defence ties** through training and technical collaboration. The meeting highlights India’s growing role in **regional security architecture** and efforts to counter **cross-border terrorism** amid evolving global challenges.

Summits | Events | Festivals (National/International) of March 2026

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: “<i>The IQ Era</i>” • 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





Category	Event Name	Location & Date	Key Points (Exam Focused)
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
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: <i>Electrifying Growth</i> - 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 + ICCI) - Focus: trade & investment
Women Empowerment	6th BRICS CCI WE Summit	New Delhi (21–23 March)	- Theme: <i>WISE</i> - 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

Summits | Events | Festivals (National/International) of February 2026

MAJOR ENERGY & RENEWABLE SECTOR SUMMITS

1. India Energy Week 2026 4th edition of India Energy Week held in Goa from **27–30 Jan 2026** focused on **energy transition and renewable energy**.

AVIATION & AEROSPACE SUMMITS

2. Wings India 2026 Asia's largest civil aviation event held in Hyderabad from **28–31 Jan 2026** focused on **future aviation growth**.

INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMATIC SUMMITS

3. 2nd India–Arab Foreign Ministers Meeting India hosted **2nd India–Arab Foreign Ministers Meeting** in New Delhi with **22 Arab League nations**; adopted **New Delhi Declaration** for deeper cooperation.

4. World Government Summit 2026 **World Government Summit 2026** held in Dubai, UAE with **6,250+ participants** including **60 Heads of State and 87 Nobel laureates**.

5. 6th India–France Annual Defence Dialogue **6th India–France Annual Defence Dialogue** held in Bengaluru on **17 Feb**; **Rajnath Singh** co-chaired with **Catherine Vautrin**; **HAMMER MoU** signed; **H125 helicopter assembly** inaugurated virtually by **PM Modi and President Macron**.





6. Brazil President State Visit Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva visited India (Feb 18-22, 2026); President Droupadi Murmu received at Rashtrapati Bhavan; PM Modi held bilateral talks covering trade, technology, strategic cooperation; target increasing bilateral trade to **USD 30 billion by 2030** (current USD 15.21 billion); multiple MoUs signed on MSMEs, pharmaceuticals, renewable energy, AI, critical minerals.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE & TECHNOLOGY SUMMITS

7. India AI Impact Summit 2026 5-day AI Impact Summit 2026 held at Bharat Mandapam (16–20 Feb) – first AI summit in Global South; guided by 3 Sutras (People, Planet, Progress) and 7 Chakras (working groups); New Delhi Declaration endorsed by 89 countries; outlined seven pillars: democratizing AI resources, promoting economic growth/social good, ensuring secure trusted AI, advancing scientific research, expanding social empowerment, strengthening human capital, building resilient AI systems; youngest speaker: 8-year-old Ranvir Sachdeva; Sundar Pichai (Google CEO), Sam Altman (OpenAI CEO) participated.

8. Blockchain India Challenge (India AI Summit) MeitY launched Blockchain India Challenge promoting startup-driven blockchain solutions for digital governance; implemented by C-DAC, Hyderabad; prize pool ₹8.80 crores: Prototype Stage ₹1.5 lakh (40 participants), MVP Stage ₹4 lakh (30 participants), Deployment Stage ₹10 lakh (20 participants); top 10 use case categories compete for ₹50 lakh/category ultimate prize; domains: e-procurement, supply chain, PDS, education, healthcare, agriculture, power, IoT, land records, environment.

9. Bharat Bodhan AI Conclave 2026 Bharat Bodhan AI Conclave held at Bharat Mandapam (12–13 Feb); Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched Bodhan AI CoE; IIT Madras to build Bharat EduAI Stack (DPI for education, like UPI).

10. Black Swan Summit 2026 Black Swan Summit 2026 held in Odisha focused on fintech, AI, and digital finance; President Murmu stressed responsible innovation and skill development.

BIOTECHNOLOGY & LIFE SCIENCES SUMMITS

11. BioAsia 2026 23rd edition of BioAsia held in Hyderabad (17–18 Feb); theme: 'TechBio Unleashed – AI, Automation and the Biology Revolution'; CM Revanth Reddy inaugurated; Hyderabad recognized as Vaccine Capital of the World.

ENVIRONMENTAL & CLIMATE SUMMITS

12. Mumbai Climate Week 2026 Mumbai Climate Week 2026 inaugurated by CM Devendra Fadnavis at Jio World Convention Centre; 3-day global conclave on climate solutions for Global South.

INFRASTRUCTURE & SAFETY CONFERENCES

13. International Conference on Dam Safety (ICDS 2026) ICDS 2026 held at IISc Bengaluru (13–14 Feb); launched DAMCHAT (AI platform) and Jal Shakti Data Management Platform.

RAILWAY SECURITY CONFERENCES

14. 7th All India GRP Chiefs Conference 7th All India Conference of Government Railway Police Chiefs concluded at Vigyan

Bhawan presided by Railway Protection Force Director General Sonali Mishra; attended by DGPs, ADGPs, senior GRP officers from states/UTs; objective: develop coordinated action plan to strengthen railway passenger and infrastructure security; key concerns: organized crime, drug trafficking, vandalism/stone pelting, sabotage threats, crowd management; Narcotics Control Bureau presented narcotics smuggling curbing strategies; emphasized mock drills, scenario-based emergency training, enhanced State Police-RPF coordination.

REGULATORY & POLICY SUMMITS

15. Chintan Shivir 2026 Chintan Shivir 2026 held in Coorg, Karnataka (13–14 Feb); DFS released UPI/RuPay impact analysis during summit.

INTERNATIONAL INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITIONS

16. PLASTINDIA 2026 12th International Plastics Exhibition (PLASTINDIA 2026) held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi (5–10 Feb 2026) with 2,000 international exhibitors; inaugurated by Delhi CM.

SPORTS & INTERNATIONAL GAMES

17. Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics 25th Winter Olympics scheduled in Italy from 6–22 Feb 2026; Norway created history winning 17 gold medals (highest single Winter Games), breaking previous 16 gold record; Johannes Dale-Skjevdal achieved gold in men's 15-km biathlon mass start with perfect 20/20 shooting.

TRADITIONAL & WELLNESS SUMMITS

18. National Arogya Fair 2026 National Arogya Fair 2026 inaugurated by President Droupadi Murmu (Feb 25-28) in Shegaon, Buldhana district (Maharashtra) organized by Ministry of Ayush and All India Ayurvedic Congress; offered free consultations, health check-ups, medicines under Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa, Homoeopathy; special session "Ayurvedic Farming: Production, Value Addition, Marketing" (Feb 27) focused on medicinal plant cultivation, agroforestry, post-harvest management, market linkages; strengthens Vidarbha region farmer diversification into medicinal crops and Ayush supply chain.

RANKERS
for
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MAINS 2026
10 Aug, 2026 | 9 AM TO 7:00 PM





List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports)

List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports) on July 2026

- According to the **BIMCO-ICS Seafarer Workforce Report 2026**, India has become the **world's second-largest supplier of seafarers**, contributing **311,936 maritime professionals** and **12.16% of the global seafaring workforce**. India ranks after the **Philippines** and ahead of **China, Russia, and Indonesia**. India's global share increased from **5.2% in 2015** to **12.16% in 2026** due to growth in **maritime education, skill development, and training infrastructure**. The report is prepared by **BIMCO (Baltic and International Maritime Council)** and **ICS (International Chamber of Shipping)**, highlighting India's rising role in the **global shipping industry**.
- The **Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2026**, prepared by the **Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy, CIESIN of Columbia University, and the Yale Center for Geospatial Solutions**, evaluated **177 countries** across **47 indicators** covering **climate change, air quality, biodiversity, water resources, and ecosystem health**. **Estonia** topped the rankings with a score of **74.79**, while **India** ranked **176th** with **22.46**, placing above only **Laos**. The report highlighted challenges related to **pollution, ecosystem conservation, and sustainability**, though India has previously questioned the **EPI methodology** and data assessment process.

List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports) on June 2026

RANKING

Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority Emerges as India's Best-Performing Container Port in CPPI 2025

The **Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA)** emerged as India's highest-performing container port in the **Container Port Performance Index (CPPI) 2025**, jointly published by the **World Bank** and **S&P Global Market Intelligence**. JNPA secured the **22nd position globally**, improving by one rank from the previous edition and continuing its position as India's leading container port. The recognition reflects significant improvements in **vessel turnaround time, cargo handling efficiency, operational performance, and supply chain management**. Among other Indian ports, **Pipavav Port** ranked **28th**, becoming the highest-ranked private container port by overtaking **Mundra Port (30th)**, while **Visakhapatnam Port** secured the **104th position**. The CPPI evaluates ports based on operational efficiency, cargo handling speed, turnaround time, and overall logistics performance.

Highlights

- Report: Container Port Performance Index (CPPI) 2025
- Published by: World Bank and S&P Global Market Intelligence
- India's Best Port: Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA)

- Global Rank of JNPA: 22nd
- Highest-ranked Private Indian Port: Pipavav Port (28th)
- Parameters: Turnaround time, cargo handling, operational efficiency, supply chain performance

Global Peace Index 2026: Iceland Retains Top Spot, India Ranked 127th

The **Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)** released the **Global Peace Index (GPI) 2026**, ranking **163 countries** based on **societal safety and security, ongoing conflict, and militarisation**. The report noted that global peacefulness declined for the **12th consecutive year**, with **99 countries** recording deterioration in peace levels and **61 active state-based conflicts**, the highest since **World War II**. **Iceland** retained its position as the **world's most peaceful country** for the **19th consecutive year**, followed by **New Zealand** and **Switzerland**, while **Russia** was ranked the least peaceful nation. **India** secured the **127th position** with a score of **2.409**, primarily due to internal security challenges and regional tensions. In South Asia, **Bhutan** emerged as the most peaceful country, ranking **16th globally**.

Highlights

- Report: Global Peace Index (GPI) 2026
- Released by: Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)
- Most Peaceful Country: Iceland
- Least Peaceful Country: Russia
- India's Rank: 127th
- South Asia's Best Performer: Bhutan (16th)

Elon Musk Becomes the World's First Trillionaire After SpaceX IPO

Elon Musk became the **world's first trillionaire** following the historic **Initial Public Offering (IPO)** of **Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (SpaceX)** in **June 2026**. The company, which operates in **space exploration, satellite communications, and artificial intelligence**, achieved a valuation exceeding **US\$2 trillion** after its shares surged following listing. SpaceX launched its IPO at **US\$135 per share**, opened at **US\$150**, and closed at approximately **US\$161.11**, raising nearly **US\$75 billion**, making it the **largest IPO in history**, surpassing **Saudi Aramco's** 2019 record. Musk's stake in SpaceX was valued at around **US\$866 billion**, pushing his total estimated net worth beyond **US\$1.1 trillion**. Founded in **2002**, SpaceX has transformed the global space industry through reusable rocket technology and ambitious missions aimed at reducing launch costs and enabling future human settlement on Mars.

Highlights

- Person: Elon Musk
- Achievement: World's First Trillionaire
- Company: SpaceX
- IPO Size: US\$75 Billion (Largest Ever)
- Company Valuation: Over US\$2 Trillion
- Estimated Net Worth: Over US\$1.1 Trillion





Reliance Industries Tops Hurun India 500 Report 2026

The **Hurun India 500 Report 2026**, released in partnership with **Axis Bank** and **Burgundy Private**, ranked **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)** as India's most valuable company with a valuation of **₹19.36 lakh crore**. **HDFC Bank** and **Bharti Airtel** secured the second and third positions, respectively. The report revealed that the **top 10 companies accounted for 27%** of the total valuation of all 500 companies, while **Bharti Airtel** emerged as the **highest wealth creator** over the past five years, generating wealth worth **₹7.64 lakh crore**. The report also highlighted the growing dominance of the **Financial Services sector** in India's corporate landscape and noted that the total valuation of the top 10 companies has increased **3.5 times over the last decade**.

Highlights

- Report: Hurun India 500 Report 2026
- Released with: Axis Bank and Burgundy Private
- Most Valuable Company: Reliance Industries
- Second: HDFC Bank
- Third: Bharti Airtel
- Highest Wealth Creator (2021–25): Bharti Airtel

India Ranked 13th in QS World Future Skills Index 2027

India secured the **13th position globally** in the **QS World Future Skills Index 2027**, released by **QS Quacquarelli Symonds**, highlighting the country's growing readiness for an **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-driven economy**. The index assessed **89 countries** using indicators related to **higher education, labour markets, AI readiness, and economic transformation**. India scored **89.4 out of 100** and was recognised for its "**exceptional system scale**", supported by a large digital workforce, expanding technology ecosystem, growing AI adoption, and a strong startup environment. India ranked **5th globally in the Future of Work pillar, 18th in Skills Alignment, 22nd in Academic Readiness, and 14th in Economic Transformation**, making it one of the strongest-performing lower-middle-income economies in preparing for AI-led growth. The **United States, Australia, and the United Kingdom** occupied the top three positions.

Highlights

- Report: QS World Future Skills Index 2027
- Released by: QS Quacquarelli Symonds
- India's Rank: 13th
- Score: 89.4/100
- Best Pillar: Future of Work (5th)
- Top Three Countries: United States, Australia, United Kingdom

World Economic Forum Releases Energy Transition Index 2026

The **World Economic Forum (WEF)** released the **Energy Transition Index (ETI) 2026**, evaluating **120 countries** on **energy system performance and transition readiness** using **44 indicators**. The report observed a **global decline in energy transition readiness** for the first time in over a decade due to geopolitical tensions and uneven clean energy investments. **Sweden** retained the top position, followed by **Finland** and

Denmark, while **India improved two places to rank 70th**, recording a **1.9% year-on-year improvement**. India's progress was driven by improvements in **energy infrastructure, affordability, sustainability, financial investments, and human capital development**. The report also noted a **24% increase in low-carbon jobs** during 2024, with renewable energy employment reaching **1.3 million**, led by the hydropower sector. The WEF identified India as one of the key drivers of the next phase of the global energy transition.

Highlights

- Report: Energy Transition Index (ETI) 2026
- Released by: World Economic Forum (WEF)
- India's Rank: 70th
- Top Three Countries: Sweden, Finland, Denmark
- India's Key Strengths: Energy infrastructure, sustainability, renewable energy, low-carbon jobs
- Key Global Priorities: Energy security, grid expansion, clean energy investments

REPORT

SIDE 2026 Report: India Becomes the World's Fifth Most Digitalised Economy

According to the **SIDE (State of India's Digital Economy) Report 2026**, India emerged as the **world's fifth most digitalised economy**, improving from the eighth position in the previous year. The report highlighted India's remarkable progress in digital public infrastructure, fintech innovation, artificial intelligence, broadband connectivity, and digital governance. India also secured the **fourth position globally in AI readiness**, reflecting rapid advancements in digital technologies and innovation. The report underscores India's growing leadership in the global digital economy and its efforts to build an inclusive and technology-driven society.

World Bank Raises India's GDP Growth Forecast

The **World Bank**, in its latest **Global Economic Prospects Report**, raised India's GDP growth forecast to **6.6% for FY2026–27** and projected **7.2% growth for FY2027–28**. The report attributed India's strong economic outlook to robust domestic demand, sustained public infrastructure investment, expanding manufacturing activity, and increasing private consumption. It also noted that India remains one of the fastest-growing major economies despite global economic uncertainties and geopolitical challenges.

Fitch Ratings Revises India's Economic Outlook

Global credit rating agency **Fitch Ratings** revised India's GDP growth outlook for FY2026–27 while highlighting risks arising from geopolitical tensions, rising crude oil prices, and global trade uncertainties. Despite these external challenges, the agency emphasized India's strong domestic demand, healthy banking sector, resilient macroeconomic fundamentals, and continued infrastructure investments. Fitch maintained confidence in India's long-term growth potential driven by structural reforms and policy stability.





S&P Global Projects India's Strong Growth

S&P Global Ratings projected India's economy to grow by **6.6% during FY2026–27**, supported by strong domestic consumption, improving investment activity, government capital expenditure, and a stable financial sector. The report observed that India's relatively lower dependence on exports compared to several other Asian economies makes it more resilient to global economic slowdowns. Continued reforms, digitalization, and manufacturing expansion are expected to support sustained long-term growth.

Indian Banks Among Asia-Pacific's Best Capitalised

According to **S&P Global Market Intelligence**, Indian banks ranked among the **best-capitalised banks in the Asia-Pacific region**. **Kotak Mahindra Bank** secured the top position with the highest leverage ratio, followed by **HDFC Bank**, **ICICI Bank**, and **Axis Bank**. The report highlighted improvements in capital adequacy, asset quality, Basel III compliance, and risk management practices, reflecting the growing resilience and stability of India's banking sector.

London Stock Exchange Group Green Revenue Report

The **London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG)** released its latest Green Revenue Report, stating that India generated nearly **US\$110 billion** in green revenues during 2025. Renewable energy, electric vehicles, clean technology, sustainable manufacturing, and waste management emerged as the largest contributors. The report highlights India's increasing role in the global green economy and its commitment to achieving climate goals, clean energy transition, and sustainable development.

NITI Aayog Releases 8th Trade Watch Quarterly

NITI Aayog released the **8th edition of the Trade Watch Quarterly**, providing an assessment of India's export performance, import trends, global trade developments, and emerging market opportunities. The report emphasized export diversification, improved logistics infrastructure, stronger supply chains, and expansion of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). It also identified high-growth sectors such as electronics, pharmaceuticals, renewable energy equipment, engineering goods, and food processing as key drivers of India's future export growth.

Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) Report on State Finances

The **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)** released a report highlighting fiscal challenges faced by Indian states. According to the report, **18 states** exceeded the recommended fiscal deficit limit of **3% of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)** during

FY2024–25. Rising expenditure on salaries, pensions, subsidies, and interest payments contributed to higher borrowing requirements. The report recommended stronger fiscal discipline, efficient expenditure management, and enhanced revenue mobilisation to ensure long-term financial sustainability.

State of India's Digital Economy (SIDE) Report Highlights AI Readiness

The **SIDE 2026 Report** also highlighted India's rapid progress in **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**, ranking the country **fourth globally in AI readiness**. The report attributed this achievement to India's expanding digital infrastructure, availability of skilled technology professionals, growing startup ecosystem, supportive government policies, and widespread adoption of AI across sectors such as healthcare, education, agriculture, finance, and governance. The findings reinforce India's ambition to become a global AI and digital innovation hub.

Global Digital Payments Report Highlights India's Leadership

A global digital payments report identified **India as the world's leading digital payments market**, driven by the widespread adoption of the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**. India recorded the highest number of digital wallet downloads and processed over **228 billion UPI transactions** during 2025. The report highlighted India's successful digital public infrastructure model, which has become a global benchmark for secure, low-cost, and inclusive digital payment systems.

MoSPI Releases District Domestic Product (DDP) Guidelines

The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** released national guidelines for estimating **District Domestic Product (DDP)** using **2022–23** as the base year. The framework standardizes the calculation of Gross District Domestic Product (GDDP), Net District Domestic Product (NDDP), and Per Capita Income across districts. The guidelines are expected to improve district-level economic planning, support evidence-based policymaking, and promote balanced regional development across the country.

New Wholesale Price Index (WPI) Series Released

The Government released a revised **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** series with **2022–23** as the new base year. The updated series expands the commodity basket from **697 to 957 items** and incorporates emerging sectors such as renewable energy, electric vehicles, advanced manufacturing, and digital technologies. The revised index provides a more accurate measure of wholesale inflation and better reflects structural changes in India's economy.





List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports) on May 2026

RANKING

REPORT

- India became the **fifth-largest military spender** in 2025, with expenditure rising to **\$92.1 billion**, according to the **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute**. Defence spending grew **8.9%**, driven by **modernisation, border security**, and regional tensions, including the **India–Pakistan conflict**. India now ranks behind the **US, China, Russia, and Germany**, contributing to rising **global military expenditure**. Increased investments in **aircraft, missiles, and advanced technologies** highlight its focus on **defence readiness**. This trend reflects India's strategic push toward strengthening **national security** and maintaining a robust **military capability** amid global uncertainties.
- India's passport slipped to **78th position** in the latest Henley & Partners Passport Index 2026, falling three places from its earlier rank of 75. According to the index, Indian passport holders currently have access to **56 destinations** through visa-free, visa-on-arrival, or e-visa facilities. The International Air Transport Association data-based ranking evaluates global passports by travel freedom. Despite the recent decline, India's long-term position has improved from **90th rank in 2021** and **85th in 2025**, indicating gradual progress in global mobility.
- India has surpassed the **United States** to become **Bangladesh's second-largest trading partner**, accounting for **8.47% of Bangladesh's total trade**, according to recent **Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)** data. **China** remains the largest partner with over **21% trade share**, driven by machinery and industrial exports. India's rise reflects stronger **regional economic integration, geographic trade advantages, and cross-border commercial connectivity**. Bangladesh depends heavily on India for **food commodities, cotton, yarn, industrial goods, and essential imports**, strengthening bilateral economic interdependence between the neighbouring countries.
- The **National Family Health Survey-6 (NFHS-6)** released by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** highlights significant improvements in healthcare and social indicators across India. Conducted across **6.79 lakh households** in **715 districts**, the survey recorded increases in **institutional deliveries, antenatal care coverage, and child immunization rates**. It also reported declines in **child stunting and severe wasting**, while health insurance coverage expanded substantially. The report further noted growing **digital inclusion**, with more women owning bank accounts, using mobile phones, and accessing the internet, reflecting progress in financial and social empowerment.
- The **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways** has launched the **Logistics Port Performance Index (LPPI)**, a national framework designed to measure and improve the efficiency of Indian ports. Announced by **Sarbananda Sonowal** during the **37th Foundation Day of Jawaharlal**

Nehru Port Authority, the initiative aligns with **PM Gati Shakti, Maritime India Vision 2030, and Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047**. Alongside LPPI, four digital maritime platforms were launched to improve governance, ship registration, seafarer welfare, and ship recycling, strengthening India's maritime competitiveness and logistics performance.

List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports) on April 2026

RANKING

- A report by UNESCO warns that nearly **90% of protected sites**, including **World Heritage Sites, Biosphere Reserves, and Global Geoparks**, face severe **environmental stress**. Key threats include **climate change, deforestation, wildfires, and human activities**, with **98% sites affected by climate impacts**. Over **300,000 sq km forest loss** and rising **invasive species** worsen the crisis. Alarming, **25% sites risk irreversible tipping points by 2050**. Despite this, these areas host **60% of global species**, highlighting their importance. The report urges **urgent conservation efforts and global action** to protect biodiversity and ecosystems.

List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports) on March 2026

- 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.

List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports) on February 2026

RANKING

Top 10 Most Responsible Countries in the World 2026

Rank	Country	Region	Score	Key Strength
#1	Singapore	Asia	0.6194	Only Asian in top 10
#2	Switzerland	Central Europe	0.5869	Ethical governance leader
#3	Denmark	Northern Europe	0.5837	Global accountability leader
#4	Cyprus	Eastern Mediterranean	0.5774	Strong social welfare systems
#5	Sweden	Northern Europe	0.5740	Environmental responsibility leader
#6	Czechia	Central Europe	0.5704	Balanced growth across pillars
#7	Belgium	Western Europe	0.5690	Strong governance systems
#8	Austria	Central Europe	0.5665	High social welfare standards
#9	Ireland	Western Europe	0.5634	People-centred governance
#10	Georgia	Caucasus	0.5581	Emerging responsibility leader




Notable Rankings: Major Economies and Regional Powers

Country	Rank	Score	Category
India	16th	0.5515	Rising developing nation
United States	66th	—	Major economy
China	68th	—	Major economy
Pakistan	90th	—	South Asian nation
Yemen	151st	—	Conflict-affected
Syria	153rd	—	Conflict-affected

Top 10 Countries by R&D Spending (2024-25)

Rank	Country	R&D Spending (USD)
1	China	\$785.9 billion
2	United States	\$781.8 billion
3	Japan	\$186.0 billion
4	Germany	\$132.2 billion
5	Republic of Korea	\$126.4 billion
6	United Kingdom	\$86.5 billion
7	India	\$75.7 billion
8	France	\$65.8 billion
9	Türkiye	\$43.2 billion
10	Brazil	\$38.4 billion

What Is the Global Innovation Index?

- The Global Innovation Index (GII) is an annual ranking published by the World Intellectual Property Organization.
- It evaluates countries based on innovation inputs like R&D spending, education, and institutions, as well as outputs such as patents and high-tech production.
- The index is widely used by governments and researchers to assess national innovation performance and policy effectiveness.

Network Readiness Index 2025
List of Category Wise Performers
Category 1: Income Group wise Top 3 Countries
High Income

- USA (Rank 1)
- Finland (Rank 2)
- Singapore (Rank 3)

Upper-Middle Income

- China (24)
- Malaysia (38)
- Thailand (44)

Lower-Middle Income

- Viet Nam (40)
- India (45)
- Philippines (66)

Low Income

- Rwanda (87)
- Uganda (112)
- Malawi (116)



**Category 2: Region wise Top 3 Countries**

- **Africa:** Mauritius (58), South Africa (69), Kenya (77)
- **Arab States:** UAE (26), Saudi Arabia (34), Bahrain (36)
- **Asia & Pacific:** Singapore (3), Republic of Korea (10), Japan (11)
- **CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States):** Russian Federation (56), Armenia (62), Kazakhstan (65)
- **Europe:** Finland (2), Denmark (4), Sweden (5)
- **Americas:** USA (1), Canada (12), Costa Rica (42)

Category 3: Overall Global Ranking (Top 5)

1. **USA** – Score 79.13
2. **Finland** – 75.82
3. **Singapore** – 75.46
4. **Denmark** – 75.14
5. **Sweden** – 75.09

India's Improved Rank and Score in NRI 2025

- **India's rise to the 45th rank in the Network Readiness Index 2025 reflects consistent improvement across multiple digital indicators.**
- **The country's score increased to 54.43 out of 100, signalling stronger digital foundations compared to the previous year.**
- **The report also notes that India's network readiness is higher than what would normally be expected at its income level, showing that digital progress is outpacing economic constraints.**

Global Green Realty Spaces**India Ranks Second in Global Green Realty Spaces**

- According to the US Green Building Council (USGBC), India secured the second position globally (outside the US) in terms of total LEED-certified building space in 2025.
- **Only China ranked higher among non-US nations, while the United States continued to dominate overall.**
- India recorded 16 million GSM of LEED-certified space, reinforcing its position as one of the world's fastest-growing green real estate markets.
- This achievement reflects the country's increasing alignment with climate goals, energy efficiency, and sustainable urbanization.

Global LEED Rankings 2025: Where India Stands

- In the latest annual assessment by USGBC and Green Business Certification Inc. (GBCI), the United States topped the global list with over 50 million GSM of LEED-certified space.
- China followed with 26 million GSM, while India placed second outside the US.
- A notable highlight was Vietnam, which entered the global top 10 for the first time, signalling expanding adoption of green building standards across emerging economies.

Women, Peace and Security Index 2025/26**Top 10 Best Countries in Women, Peace and Security Index 2025/26**

In the Women, Peace and Security Index 2025/26, **Denmark ranks first for the third consecutive time with a score of 0.939**. It is followed by **Iceland and Norway**. **Notably, five Nordic countries are in the top five**, showing strong social welfare systems and gender equality policies.

Top 10 Countries (WPS Index 2025)

1. Denmark – 0.939
2. Iceland – 0.932
3. Norway – 0.924
4. Sweden – 0.924
5. Finland – 0.921
6. Luxembourg – 0.918
7. Belgium – 0.912
8. Netherlands – 0.905
9. Austria – 0.898
10. Australia – 0.898





These nations perform strongly in women's employment, parliamentary representation, legal rights, and low levels of violence.

Top 10 Worst Countries in Women, Peace and Security Index 2025/26

At the bottom of the Women, Peace and Security Index 2025/26 is Afghanistan with a score of 0.279. Most of the bottom 10 countries are affected by armed conflict, fragile governance, or humanitarian crises.

Bottom 10 Countries (WPS Index 2025)

- 181st Afghanistan – 0.279
- 180th Yemen – 0.323
- 179th Central African Republic – 0.362
- 178th Syria – 0.364
- 177th Sudan – 0.397
- 176th Haiti – 0.399
- 175th DR Congo – 0.405
- 174th Burundi – 0.407
- 173th South Sudan – 0.411
- 172nd Myanmar – 0.442

Nine out of these ten are classified as fragile or conflict-affected states, showing how instability directly affects women's safety and rights.

Where Do India and the US Stand in Women, Peace and Security Index 2025/26?

- In the Women, Peace and Security Index 2025/26, **India ranks 131st with a score of 0.607.**
- This shows steady but uneven progress in women's inclusion and safety.
- **India has improved in areas like financial inclusion and maternal health but still faces challenges such as gender-based violence and low female workforce participation.**
- The United States ranks 31st, moving up six places from last year.
- The improvement is mainly due to a decline in maternal mortality rates after nearly two decades. However, the US still faces challenges related to violence and gender inequality.

Global Billionaire Wealth

Top 10 Countries with the Most Billionaires in 2025

1. United States – Still the Global Leader

- The United States remains the world's billionaire capital, with **924 billionaires in 2025.**
- **Total wealth:** \$6.89 trillion
- **Wealth growth:** 18% YoY
- **Share of global billionaire wealth:** 31.7%
- The US added 89 new billionaires, reinforcing its dominance in technology and finance.

2. China – Fastest Wealth Expansion

- The China ranks second with 470 billionaires.
- **Total wealth:** \$1.77 trillion
- **Wealth increase:** \$321.4 billion added
- **New entrants:** 70 billionaires
- China recorded the largest increase in billionaire wealth in absolute terms.

3. India – Among the Top 3 Billionaire Hubs

- The India ranks third globally, with 188 billionaires in 2025.
- **Total wealth:** \$888.2 billion
- **Billionaire count growth:** From 185 to 188
- **Wealth change:** -1.9% decline year-on-year
- While the number of billionaires slightly increased, total wealth declined marginally due to fluctuations in the fortunes of India's top wealth holders.

4 to 10: Other Major Billionaire Economies

- **Germany (4th)**– 156 billionaires, \$692 billion wealth
- **United Kingdom (5th)**– 91 billionaires, \$456 billion wealth





- **Switzerland (6th)**– 84 billionaires, \$518 billion wealth
- **Hong Kong SAR (7th)**– 76 billionaires
- **Italy (8th)** – 61 billionaires
- **Singapore (9th)**– 55 billionaires (highest % wealth growth at 66.4%)
- **Taiwan (10th)**– 51 billionaires

NITI Aayog Releases Sixth Edition of “Trade Watch Quarterly”

NITI Aayog has launched the sixth edition of its flagship publication “**Trade Watch Quarterly**” for **Quarter 2 of FY 2025–26 (July–September 2025)**. The report was released in New Delhi by Vice-Chairman **Suman Bery** in the presence of Member **Arvind Virmani**. The publication provides a detailed assessment of global and domestic trade trends and includes a thematic focus on India’s electronics trade.

Key Findings: Trade Performance in Q2 FY26

- India’s exports (services + merchandise) grew by **~8.5%**.
- Export growth outpaced imports, sustaining trade expansion.
- Global trade growth moderated but remained positive.
- Services continued to outperform goods globally.

The report also highlights that trade among developing economies has expanded nearly **fourfold since 2005**, aligning with India’s growing integration with the Global South.

Thematic Focus: Electronics Trade

Electronics has emerged as the **second-largest item in India’s export basket**.

Key Highlights:

- India’s share in global electronics demand grew at a **CAGR of 17.2% (2015–2024)**, compared to global growth of 4.4%.
- Electronics exports increased nearly **fivefold between 2016 and 2024**, reaching **USD 42.1 billion**.
- Global electronics trade stands at **USD 4.6 trillion**.

Major export destinations:

- United States
- United Kingdom
- UAE

India has established strength in:

- Mobile phones
- Consumer electronics
- Communication equipment

Policy Support

The Union Budget has allocated **₹40,000 crore** under the Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme to boost domestic production and value addition.

Future growth areas include:

- Printed circuit board design
- Semiconductor assembly and testing
- Power electronics
- Embedded systems

Role of E-Commerce

India is among the **top six global e-commerce markets**, with electronics accounting for nearly half of online retail.

E-commerce exports, though currently modest, are projected to contribute **20–30% of India’s merchandise exports by 2030**, supported by:

- Logistics improvements
- Regulatory facilitation
- MSME participation





Significance

The report underscores that sustained competitiveness will depend on:

- Deeper integration into global value chains
- Tariff rationalisation
- Logistics efficiency
- Industry-aligned skill development

Electronics is positioned as a major driver of India's manufacturing transformation, export growth, and technological advancement.

Global Corruption Perceptions Index 2025

The **Corruption Perceptions Index 2025** released by **Transparency International** presents a worrying picture. **The global average score has declined**, and fewer countries now fall into the **"very clean" category**. In the Corruption Perceptions Index 2025, Denmark once again leads, while conflict-affected nations dominate the bottom ranks.

Corruption Perceptions Index 2025: Global Trend Turns Negative

- The [Corruption Perceptions Index 2025](#) evaluated **182 countries based on perceived public sector corruption**.
- **Scores range from 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean)**.
- This year's findings indicate a **global average score of 42**, the lowest in more than a decade.
- Notably, **122 countries scored below 50**, highlighting that corruption concerns remain widespread.
- Transparency International also observed that the number of countries scoring above 80 has sharply declined over the years.
- This signals governance challenges even in traditionally strong democracies.

Least Corrupt Countries in Corruption Perceptions Index 2025

According to the Corruption Perceptions Index 2025, Denmark retained the top rank with a score of 89, extending its impressive streak. The top performers include,

1. **Denmark** – 89 (Maintaining Its 8 Years Streak to Sit at Top)
2. **Finland** – 88
3. **Singapore** – 84
4. **New Zealand** – 81
5. **Norway** – 81

These countries are recognized for strong institutions, transparency, and low levels of public sector corruption.

However, the report clarifies that even high-scoring nations are not corruption-free, as **some have shown declining trends in recent years**.

Most Corrupt Countries in Corruption Perceptions Index 2025

At the bottom of the Corruption Perceptions Index 2025, countries facing conflict, instability, and weak governance structures dominate,

- **South Sudan** – Score 9 (Rank 181)
- **Somalia** – Score 9 (Rank 181)
- **Venezuela** – Score 10 (Rank 180)

Low scores typically reflect fragile state institutions, political instability, and restricted civil liberties. Such countries often struggle with rule of law and accountability mechanisms.

CPI 2025 India Rank: Where Does India Stand?

In the Corruption Perceptions Index 2025, **India ranked 91st globally**, securing a **CPI score of 39 out of 100**. This marks a slight improvement compared to the previous year. While India remains below the global average of 42, the ranking suggests incremental progress in governance and transparency reforms.

- **India Rank:** 91
- **India Score:** 39
- **Scale:** 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean)

Questions on India's CPI rank frequently appear in SSC, Banking, UPSC, and State PCS exams.

Countries Showing Long-Term Improvement

Transparency International highlighted that around 31 countries have reduced corruption levels since 2012. Examples include,

- **Estonia** – Rank 12 (Score 76)
- **Bhutan** – Rank 18 (Score 71)
- **South Korea** – Rank 31 (Score 63)

These improvements are linked to consistent anti-corruption policies, digital governance, and institutional reforms.




Top 10 Least Corrupt Countries – CPI 2025

Rank	Country	CPI Score 2025
1	Denmark	89
2	Finland	88
3	Singapore	84
4	New Zealand	81
5	Norway	81
6	Sweden	80
7	Switzerland	80
8	Luxembourg	78
9	Netherlands	78
10	Germany/Iceland (Tied)	77

Bottom 10 Most Corrupt Countries – CPI 2025

Rank	Country	CPI Score 2025
181	South Sudan	9
180	Somalia	9
179	Venezuela	10
178	Yemen	13
177	Libya	13
176	Eritrea	13
175	Sudan	14
174	Nicaragua	14
173	Syria	15
172	North Korea	15

About Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)

- ❓ **Published by:** Transparency International
- ❓ **Measures:** Perceived public sector corruption
- ❓ **Data sources:** Expert assessments & business surveys
- ❓ **Score interpretation:** Higher score = cleaner governance

Other important Index and reports
TRAVEL & PASSPORT RANKINGS

1. Henley Passport Index 2026 India ranked **75th** in Henley Passport Index 2026 (Feb) with access to **56 visa-free destinations**; lost Iran (fraud concerns) and Bolivia (e-visa system), added The Gambia; **Singapore tops globally with 192** visa-free destinations.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

2. Global Wool Production - India India ranks **2nd in global sheep population** (77.4 million) and **9th in global wool production**; FY24 total: **33.69 mn kg**; Rajasthan leads with **47.53% share** (16,013.5 thousand kg); **Punjab recorded highest growth at 22.04%**.

TECHNOLOGY & SMARTPHONE MARKET

3. Global Smartphone Installed Base India is **world's 2nd largest smartphone market** (Counterpoint Research 2025) with **740 mn active smartphones**; **China ranks 1st**; **average retention: 42 months** (global average: 47 months).

4. Global AI Brain Race 2026 **US tops Global AI Brain Race 2026**, followed by **China and Singapore**; **India ranks 6th**, excelling in talent but needing improvements in **digital infrastructure & governance**.

POWER & RENEWABLE ENERGY SECTOR

5. India Power - Record Installed Capacity Record **52,537 MW added** in **10 months of FY26**; total installed capacity: **~521 GW**; non-fossil (**271.9 GW**) surpassed fossil fuel capacity for first time; **renewables: 75.5%** of additions.





TRADE & EXPORT PERFORMANCE

6. NITI Aayog Trade Watch Q2 FY26 India's exports (merchandise + services) grew ~8.5% in Q2 FY26; electronics: 2nd largest export (USD 42.1 billion); India in top 6 e-commerce markets; electronics comprise ~50% of online retail.

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC RIGHTS & LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

7. World Bank Women, Business Law 2026 Report World Bank Group released 11th Women, Business Law (WBL) 2026 report assessing legal frameworks in 190 economies shaping women's economic opportunities; key findings: legal frameworks globally average 67/100; enforcement perceptions 53 (women's rights partly held, no economy >90); supportive frameworks 47 (lowest pillar); even fully enforced laws, women access 2/3rds (66.66%) of men's legal rights; only 4% women globally live in economies providing nearly full legal equality.

AVIATION & AIRPORT RANKINGS

8. Indira Gandhi International Airport - Asia-Pacific Ranking Delhi Airport ranked 5th busiest in Asia-Pacific region 2025 with 46.18 million one-way departing seats (OAG data), rising from 9th position in 2019 pre-COVID pandemic; surpassed Singapore Changi (42.57M seats), Suvarnabhumi (39.49M), Incheon (43.40M); improvement reflects structural shift in Asia-Pacific aviation post-pandemic with India emerging as high-growth aviation market; IndiGo expansion (fleet size, new routes, connectivity) major growth contributor along with rising middle-class income, affordable airfares, improved infrastructure, and enhanced tier-2/3 city connectivity.

Books & Authors

Books & Authors of July 2026

- **Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla** released his memoir, "The Second Orbit: Belief of a Man... Dreams of 1.4 Billion Hearts," narrating his journey from Indian Air Force fighter pilot to astronaut aboard the **Axiom-4 Mission** to the **International Space Station (ISS)**. Unveiled by **Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh**, the book highlights astronaut training, mission preparation, and India's growing space ambitions. It also honours **Rakesh Sharma** while inspiring young Indians to pursue **STEM education** and contribute to future human space exploration.
- Vice-President **C. P. Radhakrishnan** released "The Voice of Justice: Justice Gavai Speaks", edited by **Prof. (Dr.) S. Sivakumar** and published by **Thomson Reuters** with **CLEA**. The book compiles speeches and reflections of former **Chief Justice B.R. Gavai** on constitutional governance, judicial philosophy, social justice, and the rule of law. During the event, the Vice-President emphasised the Constitution as a **living document** and urged greater **pro bono legal services** to improve access to justice.

Books & Authors of June 2026

India's Olympic Gold: Hockey Triumph at Amsterdam Released Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President **P.T. Usha** and Hockey India President **Dr. Dilip Tirkey** released the book *India's Olympic Gold: Hockey Triumph at Amsterdam* in **New Delhi**. Authored by renowned hockey historian **K. Arumugam**, the book was published by **Hockey India** and **Stick2Hockey** to commemorate the **98th anniversary of India's first Olympic gold medal in hockey**. It recounts India's historic triumph at the **1928 Amsterdam**

Olympics, where the Indian men's hockey team defeated the **Netherlands** to win its maiden Olympic gold during the British colonial era. The launch event was attended by legendary hockey players **Harbinder Singh, Jagbir Singh, Zafar Iqbal, and Ashok Kumar**, while the publication marks the **16th book** authored by K. Arumugam on Indian hockey history.

Air Chief Releases Memoir of Astronaut Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla

Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh, released the memoir *The Second Orbit: Belief of a Man... Dreams of 1.4 Billion Hearts* in **New Delhi**. Written by **Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla**, the memoir chronicles his inspiring journey from an **Indian Air Force fighter pilot** to becoming an **astronaut**, culminating in his historic mission to the **International Space Station (ISS)** as part of the **Axiom-4 Mission**. The book launch also commemorated the **first anniversary of the Axiom-4 mission**, which was launched on **25 June**, highlighting India's growing achievements and aspirations in the field of **human spaceflight**.

Vice President Releases Book on Bhawaiya Folk Music Heritage

Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan released the book *Sanskritir Ratna Bhandar: Bhaowaiyar Itibritto (Bhawaiya: A Cultural Treasure and Its Historical Journey)* at **Uprashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi**. The book explores the rich cultural heritage and historical evolution of **Bhawaiya**, a traditional folk music genre associated with **North Bengal, Assam, and adjoining regions**. Speaking at the event, the Vice President emphasized the importance of preserving India's diverse folk traditions, stating that safeguarding the country's cultural heritage is essential for strengthening its **civilizational identity** and passing these invaluable traditions on to future generations.





Books & Authors of May 2026

- **Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan** launched his new book, **"Apnapan: Narendra Modi Sang Mere Anubhav"**, in **New Delhi**. The book reflects Chouhan's personal experiences and interactions with **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** during his political journey. It was formally released by former Vice President **M. Venkaiah Naidu** and former Prime Minister **H. D. Deve Gowda**, highlighting Modi's leadership style, governance approach, and influence on Indian politics.
- **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** released two books authored by **Solicitor General Tushar Mehta** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**. The books, titled **"The Bench, the Bar, and the Bizarre"** and **"The Lawful and the Awful,"** provide insights into India's legal system, courtroom experiences, and notable judicial developments. The event was attended by prominent members of the legal fraternity and emphasized the importance of law, justice, and constitutional values in India's democratic framework.
- The book **"Apnapan: Narendra Modi Sang Mere Anubhav"**, authored by **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**, was launched in **New Delhi** by **M. Venkaiah Naidu** and **H. D. Deve Gowda**. The book recounts Chouhan's long association with **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, highlighting his leadership style, governance philosophy, organizational skills, and human-centric approach. It also reflects on significant political events, including the **1991 Ekta Yatra**, which Chouhan describes as an important movement promoting national unity, patriotism, and public engagement beyond conventional political campaigns.
- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** has unveiled a commemorative book on **Operation Sindoor**, documenting the experiences of **100 military personnel** involved in the mission. Compiled under the guidance of **Chief of Defence Staff Anil Chauhan**, the publication highlights India's **joint military capabilities**, operational preparedness, and coordination among the **Army, Navy, and Air Force**. Unlike traditional military histories, the book presents first-hand accounts from soldiers, sailors, airmen, and support staff, serving both as a historical record and a tribute to the professionalism and sacrifices of India's armed forces.

Books & Authors of April 2026

- Sudha Murty's book *Tides of Time: Bharat's History through Murals in Parliament* was unveiled by C. P. Radhakrishnan, showcasing India's **civilizational journey through 124 Parliament murals**. The book blends **art, history, and cultural heritage**, covering periods from the **Indus Valley Civilization to the freedom struggle**. It highlights India as the **'Mother of Democracy'** and presents history in an engaging, visual narrative, making it accessible and insightful for readers across generations.

- In April 2026, Businessman **R.T. Chari** released the updated edition of the autobiography **'A Road Well Travelled'**, authored by former Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Director **Raghava Krishnaswami (R.K.) Raghavan**, at a formal event in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, TN.
- PM Narendra Modi jointly released the book titled **'Saundarya Lahari and Shiva Mahimna Stotram'** along with former PM H. D. Deve Gowda in Mandya ("Sugar City").
- In April 2026, **Suman Bery**, Vice Chairman of the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog, launched the anthology titled **"Divya Bharat: A Window to the Soul of India"**, to promote India's tourism potential by showcasing its rich cultural heritage, traditions, and diverse destinations, in New Delhi, Delhi.
- **General Manoj Mukund Naravane (Retd)**, former Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), launched his new book titled **"The Curious and the Classified: Unearthing Military Myths and Mysteries,"** published by Rupa Publications. He served as the 28th COAS from December 2019 to April 2022 and is also the author of *The Cantonment Conspiracy* (2025).

Books & Authors of March 2026

- **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.

Books & Authors of February 2026

BOOKS RELEASED

1. **E Mati Katha Kahe E Mati Katha Kahe** by Biswabhusan Harichandan – Odia book released by Odisha Governor highlighting cultural and historical themes.
2. **Buxi Jagabandhu: The Great Commander** Buxi Jagabandhu: The Great Commander by Biswabhusan Harichandan – English book based on life and contributions of freedom fighter Buxi Jagabandhu.
3. **Four Stars of Destiny** Four Stars of Destiny by Manoj Mukund Naravane – Autobiography of former Army Chief General M.M. Naravane reflecting on military career and leadership journey.

CONSTITUTIONAL DOCUMENTS & LEGAL PUBLICATIONS

4. **Indian Constitution - Tamil & Gujarati Editions** Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan released updated Tamil and Gujarati editions of Indian Constitution on International Mother Language Day (Feb 21, 2026) at Rashtrapati Bhavan; Constitution now available in Bodo, Dogri, Santhali, Nepali, and other languages, empowering citizens to understand rights and duties in mother tongues.





5. **Legal Glossary - 8th Edition** 8th Edition Legal Glossary (English-Hindi) launched to **simplify legal terminology**, making constitutional knowledge more accessible.

BIOGRAPHICAL & COMMEMORATIVE PUBLICATIONS

6. **Atal Bihari Vajpayee: The Eternal Statesman** Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan released coffee table book "Atal Bihari

Vajpayee: The Eternal Statesman" honoring **Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee**; publication covers **political journey and personal dimensions**, highlighting **commitment to dialogue, consensus-building, and democratic values**; three core pillars emphasized: **dialogue over confrontation, democracy as foundation, development as priority**.

Sports Current Affairs

Sports Current Affairs of July 2026

- **Kidambi Srikanth** won the **silver medal** in the **men's singles** event at the **US Open 2026**, finishing runner-up to **Su Li-yang** of **Chinese Taipei**. After losing the first game **15-21**, Srikanth fought back to win the second **21-16** before losing the decider **9-21**. The performance marks one of his strongest international results in recent years and boosts confidence ahead of future **BWF tournaments**. His last **BWF title** came at the **2017 French Open**, and he continues striving for another championship victory.
- **Cricket** will return to the **Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games (LA28)** after more than a century with **men's and women's T20 tournaments**, each featuring **six teams**. The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** announced a qualification system based on **ICC rankings**, continental representation, host nation eligibility, and a **2027 Olympic Qualifier Tournament**. Four women's teams—**Australia, India, South Africa, and Great Britain**—have already qualified. The Olympic return is expected to expand cricket's global reach, attract new audiences, and strengthen its international profile.
- **England captain Ben Stokes** announced his retirement from **international cricket** after the **third Test against New Zealand** at **Trent Bridge**, ending a distinguished **15-year career**. He will also step down as **England's Test captain**, a position held since **April 2022**. Stokes is remembered for his match-winning **84** in the **2019 ICC World Cup Final** and iconic **135 at Headingley** during the **2019 Ashes**. His highest Test score is **258** against **South Africa**. Alongside coach **Brendon McCullum**, he transformed England's Test approach through the aggressive **Bazball** philosophy.
- **Kerala's Ancy Sojan** created history at the **2026 National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championships** in **Bhubaneswar** by breaking **Anju Bobby George's 22-year-old national long jump record**. The **25-year-old** leaped **6.88 metres**, surpassing the previous record of **6.83 metres** set in **2004**. Representing **Kerala** and serving as a **Chief Petty Officer** in the **Indian Navy**, she won the **gold medal** and secured qualification for the **2026 Asian Games**. Ancy previously won silver medals at the **2023 Asian Games** and **2025 Asian Athletics Championships**, establishing herself among India's top field athletes.
- **Indonesia** won its maiden **AVC Men's Volleyball Cup 2026** title in **Ahmedabad**, defeating **Korea 3-0** in the final after recovering from an earlier group-stage defeat. **Boy Arnez Arabi** scored **17 points**, won the **Most Valuable Player (MVP)** award, and earned a place in the **Dream Team**. Korea secured its first-ever **silver medal**, while host **India** claimed a historic **bronze medal** by defeating defending champions **Bahrain 3-1**. Indonesia's remarkable performance also improved its position from **52nd to 43rd** in the **FIVB World Rankings**, marking its best-ever tournament performance.
- **George Russell** won the **2026 Austrian Grand Prix** at the **Red Bull Ring**, converting pole position into his **seventh Formula 1 victory** and strengthening **Mercedes'** championship challenge. He held off **Max Verstappen**, who finished second, while championship leader **Kimi Antonelli** secured third place, extending his lead to **40 points**. The race featured a **Virtual Safety Car** after **Carlos Sainz's** retirement and several technical retirements. Russell's victory elevated him to second in the championship standings, intensifying the **2026 Formula 1 title battle** between **Mercedes, Red Bull, and McLaren**.
- **India** created history at the **World Rowing Cup 2026** in **Lucerne, Switzerland**, as **Indian Army Havildars Lakshay and Ujjwal Kumar Singh** won the country's **first-ever gold medal** in the **Lightweight Men's Double Sculls (LM2x)** event. The duo clocked **6:26.09**, narrowly defeating competitors from **Hong Kong** and the **Netherlands**. Trained at the **Army Rowing Node, Pune**, they overcame delayed visa approvals and limited preparation time. Their victory marks a landmark achievement for Indian rowing and highlights the **Armed Forces'** contribution to elite sports development.
- **England fast bowler Lauren Bell** won the **ICC Women's Player of the Month** award for **May 2026**, earning the honour for the first time. She outperformed nominees **Maddy Green** and **Gull Feroza** after impressive performances against **New Zealand** and **India**. Bell claimed **five wickets** in the ODI series, including **3/20**, and added **eight wickets** in four **T20Is** with consistent economy rates. Her impactful bowling strengthened England's pace attack and underlined her growing importance ahead of major international competitions, including the **Women's T20 World Cup**.





- Bangladesh batter **Mushfiquir Rahim** received the **ICC Men's Player of the Month** award for **May 2026** after outstanding performances against **Pakistan**. He scored **253 runs** at an average of **63.25**, helping Bangladesh complete a historic **2–0 Test series sweep** and earning the **Player of the Series** award. His notable innings included **71** in the first Test and **137** at **Sylhet** in the second. This marked his **second ICC monthly award**, reinforcing his importance to Bangladesh's success and the **ICC World Test Championship 2025–27**.
- Indian para-athlete **Hokato Hotozhe Sema** became **World No. 1** in the **Men's Shot Put F57** rankings on **2 July 2026**. A **Subedar** in the **9 Assam Regiment** and **Paris 2024 Paralympic bronze medallist**, he achieved a personal best throw of **14.65 metres**. Sema is the **first Paralympian** to receive the **Ati Vishisht Seva Medal** and is also an **Arjuna Award** recipient. After losing his leg in a **2002 landmine blast**, he transformed into one of India's leading para-athletes through remarkable determination and international success.
- **Cristiano Ronaldo** became the **oldest player** to score in a **FIFA World Cup knockout match**, finding the net against **Croatia** at **41 years and 147 days**. His penalty helped **Portugal** secure a **2–1 victory** and qualify for the **Round of 16**, where they will face **Spain**. The goal marked his **first World Cup knockout goal** since debuting in **2006**. Ronaldo also became the **oldest outfield player** to start a World Cup knockout match and moved closer to **Lothar Matthäus'** appearance record with **26 World Cup matches**.
- Brazilian football legend **Neymar Jr.** retired from **international football** after Brazil's **2–1 FIFA World Cup 2026** Round of 16 defeat to **Norway** at **MetLife Stadium**. Ending a **16-year international career**, Neymar scored Brazil's only goal through a **late penalty**. He retires as **Brazil's all-time leading men's scorer** with **80 goals** and **59 assists** in **130 appearances**. His achievements include the **2013 FIFA Confederations Cup** and **2016 Olympic Gold Medal**, although a **FIFA World Cup title** remained elusive throughout his distinguished international career.
- **Australia** defeated **England** by **seven wickets** to win the **ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026** final at **Lord's Cricket Ground**, securing a record **seventh championship**. England scored **150/4**, led by captain **Nat Sciver-Brunt's** unbeaten **58**, but Australia comfortably chased **153/3** in **17.1 overs**. **Beth Mooney** anchored the innings with **64 runs** and earned the **Player of the Match** award, while **Phoebe Litchfield** contributed **48 runs**. The victory further strengthened Australia's legacy as the most successful team in **Women's T20 World Cup** history.
- **Vaibhav Sooryavanshi** became the **youngest cricketer** to represent **India** in international cricket at **15 years and 99 days**, debuting in a **T20I** against **England** at **Old Trafford**. He surpassed **Sachin Tendulkar's** long-standing record of debuting at **16 years and 205 days**. Vaibhav also became India's **youngest men's T20I debutant**, highlighting the country's emerging cricket talent pipeline. However, the overall record for the **youngest men's T20I international** remains with **Romania's Marian Gherasim**, while **Ireland's Joshua Little** previously held the record among **Full ICC Members**.
- **Charles Leclerc** won the **2026 British Grand Prix** at **Silverstone**, claiming his **ninth Formula One victory** for **Ferrari** after an action-packed race. A **late Safety Car**, triggered by **Max Verstappen's** crash, locked the final standings. **George Russell** finished second for **Mercedes**, while **Lewis Hamilton** secured third despite a post-race investigation. **Lando Norris** placed fourth for **McLaren**, and **Kimi Antonelli** dropped to sixteenth following mechanical issues and penalties. Ferrari's strong strategy and consistent pace secured a memorable victory in one of the season's most dramatic races.
- India will become the **first country** to outfit its athletes in **jute-viscose blended apparel** at an international multi-sport event during the **Commonwealth Games 2026** in **Glasgow**. Developed by the **National Jute Board (NJB)**, **Gloster Jute Mills**, and **NIFT**, the uniforms are made from **100% biodegradable fabric** promoting sustainable textiles and **Make in India**. India's **124-member contingent** will wear the eco-friendly apparel during official ceremonies, highlighting innovation, environmental sustainability, value-added jute products, and India's commitment to green manufacturing.
- The **FIFA World Cup 2026** reached the **quarterfinal stage** after completion of the Round of 16. **France, Morocco, Spain, Belgium, Norway, England, Argentina, and Switzerland** advanced to the last eight. Quarterfinal fixtures include **France vs Morocco, Spain vs Belgium, Norway vs England, and Argentina vs Switzerland**, scheduled from **10–12 July 2026 (IST)**. The winners will contest two semifinals before the final. The remaining matches promise intense competition as teams battle for football's most prestigious international title.
- Seventeen-year-old **Aswath S** from **Kanyakumari** became **India's 98th Chess Grandmaster** after securing his final **Grandmaster norm** at the **2026 Pune International Grandmaster Round Robin**. He earned the title by defeating **FM Kannan Vaidyanathan** in the final round, finishing with **7 points from 9 games**. Earlier, he achieved Grandmaster norms at the **Grenke Open** and **Budapest First Saturday GM Tournament**, while crossing the required **2500 FIDE rating**, further strengthening India's growing reputation as a global chess powerhouse.





- **Telangana** will host the **8th Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) 2026**, providing a national platform for young athletes to showcase their talent. Organised under the **Khelo India Programme** by the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**, the Games aim to identify future champions, strengthen grassroots sports, and prepare athletes for international competitions. The event will attract thousands of participants, coaches, and officials, boosting **sports tourism**, economic activity, and youth participation. Telangana's selection reflects its growing sports infrastructure and supports India's long-term vision of developing a strong sporting culture.
- Former Indian captain **Sourav Ganguly** was inducted into the prestigious **ICC Hall of Fame**, becoming the **12th Indian cricketer** to receive the honour. Recognised for his fearless leadership, Ganguly transformed Indian cricket by leading the team to the **2003 ICC Cricket World Cup Final** and nurturing future stars including **MS Dhoni**, **Yuvraj Singh**, and **Virender Sehwag**. During his career, he played **113 Tests** and **308 ODIs**. The honour celebrates his outstanding achievements, leadership, and lasting contribution to making India one of cricket's strongest international teams.
- **Linda Noskova** won her **first Grand Slam title** by defeating fellow Czech **Karolina Muchova 6-2, 5-7, 6-3** in the **Wimbledon 2026 women's singles final**. At just **21 years old**, she became the **ninth consecutive first-time Wimbledon women's champion**. The victory extended the **Czech Republic's dominance** at Wimbledon after titles by **Marketa Vondrousova (2023)** and **Barbora Krejickova (2024)**. Noskova dedicated the emotional victory to her late mother, while Muchova was praised for her fighting spirit. The historic **all-Czech final** highlighted the remarkable strength and depth of Czech women's tennis on the global stage.
- **World No. 1 Jannik Sinner** successfully defended his **Wimbledon men's singles title**, defeating **Alexander Zverev** in four sets for his **10th consecutive win** over the German. In the women's final, **Linda Noskova** claimed her **maiden Grand Slam title** after defeating **Karolina Muchova**, becoming the **ninth straight first-time women's champion**. **Henry Patten & Harri Heliövaara** won the **men's doubles**, **Guo Hanyu & Kristina Mladenovic** secured the **women's doubles**, while **Marcelo Arévalo & Jelena Ostapenko** captured the **mixed doubles title**, making **Wimbledon 2026** a memorable championship.
- Indian pacer **Kranti Goud** created history by becoming the **first female cricketer** to feature on the prestigious **Lord's Honours Board** after claiming a brilliant **five-wicket haul** against **England Women**. She dismissed **Tammy Beaumont**, **Maia Bouchier**, **Nat Sciver-Brunt**, **Alice Capsey**, and **Lauren Bell**, becoming the **15th Indian bowler** to earn the honour. Joining legends like **Kapil Dev**, **Bishan Singh Bedi**, **Ishant Sharma**, **Bhuvneshwar Kumar**, and **Jasprit Bumrah**, Goud's achievement marked a landmark moment for **Indian women's cricket** and showcased its growing prominence on the international stage.
- **Yastika Bhatia** became the **first woman cricketer** to score a **Test century at Lord's Cricket Ground**, smashing **113 runs** against **England Women**. After scoring just **12 runs** in the first innings, she produced a remarkable comeback by reaching her century in **145 balls**. The knock earned her a place on the prestigious **Lord's Honours Board** and marked her **maiden international century**. Yastika also joined legendary Indian batters including **Rahul Dravid**, **Sourav Ganguly**, **Dilip Vengsarkar**, **Vinoo Mankad**, and **Mohammad Azharuddin** with a Test hundred at Lord's.
- Indian shooter **Neeru Dhanda** won the **women's trap gold medal** at the **ISSF Shotgun World Cup 2026** in **Lonato, Italy**, securing **India's first shotgun gold** of the season. She topped qualification with **121/125** before defeating former world champion **Carole Cormenier** of **France** in a thrilling final. The victory marked **Dhanda's first individual ISSF World Cup medal**, adding to her **mixed trap bronze** won earlier in **Almaty**. Her outstanding performance underlined India's growing strength in **international shooting** and women's trap events.
- Former **England captain Heather Knight** announced her retirement from international cricket after the historic **Women's Test against India at Lord's**, ending an outstanding **16-year career**. She played **320 international matches**, scored **7,988 runs**, and led England to victory in the **2017 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup**. Knight will now serve as **General Manager of London Spirit** in **The Hundred**. Her retirement marks the end of one of England's most successful careers and a significant chapter in women's cricket.
- India scripted history by defeating **England** by **270 runs** in the **first-ever Women's Test at Lord's Cricket Ground**. **Yastika Bhatia** became the **first woman** to score a **Test century at Lord's**, while **Kranti Goud** became the **first female bowler** to feature on the prestigious **Lord's Honours Board** after claiming a **five-wicket haul**. Led by **Harmanpreet Kaur**, India's comprehensive victory showcased the team's dominance and marked a landmark achievement for **Indian women's cricket** on the iconic stage.
- Delhi unveiled '**Mayur**', the official mascot of the **22nd Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship 2026**, scheduled from **27 July to 2 August** at **Thyagraj Stadium**. Inspired by **India's national bird, the peacock**, the mascot symbolises **unity, diversity, friendship**, and sportsmanship. Around **35 Commonwealth nations** are expected to participate. Unveiled by **Chief Minister Rekha Gupta**, the championship is jointly organised by the **Delhi Government** and the **Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI)**, showcasing Delhi as a global sporting destination.





- **Spain won the FIFA World Cup 2026**, defeating **Argentina 1–0** after extra time at **MetLife Stadium, New Jersey**. **Ferran Torres** scored the winning goal in the **106th minute**, securing Spain's **second World Cup title** after 2010. Under coach **Luis de la Fuente**, Spain conceded only **one goal** throughout the tournament, setting a defensive record for champions. The expanded **48-team tournament**, hosted across the **USA, Mexico, and Canada**, attracted billions of viewers and showcased Spain's tactical dominance.
- **Kylian Mbappé** became the **highest goal-scorer in FIFA World Cup history**, finishing the **2026 tournament** with **22 goals**, surpassing **Lionel Messi's 21-goal** record. Achieving the milestone across **three World Cups**, the French star overtook legendary players including **Miroslav Klose, Ronaldo Nazário, Gerd Müller, Pelé, Harry Kane, and Cristiano Ronaldo**. At only **27 years of age**, Mbappé has several opportunities to extend his remarkable record, strengthening his place among football's greatest-ever players.
- **Rohit Sharma** became the **first Indian men's cricketer** to score an **ODI century at Lord's** on **July 19, 2026**. His **34th ODI century**, achieved at **39 years and 80 days**, made him India's **oldest international centurion**, surpassing **Sachin Tendulkar's** record. Rohit also became the most successful visiting batter in a single country with **eight ODI centuries in England**. Alongside **Virat Kohli**, he shared a **113-run partnership** in their **400th international match**, creating another significant milestone.
- **Lionel Messi** became the **first footballer** to appear in **three FIFA World Cup finals**, reaching the landmark during the **2026 final** against **Spain**. His previous final appearances came in **2014** and **2022**, surpassing **Cafu**, who played in only two finals. Although **Argentina** lost **1–0** after extra time, Messi enjoyed an outstanding tournament with **eight goals and four assists**, reinforcing his legacy as one of football's greatest players despite missing the opportunity for consecutive World Cup titles.
- **PV Sindhu** won the **BWF Japan Open 2026**, becoming the **first Indian badminton player** to claim a **BWF Super 750 title**. She defeated **Akane Yamaguchi 21–17, 21–17** in Tokyo, marking her first major title since the **2019 World Championships**. At **31 years**, Sindhu also became the **oldest woman** to win a Super 750 event. The victory improved her world ranking from **18th to 9th**, confirming her resurgence ahead of the **BWF World Championships**.
- The **FIFA World Cup 2030** will celebrate the tournament's **100th anniversary** with a historic **multi-continent** format. **Spain, Portugal, and Morocco** will serve as the main hosts, while **Uruguay, Argentina, and Paraguay** will stage centenary opening matches. Scheduled from **June 8–July 21, 2030** (subject to FIFA confirmation), the event will feature an expanded **48-team** format, including **six automatic host berths**. It will become the first men's World Cup hosted across **three continents and six countries**.
- The **23rd Commonwealth Games 2026** will be held in **Glasgow, Scotland**, from **23 July to 2 August 2026**, featuring **74 Commonwealth nations, 10 sports, and 215 gold medal events**. India has announced a **120-member contingent**, with leading medal hopes including **Neeraj Chopra, Mirabai Chanu, Lovlina Borgohain, Srihari Nataraj, and Murali Sreeshankar**. **Mirabai Chanu** and **Lovlina Borgohain** will serve as India's **flag bearers**, while competitions will take place across major Glasgow sporting venues.
- India dominated the **Menuires International Chess Championship 2026** in **Les Menuires, France**, with **Grandmaster S. Rohith Krishna** winning the **gold medal** and **Grandmaster Raja Rithvik** securing the **silver medal**. Both remained **undefeated**, scoring **7 points** from nine rounds, with Rohith clinching the title on a superior **tie-break score**. Rithvik's victory over **Maxime Lagarde** in the final round was a tournament highlight, reinforcing India's growing strength and international reputation in competitive chess.
- **Finnie**, inspired by **Scotland's national animal—the unicorn**, has been unveiled as the official mascot of the **Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games**. Named after Glasgow's iconic **Finnieston Crane**, the mascot represents Scottish culture, folklore, creativity, and community spirit. Finnie will promote the Games through educational programmes, public engagement activities, and tourism campaigns while creating a memorable identity for the event and connecting local traditions with athletes and spectators from across the Commonwealth.
- Indian **Grandmaster S. Rohith Krishna** won the **gold medal** at the **Menuires International Chess Championship 2026** in **France**, while **Grandmaster Raja Rithvik** secured the **silver medal**. Both players remained **undefeated**, scoring **7 points from 9 rounds**, with Rohith claiming victory through a superior **tie-break score**. Rithvik's final-round win over **Maxime Lagarde** was a major highlight. Their outstanding performances further reinforce **India's growing dominance in international chess** and the country's emergence as a global chess powerhouse.
- **Viswanathan Anand** assumed charge as **Interim President of FIDE** after **Arkady Dvorkovich** stepped aside following **EU sanctions**. As **FIDE Deputy President**, Anand will oversee the organisation until the **September 2026 presidential elections** in **Samarkand**. The leadership transition ensures continuity in global chess administration while maintaining ongoing development initiatives. Anand's appointment marks a historic milestone, making the Indian chess legend responsible for guiding the world's governing body for chess during an important transition period.





- India's **Vaibhav Sooryavanshi** became the **youngest batter** to score a **T20I fifty** at just **15 years and 118 days** during the first T20I against **Zimbabwe**. He smashed a **19-ball half-century** with an exceptional strike rate above **263**, breaking **Louis Bruce's** previous record. The young left-hander also became the **youngest Indian** and the youngest player from an **ICC Full Member nation** to achieve the milestone, showcasing India's emerging cricket talent.
- Lovlina Borgohain** secured **India's first medal** at the **Commonwealth Games 2026** by reaching the **women's 75 kg boxing semifinals** in **Glasgow**. With only five participants in the category, all semifinalists were assured medals. This became Lovlina's **first Commonwealth Games medal** after missing the podium in **2018** and **2022**. Entering the event in excellent form, she will face **Tarona Taafaki** with an opportunity to upgrade her guaranteed medal by reaching the final.
- The **Commonwealth Games 2026** officially opened in **Glasgow, Scotland**, with a colourful ceremony celebrating **Scottish culture and heritage**. **Mirabai Chanu** and **Lovlina Borgohain** led the Indian contingent as **flag bearers**, while **King Charles III** and **Queen Camilla** attended the event. Competitions will be held across **four venues**, although sports like **badminton, shooting, and wrestling** are absent. The official mascot **Finnie**, inspired by Scottish heritage, represents the spirit and identity of the Games.
- India's **Anahat Singh** scripted history by becoming the **first Indian** to win the **girls' singles title** at the **World Junior Squash Championships 2026**. The **18-year-old** from **New Delhi** defeated **Egypt's Ruqayya Salem 3-0 (11-3, 11-7, 11-9)** in the final. She dominated the tournament by losing only **two games** in six matches and ended **Egypt's 13-year winning streak**, becoming the **first non-Egyptian champion since 2010**. Anahat, who initially played **badminton** before switching to **squash**, surpassed **Joshna Chinappa's** previous best performance in **2005**, marking a historic milestone for Indian squash.
- Indian weightlifting star **Mirabai Chanu** clinched the **gold medal** in the **women's 48 kg** category at the **Commonwealth Games 2026**, securing her **third consecutive Commonwealth Games title** after victories in **2018, 2022, and 2026**. The **31-year-old** lifted a total of **190 kg**, comprising **85 kg in snatch** and **105 kg in clean and jerk**, to earn **India's first gold medal** of the Games. **Nigeria's Ruth Asuquo Nyong** claimed silver, while **Malaysia's Irene Jane Henry** won bronze. With an **Olympic silver medal** and multiple **World Championship medals**, Mirabai continues to inspire Indian sport.
- Indian weightlifter **Raja Muthupandi** won the **silver medal** in the **men's 65 kg** category at the **Commonwealth Games 2026** in **Glasgow** with a combined lift of **286 kg**. He finished

behind **Malaysia's Aznil Bin Bidin Muhamed**, who won gold with a **Commonwealth Games record** total of **299 kg**, while **Papua New Guinea's Morea Baru** secured bronze. Raja displayed remarkable determination after recovering from a difficult **snatch** attempt and a failed **clean and jerk** lift. His comeback from previous injuries further strengthened **India's weightlifting campaign** at the Games.

- Rishikanta Singh Chanambam** became the first Indian medallist at the **Glasgow Commonwealth Games 2026** after winning **silver** in the **men's 60 kg weightlifting** event. The athlete from **Imphal West, Manipur**, created a new **Commonwealth Games record** by lifting **121 kg in snatch**, followed by **143 kg in clean and jerk**, for a total of **264 kg**. **Malaysia's Mohamad Aniq Kasdan** won gold with **273 kg**, while **Joshua Amunga Mboya** claimed bronze. Previously, Rishikanta had won **gold** at the **2025 Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships**, showcasing his consistency on the international stage.
- Nyck de Vries** secured victory for **Mahindra Racing** in the second race of the **Tokyo E-Prix** of the **ABB FIA Formula E World Championship**, strengthening the team's championship campaign. Starting from **fifth position**, he expertly managed changing **wet-to-dry track conditions**, strategically used **Attack Mode**, and maintained his lead after a late **red flag** restart. The victory marked his **second win of the 2026 season** and Mahindra Racing's **second triumph** of the year, their first **multi-win season since 2017–18**. The team collected **38 points** during the Tokyo double-header to move **fourth** in the **Teams' Championship** with **210 points**, while teammate **Edoardo Mortara** equalled the season's **pole-position record**.
- Indian athlete **Sarvesh Anil Kushare** won the **silver medal** in the **men's high jump** at the **Commonwealth Games 2026** in **Glasgow**, achieving a best jump of **2.25 metres** on his final attempt. Although he narrowly missed clearing **2.28 metres**, his performance earned India its **best-ever result** in the event, surpassing the previous **bronze medal** achievement. **Jamaica's Romaine Beckford** secured the **gold medal on countback**, while **Scotland's Jack Kimani** won **bronze** with **2.20 metres**. The achievement adds to Kushare's impressive form following his **national record jump of 2.31 metres** at the **Inter-State Athletics Championships**.
- Indian weightlifter **Ajaya Babu** secured the **silver medal** in the **men's 79 kg** event at the **Commonwealth Games 2026** with a combined lift of **330 kg**, comprising **149 kg in snatch** and **181 kg in clean and jerk**. He narrowly missed the **gold medal** by just **1 kg**, as **Malaysia's Erry Hidayat Muhammad** won with a **Commonwealth Games record** total of **331 kg**, while **England's Chris Murray** took **bronze** with **325 kg**. Ajaya's medal became **India's sixth weightlifting medal** at the Games, further strengthening the country's reputation in international weightlifting competitions.





- Indian weightlifter **Gyaneshwari Yadav** secured the **silver medal** in the **women's 53 kg** category at the **Commonwealth Games 2026**, becoming **India's fourth weightlifting medallist** and **fifth overall medallist** at the Games. She lifted **88 kg in snatch** and **111 kg in clean and jerk**, setting **Commonwealth Games records** before **Nigeria's Onome Omolola** surpassed them to win **gold**, while **Canada's Rebeka Groulx** claimed **bronze**. An **Assistant Sub-Inspector in the Chhattisgarh Police**, Gyaneshwari has also won medals at the **Asian Weightlifting Championships** and holds a **national record**, highlighting her consistent success in international competitions.
- Indian shooter **Esha Singh** won the **gold medal** in the **women's 25m pistol** event at the **ISSF World Cup 2026** in **Hangzhou, China**, defeating **China's Zhang Yueyue** by **40–37** in the final. The victory also secured her direct qualification for the **ISSF World Cup Final 2026** in **Rome**. Fellow Indian shooter and Olympian **Manu Bhaker** earned the **bronze medal** with **28 hits** after a closely contested shoot-off. The outstanding performances by both athletes further strengthened **India's reputation in international shooting**, particularly in **women's pistol events**, showcasing the country's growing dominance on the global stage.
- India** achieved a historic double by winning both the **men's** and **women's team titles** at the **22nd Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships** held at the **Thyagaraj Stadium, New Delhi**, on **30 July 2026**. The **men's team** defeated **Malaysia 3–2**, with **Manush Shah** winning two crucial singles matches, including the deciding encounter. The **women's team** remained **unbeaten** throughout the tournament and defeated **Malaysia 3–0** in the final through victories by **Swastika Ghosh**, **Sreeja Akula**, and **Yashaswini Ghorpade**. Conducted from **27 July to 2 August**, the championship earned India a **USD 10,000 prize purse** and reinforced its status as one of the **Commonwealth's strongest table tennis nations**.
- Indian weightlifter **Lovepreet Singh** secured the **silver medal** in the **men's +110 kg** category at the **Commonwealth Games 2026**, narrowly missing the gold by just **one kilogram**. The **28-year-old** lifted a combined total of **388 kg**, including a **Commonwealth Games record 176 kg snatch** and **212 kg clean and jerk**. **New Zealand's David Liti** claimed the **gold medal** with a record **389 kg** total after lifting **223 kg** in clean and jerk, while **Lovepreet** failed to clear **217 kg** in his final attempt. His medal helped India conclude a successful **weightlifting campaign with eight medals**, while **Martina Devi Maibam** finished **fifth** in the **women's +86 kg** category.
- Indian athlete **Seema Kaliramna** won the **bronze medal** in the **women's discus throw** at the **Commonwealth Games 2026** in **Glasgow**, securing her **first major international medal** with a best throw of **58.66 metres**. **Jamaica's Samantha Hall** claimed **gold** with **61.66 metres**, while **Canada's Julia Tunks** won **silver** with **60.67 metres**. A **27-year-old PhD scholar** and **mother of a four-year-old son**,

Seema made an inspiring comeback after a **two-year break**, achieving a **personal best of 59.73 metres** earlier in 2026. Her bronze increased **India's athletics medal tally to four**, highlighting her determination and perseverance.

- Former **India captain Ajinkya Rahane**, popularly known as "**Jinx**", announced his retirement from **international cricket** after an illustrious career that began with his debut in **2011**. The **Dombivli (Thane), Maharashtra-born** batter shared the announcement through an **Instagram** video, thanking the **BCCI, Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA)**, his teammates, family, and wife **Radhika** for their support. Renowned for his **calm leadership, solid technique, and match-winning overseas Test performances**, Rahane also captained India in Tests. He indicated that he plans to remain associated with cricket through **coaching, mentoring, or commentary**.
- India** concluded the **ISSF World Cup 2026** with **four medals—one gold, one silver, and two bronze**—demonstrating its growing strength in international shooting. The final medal came in the **10m Air Rifle Mixed Team** event, where **Sonam Maskar** and **Himanshu Dhillon** won **bronze** with **441.2 points**. **Esha Singh** claimed **gold** in the **Women's 25m Pistol**, **Sainyam Vij** secured **silver** in the **Women's 10m Air Pistol**, and **Manu Bhaker** earned **bronze** in the **Women's 25m Pistol**, highlighting India's consistent performance across rifle and pistol events.
- India** strengthened its medal tally at the **Commonwealth Games 2026** in **Glasgow, Scotland**, by winning **one gold** and **two silver medals** in athletics. **Dilip Mahadu Gavit** clinched **gold** in the **Men's 100m T47** with a **Commonwealth Games record** time of **10.71 seconds**, while **Mohammed Basil Morssinganakathi** won **silver** in **10.83 seconds**, giving India its **first-ever one-two finish** in the event. **Murali Sreeshankar** secured **silver** in the **Men's Long Jump** with a leap of **8.09 metres**, narrowly missing gold by **6 cm**, earning his **second consecutive Commonwealth Games silver medal**.
- Indian athlete **Tejaswin Shankar** created history by winning a **bronze medal** in **men's decathlon** at the **Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games**, becoming the first Indian to secure a Commonwealth medal in the event. The 27-year-old scored **7,976 points** across the challenging **10-event competition** despite suffering from **chronic patellar tendinitis**. He remained among the top performers throughout the event, finishing strongly in the final **1,500m race** to secure the podium position. **Grenada's Lindon Victor** won gold with **8,096 points**, while **Canada's Damian Warner** secured silver with **8,036 points**. This was Tejaswin's second Commonwealth Games medal after his **2022 high jump bronze**, making him the first Indian athlete to win Commonwealth medals in two different athletics disciplines.





- **Harsh Singh** became the first Indian male judoka to win a **Commonwealth Games gold medal in judo** after defeating Australia's **Joshua Katz** in the **men's 60kg final** at the **Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games** on **31 July 2026**. The **23-year-old athlete** displayed strong tactical skills and composure to secure India's first-ever men's judo gold at the Games. Ranked among the **top 100 judokas by the International Judo Federation (IJF)**, Harsh has represented India at major international competitions, including the **Zagreb Grand Prix** and **Qazaqstan Barysy Grand Slam**. His achievement came on the same day as **Asmita Dey's gold medal victory**, marking India's best-ever Commonwealth Games performance in judo and highlighting the country's growing strength in the sport.
- **Asmita Dey** created history by becoming the first Indian athlete to win a **Commonwealth Games gold medal in judo** after defeating Canada's **Heidi Quach** in the **women's 48kg final** at the **Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games** on **31 July 2026**. The 23-year-old secured victory through the **Golden Score** system after a closely contested final, showing excellent tactical ability and mental strength. She reached the final after defeating **Scotland's Eva Ewing** in the quarterfinal and **Sarah Adlington** in the semifinal. Her victory ended India's previous best record of **five silver and six bronze medals** in Commonwealth Games judo. The historic win also gave India its first judo medal at the Glasgow Games and is expected to inspire greater participation and development of judo across the country.
- India recorded a historic achievement at the **Commonwealth Games 2026** as **Neeraj Chopra** won a **silver medal** and **Yash Vir Singh** secured a **bronze medal** in the men's **javelin throw final**, creating India's first-ever **double podium finish** in the event. Neeraj delivered a **season-best throw of 85.83 metres**, while **Sri Lanka's Rumesh Pathirage** won gold with a **Games record throw of 89.75 metres**. Yash Vir Singh produced a career-best performance with a **personal-best throw of 85.41 metres** in his final attempt to claim bronze. Their success helped India reach **23 medals** by the end of Day 8, including **5 gold, 12 silver, and 6 bronze medals**, highlighting India's rising strength in athletics and international sports competitions.
- **RCB** secured their second consecutive **Indian Premier League** title after defeating **Gujarat Titans** by five wickets in the championship match. Strong bowling performances restricted Gujarat to a manageable total before RCB completed a successful chase. Contributions from key players in both departments helped the team maintain control throughout the contest. The victory reinforced RCB's dominance in the tournament and added another historic achievement to the franchise's record, while Gujarat Titans finished the season as deserving runners-up under the leadership of **Shubman Gill**.
- Indian badminton stars **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy** and **Chirag Shetty** created history by winning the **Singapore Open 2026 Men's Doubles Title**. The pair became the first Indian doubles team to achieve this feat after defeating an Indonesian duo in a hard-fought final. The victory ended a two-year wait for a major **BWF World Tour** title and added another prestigious achievement to their careers. Their success strengthens India's growing reputation in international badminton and highlights the country's increasing competitiveness in doubles events at the global level.
- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** suspended **Cricket Canada** due to serious governance and membership violations. The decision followed concerns related to governance irregularities, administrative misconduct, and institutional instability. Despite the suspension, Canadian men's and women's teams remain eligible to participate in international competitions under ICC supervision. Continued funding for cricket development will be monitored by the ICC, while reinstatement will depend on the implementation of governance reforms, financial transparency measures, and compliance with international cricket administration standards.
- Hero MotoCorp launched India's first **flex-fuel motorcycles**, the **Splendor Plus Flex Fuel** and **HF Deluxe Flex Fuel**. These bikes run on **E20 to E85 ethanol blends**, reducing **fuel imports and carbon emissions**. Powered by a **97.2cc engine**, they support India's **biofuel and clean mobility goals**. Sales begin in **July 2026**, marking a major step in sustainable transport.
- Indian Grandmaster **R. Praggnanandhaa** defeated **Magnus Carlsen** three times in **classical chess**, including twice at **Norway Chess 2026**. This achievement places him among the world's elite players. A former chess prodigy and winner of major international tournaments, he continues to strengthen India's position in **global chess excellence**.
- The first **World Yogasana Championship 2026** was inaugurated in Ahmedabad by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, marking a global push to recognize **Yogasana as a competitive sport**. The event promotes international participation and highlights yoga's role in **fitness, discipline, and holistic well-being**. It strengthens India's cultural leadership in promoting **yoga as a global sporting discipline**.

Sports Current Affairs of June 2026

- **Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB)** successfully defended their **IPL 2026** title by defeating **Gujarat Titans** in the final. The victory was powered by an unbeaten innings from **Virat Kohli**, who played a crucial role in the successful run chase. Several players received individual honours during the season, reflecting outstanding performances across batting, bowling, and fielding categories. The triumph marked another milestone for the franchise and demonstrated its consistency at the highest level of franchise cricket while enhancing the league's competitive appeal.





- **R. Praggnanandhaa** became the first Indian to win the **Norway Chess 2026** title, defeating top global players including **Magnus Carlsen** twice. His victory marks a major milestone in **Indian chess history**, showcasing rising dominance in global chess and strengthening India's reputation in international sports.
- India emerged as champions of the **Men's U18 Asia Cup 2026** after defeating host nation **Japan 4-1** in the final at Kakamigahara. The Indian team displayed exceptional consistency, discipline, and attacking strength throughout the tournament. Their dominant performance in the final secured the **gold medal**, while Japan settled for silver and Pakistan claimed bronze. The victory highlights India's growing strength in youth hockey and reflects the success of its grassroots development programmes. The triumph establishes India as the leading team at the U18 level in Asian hockey.
- India won the **SAFF Women's Championship 2026** by defeating defending champions **Bangladesh 3-1** in the final. The victory ended India's **seven-year wait** for the title and secured a record **sixth SAFF Women's Championship crown**. Goals from **Pyari Xaxa**, **Sanfida Nongrum**, and **Lynda Kom Serto** sealed the win. India remained unbeaten throughout the tournament, winning all four matches, scoring **18 goals**, and conceding only one. **Sanfida Nongrum** was named MVP, **Panthoi Chanu Elangbam** won Best Goalkeeper, and **Aveka Singh** finished as the tournament's top scorer.
- Italian driver **Kimi Antonelli** won the **Monaco Grand Prix 2026**, securing his **fifth consecutive Formula 1 victory** of the season and extending his lead in the Drivers' Championship standings. Starting from pole position, the **Mercedes** driver controlled the race from start to finish despite a late red flag and standing restart. **Lewis Hamilton** finished second for Ferrari, while **Isack Hadjar** secured third place. Championship contenders **Max Verstappen** and **Lando Norris** retired from the race, strengthening Antonelli's title prospects. Monaco remains one of Formula 1's most prestigious and demanding circuits.
- The **French Open 2026** witnessed several historic achievements at **Roland-Garros, Paris**. **Alexander Zverev** captured his maiden **Grand Slam** title by winning the men's singles championship, while **Mirra Andreeva**, aged 19, secured her first Grand Slam crown in women's singles. In doubles, **Marcel Granollers** and **Horacio Zeballos** successfully defended the men's title, while **Katerina Siniakova** and **Taylor Townsend** won the women's doubles championship. In mixed doubles, **Sara Errani** and **Andrea Vavassori** retained their title, becoming the first pair since 2019 to achieve the feat.
- India emerged as the overall champion at the inaugural **World Yogasana Championship 2026**, held at **EKA Arena** from June 4–8, 2026. The Indian contingent dominated the competition, finishing at the top of the medal table with **114 medals**, including **102 gold**, **9 silver**, and **3 bronze medals**.

The championship featured **522 athletes from 79 countries** competing in traditional, artistic, rhythmic, and specialized Yogasana events. **Japan** finished second, while **Argentina** secured third place. The event highlighted the increasing global acceptance of Yogasana and reinforced India's leadership in promoting its ancient yoga heritage worldwide.

- Indian chess player **Savitha Shri Baskar** won the **Asian Women's Individual Chess Championship 2026** in **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**, after an unbeaten performance of **7.5 points from nine rounds**. Entering the tournament as the **sixth seed**, she displayed remarkable consistency and composure against top competitors. Although she finished level on points with **Afruzha Khamdamova of Uzbekistan**, she secured the gold medal through superior tiebreak scores. The victory represents the biggest achievement of her chess career and earned her qualification for the **FIDE Women's World Cup 2027**, further strengthening India's growing presence in international women's chess.
- Former New Zealand captain **Kane Williamson** announced his retirement from international cricket after a distinguished **16-year career**, leaving behind an outstanding legacy in world cricket. He accumulated **9,515 Test runs in 110 matches**, averaging over **54**, along with significant contributions in ODIs and T20Is. As captain, he led New Zealand to victory in the **2021 ICC World Test Championship Final**, one of the country's greatest sporting achievements. Widely regarded as part of cricket's "Fab Four" alongside **Virat Kohli**, **Steve Smith**, and **Joe Root**, Williamson was known for his technical excellence, consistency, leadership, and sportsmanship. His retirement marks the end of an era in New Zealand cricket and leaves a lasting impact on international cricket history.
- Seven-time Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton claimed his maiden victory for Scuderia Ferrari at the Barcelona-Catalunya Grand Prix 2026, ending Mercedes' recent dominance. Hamilton executed a successful three-stop strategy to finish ahead of George Russell, while Lando Norris secured third place, creating the first all-British podium since 1968. Championship contender Kimi Antonelli retired late due to technical issues, intensifying the title race. The result highlights Ferrari's resurgence and adds momentum to Hamilton's championship campaign.
- The Union Government has established a **Search-cum-Selection Committee** under the **National Sports Governance (NSG) Act, 2025** to recommend candidates for the **National Sports Board**. Chaired by **T. V. Somanathan**, the committee includes renowned sports personalities and administrators. The proposed board will serve as India's apex sports governance regulator, overseeing **Sports Federations**, governance standards, financial transparency, and ethical administration. The initiative marks a major step towards creating a more **Transparent, Professional**, and **Accountable Sports Ecosystem** in the country.





- Smriti Mandhana became the only Indian athlete to feature in the **TIME100 Most Influential People in Sports 2026** list. Recognized for her exceptional achievements in international cricket, she is the first Indian woman to score centuries in all three formats—**Tests, ODIs, and T20Is**. Mandhana also shares the record for the most centuries in women's international cricket and has achieved significant success as captain of the **Royal Challengers Bengaluru** franchise. Her inclusion reflects the growing global influence of **Women's Cricket** and India's prominence in the sport.
- Deepti Sharma equalled the record for the most wickets in **Women's International Cricket** by claiming her **355th International Wicket** during the **ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026**. She now shares the record with Jhulan Goswami and Katherine Sciver-Brunt. The achievement highlights Deepti's consistency, longevity, and importance to Indian cricket, further strengthening India's growing reputation in women's international cricket.
- Olympic champion **Neeraj Chopra**, in collaboration with the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)**, launched the **Clean Sports Campaign** to promote awareness against doping. The initiative includes athlete-led outreach, workshops, digital education tools, and grassroots programmes. It aims to educate athletes about banned substances, encourage ethical sporting practices, and strengthen India's sporting reputation, especially as the country pursues its ambition of hosting the **2036 Olympic Games**.
- **Harmanpreet Kaur** became the first cricketer, male or female, to play **200 T20 Internationals (T20Is)** during India's **Women's T20 World Cup 2026** match against **South Africa** at **Old Trafford, Manchester**. Since her international debut in **2009**, she has established herself as one of India's finest captains and batters through consistent performances and impactful leadership. Before the milestone match, she was felicitated by **head coach Amol Muzumdar** and **vice-captain Smriti Mandhana**. The achievement reflects her longevity, consistency, leadership, and immense contribution to women's cricket.
- The **Indian women's hockey team** won the **FIH Nations Cup 2026** after defeating **New Zealand 2–0** in the final on **21 June 2026**. **Navneet Kaur** and **Sunelita Toppo** scored the winning goals, helping India claim its second Nations Cup title after the inaugural triumph in **2022**. India remained unbeaten throughout the tournament, defeating the **United States, Japan, Uruguay, Chile, and New Zealand**. The victory secured India's promotion to the prestigious **FIH Pro League**, providing greater international exposure and strengthening the nation's position in world women's hockey.
- Teenage batter **Vaibhav Sooryavanshi** recorded the fastest **List-A fifty** by reaching his half-century in just **11 balls** during the **Tri-Series Final** between **India A** and **Sri Lanka A** at the **Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium**. He surpassed the previous world record of **12 balls**, held by **Kaushalya Weeratne** since **2005–06**. His explosive innings transformed

the match after a relatively quiet tournament and earned widespread praise from cricket experts. The remarkable feat established Sooryavanshi as one of India's brightest young batting talents with immense future potential.

- Argentina unveiled the **world's tallest statue** of football legend **Lionel Messi** in **Manuel Savio, Neuquén Province**. Standing **26 metres** tall and weighing around **70 tonnes**, the monument depicts Messi holding the **FIFA World Cup Trophy** while wearing Argentina's national jersey. Designed by Argentine artist **Aldo Beroisa**, the structure celebrates Messi's achievements, including the **2022 FIFA World Cup** triumph. Besides honoring one of football's greatest players, the monument is expected to boost tourism, local economic activity, and Argentina's cultural identity through sports heritage.
- **Lionel Messi** became the **highest goal scorer in FIFA World Cup history** during the **2026 FIFA World Cup** by scoring twice against **Austria**, taking his tally to **18 goals** and surpassing **Miroslav Klose's** record of **16 goals**. Earlier, Messi also scored a **hat-trick** against **Algeria**, reaching five goals in the tournament. His World Cup journey spans from **2006 to 2026**, with the **2022 edition** being his most prolific. The milestone strengthened Argentina's campaign and further cemented Messi's legendary football legacy.
- **Cristiano Ronaldo** created football history during the **2026 FIFA World Cup** by becoming the **first player** to score in **six different FIFA World Cup tournaments**. He achieved the milestone during **Portugal's 5–0 victory over Uzbekistan**, scoring twice. At **41 years and 138 days**, Ronaldo also became the **second-oldest goal scorer** in World Cup history. His goals increased his World Cup tally to **10**, surpassing Portuguese legend **Eusébio's** record of **nine goals**, further strengthening his legacy as one of football's greatest players.

Sports Current Affairs of May 2026

- **Punjab Kings** created history by chasing **265 runs** against **Delhi Capitals** at **Arun Jaitley Stadium**, marking the **highest successful chase in IPL history**. **KL Rahul** scored a stunning **152 runs**, supported by **Nitish Rana** (91), taking DC to 264. In reply, **Prabhsimran Singh** (76) and **Priyansh Arya** (73) powered PBKS with a rapid start. Captain **Shreyas Iyer** guided the team to victory. PBKS also surpassed their previous **262-run record (2024)**, dominating IPL's top chase records.
- **Sabastian Sawe** created history at the **London Marathon 2026** by finishing in **1:59:30**, becoming the first to run an **official sub-2-hour marathon**. He broke the previous record of **2:00:35** set by **Kelvin Kiptum**, redefining **human endurance**. Competitors like **Yomif Kejelcha** and **Jacob Kiplimo** also delivered record-level performances. Sawe's achievement is compared to legends like **Roger Bannister** and **Usain Bolt**, marking a historic milestone in **athletics history**.





- India emerged as the top nation at the **ISSF Junior World Cup 2026** in **Cairo**, winning **16 medals** (5 gold, 6 silver, 5 bronze), highlighting its rising strength in **shooting sports**. **Hemant Burman** secured silver in the **50m Rifle 3 Positions** event, while **Zuhair Khan** and **Addya Katyal** won bronze in the **Trap Mixed Team**. Despite mixed results in women's events, India dominated overall. Focus now shifts to the **ISSF Junior World Championship** in Germany, boosting Olympic preparation.
- Virat Kohli** became the first player to score **9000 runs** in the **Indian Premier League**, achieving the milestone during a match between **Royal Challengers Bengaluru** and **Delhi Capitals**. Reaching the mark in his **275th match**, Kohli reinforced his status as the most **consistent T20 batter**. He leads the IPL run charts ahead of players like **Rohit Sharma** and **David Warner**. This record sets a new **benchmark** in franchise cricket, highlighting his dominance, longevity, and unmatched contribution to the league.
- P. V. Sindhu** became **Chair of the Athletes' Commission** and secured a **voting role** in the **Badminton World Federation Council**, marking a historic step in **global badminton governance**. As an **active athlete**, she will represent players' interests and influence **policy decisions** at the highest level. Her participation bridges the gap between **athletes and administrators**, strengthening **inclusive decision-making**. Supported by BWF leadership, this move highlights the importance of **athlete representation** and sets a precedent for greater involvement of sportspersons in shaping the future of international sports governance.
- Rithika Sri** from **Tamil Nadu** became India's **first transgender cricket umpire**, marking a milestone in **sports inclusivity**. Enabled by the **Tamil Nadu Cricket Association** introducing an **'Other' category** in umpire exams, her achievement highlights growing **gender representation**. Starting her journey in 2021, she overcame **social stigma** and barriers to succeed. Her recognition aligns with India's **2014 Supreme Court ruling** on transgender rights, promoting **equality and opportunity**. This landmark moment inspires wider acceptance and encourages greater participation of transgender individuals in **professional sports and governance**.
- Punjab FC** retained the **AIFF Elite Youth League 2025–26** title with a dominant **3-0 win** over **Zinc Football Academy**. After a goalless first half, goals by **Karish Soram**, **Vishal Yadav**, and **Thongram Rishikanta Singh** in quick succession sealed victory. The performance highlights Punjab FC's **youth dominance**, strong **grassroots development**, and consistent excellence in national competitions, establishing them as a leading talent pipeline in **Indian football**.
- India delivered an impressive performance at the **Commonwealth Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships** in **Apia**, winning **four gold medals**. Athletes like **Sunil Singh**, **Aisangfa Gogoi**, **Abhinob Gogoi**, and **Charu Pesi** excelled in **snatch** and **clean & jerk** events. The achievement highlights India's rising strength in **international weightlifting**, backed by strong **grassroots training**, improved **coaching**, and growing participation. Success across youth and senior categories signals a promising future and strengthens India's presence in global sporting competitions.
- India's men's badminton team created history by defeating **Chinese Taipei 3–0** at the **Thomas Cup 2026** in Horsens, Denmark, entering the **semifinals** and securing a medal—only their **second last-four finish after 2022**. **Lakshya Sen** led with a comeback win over Chou Tien-chen. The doubles pair **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy–Chirag Shetty** dominated their match, while debutant **Ayush Shetty** sealed victory with an upset win. This performance highlights India's **growing dominance**, **strong bench strength**, and **rising global stature in badminton**.
- India's campaign in the **Thomas Cup 2026** ended with a **0-3 semifinal defeat** against **France**, forcing the team to settle for the **bronze medal**. The absence of **Lakshya Sen** due to a swollen elbow proved costly as India failed to win a single match. **Ayush Shetty** lost to **Christo Popov** 11-21, 9-21, while **Kidambi Srikanth** was defeated by **Alex Lanier** 16-21, 18-21. In the deciding match, **HS Prannoy** went down to **Toma Junior Popov** 19-21, 16-21. France created history by reaching their **first-ever Thomas Cup final**. Despite the loss, India maintained its strong global badminton presence with another Thomas Cup bronze medal.
- On **10 May 2026**, **Urvil Patel** of Chennai Super Kings smashed a record-equalling **13-ball fifty** against **Lucknow Super Giants**, joining the fastest IPL half-century list. He now shares the top spot with **Yashasvi Jaiswal**, who first achieved the feat in **IPL 2023** for **Rajasthan Royals** against Kolkata Knight Riders. The IPL fastest fifty chart has evolved rapidly, with players like **KL Rahul**, **Yusuf Pathan**, **Nicholas Pooran**, and others contributing explosive innings over the years. In **IPL 2026**, young talents like **Vaibhav Suryavanshi** also made headlines, highlighting the league's growing trend of ultra-fast scoring and power hitting in modern T20 cricket.
- On **Sardinia World Chess Festival 2026** in Italy, **Faustino Oro** became the **second youngest Grandmaster in history** at just **12 years, 6 months, 26 days**, completing his final GM norm and cementing his rise in elite chess.





- Nicknamed the **"Messi of Chess"**, he follows only Abhimanyu Mishra, who holds the youngest-ever record, and joins an exclusive group of prodigies including players like **D Gukesh** and **R Praggnanandhaa**.
- Born in **Buenos Aires**, Oro gained global attention after defeating top-level opponents and showing exceptional **positional skill, maturity, and fearless attacking style** at a very young age.
- His achievement highlights the growing dominance of **teen chess prodigies worldwide** and marks a major milestone in modern **competitive chess history** governed by FIDE.
- At the **Archery World Cup Stage 2 in Shanghai**, the Indian women's recurve team of Deepika Kumari, Ankita Bhakat, and Kumkum Mohod won a dramatic **gold medal**, defeating host nation **China** in a tense shoot-off final. The match was closely fought, ending level after four sets before India edged out China **28–26**, with Deepika Kumari sealing victory with a crucial **nine-point arrow**. The win also included a major semifinal upset over **South Korea**, a dominant force in Olympic archery, highlighting India's growing strength in **recurve archery**. This is India's **first Archery World Cup gold since 2021**, marking a major boost in confidence, consistency, and international competitiveness for the women's team.
- Rahul Dravid has become the owner of the **Dublin Guardians** franchise in the upcoming European T20 Premier League, Europe's first ICC-sanctioned multi-country T20 competition. The ETPL is being launched in partnership with Cricket Ireland, Cricket Scotland and the Royal Dutch Cricket Association to promote cricket growth across Europe. Dravid's involvement is considered significant due to his reputation as a former India captain, World Cup-winning coach and mentor in youth cricket development, giving the league strong global credibility. The league also features star-studded franchise ownership involving Chris Gayle, Glenn Maxwell, Steve Waugh and Faf du Plessis, with major international players expected to participate in ETPL 2026.
- India delivered an outstanding performance at the Asian Boxing U15 Championships 2026, finishing with a total of **27 medals**, including **9 gold medals**. The achievement highlights the rise of India's young boxing talent on the international stage. The **U-15 girls team** emerged as the biggest contributor, winning **7 gold, 2 silver, and 5 bronze medals**. Gold medal winners included Anzee (37kg), Soniya (40kg), Tanvi (43kg), Hanshika Attri (46kg), Sunaina (58kg), Bhumika (61kg), and Angel (70kg). The **U-15 boys team** added **2 gold, 4 silver, and 7 bronze medals**, with Yash Kumar (33kg) and Mohd Yasser (58kg) securing gold medals. India ended the championship with **9 gold, 6 silver, and 12 bronze medals overall**.
- Fifteen-year-old **Vaibhav Sooryavanshi** created IPL history by becoming the Indian batter with the **most sixes in a single IPL season**, smashing his **43rd six** for **Rajasthan Royals** against **Delhi Capitals** on **17 May 2026**. He broke **Abhishek Sharma's** previous record of **42 sixes** set in 2024, achieving the feat in only **12 matches**. Vaibhav now joins elite hitters like **Chris Gayle, Andre Russell, and Jos Buttler**. He recently also became the **fastest batter in T20 history to hit 100 sixes**, reaching the milestone in just **515 deliveries**.
- Ukraine's **Elina Svitolina** won the **Italian Open 2026** after defeating **Coco Gauff** in a thrilling **6-4, 6-7, 6-2** final in Rome lasting nearly **2 hours 49 minutes**. The victory marked her **third Rome title**, after wins in **2017 and 2018**, showcasing a remarkable comeback at age **31**. After recovering from an early setback, she dominated the final set with superior consistency and endurance. Her title run was especially impressive as she defeated top players including **Elena Rybakina, Iga Swiatek, and Coco Gauff**, extending her winning streak over Gauff this season.
- Italy's **Jannik Sinner** won the **Italian Open 2026** by defeating **Casper Ruud 6-4, 6-4**, becoming only the **second male player after Novak Djokovic** to complete the prestigious **Career Golden Masters**—winning all **nine ATP Masters 1000 tournaments** at least once. At just **24 years old**, Sinner achieved the milestone far younger than Djokovic, underlining his rapid rise. The win marked his **sixth consecutive ATP Masters 1000 title**. Already holding **4 Grand Slam titles, 10 Masters titles, and the World No. 1 ranking**, he enters the French Open as a dominant favourite.
- Former India all-rounder **Vijay Shankar** announced retirement from **domestic cricket and the Indian Premier League**, ending a notable multi-format career. He represented India in **21 white-ball matches between 2018 and 2019**, including the **2019 ICC Cricket World Cup**, where he became widely known as the **"3D cricketer."** Shankar enjoyed a successful domestic career with **Tamil Nadu**, leading the team to titles in the **Vijay Hazare Trophy, Deodhar Trophy, and Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy**. In the IPL, he played **78 matches** for franchises including **CSK, SRH, Delhi Capitals, and Gujarat Titans**.
- **East Bengal FC** won their first **Indian Super League title in 2026**, defeating **Inter Kashi FC** at **Kishore Bharati Krirangan, Kolkata**, ending a **22-year wait** for a major top-tier domestic title. After trailing through **Alfred's 15th-minute goal**, East Bengal fought back with **Youssef Ezzejjari's equaliser** and **Mohammed Rashid's winning goal** in the 73rd minute. Entering the final tied with **Mohun Bagan** on points, East Bengal clinched the title on superior **goal difference**. Ezzejjari, who scored **11 goals in 13 matches**, also won the **Golden Boot**.





- **Cristiano Ronaldo** won his first **Saudi Pro League** title as **Al Nassr** defeated **Damac FC 4-1** in the season finale, securing the club's **11th league championship**. Ronaldo scored **two decisive second-half goals**, helping Al Nassr finish **two points ahead of Al Hilal**. The Portuguese superstar ended the campaign with **28 league goals**, proving his continued elite performance even at **41 years old**. The emotional triumph marks a major milestone in his Saudi football journey and builds strong momentum ahead of the **2026 FIFA World Cup**, where he is expected to represent **Portugal**.
- Football icon **Lionel Messi** has officially entered the billionaire club, becoming only the second footballer after **Cristiano Ronaldo** to surpass **\$1 billion net worth**, according to the **Bloomberg Billionaires Index**. His wealth has been built through football contracts, endorsements, investments, and business ventures during his time with **FC Barcelona**, **Paris Saint-Germain**, and **Inter Miami CF**. Messi's move to the United States has significantly boosted the popularity of **Major League Soccer (MLS)**. His illustrious career includes **8 Ballon d'Or awards** and leading Argentina to victory in the **2022 FIFA World Cup**.
- The **IPL 2026 Playoffs** lineup has been finalized with **Royal Challengers Bengaluru**, **Gujarat Titans**, **Sunrisers Hyderabad**, and **Rajasthan Royals** securing qualification. Rajasthan Royals confirmed their playoff berth after defeating **Mumbai Indians**, resulting in the elimination of **Punjab Kings** and **Kolkata Knight Riders**. RCB finished at the top of the standings based on superior **Net Run Rate (NRR)** and will face Gujarat Titans in **Qualifier 1**. Sunrisers Hyderabad will meet Rajasthan Royals in the Eliminator, while the final is scheduled at **Narendra Modi Stadium** on **31 May 2026**.
- Indian sprinter **Gurindervir Singh** created history at the **Federation Cup 2026** in **Ranchi** by clocking **10.09 seconds** in the men's 100m final, becoming the **fastest Indian sprinter** ever. The achievement broke the national record and brought India closer to the prestigious **sub-10-second barrier** in sprinting. His performance also intensified competition with fellow athlete **Animesh Kujur**, who had previously set a record of **10.15 seconds**. The milestone reflects the growing impact of advanced coaching methods, sports science, and high-performance training systems in Indian athletics.
- **Kimi Antonelli** continued his outstanding Formula One season by winning the **Canadian Grand Prix 2026** for **Mercedes-AMG Petronas Formula One Team**. The victory came after teammate **George Russell** retired from the lead due to a power unit failure. Antonelli capitalized on a key **Virtual Safety Car** phase to secure his **fourth consecutive Formula One victory**, extending his championship lead to **43 points**. **Lewis Hamilton** finished second for **Scuderia Ferrari**, while **Max Verstappen** claimed third position in a race marked by several retirements and strategic twists.
- The **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** has notified operational rules for the **National Sports Board (NSB)** and **National Sports Tribunal (NST)** under the **National Sports Governance Act**. The NSB will oversee governance compliance, financial monitoring, recognition of sports bodies, and ethical standards, ensuring greater accountability within sports federations. The NST will introduce a fully digital dispute-resolution mechanism featuring online filing, virtual hearings, digital notices, and online publication of decisions. These reforms aim to modernize sports administration through transparency, independent oversight, and faster resolution of sports-related disputes.
- India delivered a strong performance at the **Asian Under-23 Wrestling Championships 2026** held in **Da Nang**, securing **two gold medals** in men's freestyle wrestling. **Mohit Kumar** won the **65 kg category** by defeating Kyrgyzstan's **Oskonbai A. Abdisamatov**, while **Chandermohan** captured the **79 kg title** with a narrow victory over Kazakhstan's **Yerkhan Abil**. India also secured two silver medals through **Punit Kumar** and **Lucky**, along with a bronze medal by **Sachin Mor**. The results highlight India's expanding talent pool and growing prominence in international wrestling.
- India has launched the global promotional campaign for the **1st World Yogasana Championship 2026**, with **Mansukh Mandaviya** unveiling the championship's official film, mascot, and jersey in **New Delhi**. The event will be hosted in **Ahmedabad** and aims to establish **Yogasana** as a globally recognized competitive sport that combines physical fitness, flexibility, discipline, concentration, and mental wellness. With registrations from nearly **75 countries** and over **500 international participants** expected, the championship represents a significant step in promoting India's yoga heritage through sports diplomacy and cultural outreach.
- Fifteen-year-old cricket prodigy **Vaibhav Sooryavanshi** created history during the **IPL 2026 Eliminator** by breaking **Chris Gayle's** long-standing record for the most sixes in a single IPL season. Representing **Rajasthan Royals**, Vaibhav smashed **65 sixes**, surpassing Gayle's previous record of **59 sixes** set in 2012. He also became the **youngest player to score 600 runs in an IPL season**, breaking **Rishabh Pant's** record. Earlier in the season, he achieved another milestone by becoming the **fastest batter to hit 100 T20 sixes**, reaching the mark in just **515 deliveries**.
- Indian shooter **Esha Singh** created history at the **ISSF World Cup Munich** by winning the **women's 25m pistol gold medal** with a **world-record score of 43 points**. The **21-year-old** surpassed the previous record of **42 points**, set by **Kim Yeji** in 2024. During the competition, Esha outperformed several elite shooters, including **Olympic champion Yang Jinn** and former world champion **Doreen Vennekamp**. Her remarkable consistency, composure under pressure, and technical excellence underline India's growing strength in international shooting and add another significant achievement to the country's sporting success.





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- Sunil Narine became the **most-capped overseas player in IPL history** with **190 matches**, surpassing Kieron Pollard (189), achieving the feat on **March 29, 2026** at **Wankhede Stadium**. Playing exclusively for Kolkata Knight Riders since **2012 (₹3.4 crore signing)**, he has taken **192 wickets** and scored **1,780 runs**, including **1 century**, establishing himself as a key all-rounder and match-winner.
- Sheetal Devi, a **19-year-old archer from Jammu & Kashmir**, was named **Para Archer of the Year 2025** by World Archery. She became the **first armless female archer to win gold** at the **World Para Archery Championships (Gwangju)**, securing **gold, silver, and bronze medals**. She also won a **bronze at the Paris Paralympics** and silver medals at **Asian Para Games 2022** and **Asian Championships 2023**, showcasing exceptional talent.
- Khelo India Tribal Games 2026 concluded with Karnataka emerging as the **overall champion**, securing **23 gold medals**. Odisha and Jharkhand finished second and third respectively, while host Chhattisgarh ranked ninth. The event highlighted **tribal sporting talent and inclusivity**, with standout performances in swimming, athletics, and wrestling, marking a significant step in promoting **grassroots sports and cultural heritage** in India.
- Murali Sreeshankar won the **men's long jump** at the **Indian Athletics Series 2026** with an impressive **8.15m leap**, marking his **best performance after knee surgery (2024)**. Competing at **Kanteerava Stadium**, he was the only athlete to cross **8m**, highlighting a strong comeback after missing the **Paris Olympics 2024**. In the event, **Sunny Kumar (7.90m)** and **Purushotham (7.87m)** followed. In women's long jump, **Ancy Sojan (6.54m)** won, ahead of **Shaili Singh (6.52m)**, showcasing competitive performances.
- Bhuvneshwar Kumar became the **first fast bowler to take 200 wickets in the IPL**, achieving the milestone during the **RCB vs CSK match** by dismissing **Ayush Mhatre**. This historic feat stands out as **spinners dominate IPL wicket charts**, with Yuzvendra Chahal still leading overall. Bhuvneshwar, who debuted in **2011**, is also known for winning **back-to-back Purple Caps (2016 & 2017)**. His achievement highlights **consistency, skill**, and marks a major milestone in **IPL history**.
- Divya Singh achieved a remarkable feat by cycling to **Everest Base Camp (5,364m)** in just **14 days**, showcasing extraordinary **resilience and determination**. Starting from Kathmandu, she faced **freezing temperatures, low oxygen levels**, and **rugged terrain**, riding **10–12 hours daily**. Battling risks like **altitude sickness**, she completed a journey rarely attempted by cyclists. Her viral moment holding the **Indian flag** at the summit symbolizes **national pride, mental strength**, and the spirit of overcoming extreme challenges.
- Payal Nag, an **18-year-old from Odisha**, made history by becoming the **first quadruple amputee to win an international gold medal in archery**. After losing all limbs in an **electric shock accident**, she rebuilt her life through **determination and resilience**. Trained at the **Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Archery Academy**, she uses a **unique technique** with prosthetic support, shoulder, and mouth. She won gold at the **World Para Archery Series Final (Bangkok, April 4, 2026)**, defeating **Sheetal Devi (139–136)**, inspiring millions with her **courage and perseverance**.
- Blanka Vlašić has been appointed **Global Ambassador** for the TCS World 10K Bengaluru 2026, enhancing its **global appeal**. A former Olympic medalist, she aims to inspire runners with messages of **fitness, mental strength**, and **determination**. Scheduled for **April 26, 2026**, the event brings together **elite athletes and mass participants**, promoting **community spirit** and healthy living. Her presence adds prestige and motivates participants worldwide to engage in one of the **premier 10K races**.
- India delivered a strong performance at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2026, with Sujeet Kalkal (65kg) and Abhimanyu Mandwal (70kg) winning **gold medals**. Kalkal dominated with an **8–1 victory**, while Mandwal defeated an Olympian **5–3**. India secured **14 medals (2 gold, 4 silver, 8 bronze)**, showcasing **wrestling excellence, tactical strength**, and growing dominance at the continental level.
- Jannik Sinner defeated Carlos Alcaraz to win the Monte Carlo Masters 2026, claiming his first title there and regaining the **World No. 1 ranking**. He secured a **straight-sets victory (7–6, 6–3)**, extending a dominant run after wins at Indian Wells and Miami. The triumph highlights his **exceptional form**, strengthens the **Sinner–Alcaraz rivalry**, and establishes him as a leading force in modern tennis.
- Sawan Barwal set a new **Indian marathon record** at the Rotterdam Marathon 2026 on **April 12**, clocking **2:11:58** and breaking the **48-year-old record** of Shivnath Singh (1978). This historic feat marks a major boost for **Indian athletics**, reflecting improved **training standards** and rising **global competitiveness**. Barwal's achievement signals a new era in **long-distance running**, highlighting emerging talent from rural India and strengthening the country's presence on the international stage.
- Mitchell Starc and Deepti Sharma were named **Leading Cricketers in the World for 2025** by Wisden Cricketers' Almanack for their **exceptional performances**. Starc excelled in Tests and the **Ashes**, while Deepti starred in India's **Women's World Cup victory** with all-round brilliance. Indian players Shubman Gill, Ravindra Jadeja, and Rishabh Pant were also honored, highlighting India's strong impact in **global cricket**.





- Sanju Samson won the **ICC Men's Player of the Month (March 2026)** for his outstanding performances in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026. He scored **275 runs in three matches**, including match-winning fifties, playing a key role in India's **consecutive title win**. From a reserve player to a **tournament hero**, Samson's performance showcased **consistency, power-hitting, and composure under pressure**, earning him global recognition in cricket.
- Melie Kerr won the **ICC Women's Player of the Month (March 2026)** for the third time, following her outstanding **all-round performances**. She starred in series wins over Zimbabwe and South Africa, taking **16 wickets in ODIs** and scoring heavily in T20Is. As captain, Kerr's consistency and leadership have strengthened New Zealand Women's Cricket Team, cementing her status as one of the world's top **all-rounders**.
- R Vaishali won the **Women's Candidates Tournament 2026**, securing a place in the **Women's World Chess Championship**. She became the **second Indian woman** after Koneru Humpy to achieve this feat and will face Ju Wenjun. Her remarkable comeback—from lower rankings to champion—highlights **resilience, strategy, and rising Indian dominance in global chess**.
- The Mumbai Cricket Association has introduced a **structured player contract system** from the **2026–27 domestic season**, becoming the first in India to do so. The model includes **graded salaries (Grade A, B, C)** to ensure **financial stability** for **domestic cricketers**, especially those outside the IPL and international cricket. Eligible players must meet **fitness, registration, and selection criteria**, and should not have recent IPL or international exposure. Combined with **matched match fees alongside BCCI payments**, this initiative significantly boosts **player earnings**, encourages **consistent performance**, and strengthens the **domestic cricket ecosystem** in India.
- Shubhankar Sharma made a remarkable return to domestic golf by winning the **inaugural Boulders Classic 2026** at Boulder Hills Golf & Country Club. Competing in his first domestic event since 2021, he delivered a **dominant performance**, including an **8-under 64** round to seal victory. The win marks his comeback to the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) and reinforces his reputation as a **top Indian golfer**. This achievement highlights his **consistency, precision, and strong international experience**, making it a significant milestone in his career.
- The International Cricket Council has launched the **inaugural Women's T20I Challenge Trophy 2026** in Rwanda, starting April 18 in Kigali. The **five-nation tournament** features teams from Rwanda, Italy, Nepal, USA, and Vanuatu, played at Gahanga Cricket Stadium. Following a **double round-robin format**, it runs until May 2, 2026. The event aims to boost **women's cricket development**, provide **international exposure**, and strengthen **emerging cricket nations** through structured competition and global opportunities.
- Indian Institute of Technology Madras introduced **OmegaBall**, India's first **three-team football format**, showcasing innovation beyond academics. Played on a **circular field with three goals**, it allows teams to **attack two goals and defend one**, increasing **speed, interaction, and excitement**. The debut featured an **inter-college tournament** with major Chennai institutions. Popular globally in regions like the **US, Brazil, and Europe**, OmegaBall is gaining traction. Led by V. Kamakoti, the institute also proposed a **national OmegaBall Club**, aiming to promote **sports innovation, student engagement, and development of new-age competitive sports** in India.
- The ISSF Junior World Cup 2026 has begun in Cairo at the **Egypt International Olympic City**, marking the start of the **global junior shooting season**. Organized by International Shooting Sport Federation, the event features **rifle, pistol, and shotgun competitions**. India has fielded a strong **71-member contingent**, showcasing its depth in shooting talent. Key events include **10m Air Rifle and Air Pistol**. With top athletes like Shambhavi Kshirsagar and Shiva Narwal, India aims for **strong medal prospects and global dominance** in junior shooting.
- Abhishek Sharma created history in the Indian Premier League by becoming the first Indian to score **multiple centuries in under 50 balls**. Playing for Sunrisers Hyderabad against Delhi Capitals, he smashed a **47-ball century** and remained unbeaten on **135 runs**. His explosive innings, featuring **10 fours and 10 sixes**, powered his team to victory. Having earlier scored a **40-ball century**, he joins elite hitters like Chris Gayle, marking a significant milestone in **T20 cricket history and batting dominance**.
- Tashkent will host the **World Para Athletics Championships 2027 in June**, marking the first time **Central Asia** hosts this global event. Organized by World Para Athletics under the International Paralympic Committee, the championship will be held at the **Olympic City Main Stadium**. It will feature **top para-athletes worldwide** and serve as a pathway to the **Paralympic Games**. The selection highlights **Uzbekistan's growing sports infrastructure and commitment to inclusivity**, expanding the event's **global reach and participation** in para sports.
- Athletics Integrity Unit has placed India in **Category A**, labeling it a **high-risk nation for doping violations** due to rising **Anti-Doping Rule Violations (ADRVs)** from **2022–2025**. This status mandates **stricter testing, enhanced monitoring, and global scrutiny** for Indian athletes. Concerns include **weak domestic anti-doping systems and enforcement gaps**. The Athletics Federation of India has accepted the decision and plans **stronger education, testing, and stricter penalties**. The move highlights urgent need to improve **sports integrity, compliance, and clean competition standards**.





- Virat Kohli became the first player in Indian Premier League history to reach **800 boundaries**, achieving the milestone against Gujarat Titans at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium. Representing Royal Challengers Bengaluru, he also crossed **300 sixes**, becoming the first cricketer to hit **300 sixes for a single IPL team**. Kohli remains the **highest run-scorer in IPL history**, showcasing unmatched **consistency and longevity**. This achievement further cements his legacy as one of the greatest players in T20 cricket and a dominant force in the league.

Sports Current Affairs of March 2026

- 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 (Aaqib Nabi 5/54), second-innings centuries from Qamran Iqbal (160*) and Sahil Lotra (101) extending lead to 633 runs, Aaqib Nabi named Player of Tournament with 62 wickets, and Abdul Samad J&K's highest scorer with 748 runs at 57 average.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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).

- 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).
- 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.
- 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**.
- 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**.
- 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.
- 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.





Sports Current Affairs of February 2026

CRICKET

1. **India U-19 World Cup Victory** India won its 6th ICC U-19 World Cup title defeating England in the final; Vaibhav Suryavanshi scored a record 175 runs, powering India to victory.
2. **Zimbabwe T20 World Cup Upset** Zimbabwe defeated Australia by 23 runs at ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, marking one of the biggest surprises of the tournament.
3. **India vs Pakistan T20 World Cup** India (175/7) defeated Pakistan at R. Premadasa Stadium, Colombo during T20 World Cup 2026; Ishan Kishan scored 77 off 40 balls; Saim Ayub took 3/25 for Pakistan.
4. **Rashid Khan - 700 T20 Wickets** Afghanistan spinner Rashid Khan became first bowler to reach 700 T20 wickets (in 518 matches) during ICC Men's T20 WC 2026 vs UAE in Delhi; also holds 191 T20I wickets record.
5. **Smriti Mandhana - BBC Sportswoman Award** Smriti Mandhana awarded BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year 2025; scored fastest 50-over century (50 balls) by an Indian, playing key role in India's Women's WC 2025.
6. **Harmanpreet Kaur - Most-Capped Women's Cricket** India captain Harmanpreet Kaur created history becoming most-capped player in women's international cricket (356 matches), surpassing New Zealand's Suzie Bates (355 matches) during 2nd T20I vs Australia in Canberra; scoring: 4,409 ODI runs, 3,820 T20I runs; under her captaincy, India won 2025 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup.
7. **Paras Dogra - Fastest to 10,000 Ranji Trophy Runs** Paras Dogra reached 10,000 Ranji Trophy runs in 147 innings (vs Wasim Jaffer's 196 innings); 2nd highest all-time scorer with 33 centuries; J&K's first-ever Ranji semi-finalist.
8. **J&K Ranji Trophy Final** Jammu & Kashmir reached first-ever Ranji Trophy Final (in their 66th year) defeating Bengal in semi-finals.

TENNIS

9. **Carlos Alcaraz - Australian Open 2026 Men's Singles** Carlos Alcaraz (Spain) defeated Novak Djokovic to win Australian Open 2026 Men's Singles title, strengthening his dominance in men's tennis.
10. **Elena Rybakina - Australian Open 2026 Women's Singles** Elena Rybakina (Kazakhstan) defeated Aryna Sabalenka to win Australian Open 2026 Women's Singles title.
11. **Stefanos Sakellaridis - Delhi Open 2026** Stefanos Sakellaridis (Greece, 21-year-old) won maiden ATP Challenger Singles title at Delhi Open 2026, defeating Oliver Crawford 7-5, 5-6, 7-6; Siddhant Banthia-Alexander Donski won doubles.

12. **Olivia Gadecki & John Peers - Australian Open Mixed Doubles** Australia's Olivia Gadecki & John Peers defended their Australian Open Mixed Doubles title; became first pair since 1989 to successfully defend the title.

13. **Vaishnavi Adkar - ITF W100 Final** Indian tennis player Vaishnavi Adkar (World No. 690) reached ITF W100 Bengaluru final; lost to Belgium's Hanne Vandewinkel 6-0, 6-1 but became first Indian woman since Sania Mirza (2009) reaching ITF W100 final, earning 65 ranking points, USD 8,147.

BADMINTON

14. **Devika Sihag - BWF Super 300 Title** Indian badminton player Devika Sihag won first BWF Super 300 title at Thailand Masters, marking major breakthrough in her international career.

ARCHERY & SHOOTING

15. **India 2027 Asian Rifle/Pistol Championship** Hosting India secured hosting rights for the 2027 Asian Rifle/Pistol Championship; event will serve as Olympic qualifier.
16. **Asian Shooting Championship 2026 - Overall** India topped Asian Shooting Championship 2026 with 94 medals (51 Gold, 23 Silver, 20 Bronze) at Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range, New Delhi; Kazakhstan 2nd with 26 medals; 17th edition with 300+ athletes, 20 countries.
17. **Amanpreet Singh - 25m Centre Fire Pistol** Indian shooter Amanpreet Singh won gold in 25m Centre Fire Pistol event with score 589-24x.
18. **Suraj Sharma - 25m Pistol Junior** Suraj Sharma secured gold in 25m Pistol Junior event with score 585-25x.
19. **Sift Kaur Samra - 50m Rifle Prone** Sift Kaur Samra won silver in 50m Rifle Prone Women Senior event.
20. **Meghana Sajjanar - Pregnant Shooter** Pregnant shooter Meghana Sajjanar won bronze, highlighting determination and excellence.

ATHLETICS & MULTI-SPORT

21. **Tejaswin Shankar - Asian Indoor Athletics** Tejaswin Shankar won gold in men's heptathlon at Asian Indoor Athletics Championships 2026, Tianjin, China; score: 5,993 points (national indoor record); India finished 6th overall with 5 medals.
22. **India SAFF U-19 Women's Football** India defeated Bangladesh 4-0 to win SAFF U-19 Women's Football Championship title.
23. **Services - Santosh Trophy** Services defeated Kerala 1-0 to win their 8th Santosh Trophy title.
24. **Jharkhand Para Throwball - Gold Medals** Jharkhand women's team won gold at Para Throwball Nationals 2026 and National Federation Cup Para Throwball Championship, highlighting growth in inclusive and grassroots sports.





WINTER OLYMPICS

25. Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics - Overview XXV Winter Olympic Games (Milano Cortina 2026) held Feb 6-22, 2026 in Lombardy, Northeast Italy (Milan, Cortina d'Ampezzo, Bormio, Val di Fiemme); first time two cities officially co-hosted; organized under IOC presidency of Kirsty Coventry (first woman in Olympics leadership); featured 16 winter sports; India fielded 2-member contingent: Arif Mohammad Khan (Alpine Skiing) and Stanzin Lundup (Cross-Country Skiing); no medal secured.

26. Winter Olympics Medal Tally Norway topped medal tally with 41 total (18 gold, 12 silver, 11 bronze); USA 2nd with 33 total (12 gold, 12 silver, 9 bronze); Netherlands 3rd with 20 total (10 gold, 7 silver, 3 bronze); Italy (host) 4th with 30 total (10 gold, 6 silver, 14 bronze) – best-ever Winter Olympic performance.

27. Lucas Pinheiro Braathen - Giant Slalom Gold Lucas Pinheiro Braathen (Brazil) won giant slalom gold at Milano Cortina 2026 – Brazil's first-ever Winter Olympics medal and South America's first Winter Games medal; beat Switzerland's Marco Odermatt by 0.58s.

28. Johannes Klaebo - 9th Winter Olympic Medal Johannes Klaebo won his 9th Winter Olympic medal (men's 4x7.5km relay gold) – most decorated Winter Olympian; Norway won with 22.2s ahead of France; Italy 3rd.

29. Johannes Dale-Skjevdal - Biathlon 15km Gold Johannes Dale-Skjevdal clinched biathlon 15km gold at Milano Cortina 2026; Norway won record 17th gold, breaking Beijing 2022 record of 16 gold medals.

30. Xandra Velzeboer - Short Track World Record Dutch short-track skater Xandra Velzeboer won gold in 500m, 1000m, setting world record in 500m semi-finals.

31. USA Women's Hockey - Olympic Gold USA women's hockey won 2026 Winter Olympics gold in Milan, defeating Canada 2-1 OT; Hilary Knight and Megan Keller secured historic victory.

32. India Alpine Skiing India participating in Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics with athletes competing in Alpine Skiing and Cross-Country Skiing.

CHESS

33. Magnus Carlsen - FIDE Freestyle Chess World Championship Magnus Carlsen won inaugural FIDE Freestyle Chess (Chess960) World Championship 2026 in Weissenhaus, Germany, defeating Fabiano Caruana 2.5–1.5; 21st world title; prize: USD 300,000 total (Carlsen: USD 100,000).

PARALYMPICS

34. Russia Winter Paralympics Quota Russia allotted six quota places for 2026 Winter Paralympics following IPC's decision.

Sports Current Affairs of November 2025

Category	Event / Achievement	Winner / Key Persons	Key Details
Cricket	ICC Women's ODI World Cup 2025	India	Beat South Africa by 52 runs; Shafali Verma – PoM, Deepti Sharma – PoS
Cricket	ICC Player of the Month (Nov 2025)	Senuran Muthusamy & Laura Wolvaardt	Outstanding November performances
Cricket	Retirement	Kane Williamson	Retired from T20Is; continues ODIs & Tests
Cricket	WPL 2026 Auction	Deepti Sharma	Became costliest player
Cricket	India's biggest Test defeat	India	Lost by 408 runs to South Africa (Guwahati), 2–0 whitewash
Cricket	ICC Men's T20 WC 2026 Ambassador	Rohit Sharma	Appointed by BCCI
Tennis	Paris Masters 2025	Jannik Sinner	Won championship; regained ATP World No.1
Tennis	Davis Cup 2025	Italy	Beat Spain 2–0; 4th title & 3rd consecutive win
Tennis	International Tennis Hall of Fame 2026	Roger Federer	Inducted for 20 Grand Slams & 310 weeks at No.1
Badminton	Australian Open Super 500	Lakshya Sen	Won his 3rd BWF Super 500 title
Archery	24th Asian Archery Championship 2025	India	Topped with 10 medals (6 Gold, 3 Silver, 1 Bronze)
Archery	Individual Recurve Gold	B. Dhiraj & Ankita Bhakat	First-ever Indian male & female to win recurve golds
Boxing	International Boxing Events	India	Won 9 gold medals (7 by Indian women)
Kabaddi	Women's Kabaddi World Cup 2025	India	Beat Chinese Taipei 35–28; 2nd consecutive title
Blind Cricket	Blind Women's T20 World Cup	India	Beat Nepal; chased 115 in 12 overs
Chess	New Woman Grandmaster	Sarayu Velpula	Became India's 26th Woman Grandmaster
Chess	UK Women's Blitz Champion	Bodhana Sivanandan (10 yrs)	Youngest Woman IM; won 8 straight games





Category	Event / Achievement	Winner / Key Persons	Key Details
Chess	FIDE World Cup 2025	Javokhir Sindarov	Beat Wei Yi in tiebreaks
Football	FIFA World Cup 2026 Qualifiers	Curaçao, Haiti, Cape Verde, Panama	Curaçao became smallest nation ever to qualify
Multi-Sport	Asian Youth Games 2025	India	Best-ever finish: 48 medals (13G, 18S, 17B)
Hockey	India Hockey Centenary	Hockey India	Announced 1,400 matches in 550 districts
Hockey	Hockey World Cup 2026	Belgium & Netherlands	Will include 1st ever ParaHockey World Cup
Cultural Sports	Kartik Naach Festival	Nepal	Concluded at Patan Durbar Square
Deaflympics	25th Summer Deaflympics 2025	India – 20 Medals (9G, 7S, 4B)	Best-ever finish; 16 medals from shooters
Deaflympics	Top Performer	Mahit Sandhu	Won 4 medals (2 Gold, 2 Silver)
Deaflympics	Women's Golf	Diksha Dagar	Won gold — her 2nd Deaflympics gold
Martial Arts	World Jiu-Jitsu Championship 2025	Giovanna de Sequeira (10 yrs)	Won bronze after major injury recovery
Formula 1	Las Vegas Grand Prix 2025	Max Verstappen	125th career podium; reduced Lando Norris' lead

Science & Technology

Science & Technology of July 2026

- **ISRO** successfully conducted the **eighth hot test** of its **Semi-Cryogenic Engine Power Head Test Article (PHTA)** on **24 June 2026** at the **ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri**. The engine generated **175 tonnes of thrust**, nearly **88%** of its planned **200-tonne capacity**, validating critical systems including **pre-burner, turbopumps, and propellant feed systems**. Powered by **Liquid Oxygen (LOX)** and **Isrosene**, the **SE2000 engine** will propel the **SC120 stage** of the **LVM3 launch vehicle**. The achievement boosts **payload capacity, fuel efficiency**, indigenous capability, and future missions such as **Gaganyaan, Chandrayaan**, and commercial satellite launches.
- **Brachy bacterium netajii** is a newly discovered bacterial species isolated from the **Hooghly River** in **West Bengal**. Identified through **polyphasic taxonomic characterization**, the bacterium is notable for degrading **p-nitrophenol (PNP)**, a toxic industrial chemical found in dyes and pesticides. It also tolerates heavy metals such as **arsenic, cadmium, lead, and mercury**, while surviving salinity levels up to **9%**, making it valuable for **bioremediation** in polluted environments. Discovered by researchers from **Netaji Mahavidyalaya, University of Burdwan, IIT (BHU)**, and **Hiroshima University**, it honours **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose**.
- India approved its **first-ever Private Point-in-Space (PinS) instrument approach procedure** for helicopter operations at **Undavalli Heliport**, marking a major advancement in aviation navigation. Developed by the **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** and approved by the **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)**, the **satellite-based PinS** system enables safe and precise helicopter landings without conventional infrastructure, especially in adverse weather and remote areas. According to **Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu**, the initiative will enhance **flight safety**, emergency medical services, disaster relief, tourism, offshore operations, pilgrimage services, corporate aviation, and regional connectivity.
- India approved its first **Private Point-in-Space (PinS) Instrument Approach Procedure** for helicopter operations at **Undavalli Heliport**, developed by the **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** and approved by the **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)**. Using **Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS)** technology under **Instrument Flight Rules (IFR)**, the satellite-based system enables precise landings without conventional **Instrument Landing Systems (ILS)**. It enhances all-weather operations, flight safety, emergency medical services, disaster response, offshore missions, and regional connectivity while reducing infrastructure costs and aligning with **ICAO** standards.
- **Skyroot Aerospace** is preparing to launch **Vikram-1**, India's **first privately developed orbital launch vehicle**, on **Mission Aagaman** between **12 July and 4 August 2026** from **Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota**. Named after **Dr. Vikram Sarabhai**, the four-stage rocket can carry **350 kg** to **Low Earth Orbit** and **260 kg** to **Sun-Synchronous Orbit**. Featuring **3D-printed engines**, an **all-carbon composite structure**, and indigenous navigation systems, the mission will validate commercial launch technologies while carrying payloads from Indian startups and international customers.
- The **NSF–DOE Vera C. Rubin Observatory** in **Chile** launched the **10-year Legacy Survey of Space and Time (LSST)** using the world's largest **3,200-megapixel digital camera**. The observatory will scan the southern sky every **40 seconds**, generating about **10 TB** of data nightly and up to **7 million alerts** on cosmic events. Scientists will study **20 billion galaxies, dark matter, supernovae, black holes, and gravitational lenses**. Indian researchers from **IUCAA** and **NCRA-TIFR** are significant contributors, advancing global understanding of cosmology and the dynamic Universe.





- Researchers scientifically confirmed that the **700-year-old Banyan Tree** in **Munger, Bihar**, is the oldest accurately dated **Ficus benghalensis**. Scientists from the **Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP)** used **Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS)** radiocarbon dating on alpha-cellulose samples, calibrated with the **IntCal20** curve and **OxCal** software. Since banyan trees lack annual growth rings, this marks the first validated scientific dating protocol for the species. The findings revise local history, proving the tree predates nearby colonial structures and belonged to an ancient natural forest ecosystem.
- Japan's **Hayabusa2 spacecraft**, operated by **JAXA**, successfully completed a high-speed flyby of asteroid **Torifune (2001 CC21)** on **5 July 2026**. Travelling at **5 kilometres per second**, it passed approximately **800 metres** from the asteroid's centre to study its **surface, structure, and temperature**. The mission supports **planetary defence research** by testing advanced **navigation, precision guidance, and rapid reconnaissance technologies**. Following its successful **Ryugu sample-return mission** in 2020, Hayabusa2 will continue its extended mission toward asteroid **1998 KY26**, targeted for **2031**.
- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** successfully completed the first ground test of the **Sub-Orbital Launch Vehicle for Experiments (SOLVE)** under the **Gaganyaan Mission** at **Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota**. The test validated the vehicle's **solid propulsion system**, designed to evaluate **crew module recovery, parachute deployment, and safe water landing** from **10–17 km altitude**. Using modified **PSLV-based propulsion** and advanced nozzle technology, SOLVE strengthens preparations for India's first indigenous **human spaceflight mission**, enhancing **crew safety** and space mission reliability.
- **China** conducted a **Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missile (SLBM)** test in the **South Pacific**, marking its first known submarine-based strategic missile launch from a **nuclear-powered submarine** since **1982**. The missile carried a **dummy warhead** and was launched during the **Joint Sea-2026** naval exercises with **Russia**. The test drew concern from **Australia, New Zealand, and Japan**, while highlighting China's expanding **sea-based nuclear deterrence capabilities**. The launch also renewed attention on the **Treaty of Rarotonga (1985)**, establishing the South Pacific as a **nuclear-free zone**.
- Chinese AI startup **DeepSeek** is developing a custom **AI inference chip** to reduce dependence on foreign semiconductor technology. Manufactured in collaboration with **SMIC**, China's leading semiconductor foundry, the chip is designed primarily for **AI inference**, enabling efficient text, image, and prediction generation. DeepSeek's **V4-Pro** and **V4-Flash** models are optimized for **Huawei Ascend processors**, supporting China's domestic AI ecosystem amid international export restrictions. The initiative strengthens China's semiconductor self-reliance, advances indigenous AI hardware, and supports long-term technological independence.
- The **U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** approved **Vepdegestrant (Veppanu)** as the world's first **PROTAC-based medicine** for **ER-positive, HER2-negative, ESR1-mutated advanced breast cancer**. Developed by **Arvinas** and **Pfizer**, the drug demonstrated superior performance in the **Phase 3 VERITAC-2 trial**, improving **progression-free survival** compared with **fulvestrant**. The FDA also approved **Guardant360 CDx** as a companion diagnostic for detecting **ESR1 mutations**. This approval marks a major breakthrough in **targeted cancer therapy** through innovative **protein degradation technology**.
- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** successfully conducted the **Integrated Main Parachute Airdrop Test-05 (IMAT-05)** for the **Gaganyaan Mission** at **Sheopur, Madhya Pradesh**. A simulated **crew module** was dropped from **2.5 km** using an **Indian Air Force IL-76 aircraft**, validating the complete **parachute deployment sequence** and safe descent. Conducted jointly by **ISRO, DRDO, the Indian Air Force, and the Indian Army**, the successful test strengthens preparations for the **Gaganyaan G1 mission** and India's first indigenous **human spaceflight programme**.
- The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** has assigned **IIT Madras** and **C-DAC** to manage the **National Bridge Health Monitoring Software**, supporting the **Bridge Health Monitoring System (BHMS)**. Using advanced sensors, the system monitors bridge stress, vibration, movement, and load for improved structural safety. A nationwide **digital bridge inventory** must be completed by **30 September 2026** by agencies including **NHAI, NHIDCL, BRO, and state PWDs**. The initiative enables centralized data analysis, preventive maintenance, improved bridge safety, and efficient long-term infrastructure management across India.
- **Novo Nordisk India** launched **Awikli (insulin icodec)**, the world's first **once-weekly basal insulin** for adults with **Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes**. The therapy reduces injections from **365 to 52 annually**, improving patient convenience and treatment adherence. Delivered through the **FlexTouch** device, Awikli provides stable glucose control throughout the week. Clinical results from the **ONWARDS-1 Trial** showed better **HbA1c reduction**, improved **Time in Range**, and fewer hypoglycaemia concerns than daily insulin. The innovation is significant for India, which has over **101 million** diabetes patients.
- Scientists used **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** to decode structured communication among **sperm whales**, identifying **156 distinct codas** resembling a phonetic communication system. Conducted under **Project CETI (Cetacean Translation Initiative)**, the research analysed recordings from about **400 whales** collected between **2005 and 2018**. Published in **Nature Communications**, the study identified communication features including **rubato** and **ornamentation**, suggesting sophisticated vocal patterns. Researchers also developed **AI-powered bio-loggers** and **autonomous underwater gliders** to collect behavioural data, demonstrating AI's growing role in marine biology and animal communication research.





- Japan's **JAXA** successfully completed the first **lift-off and landing test** of the **RV-X reusable rocket** at the **Noshiro Rocket Testing Center**. The prototype completed a **40-second flight**, reaching **10–11 metres** before landing safely after horizontal movement. Developed to test **rocket recovery, precision landing, guidance, and reusable launch technologies**, the programme aims to reduce future space launch costs. After over **160 combustion tests**, the successful demonstration strengthens Japan's role in reusable space transportation and supports the international **CALLISTO reusable rocket project** with **France and Germany**.
- **ISRO** successfully completed three major qualification tests for the **Gaganyaan Crew Module**, validating the **Crew Module Uprighting System (CMUS)**, **Crew-Service Umbilical Unit (CSU-2)**, and **Apex Cover separation system**. These systems ensure **safe splashdown, flotation, parachute deployment, re-entry, and astronaut recovery** during India's first human spaceflight mission. Conducted on **12 July 2026**, the tests significantly improve mission readiness and confirm the reliability of critical safety mechanisms. The achievement marks another milestone towards launching **Gaganyaan**, India's first indigenous **human spaceflight mission to Low Earth Orbit**.
- Scientists at the **Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS)**, Bengaluru, developed a self-powered wearable ammonia gas sensor capable of detecting concentrations as low as **319 ppb**. Built using a **VOx/VS₂ heterostructure**, the flexible sensor operates efficiently at room temperature without external heating. It offers high sensitivity, stability, and real-time alerts, making it useful for industrial safety, healthcare, environmental monitoring, and smart textile applications while consuming minimal energy.
- Former ISRO Chairman **S. Somanath** joined **Agnikul Cosmos** as an observer on its Board of Directors. The Chennai-based private space startup is preparing for **Mission 02**, which focuses on reusable launch technologies and booster recovery. Somanath's expertise in launch vehicle development will strengthen collaboration between India's public and private space sectors, supporting innovation, commercial space activities, and the country's ambitions to become a leading global space power.
- India approved **QDENG** (**TAK-003**), the country's first **dengue vaccine**, after clearance by the **Drug Controller General of India (DCGI)** on **July 20, 2026**. Developed by **Takeda Biopharmaceuticals, Japan**, the **live-attenuated tetravalent vaccine** protects against all **four dengue virus serotypes (DENV-1 to DENV-4)** and is approved for people aged **4–60 years**, regardless of prior infection. **Biological E** will manufacture the vaccine domestically with an annual capacity of **50 million doses**, supporting India's fight against dengue and reducing severe infections.
- India commissioned the **White Rabbit Technology-based Indian Standard Time (IST) Dissemination Network**, advancing the **One Nation, One Time** initiative. Developed by the **Department of Consumer Affairs, CSIR-NPL, and ISRO**, the indigenous system delivers **UTC (NPLI)-traceable IST** with **sub-nanosecond accuracy** over fibre-optic networks. It ensures secure and precise time synchronization for **banking, financial markets, telecommunications, power grids, cybersecurity, and transportation**. Successful demonstrations involving **RRSL Bengaluru** and the **National Stock Exchange** highlighted its reliability and strengthened India's technological self-reliance.
- **IIT Kanpur** is establishing the **Centre of Excellence on Innovative and Integrated Ecosystem for Green Hydrogen (ECOGEN)** under the **Uttar Pradesh Green Hydrogen Policy 2024**, with support from **UPNEDA**. The centre will focus on the complete **green hydrogen value chain**, including production, storage, utilisation, and system integration. It aims to develop affordable hydrogen technologies, improve storage solutions, encourage industrial applications, reduce fossil fuel dependence, strengthen renewable energy adoption, and support India's long-term **net-zero** and clean energy goals.
- India approved **QDENG**, developed by **Takeda Biopharmaceuticals**, as its **first dengue vaccine** for public use. Cleared by the **Drug Controller General of India (DCGI)**, the vaccine protects against all **four dengue virus serotypes (DENV-1 to DENV-4)** and is approved for people aged **4–60 years** without requiring pre-vaccination screening. Supported by global clinical trials involving over **28,000 participants**, including India's **TIDES Phase III study**, the vaccine significantly reduces dengue infections and hospitalisations, strengthening India's disease prevention strategy.
- The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** transferred **three indigenous healthcare technologies** to **Emcure Pharmaceuticals Ltd.** and **Biological E Ltd.** under the **Medical Innovations Patent Mitra** initiative. These include **SHetA2** for treating **HPV-related cervical precancer**, a **fusion protein-based typhoid vaccine**, and a **recombinant multivalent vaccine** targeting **Salmonella typhi, Salmonella paratyphi, and Shigella**. The technology transfer promotes **Make in India**, strengthens biotechnology innovation, supports affordable healthcare, and accelerates commercialization of indigenous medical research.
- **IIT Kanpur** is establishing the **Centre of Excellence on Innovative and Integrated Ecosystem for Green Hydrogen (ECOGEN)** under the **Uttar Pradesh Green Hydrogen Policy 2024**. The centre will focus on **green hydrogen production, storage, utilisation, and system integration**, supporting cost-effective clean energy technologies and industrial applications. By encouraging research, industry collaboration, and skill development, ECOGEN aims to reduce carbon emissions, strengthen renewable energy adoption, support India's **net-zero goals**, and position **Uttar Pradesh** as a major green hydrogen innovation hub.





- Scientists from **MACS Agharkar Research Institute, Pune**, discovered **five new Allographa lichen species** in the **Western Ghats**, marking the region's first comprehensive molecular study of the genus. The newly identified species—**Allographa keralensis, A. nayakae, A. paraconsanguinea, A. persistinspersa, and A. semicarbonisata**—were confirmed using **field surveys, DNA sequencing, chemical analysis, and morphological studies**. Since lichens are important **bioindicators of environmental health**, the discovery strengthens biodiversity research, ecosystem monitoring, and conservation in one of the world's richest biodiversity hotspots.
- A reported **AI-assisted mathematical breakthrough** involving **Claude Fable 5, Harvard mathematician Levent Alpöge, and Anthropic** has challenged the long-standing **Jacobian Conjecture** proposed in **1939**. The AI reportedly identified a **counterexample**, later verified using **SymPy** and the **Lean proof assistant**. If confirmed through independent peer review, the discovery could transform **algebraic geometry, polynomial mapping, and computational mathematics** while demonstrating the growing role of **Artificial Intelligence** in mathematical research, theorem exploration, and formal proof verification.
- **IIT Madras** will host the **3rd Digital India RISC-V (DIR-V) Symposium 2026** on **1–2 August** in collaboration with **MeitY** and **RISC-V International** under the theme “**Empowering Bharat’s Semiconductor Future**.” The symposium will bring together **policymakers, researchers, startups, industry leaders, investors, and students** to discuss **RISC-V architecture, semiconductor design, AI, secure computing, and hardware innovation**. A major attraction will be the **DIR-V Grand Challenge Hackathon**, supporting **India’s semiconductor mission, fostering open-source processor development, startup innovation, and skilled workforce creation**.
- India will host the **International Type 1 Diabetes Summit 2026** in **Jodhpur** from **30 July–1 August**. Organised by **Friends of Mewar, Breakthrough T1D, and the William J. Clinton Foundation**, the summit will bring together global experts to discuss **affordable insulin, insulin pumps, digital health, mental health, continuous glucose monitoring, and research collaboration**. The event aims to improve **Type 1 diabetes care**, strengthen international partnerships, and promote innovative healthcare solutions for better patient outcomes worldwide.
- India's **private space sector** attracted **USD 618.5 million** in cumulative investment by **31 March 2026**, reflecting strong growth driven by reforms and investor confidence. More than **400 space startups** now operate in satellite manufacturing, launch services, and Earth observation. **IN-SPACe** has issued **105 authorisations**, while policies like the

India Space Policy 2023 and relaxed **FDI norms** encourage innovation. The expansion strengthens India's commercial space ecosystem, high-tech manufacturing, employment, and global competitiveness.

- China's private aerospace company **Orienspace** successfully launched the **Gravity-1** rocket from a **maritime platform** in the **East China Sea**, placing **nine satellites** into orbit. The mission marked China's first commercial far-sea launch from the **Yangtze River Delta** and the rocket's **third successful flight**. The satellites support **Earth observation, agriculture, forestry, mineral exploration, and environmental monitoring**. The launch strengthens China's commercial space ambitions while advancing future **Gravity-2** and **Gravity-3** programmes.
- India has announced that future **space launch vehicles** will be equipped with **indigenously developed semiconductor chips**, marking a significant step toward **technological self-reliance**. **Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw** announced the initiative after **Skyroot Aerospace's Vikram-1** successful orbital test flight, highlighting the rapid growth of India's **private space sector**. These **space-grade semiconductors** power critical systems such as **navigation, flight control, telemetry, onboard computers, and communication**, while withstanding extreme **radiation, vibrations, and temperature variations**. The move strengthens **supply-chain security, reduces import dependence**, and supports **ISRO's** plan to develop indigenous processors and mission electronics within **four years**.
- Scientists from the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** have discovered two new spider species—**Simonia lawbah** from **Meghalaya** and **Hamataliwa papikonda** from **Andhra Pradesh**—expanding India's documented **biodiversity**. The discoveries were published in the scientific journals **Zootaxa** and **Records of the Zoological Survey of India**. **Simonia lawbah**, discovered inside **Krem Lawbah Cave**, is India's first recorded species of the **Simonia** genus and is a **cave-adapted ray spider**. **Hamataliwa papikonda**, found in **Papikonda National Park**, is an **active hunting lynx spider**. These findings highlight the importance of **taxonomy, wildlife surveys, and biodiversity conservation** in India.
- The **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** completed the country's first comprehensive **Lepidoptera inventory**, documenting **13,703 species** of **butterflies and moths** after **12 years** of research. Led by **Dr. Navneet Singh** and **Dr. Rahul Joshi**, the project involved extensive **field surveys, museum collections, specimen verification, and literature review**, resulting in a **22-volume catalogue** published in **Zootaxa**. The inventory records **3,705 genera, 102 families, 240 subfamilies, and 31 superfamilies**, while identifying India as a global hotspot for **Geometroidea moth diversity** with **2,205 species**, significantly supporting **taxonomy, biodiversity conservation, and climate research**.





- **IBM** and Indian AI startup **Sarvam** announced a strategic partnership to accelerate the development of **sovereign artificial intelligence (AI)** solutions for India's governments and regulated sectors. The collaboration aims to create **secure, multilingual, and governance-focused AI systems** for areas including **banking, healthcare, public administration, and critical infrastructure**. IBM will provide its **Sovereign Core platform** to support **data security, AI governance, compliance, and infrastructure control**, while Sarvam will contribute India-specific technologies such as **multilingual language models, voice AI, and locally developed reasoning models**. The initiative focuses on shifting organisations from AI experimentation to large-scale implementation while ensuring control over **data, models, and operations**. The partnership is expected to improve **citizen services, grievance handling, document processing, and administrative efficiency** through secure AI solutions designed for India's linguistic diversity and regulatory environment.
- Scientists discovered a new freshwater hillstream catfish species named **Pseudolaguvia khairii** in the **Budhabalanga River of Mayurbhanj district, Odisha**. The discovery was officially published in the international scientific journal **Zootaxa** on **26 July 2026**, adding to India's freshwater biodiversity records. The species belongs to the **Pseudolaguvia** genus, which is commonly found in fast-flowing rivers of **South Asia** and acts as an indicator of healthy aquatic ecosystems. Researchers identified the species through unique physical characteristics, including a distinctive **fleshy protuberance at the base of its dorsal fin**. The species was named after **Khairi**, the famous orphaned **Royal Bengal tigress** associated with conservationist **Saroj Raj Choudhury**, highlighting Odisha's wildlife conservation legacy. The discovery also emphasizes the ecological importance of the **Similipal landscape** and surrounding river ecosystems.

Science & Technology of June 2026

- Astronomers have discovered the first strong evidence of winds blowing from **Sagittarius A***, the supermassive black hole at the center of the **Milky Way**, solving a mystery that persisted for nearly five decades. Using over **100 hours of observations** from the **Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA)** in Chile, researchers identified a cone-shaped cavity lacking cold carbon monoxide gas. The findings suggest that gentle hot winds from the black hole are pushing surrounding material away. Published in **The Astrophysical Journal Letters**, the study advances understanding of black hole influence on star formation and galaxy evolution.
- **Reliance Industries Limited** and **Meta Platforms** announced a partnership to establish India's first **AI-enabled hyperscale data centre** in **Jamnagar, Gujarat**. The facility will have an

initial capacity of **168 MW** and is expected to be completed within two years. Meta will lease capacity to support its expanding AI, cloud computing, and data-processing requirements. Powered by renewable energy and cooled using desalinated seawater, the project highlights India's growing importance in global digital infrastructure. Reliance will oversee design, development, connectivity, operations, maintenance, and renewable energy integration for the project.

- **NASA** announced the crew for the historic **Artemis III Mission**, scheduled for **2027**. The primary crew includes **Randy Bresnik, Luca Parmitano, Andre Douglas, and Frank Rubio**, with **Bob Hines** serving as backup. The mission will test critical rendezvous, docking, navigation, and crew-transfer technologies aboard the **Orion spacecraft** launched by the **Space Launch System (SLS)**. Artemis III will also conduct docking demonstrations with lunar lander systems from **Blue Origin** and **SpaceX**. Notably, **Luca Parmitano** becomes the first astronaut from the **European Space Agency (ESA)** assigned to an Artemis mission.
- The **United States** operationalized **SOLAR-1**, its first dedicated satellite for continuous **space weather monitoring**. Operated by **NOAA**, the satellite was launched aboard **Falcon 9** and positioned at the **Sun-Earth L1 point**, approximately **1.6 million kilometres** from Earth. Equipped with advanced sensors and a coronagraph, SOLAR-1 monitors **solar flares, solar wind, and coronal mass ejections** in real time. The system can transmit critical data within **30 minutes**, helping protect satellites, communication networks, power grids, aviation systems, GPS infrastructure, and astronauts from potentially damaging space weather events.
- Researchers at **IIT Bhubaneswar** developed **ArsenSafe**, a portable device capable of rapidly detecting **arsenic contamination** in drinking water without laboratory assistance. Developed in collaboration with **Nano Semic Pvt Ltd**, the technology combines **reduced graphene oxide field-effect transistor (rGO-FET)** sensors, nanotechnology, and machine learning for highly accurate testing. The device delivers results in just **17.4 seconds** and recovers within **11.76 seconds**, making it suitable for rural and remote areas. Published in **Environmental Science: Nano**, the innovation offers an affordable solution for improving water quality monitoring and reducing arsenic-related health risks.
- Japan successfully launched the **H3-30 rocket**, a low-cost variant of its next-generation **H3 launch vehicle**, developed by **JAXA** and **Mitsubishi Heavy Industries**. Launched from the **Tanegashima Space Center**, the rocket successfully deployed its payload into orbit. Designed to replace the **H-IIA rocket**, the H3-30 uses three **LE-9 liquid-fuel engines** and eliminates solid rocket boosters to reduce complexity and costs. Incorporating **3D-printed components** and commercial technologies, the rocket is expected to lower launch expenses by nearly **50%**, enhancing Japan's competitiveness in the global satellite launch market.





- Researchers from **AIIMS**, **ICMR institutes**, and the **International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)** successfully validated **Truenat HR-HPV-Plus**, India's indigenous **HPV screening test** developed by **Molbio Diagnostics**. Among four HPV DNA tests evaluated, it was the only indigenous test to fully meet **WHO** and **IARC** validation standards. The test detects **eight high-risk HPV strains** responsible for nearly **95% of cervical cancer cases** and demonstrated accuracy comparable to globally recognized tests. Evaluated using **1,159 cervical samples**, this affordable point-of-care technology can significantly improve screening accessibility in rural areas and support India's cervical cancer elimination efforts.
- Avataar.ai launched **Varya**, an indigenous AI-powered video generation model under the **IndiaAI Mission**, marking a major advancement in India's artificial intelligence ecosystem. Varya enables users to create high-quality videos from text and image inputs at significantly reduced computational cost, estimated at just **₹0.48 per second of video generation**. The system reduces processing steps from around **50 to 4**, making it up to **10 times more efficient** than leading global models. Designed for applications in education, governance, advertising, MSMEs, and digital storytelling, Varya supports multilingual and culturally relevant content creation. The innovation strengthens India's push toward self-reliant AI infrastructure, empowering startups, educators, and government institutions while enhancing India's position in the global generative AI landscape.
- India's rapidly expanding **Space Economy** is projected to grow from the current **USD 8–9 Billion** to nearly **USD 40–45 Billion** within the next decade. Speaking at the **RISE Conclave 2026**, Union Minister **Jitendra Singh** highlighted the role of liberalization reforms and over **400 Space Startups** driving innovation in satellites, launch systems, AI-based geospatial analytics, and downstream services. Major missions such as **Chandrayaan-3** and the upcoming **Gaganyaan Mission** have strengthened India's global position. Space technology is also supporting governance initiatives like **PM Gati Shakti**, contributing to the vision of **Viksit Bharat 2047**.
- The **Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)** has warned about **Kali365**, a sophisticated **Phishing-as-a-Service (PhaaS)** platform targeting **Microsoft 365** users. Instead of stealing passwords, the platform captures **OAuth Tokens** through device-code authentication attacks, enabling attackers to bypass **Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)** and maintain account access. Kali365 provides AI-generated phishing templates, automated tools, and monitoring dashboards, making advanced cyberattacks accessible to less-skilled criminals. The threat highlights the growing importance of identity security, access controls, and cybersecurity awareness in cloud-based systems.
- Led by **Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay)**, India has launched **BharatGen**, a sovereign multilingual AI ecosystem under the **IndiaAI Mission**. Supported by a **₹10,000 Crore** government initiative, BharatGen is designed to understand and generate content across all **22 Scheduled Indian Languages**. The platform integrates capabilities such as **Speech-to-Text**, **Text-to-Speech**, **Document Intelligence**, and multilingual content generation. By reducing dependence on foreign AI systems, BharatGen supports **Digital Sovereignty**, promotes indigenous innovation, and enables AI applications in governance, healthcare, education, agriculture, and public services.
- The **Usutu Virus (USUV)**, a mosquito-borne **Flavivirus** related to **West Nile Virus** and **Japanese Encephalitis**, has been detected for the first time in **Scotland**. Found in blackbirds on the **Isle of Arran**, the virus primarily affects wild birds and can cause neurological disorders and mortality among avian populations. Human infections are rare and usually mild. The discovery highlights the importance of wildlife surveillance and monitoring of emerging **Zoonotic Diseases** in changing environmental and ecological conditions.
- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** is developing an advanced lunar lander capable of surviving **100–200 days on the Moon**, significantly longer than the **Vikram Lander** of **Chandrayaan-3**. Developed in collaboration with the **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)**, the lander will use advanced thermal management systems to withstand extreme lunar-night temperatures below **–100°C**. The project aims to facilitate long-term scientific studies near the Moon's south pole, including research on **Water Ice** and lunar geology. It supports India's **Space Vision 2047**, which includes establishing a space station by 2035 and sending astronauts to the Moon by 2040.
- **Teplizumab** became the first medicine approved under the **National Health Service (NHS)** to delay the onset of **Type 1 Diabetes**, marking a breakthrough in preventive healthcare. The immunotherapy is administered through a **14-day intravenous infusion** and slows the immune system's attack on insulin-producing **beta cells**, delaying clinical diabetes by nearly **three years** in high-risk individuals. Unlike conventional treatments, it focuses on early disease intervention rather than symptom management. The approval is expected to postpone insulin dependence, reduce complications, and encourage early screening for **Type 1 Diabetes**.
- The **Five Eyes Alliance**—comprising the **United States**, **United Kingdom**, **Canada**, **Australia**, and **New Zealand**—warned about emerging **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**-driven cybersecurity threats. Supported by agencies including the **National Security Agency (NSA)** and **Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)**, the advisory highlighted AI's potential to strengthen phishing, malware creation, vulnerability exploitation, and cyberattacks on critical infrastructure. Simultaneously, AI can improve vulnerability detection and incident response. The alliance recommended **multi-factor authentication**, rapid software patching, resilience testing, and stronger cybersecurity practices to address evolving digital threats.





- India announced the transfer of **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)** technology to eligible private firms through the **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe)**, boosting private participation in the space sector. Qualified Indian companies meeting financial and technical criteria will develop and operate **PSLV-based launch services**. The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** will provide technical support for up to **30 months** or until completion of two successful launches. Supported by **NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)**, the initiative strengthens commercialization, innovation, and competitiveness in India's expanding space economy.
- India is hosting the **BRICS Heads of Space Agencies Meeting 2026** in **Bengaluru**, organized by **ISRO** and the **Department of Space**. Representatives from all **11 BRICS nations** are discussing cooperation in **satellite applications, Earth observation, space exploration**, and emerging technologies. Key agenda items include **space sustainability, space debris mitigation, orbital congestion management**, and expansion of the **BRICS Remote Sensing Satellite Constellation**. Delegates are also considering the establishment of a **BRICS Space Council** to strengthen technology sharing, policy coordination, disaster management, and capacity-building among member countries.
- China's **LineShine** has become the **world's fastest supercomputer**, topping the **67th TOP500 Rankings** with a performance of **2.198 exaflops**. Installed at the **National Supercomputing Center, Shenzhen**, it surpassed the United States' **EI Capitan** system. The CPU-only machine features nearly **13.79 million processing cores** powered by a custom **304-core processor** and consumes about **42.2 megawatts** of electricity. Capable of performing over **two quintillion calculations per second**, LineShine marks China's return to the top of global supercomputing rankings for the first time since **2017**.
- The **second Pax Silica Summit** was held in **Washington, D.C.**, where **35 countries**, including India, signed the **Joint Statement on AI Opportunity** to promote responsible and innovation-friendly artificial intelligence policies. The US-led initiative focuses on trusted AI governance, resilient semiconductor supply chains, and international technology cooperation. Key announcements included the **Pax Pass** system for secure AI trade and the **Foundry School**, supported by US funding to develop AI-skilled professionals. India participated through **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** officials, reinforcing its role in global AI governance and digital policy frameworks.
- India inaugurated the **world's first nuclear heat-based hydrogen production facility** at **IGCAR, Kalpakkam**, using the **Copper-Chlorine cycle**. Developed by **BARC**, it uses heat from the **Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR)** to produce clean hydrogen. The system generates zero-carbon fuel and

supports India's **Green Hydrogen Mission**. It demonstrates advanced nuclear applications beyond electricity generation and enhances energy security, sustainability, and decarbonization efforts. The project positions India as a leader in nuclear-based clean energy technologies.

Science & Technology of May 2026

- Skyroot Aerospace** marked a major breakthrough with **Vikram-1**, India's **first privately built orbital rocket**, transported from **Hyderabad** to **Satish Dhawan Space Centre**. Flagged off by **A. Revanth Reddy**, the mission signals a shift toward a **private-driven space sector**. Designed for **low-cost satellite launches**, Vikram-1 can carry **350 kg to Low Earth Orbit (LEO)** and uses **3D-printed engines**. Supported by **IN-SPACe** and **ISRO**, this initiative boosts India's **commercial space capabilities** and innovation ecosystem.
- The **Maharashtra** Cabinet, led by **Devendra Fadnavis**, approved the **AI Policy 2026** to attract **₹10,000 crore investment** and create **1.5 lakh jobs by 2031**. The policy focuses on **AI innovation, infrastructure, and skilling**, including **AI Innovation Cities, GPU-based computing**, and training **2 lakh professionals**. It supports **startups and MSMEs** through funding, subsidies, and incubators. With initiatives like **Maha AI Tools Hub**, the state aims to become a leading **AI hub**, boosting **economic growth, employment**, and India's global competitiveness in **artificial intelligence**.
- The **Indian Space Research Organisation** plans to expand the **Gaganyaan programme** by including **civilian astronauts** in the next selection batch. Moving beyond only **Indian Air Force test pilots**, the initiative will involve **STEM experts**, enhancing India's **human spaceflight capabilities**. The new batch may include around **10 candidates**, combining **military and civilian expertise** for advanced **space research** and missions. This step aligns with India's long-term vision of **space station development** and a **manned Moon mission by 2040**, strengthening its position in **global space exploration**.
- India achieved a major milestone in its private space sector with the launch of **Mission Drishti**, the country's largest privately developed **Earth observation satellite**, built by Bengaluru-based startup **GalaxEye**. The **190 kg satellite** was launched aboard **SpaceX's Falcon 9** rocket from **Vandenberg, California**. Mission Drishti features advanced **OptoSAR technology**, combining **Electro-Optical (EO)** and **Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR)** systems for high-quality imaging in all weather and lighting conditions. The satellite supports applications in **defense, agriculture, disaster management, maritime security, and urban planning**. Backed by India's growing private space ecosystem and support from **IN-SPACe**, the mission strengthens India's position in the global **satellite data and geospatial services market**.





- NASA successfully tested a **120-kilowatt magnetoplasmadynamic (MPD) plasma engine** at Jet Propulsion Laboratory, marking the **highest-power electric propulsion test in the United States**. The advanced engine uses **electromagnetic forces and lithium plasma** instead of chemical fuel, making it highly efficient for **deep-space missions**. NASA believes this technology could reduce **Mars travel time from nine months to 30–60 days**, improving astronaut safety and mission feasibility. The test also supports future **Nuclear Electric Propulsion (NEP)** systems for long-duration human exploration of Mars and other distant space missions.
- India hosted the International Organization for Standardization TC 20/SC 14 meetings on **“Space Systems and Operations”** for the first time in **New Delhi**, organised by Bureau of Indian Standards. The event at **Bharat Mandapam** saw participation from **131 delegates across 13 countries**, including experts from Indian Space Research Organisation, academia, and global space agencies. Discussions focused on **space safety, sustainability, interoperability, mission operations, and international standards**. Officials highlighted India’s growing role in the **global space economy**, supported by reforms, private participation through IN-SPACe, and expanding commercial space activities.
- Kuljeet Kaur Marhas from Physical Research Laboratory became the **first Indian woman** elected Fellow of the prestigious Meteoritical Society for her groundbreaking work in **meteorites, isotopes, and planetary science**.
- Her research explores the origins of the **Solar System** through studies on **pre-solar grains, CAIs, chondrules, and short-lived radionuclides**, helping scientists understand planetary formation over four billion years ago.
- Using advanced technologies like **SIMS and nanoSIMS**, she has analyzed samples from major missions including **Stardust, Hayabusa, and the Apollo Program**.
- This recognition highlights India’s growing strength in **space research, cosmochemistry, and planetary material analysis**, while inspiring greater participation of women in advanced scientific research.
- China successfully launched the **Shenzhou 23 Mission** on **25 May 2026** from the **Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center**, sending three astronauts to the **Tiangong Space Station**. The crew includes **Zhu Yangzhu, Zhang Zhiyuan, and Lai Ka-ying**, who became the **first astronaut from Hong Kong** to travel to space. A major objective of the mission is a planned **one-year stay in orbit** by one astronaut to study long-duration human survival in space. The mission will also conduct

research in **space biology, medicine, and materials science**, supporting China’s future ambitions in **Moon exploration** and deep-space missions.

- Researchers at the **Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR)** have developed **CLEAR (Cleavable Light-Erased Antibody Reporter)**, an advanced imaging technology capable of mapping multiple proteins within the same biological sample using a single fluorescent marker. The platform employs an innovative **“erase and reuse”** technique in which fluorescent signals are removed using a **365 nm LED light pulse** without damaging tissue samples. Led by **Sarit S. Agasti** in collaboration with the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)**, the breakthrough could significantly advance **precision medicine, cancer research, immunology, diagnostics, and drug discovery**.
- Indian astrophysicist **Dr. Ronaldo Laishram** has led the discovery of the ancient **Loktak Protocluster**, a massive galaxy structure that existed approximately **12.6 billion years ago**, when the universe was only **1.2 billion years old**. Described as a **“city of galaxies” under construction**, the structure provides crucial insights into the formation and evolution of galaxies in the early universe. Discovered using the **Subaru Telescope** and the **James Webb Space Telescope**, the protocluster was named after **Loktak Lake** in Manipur and published in **The Astrophysical Journal Letters**.
- **Blue Origin**, the aerospace company founded by **Jeff Bezos**, suffered a setback after its **New Glenn rocket** exploded during a routine engine firing test at the **Cape Canaveral Space Force Station**. The incident occurred shortly before a planned mission carrying **Amazon internet satellites**. Although no injuries were reported, the explosion has raised concerns regarding the future timeline of the **New Glenn programme**, potential impacts on **NASA’s Artemis Moon missions**, and Amazon’s ambitions to compete with **SpaceX’s Starlink** satellite internet network.
- India’s **Bellatrix Aerospace** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with South Korea’s **TelePIX** to develop a **Very Low Earth Orbit (VLEO) satellite mission**, strengthening India–South Korea cooperation in the space sector. The partnership will integrate TelePIX’s high-resolution optical payload **“Chouette”** with Bellatrix’s advanced satellite platform to enhance Earth observation capabilities. Operating at altitudes between **180 and 450 km**, VLEO satellites provide sharper imagery and faster data collection but require advanced propulsion systems to overcome atmospheric drag, highlighting the growing role of private space companies in next-generation satellite technology.





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- NASA's Artemis II, scheduled for **April 1, 2026**, will mark the first crewed lunar mission since Apollo missions. Using the **SLS rocket** and **Orion spacecraft**, astronauts will orbit the Moon and return via a **free-return trajectory**. The mission will test **life-support, navigation, and deep-space systems**, paving the way for **Artemis III lunar landing** and future human missions to Mars.
- Andhra Pradesh Science City signed a **5-year MoU** with CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research on March 30, 2026, to promote **science outreach, STEM education, and evidence-based policymaking**. The non-financial collaboration focuses on **science popularisation, research, and innovation policy**, aiming to bridge the gap between science and society. It will enhance **scientific temper, public awareness**, and support informed governance through improved communication of scientific knowledge.
- India has designated the **Bhavasagara Centre** at **Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology** as the **National Repository for Deep-Sea Fauna** under the **Biological Diversity Act, 2002**. Located in **Kochi**, it will preserve over **3,500 marine specimens**, support **deep-sea research**, and protect **marine biodiversity**. The initiative strengthens India's **blue economy**, enhances **scientific research**, and aligns with global ocean sustainability efforts, boosting the country's role in **marine conservation and exploration**.
- **Amaravati** will host India's **first quantum computer launch** on April 14, 2026, announced by Chief Minister **N Chandrababu Naidu**. The initiative, under the **Amaravati Quantum Valley** project and **National Quantum Mission**, aims to boost **innovation, startups, and advanced research**. Quantum computing will enable breakthroughs in **AI, cryptography, and drug discovery**, strengthening India's **self-reliance** and positioning it as a **global leader in next-generation technology**.
- Meta has launched its new AI model **Muse Spark**, designed to power its **Meta AI assistant** and enhance everyday tasks like **image-based analysis, question answering, and visual simulations**. The model will be integrated across platforms like **WhatsApp, Instagram, and Facebook**, expanding its reach. While praised for **reasoning, writing, and visual coding**, it has faced criticism from experts over **real-world performance**. Meta has acknowledged feedback, calling it a **first step** toward more advanced **AI innovation and superintelligence development**.
- **N. Chandrababu Naidu** will launch India's **first indigenous quantum computing testing facility** in **Amaravati** on April 14, 2026, coinciding with **World Quantum Day**. Set up at

SRM University Amaravati, the facility marks a major step toward **self-reliance in advanced technology** and supports the **National Quantum Mission**. Part of the **Amaravati Quantum Valley**, it will feature cutting-edge technologies like **cryogenics and quantum hardware**, along with collaborations and an **IBM 133-qubit system**. The initiative aims to position India as a **global hub for quantum research, innovation, and high-tech development**.

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation** successfully conducted the **Gaganyaan IADT-02 (Integrated Air Drop Test)** on April 10, 2026, at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, marking a key milestone for India's **first human spaceflight mission**. A **5.7-tonne crew module** was dropped from 3 km using an **Indian Air Force Chinook helicopter** to test the **parachute-based landing system**. The test validated **multi-stage parachute deployment, controlled descent, and safe splashdown**, followed by successful recovery by the **Indian Navy** with support from Defence Research and Development Organisation. This confirms India's growing **readiness for human space missions** under the **Gaganyaan programme**.
- The Ahmedabad-based **AAKA Space Studio** has developed **Asia's first 3D-printed Mars radiation shield**, designed to protect astronauts from **harmful cosmic radiation** during long-term space missions. Tested in a Mars-like analog environment, the innovation uses **In-Situ Resource Utilisation (ISRU)**—building with **locally available materials** instead of transporting them from Earth—making space construction more **cost-effective and sustainable**. Using advanced **3D printing and robotic techniques**, the shield offers **radiation protection, thermal stability, and structural strength**, marking a major step toward **safe human habitation on Mars and the Moon**.
- **SARAL AI**, announced by Jitendra Singh, is an AI platform developed by Anusandhan National Research Foundation to convert **complex research papers** into **simple, multilingual content** across **18 Indian languages**. It generates **videos, podcasts, and social media posts**, making science accessible to the public. The initiative aims to boost **scientific awareness**, improve **research accessibility**, and bridge the gap between **innovation and society**, supporting India's growing **research and innovation ecosystem**.
- **N. Chandrababu Naidu** launched the **Amaravati Quantum Reference Facility** on April 14, 2026, India's **first indigenous open-access quantum computing platform**. Developed with institutions like Indian Institute of Science and Defence Research and Development Organisation, **AQRF** aims to boost **quantum research, innovation, and self-reliance**. Aligned with the **National Quantum Mission**, it strengthens India's **quantum ecosystem**, enabling advanced applications in **defence, healthcare, and technology development**.





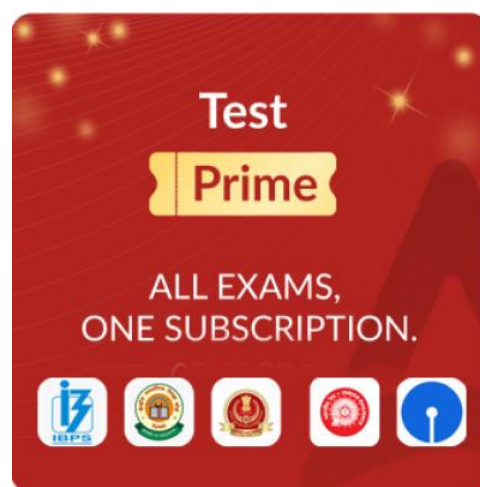
- The Night Parrot has been rediscovered in Australia after more than a century, marking a major **scientific breakthrough**. Using **audio recorders, camera traps, and Indigenous knowledge**, researchers confirmed its presence in arid regions. The bird depends on **mature spinifex grass** for shelter and survival. However, threats like **wildfires and feral cats** continue to endanger it, while Dingo may help control predators. With only about **50 individuals identified**, the species remains highly **vulnerable**, requiring urgent conservation efforts.
- The Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur has launched the **Vikram Sodhi Centre of Excellence for AI-driven geological and mining systems**, backed by a **₹15 crore funding over five years**. The initiative aims to transform India's mining sector through **artificial intelligence and data-driven innovation**. Supported by industry collaboration, the centre will focus on the entire **mining value chain**, including exploration, planning, processing, and ESG analytics. It seeks to improve **efficiency, decision-making, and sustainability**, bridging gaps in mining technology and promoting **integrated, smart mining solutions** in India.
- Blue Origin achieved its first successful landing of a **reused New Glenn booster** on **April 20, 2026**, after launch from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station. The booster, '**Never Tell Me the Odds**', marked progress in **reusable rocket technology**, reducing space mission costs. However, the mission had **mixed results** as the **BlueBird 7 satellite**, developed by AST SpaceMobile, failed to reach its intended orbit and may **de-orbit**. The **New Glenn rocket** aims to support **heavy-lift missions**, competing with SpaceX in advancing **global connectivity and space exploration**.
- Ladakh will host India's first **Petroglyph Conservation Park** at Sindhu Ghat, launched on **April 18, 2026**, to protect **ancient rock carvings**. These **petroglyphs** reflect early **human life, culture, and beliefs**, featuring **hunting scenes, Buddhist symbols, and inscriptions**. Facing threats from **climate change, tourism, and infrastructure**, the park will enable **conservation, relocation, and public awareness**. Supported by Archaeological Survey of India, it ensures **scientific preservation and documentation**. The initiative strengthens **cultural heritage protection**, positioning Ladakh as a hub for **archaeological conservation and historical research**.
- A study by Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences has identified **India** as the origin of **Jamun (Syzygium)**, dating back nearly **80 million years**, challenging earlier **Australia–Southeast Asia theories**. Fossil evidence from **Himachal Pradesh** confirms early diversification, with species like **Syzygium paleosalicifolium**. Using **microscopy,**

morphological analysis, and statistical validation, researchers traced its evolutionary history from **Paleogene to Neogene periods**. The findings suggest Jamun spread from India globally, reshaping understanding of **plant evolution, biodiversity, and continental migration**, and highlighting India's crucial role in **ancient ecological development and species diversification**.

- NASA has completed assembly of the **Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope** at Goddard Space Flight Center, marking a key milestone before its **2026 launch**. Considered a successor to Hubble Space Telescope and James Webb Space Telescope, it features **wide-field imaging**, capturing **100 times larger areas** and faster data collection. The mission will study **dark energy, galaxy evolution, and exoplanets**. Equipped with advanced instruments, it will detect **cosmic events and faint planets**, enhancing understanding of the universe's **expansion and structure**.

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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 Spacetechnology 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. **Gol Establishes Rare Earth Magnet Pilot Plant at ARCI** Hyderabad, Telangana The Government of India (Gol) 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 (TiO₂), with some basalts having up to 18% TiO₂, compared to less than 2% TiO₂ 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 24x7 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**.

Science & Technology of February 2026

SPACE & SATELLITE PROGRAMS

1. **Chandrayaan-4 Landing Site Identified** ISRO identified **Mons Mouton-4** near the Moon's south pole as the landing site for **Chandrayaan-4**, supporting India's **future lunar exploration mission**.
2. **IN-SPACe Satellite Bus Initiative** IN-SPACe selected **Astrome, Azista, and Dhruva Space** under the '**Satellite Bus as a Service**' initiative promoting **private participation in space sector**.
3. **Digantara Industries - Space Situational Awareness** Digantara Industries partnered with Singapore's **DSTA** to develop **Space Situational Awareness (SSA)** tools for **satellite protection and monitoring technologies**.
4. **GalaxEye - First Private Operator Partnership** GalaxEye became **first private Indian satellite operator** to formally partner with **NSIL (ISRO's commercial arm)**; reselling **SyncFused OptoSAR imagery** (SAR-based Earth observation); CEO: **Suyash Singh**.

5. **GalaxEye Mission Drishti Satellite** GalaxEye announced **Mission Drishti Satellite** – **AI-powered OptoSAR** satellite integrating **EO and SAR sensors** with **in-orbit NVIDIA Jetson** processing.
6. **ISRO Liquid Methane Plant** ISRO planning **liquid methane production plant** at **Mahendragiri Propulsion Complex, Tamil Nadu** supporting **Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV)** with **8 MT/day capacity**, enabling **methalox propulsion systems** (methane + liquid oxygen) for **30-tonne LEO payload capacity** and **human spaceflight support**.
7. **ISRO LVM3 Debris Recovery Payload** fairing believed from **LVM3-M6** (launched **18 Dec 2025** with **BlueBird Block-2**) found on **Kunahandhoo island, Maldives**.

NATIONAL OBSERVATORIES & RESEARCH FACILITIES

8. **National Large Solar Telescope (NLST)** NLST with **2-metre aperture** launched near **Pangong Tso Lake, Ladakh**; observes **visible and near-infrared wavelengths**; India's **3rd solar observatory** (after **Kodaikanal 1899, Udaipur 1975**).
9. **National Large Optical-Near Infrared Telescope (NLOT)** NLOT with **13.7m aperture** featuring **90 hexagonal mirror segments** at **Hanle, Ladakh**; among **world's largest optical-infrared telescopes**; focus on **exoplanets, stellar evolution, supernovae**.

MISSILE & DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY

10. **DRDO Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR)** DRDO successfully demonstrated **Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR)** technology; enhances India's **advanced missile propulsion capability** placing India among **elite nations**.
11. **DRDO Gaganyaan Drogue Parachute Test** DRDO successfully conducted **qualification-level load test** of **Drogue Parachute** for **Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme** at **TBRL Chandipur (Feb 18, 2026)**; enhances **astronaut safety**.
12. **AMCA Stealth Fighter Development** **Tata Advanced Systems** and **L&T-Bharat Forge** consortium shortlisted for **5th-generation stealth AMCA prototype**; would enable India to join **elite F-35, J-20, Su-57 club**.

DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE & AI GOVERNANCE

13. **India AI Governance Framework** India's **first comprehensive AI governance framework** under **IndiaAI Mission** guided by **7 Sutras**: **Trust, People First, Innovation over Restraint, Fairness, Accountability, Understandable by Design, Safety**.
14. **Bharat EduAI Stack** **Bodhan AI (IIT Madras)** to build **DPI for education** (like **UPI**); **₹500 crore initial budget**; supports **Indian languages, speech recognition, adaptive learning**; covers **pre-primary to higher secondary**.
15. **UIDAI Biometric Deduplication Platform** UIDAI launched "**Invisible Shield**" – **AI-enabled biometric deduplication and document verification platform**; system performs **crores high-speed computations** using **accelerated computing technology**; developed **indigenous AI models** with **IIIT, Hyderabad**; runs **NVIDIA DGX High-Performance Computing Infrastructure**; enables **Aadhaar authentication accuracy enhancement**.





16. DigiLocker Integration Expansion UIDAI partnering Google mapping 60,000+ authorized Aadhaar Centres nationwide improving citizen accessibility to digital services.

17. India AI Governance Framework (New Delhi) Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw unveiled inclusive and multilingual AI framework at AI Summit 2026 under "New Delhi Frontier AI Commitments".

STARTUP & VENTURE ECOSYSTEM

18. IIT Madras Unicorn Fund IIT Madras × UIV launched ₹600 crore IITM Unicorn Frontier Fund I (+ ₹400 crore greenshoe); 25+ startups (TRL 3–4) with initial investment ₹8–10 crore each; 10-year corpus.

19. AuraML AuraSim Robotics Simulation AuraML launched AuraSim, India's first multimodal world simulation model for robotics at India AI Impact Summit 2026; built on Nvidia Omniverse Cosmos infrastructure; supports simulations of humanoid robots, autonomous mobile robots (AMRs), robotic arms; reduces training time, cost for autonomous systems; launching Global Physical AI & Robotics Cohort with NVIDIA Inception.

20. Sarvam AI Sovereign Models Sarvam AI presented indigenous AI models at India AI Impact Summit 2026 after raising \$41 million funding.

21. Fractal AI Vaidya 2.0 Healthcare AI Fractal AI launched Vaidya 2.0, next-generation healthcare reasoning AI model integrating healthcare decision-making with raw clinical data; first AI model scoring above 50 on OpenAI's HealthBench (Hard) Benchmark (specifically 50.1), outperforming GPT-5, Gemini Pro 3.

22. Tata-OpenAI Data Centre Partnership Tata Group partnered OpenAI establishing India's first large-scale AI-ready data centre under global Stargate initiative; TCS HyperVault data centre: initially 100 MW capacity, scalable 1 GW; green energy powered, AI-optimised hardware; Tata investing USD 7 billion for 1 GW data centre capacity FY25-30; OpenAI expanding offices to Mumbai, Bengaluru in 2026.

HEALTHCARE & BIOTECHNOLOGY

23. Union Health Minister Td Vaccine Launch Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda launched India-made Td vaccine at Kasauli, replacing TT vaccine, boosting immunization coverage and supporting Atmanirbhar Bharat goals.

24. ICMR KFD Vaccine Trials ICMR advanced trials for the KFD (Kyasanur Forest Disease) vaccine, improving India's viral disease preparedness.

25. SUJVIKA AI Biotech Data Portal Union MoS Dr. Jitendra Singh launched SUJVIKA, AI-driven biotech product data portal (marking DBT's 40th foundation day Feb 24, 2026); developed in collaboration with ABLE (Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises); comprehensive searchable database of biotechnology products developed in India covering healthcare/biopharma, agricultural biotech, industrial biotech, environmental biotech.

NETWORK & TELECOMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

26. TRAI Apps Upgraded TRAI DND (spam reporting, multilingual, dual-SIM support) and TRAI MySpeed (download/upload speed, latency, jitter) apps revamped with enhanced features.

27. C-DOT × RRU MoU Centre for Development of Telematics (DoT) × Rashtriya Raksha University (MHA, Gandhinagar) partnership focusing on Cybersecurity, Quantum, AI/ML, IoT, 5G, Mission Critical Services.

EDUCATION & SKILL DEVELOPMENT

28. Teacher App 2.0 AI Integration Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched Teacher App 2.0 powered by Artificial Intelligence, developed by Bharti Airtel Foundation in collaboration with CK-12 Foundation (California); integrates 45+ AI-enabled tools for lesson planning, personalized learning, pedagogy, classroom management; provides 2,500+ training hours; supports 2 lakh+ educators in India with free-for-life platform; plans integration of Indian Large Language Models (BharatGen, Sarvam).

29. IBM AI GovTech Centre Lucknow UP CM Yogi Adityanath inaugurated IBM's AI GovTech Innovation Centre in Lucknow; IBM signed MoUs with Department IT Electronics (AI applications for government) and Directorate School Education (AI literacy Classes 6-12); UP advancing AI, Robotics, Drone Technology, MedTech, Quantum Computing.

TESTING & CERTIFICATION STANDARDS

28. National Test House - EMI/EMC Testing National Test House (NTH) partnered with STQC-ERTL for EMI/EMC testing capability, strengthening drone certification and electronics testing standards.

RESEARCH & INNOVATION

30. JNCASR Heat Transport Discovery JNCASR discovered particle-to-wave crossover in phonon behavior in Ti_2AgI_3 (crystalline material); thermal conductivity: $\sim 0.18 \text{ W/m}\cdot\text{K}$; implications for thermoelectrics.

31. ZSI New Species Discoveries Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) discovered two new marine worm species in West Bengal; new dragonfly species *Lyriothemis keralensis* discovered in Kerala; first *Diplura* species (*Lepidocampa sikkimensis*) formally described by Indian team in Sikkim near Ravangla, published in Zootaxa.

32. Andhra Pradesh AI Platform - Pilloo Andhra Pradesh launched 'Pilloo', AI-powered voice-based accounting platform supporting five Indian languages, promoting digital financial inclusion.

GOVERNMENT DIGITAL INITIATIVES

33. Statistics Ministry - CPI Data Expansion Ministry of Statistics expanded CPI data collection to 2,860 markets and 434 towns, improving accuracy of inflation data.

34. MeitY-EU Digital Signature Agreement MeitY and European Union signed agreement on digital signature interoperability, enabling cross-border digital contract signing.




RENEWABLE ENERGY & GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

35. VOC Port & CISF Barracks Certification VOC Port Hospital and CISF Barracks achieved Shunya Plus Certification, becoming Net Positive Energy Buildings by generating more renewable energy than consumed.

AEROSPACE EXCELLENCE CENTER

36. Airbus SAF Centre of Excellence Airbus established Centre of Excellence at Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, focusing on Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) research.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION & DEFENSE

37. NATO Arctic Sentry Mission NATO launched "Arctic Sentry" mission strengthening security, surveillance, military coordination in Arctic High North; integrates ongoing operations with multi-domain defence operations (land, sea, air, cyber, intelligence surveillance); initiative responds to geopolitical tensions, Greenland crisis, addressing concerns about strategic dominance, security interests against Russian, Chinese activity.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS & EXPEDITIONS

38. Indian Mountaineers Summit Aconcagua Six-member team from Nehru Institute of Mountaineering (NIM), Uttarkashi and Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering Winter Sports (JIM&WS), Pahalgam successfully summited Mount Aconcagua, Argentina (Feb 2026); expedition flagged off by Union Minister Rajnath Singh (Feb 5, 2026); led by Colonel Hem Chandra Singh; faced extreme weather (strong winds, -20 to -30°C temperatures); Aconcagua is highest South America, 2nd-highest world peak outside Asia (6,967.15m).

INTERNATIONAL INNOVATION

39. South Africa FMD Vaccine South Africa launched first indigenous Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccine, strengthening livestock health security and reducing import dependence.

IIT GLOBAL EXPANSION

40. IIT Madras AI Centre Dubai IIT Madras Global Research Foundation launched Applied AI Innovation Centre at Dubai CommerCity; initial: 6 startups with combined valuation ~USD 118 mn.

Schemes/ Apps / Portal
National Schemes/ Apps of July 2026
CENTRAL GOVT SCHEMES

Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose
BHAVYA Rasayan Scheme (Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana Rasayan)	Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers	Approved 24 July 2026; FY 2026–31	Establishes three integrated Chemical Parks with shared infrastructure (CETP, TSDF, hazardous waste management, pipelines, logistics) to boost chemical industry competitiveness, cut production costs, attract investment, and generate employment under Viksit Bharat 2047
EPFO Amnesty Scheme 2026	Ministry of Labour & Employment	2026	One-time six-month compliance window for Exempted PF Trusts to complete pending legal formalities and improve governance
Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0	Ministry of Women and Child Development	FY 2025–26	Integrates Anganwadi Services, Poshan Abhiyaan, and Scheme for Adolescent Girls
Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment	Ministry of Education / Personnel	2026	Raises minimum imprisonment to 5 years, fine up to ₹10 crore for paper leaks and cheating
Common Service Centre (CSC) Scheme 4.0	Ministry of Electronics & IT (Digital India Mission)	Ongoing	Enables Village Level Entrepreneurs to deliver 500+ digital govt/private services
EPF Scheme 2026	Ministry of Labour & Employment / EPFO	Effective 29 June 2026	Revises partial withdrawal rules; introduces 25% minimum balance rule, UPI withdrawals, WhatsApp services
VB-G RAM G Act, 2025	Ministry of Rural Development	Effective 1 July 2026	Replaces MGNREGA; guarantees 125 days rural wage employment with revised state-wise wages
EPFO VISHWAS 2026	Ministry of Labour & Employment / EPFO	2026 (6-month window from 29 June)	One-time scheme to resolve pending EPF damages/penalty disputes with reduced penalty rates





Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose
Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS)	Ministry of Electronics & IT	FY 2026–27 to 2030–31	₹62,500 crore scheme to boost local mobile manufacturing, value addition, and Indian brands
Bharat Taxi (National Cooperative Platform)	Ministry of Cooperation	2026	Cooperative ride-hailing platform ("Sahakar Se Samridhi") giving drivers ownership/shareholding

STATE GOVT SCHEMES

Name of Initiative	State	Year	Purpose
Mahila Samarthya Yojana	Uttar Pradesh (UPSRLM)	2026	Empowers rural women via SHGs with skill training, ₹15,000 revolving fund, market linkages
Nishulk Boring Yojana 2026	Uttar Pradesh	2026 (orig. 1985)	Free agricultural borewell installation and subsidised pump sets for small/marginal/SC-ST farmers
Mahila Udyam Nidhi Yojana 2026	Uttar Pradesh	2026	₹50,000–₹10 lakh loans at ~4% interest for women entrepreneurs
Khet Suraksha Yojana 2026	Uttar Pradesh	2026	Up to 70% subsidy for solar-powered electric fencing to protect crops from stray animals
One District One Product (ODOP) Scheme 2026	Uttar Pradesh	2026	Loans up to ₹25 lakh, 25% margin subsidy for traditional industries/artisans across 75 districts
Delhi Lakshmi Yojana	Delhi	2026 (registration from 1 Aug 2026)	₹2,500/month DBT to eligible women; ₹5,110 crore allocated, benefits 17+ lakh women
Bharat Taxi (Maharashtra Launch)	Maharashtra	2026	Cooperative ride service at Navi Mumbai Airport with fixed fares and no surge pricing
Parivartan Scheme	Delhi	2026	Replaces BS-IV commercial vehicles with BS-VI/EVs via tax exemptions and subsidies
Mukhyamantri Swasth Bastar Abhiyan	Chhattisgarh	Ongoing	Improves maternal/child healthcare in Sukma; institutional deliveries raised to 98.6%
Gruha Jyothi Scheme	Karnataka	Ongoing	Up to 200 units free electricity per month for eligible domestic consumers
Mukhyamantri Ayushman Arogya Yojana (MAAY)	Rajasthan	Ongoing	Cashless health insurance up to ₹25 lakh/family annually, covering 1,700+ procedures
Mini Nandi Farmer Prosperity Scheme	Karnataka	Ongoing	50% subsidy (up to ₹11.80 lakh) for 10-cow dairy units using indigenous breeds
Udyogini Scheme	Karnataka	Ongoing	Collateral-free loans up to ₹3 lakh for women entrepreneurs; 50% subsidy for SC/ST women
Thayi Bhagya Scheme	Karnataka	Ongoing	Free cashless maternity care for BPL/SC/ST women for first two deliveries
Mukhyamantri Yuva Swarojgar Yojana (MMYSY) 2026	Rajasthan	Until 31 March 2029	Interest-free, collateral-free loans up to ₹10 lakh for youth entrepreneurs (age 18–45)
Krushi Aranya Protsaha Yojane (KAPY)	Karnataka	Ongoing	Incentivizes agroforestry with per-seedling payments over 3 years
Mukhyamantri Machhuara Samman Nidhi Yojana	Himachal Pradesh	2026	₹3,500 annual DBT to ~3,700 reservoir fishermen affected by fishing ban
Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Jan Arogya Yojana (MJPJAY)	Maharashtra	2012	Cashless health treatment worth ₹1.5 lakh/family (₹2.5 lakh for organ transplants)
Majhi Kanya Bhagyashree Yojana	Maharashtra	2017	₹50,000/₹25,000 fixed deposit for girl children to prevent foeticide, promote education
Climate-Resilient Village Initiative (Killai)	Tamil Nadu	2026	Community-based coastal resilience model against cyclones, floods, sea-level rise



**PM SVANidhi Scheme Completes Six Years:**

The Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme completed six years since its launch in June 2020. The scheme provides collateral-free working capital loans to urban street vendors to help them restart and expand their businesses. Over the past six years, it has benefited more than 75.5 lakh vendors, sanctioned over 1.12 crore loans, and disbursed more than ₹17,800 crore. It has also digitally onboarded over 55 lakh vendors and facilitated access to financial services, digital payments, and multiple welfare schemes. More than 34.81 lakh women vendors have benefited, making the scheme a significant contributor to financial inclusion and women's economic empowerment.

West Bengal Joins Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY:

West Bengal became the 36th State/Union Territory to implement the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) after signing an agreement with the National Health Authority (NHA). The scheme provides health insurance coverage of up to ₹5 lakh per family annually for secondary and tertiary hospitalization. It enables cashless treatment at empanelled hospitals across India and aims to reduce out-of-pocket healthcare expenses while expanding access to quality medical care.

PMSMA Completes 10 Years:

The Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyaan (PMSMA) completed 10 years since its launch on 9 June 2016. The programme provides free comprehensive antenatal care to pregnant women on the 9th of every month at government health facilities. More than 7.5 crore pregnant women have benefited under the scheme. It has played a crucial role in identifying high-risk pregnancies at an early stage and contributed to reducing India's Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) from 130 (2014–16) to 87 (2022–24).

Government Extends CGSMFI-2.0:

The Government extended the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Microfinance Institutions-2.0 (CGSMFI-2.0) until 31 August 2026 and increased the maximum eligible loan amount for large NBFC-MFIs and MFIs from ₹300 crore to ₹1,000 crore. The scheme provides government-backed credit guarantees through the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC), encouraging banks to increase lending to microfinance institutions and improving access to affordable credit for low-income borrowers and women entrepreneurs.

Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme:

The Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme (RDS) is an interstate irrigation project constructed across the Tungabhadra River, a major tributary of the Krishna River. It supplies irrigation water to Telangana, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh, supporting agriculture in drought-prone regions. Recently, the scheme came into focus due to discussions on the long-pending Tungabhadra river water-sharing dispute and proposals to improve water utilization, reservoir capacity, and interstate coordination.

Mukhyamantri Kisan Sahay Yojana:

The Mukhyamantri Kisan Sahay Yojana (MKSRY), launched by the Government of Gujarat in 2020, provides financial assistance to farmers whose Kharif crops are damaged due to natural calamities without charging any insurance premium. Farmers receive ₹20,000 per hectare for crop losses between 33% and 60%, and ₹25,000 per hectare for losses above 60%, subject to a maximum coverage of four hectares. Nearly 50 lakh farmers have benefited under the scheme through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

Government Launches Air Suvidha 2.0:

The Ministry of Civil Aviation launched Air Suvidha 2.0, a fully digital and contactless health declaration platform for international travellers in collaboration with Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL). The upgraded system enables passengers to submit health information online before arriving in India, strengthening airport health surveillance and improving disease screening, immigration clearance, and coordination among health authorities.

UP Berojgari Bhatta Yojana 2026:

The UP Berojgari Bhatta Yojana, also known as the UP Rojgar Sangam Yojana, is an employment support initiative of the Government of Uttar Pradesh. The scheme provides a monthly unemployment allowance of ₹1,000 to ₹1,500 to eligible educated unemployed youth until they secure employment. Through the Sewayojan UP Portal, beneficiaries also receive access to job fairs, employment notifications, career counselling, and placement assistance.

Government Launches PM Family Care Tracker:

The Government launched the PM Family Care Tracker (PM-FCT) as a pilot project in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, to digitally monitor maternal and child welfare from pregnancy until 18 years of age. The platform uses Birth Registration Numbers or ABHA IDs to track health, nutrition, education, immunization, and welfare benefits while integrating around 18 government schemes. It generates real-time alerts for missed services and ensures timely delivery of benefits.



**Government Launches PM Research Chair Scheme 2026:**

The Government launched the Prime Minister Research Chair (PMRC) Scheme 2026 to attract Indian-origin researchers, scientists, technologists, and innovators from around the world. The scheme focuses on strategic sectors such as Artificial Intelligence, semiconductors, biotechnology, cybersecurity, defence, space, and climate change. It offers Young Research Fellow, Senior Fellow, and Research Chair categories and will be implemented through leading institutions including IIT Delhi, IIT Bombay, IIT Madras, IIT Kanpur, IIT Hyderabad, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad, and IISc Bengaluru.

Cabinet Approves Delhi-NCR Clean Mobility Scheme:

The Union Cabinet approved a ₹9,585 crore scheme to reduce air pollution in the Delhi-NCR region by encouraging the replacement of BS-IV and older commercial vehicles with BS-VI or electric vehicles. The scheme will benefit around 2.07 lakh truck and bus owners through interest subsidies, tax concessions, fuel vouchers, purchase discounts, and digital monitoring, helping reduce transport-related emissions and improve regional air quality.

Government Launches VB-G RAM G Scheme:

The Government announced an interim allocation of ₹95,692.31 crore for the VB-G RAM G Scheme (Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission – Gramin), scheduled to launch on 1 July 2026. The programme guarantees up to 125 days of annual wage employment while focusing on durable asset creation, water security, rural infrastructure, livelihood generation, climate-resilient development, and faster Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) payments.

Rapido Partners with MoRTH for Rahveer Scheme:

Rapido partnered with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) to promote the Rahveer Scheme, which encourages citizens to assist road accident victims during the critical Golden Hour. As part of the campaign, more than 4 lakh Rapido captains took a road safety pledge, creating a Guinness World Record. The initiative aims to improve *emergency response systems, promote road safety awareness, and strengthen India's overall road safety ecosystem.*

National Schemes/ Apps of May 2026**Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 5.0**

The **Union Cabinet** approved **ECLGS 5.0** to support businesses affected by the **West Asia Crisis**. The scheme will provide **₹2.55 lakh crore** credit support, including **₹5,000 crore** for the airline sector. MSMEs will get **100% credit guarantee coverage**, while non-MSMEs and airlines will receive **90% coverage** through **NCGTC**. Eligible firms can avail additional loans up to **20% of peak working capital**.

PMJJBY, PMSBY & APY Complete 11 Years

India's flagship social security schemes — **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)**, **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)** and **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)** — completed **11 years** on **9 May 2026**. PMJJBY recorded **27.43 crore enrolments**, PMSBY crossed **58 crore enrolments**, while APY surpassed **9 crore subscribers**. These schemes have strengthened **financial inclusion, insurance coverage and pension security**.

Made in India Brand Scheme

The Government of India plans to launch the **Made in India Brand Scheme** to strengthen domestic manufacturing and reduce import dependence. Around **100 products** may be identified under the scheme. It will introduce a **Made in India certification**, quality benchmarks, and a dedicated logo to improve trust in Indian-made products. The initiative supports **Make in India, Atmanirbhar Bharat, and PLI Schemes**.

Scheme for Promotion of Surface Coal and Lignite Gasification Projects

The Cabinet approved a **₹37,500 crore scheme** to promote **Coal and Lignite Gasification Projects**. The initiative aims to gasify **100 million tonnes of coal by 2030**, reduce import dependence, attract **₹2.5–3 lakh crore investment**, and create around **50,000 jobs**.

SARTHAK PDS Scheme

The Cabinet approved the continuation of the **SARTHAK PDS Scheme** with a central outlay of **₹25,530 crore**. The scheme aims to modernize the **Public Distribution System (PDS)** using **Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Blockchain**, and integrated databases. It will benefit over **81 crore NFSA beneficiaries**.

Ayushman Bharat Diwas

Ayushman Bharat Diwas is observed on **30 April** every year. It celebrates **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)**, which provides **₹5 lakh cashless health insurance** per family and benefits more than **10.74 crore families** across India.





Weather & Climate Startup Incubation Centre

The **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)** launched a dedicated **Weather and Climate Startup Incubation Centre** during **WISE 2026** in Pune. Developed under **Mission Mausam**, the centre will support startups working in **weather forecasting, climate analytics, resilience tools, and climate technology**.

First Satellite-Tagged Ganges Softshell Turtle

India released its first **satellite-tagged Ganges Softshell Turtle** in **Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve** on **Endangered Species Day**. The project aims to track movement, breeding sites, and habitat use to improve conservation efforts in the **Brahmaputra Basin**.

BHAVYA Scheme:

The Government of India has launched the **BHAVYA Scheme** with a financial outlay of **₹33,660 crore** to establish **100 world-class industrial parks across India** between **2026–27 and 2031–32**. Introduced by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, the scheme aims to create integrated and investment-ready industrial ecosystems to attract domestic and global manufacturers. The parks will provide **plug-and-play infrastructure** including multimodal logistics, uninterrupted utilities, renewable energy, worker housing, skill development centres, testing facilities, and waste management systems. Supporting both **greenfield and brownfield projects**, the scheme aligns with national initiatives such as **Make in India** and **PM Gati Shakti**. Development will be executed through **Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs)** under the supervision of the **National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC)** using GIS-based monitoring and transparent implementation mechanisms.

SARTHAK-PDS Scheme:

The **SARTHAK-PDS Scheme** has been approved by the Union Cabinet with a total outlay of **₹25,530 crore for five years till 2031** to modernize and strengthen India's **Public Distribution System (PDS)**. The scheme, named **Scheme for Assistance in Ration Transport and Handling–Income with Automation in PDS**, combines support for foodgrain transportation with advanced technology-based reforms. It focuses on improving **food security delivery, last-mile distribution, reducing leakages, and supporting Fair Price Shops (FPS)** under the **National Food Security Act (NFSA)**. The scheme integrates technologies such as **Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Natural Language Processing (NLP), Blockchain, predictive analytics, real-time monitoring, and unified digital databases** to build a transparent and efficient ration distribution network. Covering nearly **81.35 crore beneficiaries**, SARTHAK-PDS aims to strengthen India's food security ecosystem through better governance and digital transformation.

National Schemes/ Apps of April 2026

- The **Amrit Bharat Station Scheme**, launched by the Ministry of Railways, aims to redevelop **1,338 railway stations** across India with **modern facilities and improved connectivity**. Key stations in Delhi include **New Delhi, Hazrat Nizamuddin, and Anand Vihar**. The scheme introduces **multi-modal transport hubs, digital systems, lifts, escalators, and eco-friendly technologies**. It also promotes local products under '**One Station One Product**', enhancing **passenger experience, urban integration, and sustainable railway infrastructure**.
- Delhi Government has launched the **Lakshpati Bitiya Yojana** to promote **girls' education and financial security**, replacing the Ladli Scheme. The scheme provides **₹1.2 lakh financial aid** from birth to graduation through phased benefits. It aims to **prevent early marriage**, ensure **higher education**, and support **economically weaker families**. Eligible girls must be Delhi residents with family income below ₹1.2 lakh. The initiative strengthens **women empowerment** and ensures **long-term financial independence** through structured assistance.
- The Government of India has expanded the **RELIEF (Resilience & Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation) Scheme** to support exporters amid **West Asia tensions**. Launched under the Export Promotion Mission and implemented by Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC), the scheme provides **insurance support, freight cost reimbursement, and credit facilitation**. It now includes Egypt and Jordan, expanding coverage to affected trade routes. The initiative aims to ease **logistics challenges, rising insurance costs**, and ensure **smooth export operations**, especially benefiting **MSMEs and new exporters**.
- The All India Council for Technical Education has launched **AICTE-VAANI 3.0** (Vibrant Advocacy for Advancement and Nurturing of Indian Languages) to promote **Indian languages in technical education and research**. The scheme aims to remove **language barriers**, enabling students to learn complex concepts in their **mother tongue**. It provides **₹4 crore annual funding**, supports **200+ conferences**, and covers **22 regional languages** across emerging fields like **AI, cybersecurity, and quantum technology**. By fostering a **multilingual academic ecosystem**, the initiative enhances **learning outcomes, inclusivity, and research participation**, especially for students from diverse linguistic backgrounds.





National Schemes/ Apps of March 2026

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 Mukta 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




National Schemes/ Apps of February 2026
CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SCHEMES / NATIONAL INITIATIVES (DETAILED)

Scheme / Initiative	Ministry / Organization	Year	Detailed Description
National Household Income Survey (NHIS)	National Statistical Office (MoSPI)	2026	India's first dedicated household income survey to generate reliable income distribution data. Conducted using digital CAPI technology across all states (except A&N Islands). Aims to improve policymaking, welfare targeting, and poverty measurement accuracy.
Annual Survey of Service Sector Enterprises (ASISSE)	NSO (MoSPI)	2026	Designed to generate state-wise and industry-level Gross Value Added (GVA) estimates. Uses GSTN-based enterprise data to improve service sector contribution measurement in GDP calculations.
Survey on Migration	NSO (MoSPI)	2026–27	Comprehensive survey capturing internal migration flows, employment patterns, living conditions, and socio-economic mobility trends from July 2026 to June 2027.
PM-SETU Programme	Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship	2026	Upgradation of 1,000 ITIs under PM-SETU with ₹60,000 crore allocation. Focus on modern equipment, global-standard curriculum, industry linkage, and employability enhancement.
Insurance for All by 2047	Government of India & IRDAI	Ongoing	National mission to achieve universal insurance penetration by 2047. Promotes life, health, crop, and general insurance inclusion, especially in rural and informal sectors.
Bharat Container Shipping Line (BCSL)	Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways	2026	New container shipping entity formed through MoU among SCI, CONCOR, and port authorities to reduce foreign shipping dependence and strengthen maritime logistics.
National Youth Parliament Scheme (NYPS 2.0)	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs	2026	Upgraded portal expanding Youth Parliament awareness; covers 95,319+ participants across 660 sittings. Promotes constitutional literacy and parliamentary understanding.
PMAY-U 2.0	Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs	2026	Affordable housing scheme providing financial assistance for urban poor; 3.53 lakh houses approved in new phase. Focus on EWS/LIG beneficiaries.
PM RAHAT	Ministry of Road Transport & Highways	2026	Provides cashless treatment up to ₹1.5 lakh per accident victim for 7 days. Integrated with ERSS 112; reimbursement via Motor Vehicle Accident Fund (MVAf). Police authentication within 24–48 hours.
Startup India Fund of Funds (FoF) 2.0	DPIIT	2026	₹10,000 crore corpus to support deep-tech, AI, robotics, semiconductor and clean energy startups via Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs). Extends support to Tier-II & Tier-III cities.
Urban Challenge Fund (UCF)	Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs	FY26–31	₹1 lakh crore urban infra fund. Centre contributes 25%, minimum 50% through market sources, remaining by States/ULBs. ₹5,000 crore creditworthiness corpus created for 4,223 cities.
AgriStack / Digital Agriculture Mission	Ministry of Agriculture	Approved 2024	Establishes Farmer Registry, Geo-referenced Village Maps, Crop Sown Registry. Provides Kisan Pehchaan Patra (digital ID for farmers) to streamline DBT and agri-services.
BIRAC–RDI Fund	Department of Biotechnology	2025	₹2,000 crore initial call under ₹1 lakh crore Research Development & Innovation initiative (6 years). Supports TRL 4–9 startups in biotech and deep-tech sectors.
NHAI Bee Corridors Initiative	NHAI	2026	Development of pollinator corridors along National Highways using native tree species at 500m–1km intervals. Target: 40 lakh trees by FY27 (60% under bee corridor).





Scheme / Initiative	Ministry / Organization	Year	Detailed Description
White Revolution 2.0	Ministry of Cooperation	2026	Aims to increase milk procurement by 50% over five years, strengthen dairy cooperatives, and enhance rural incomes.
E20 Petrol Mandate	Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas	2026	Mandatory sale of E20 petrol (20% ethanol blend) nationwide from April 1, 2026 to reduce crude imports and carbon emissions.
PRAHAAR – National Counter Terrorism Policy	Ministry of Home Affairs	2026	Seven-pillar counter-terrorism strategy covering Prevention, Response, Human Rights compliance, Radicalization control, and Recovery.
16th Finance Commission Recommendations	Finance Commission	2026	Retained 41% tax devolution to states; ₹3.56 trillion grants to ULBs (230% increase). Introduced GDP contribution as new allocation criterion.

STATE GOVERNMENT / INSTITUTIONAL INITIATIVES (DETAILED)

Initiative	State / Organization	Year	Detailed Description
Mukhyamantri Gramotthan Yojana	Government of Gujarat	2026	Provides urban-level infrastructure in 114 Taluka headquarters including roads, water supply, drainage, and public services.
CHAKRA Initiative	State Bank of India	2026	₹100 trillion financing roadmap to support 8 sunrise sectors including renewable energy, EVs, and digital infrastructure.
SAIL-e-BRATION Challenge	Steel Authority of India Ltd	2026	National creative campaign promoting steel's role in nation-building through citizen participation on MyGov.
Rooftop Solar Finance	Axis Bank	2026	Provides collateral-free loans up to ₹2 crore for MSMEs to adopt rooftop solar systems, encouraging clean energy.
Chief Minister Skill Development Scheme	Delhi Government	2026	₹8.9 crore allocation to train 3,728 artisans; includes stipend (₹4,800), meal support, toolkits, and ONDC onboarding.
Rah-Veer Scheme	Delhi Government	2026	₹25,000 incentive for citizens helping accident victims during golden hour; legal protection under Motor Vehicles Act 2019.
RBI NBFC Amendment Directions 2026	Reserve Bank of India	2026	Introduced "Unregistered Type I NBFC" category (<₹1,000 crore assets); deregistration allowed via PRAVAAH portal.
DigiLocker Regulatory Committee	MeitY	2026	High-level committee chaired by Ajay Sawhney to harmonize DigiLocker framework; launched Blockchain India Challenge.
Guinness AI Pledge Record	India AI Mission	2026	2,50,946 responsible AI pledges collected in 24 hours at India AI Impact Summit 2026.
PM Surya Ghar Scheme	Ministry of New & Renewable Energy	2024	Rooftop solar scheme offering subsidy up to ₹78,000; promotes residential clean energy adoption.

Important Days

Important Days of July 2026

Date	Important Day / Event	Theme (2026)	Key Takeaway
1 July	Chartered Accountants Day (CA Day)	—	Marks the 77th Foundation Day of ICAI ; celebrates the contribution of Chartered Accountants to taxation, auditing, financial governance and economic growth.
1 July	National Doctors' Day	Behind the Mask: Who Heals the Healers?	Honours doctors; commemorates Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy ; focuses on doctors' mental health and well-being.
4 July	International Day of Cooperatives	Cooperatives for a Peaceful World!	Highlights the role of cooperatives in social justice, financial inclusion and sustainable development.
6 July	World Zoonoses Day	—	Raises awareness about diseases transmitted from animals to humans; commemorates Louis Pasteur's first rabies vaccine .
6 July	Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Birth Anniversary	—	Celebrates the life of educationist, nationalist leader and founder of Bharatiya Jana Sangh .





Date	Important Day / Event	Theme (2026)	Key Takeaway
11 July	World Population Day	Realizing the hopes and aspirations of young people: today and in the future	Promotes population awareness, reproductive health and youth empowerment.
15 July	World Youth Skills Day	Skills for a Shared Future	Promotes technical, vocational, AI and digital skills for youth.
16 July	Jagannath Rath Yatra	—	Annual chariot festival of Lord Jagannath held in Puri, Odisha .
16 July	World Snake Day	—	Raises awareness about snake conservation and ecological importance.
17 July	World Day for International Justice	—	Commemorates the Rome Statute (1998) and promotes international justice and human rights.
18 July	World Listening Day	—	Promotes mindful listening, acoustic ecology and noise pollution awareness.
22 July	World Brain Day	Brain Health: Access for All	Promotes awareness of neurological disorders and equitable brain healthcare.
22 July	National Flag Day (India)	—	Marks the adoption of the Tiranga by the Constituent Assembly in 1947.
23 July	Lokmanya Tilak Jayanti	—	Commemorates Bal Gangadhar Tilak , pioneer of India's freedom movement.
24 July	Income Tax Day	—	Marks 167 years of Income Tax in India; celebrates taxpayers and digital tax reforms.
26 July	Kargil Vijay Diwas	—	Commemorates India's victory in the 1999 Kargil War through Operation Vijay .
27 July	CRPF Foundation Day	—	Celebrates the 87th Foundation Day of India's largest Central Armed Police Force.
28 July	World Hepatitis Day	Hepatitis: Let's Break It Down	Promotes hepatitis prevention, testing and treatment.
28 July	World Nature Conservation Day	—	Encourages conservation of biodiversity, forests and natural resources.
30 July	World Day Against Trafficking in Persons	Trapped Behind the Scam	Raises awareness about human trafficking and protection of victims.
30 July	International Day of Friendship	—	Promotes friendship, peace, intercultural dialogue and global cooperation.

Important Days of June 2026

Date	Day / Observance	Theme / Description
2 June	Telangana Formation Day	Observed to commemorate the creation of Telangana as India's 29th state in 2014 . It celebrates the success of the statehood movement led by K. Chandrashekar Rao and the implementation of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 .
3 June	World Bicycle Day	Theme: "Cycling for a Greener Future." The day promotes cycling as an eco-friendly, sustainable, and healthy mode of transport while encouraging environmental protection and sustainable urban mobility.
5 June	World Environment Day	Theme: "Inspired by Nature: For Climate. For Our Future." Hosted by Azerbaijan (Baku) , the observance focused on climate action, ecosystem restoration, pollution control, and biodiversity conservation.
8 June	World Oceans Day	Theme: "Reimagine: Beyond the World We Know, a New Relationship with Our Ocean." The day highlighted ocean conservation, marine biodiversity, climate regulation, and the importance of achieving SDG-14 (Life Below Water) .
12 June	World Day Against Child Labour	Theme: "Red Card to Child Labour: Fair Play for Children, Decent Work for Adults." Observed to raise awareness against child labour and promote education, social protection, and decent employment opportunities.





Date	Day / Observance	Theme / Description
15 June	Global Wind Day	Theme: "Wind Energy: From Ambition to Acceleration." The day highlighted India's progress in wind energy, where installed capacity reached 56.09 GW , making it the world's fourth-largest wind energy producer .
17 June	World Crocodile Day	Theme: "Legacy in Every Scale." The observance promotes crocodile conservation and highlights India's successful conservation efforts for the Gharial, Mugger Crocodile, and Saltwater Crocodile .
17 June	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought	Theme: "Rangelands: Recognize. Respect. Restore." The observance focused on restoring grasslands and rangelands to strengthen biodiversity, food security, and climate resilience.
18 June	Autistic Pride Day	Theme: "Recognition, Representation, and Reform." The day promotes neurodiversity, inclusion, equal opportunities, and acceptance of autistic individuals worldwide.
19 June	World Sickle Cell Day	Theme: "Closing the Survival Gap: Equity in Sickle Cell Disease." The observance raises awareness about Sickle Cell Disease and supports India's National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission targeting elimination by 2047 .
20 June	World Refugee Day	Theme: "Until Everyone is Safe." The day recognizes the resilience of refugees and emphasizes protection, healthcare, education, employment, dignity, and humanitarian support.
23 June	Olympic Day	Theme: "You Can Do This. Let's Move." Celebrated to commemorate the establishment of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and promote fitness, inclusion, and Olympic values.
23 June	United Nations Public Service Day	Theme: "Transforming Public Institutions: Advancing Innovation, Participation, and Inclusion." The day recognizes the contribution of public servants and promotes innovation, transparency, and citizen-centric governance.
24 June	International Day of Women in Diplomacy	Observed to recognize women's contributions to diplomacy, peacebuilding, conflict resolution, and international cooperation while promoting gender equality in diplomatic leadership.
25 June	World Vitiligo Day	Theme: "From Stigma to Strength." Slogan: "Many Shades, One Voice." The day promotes awareness about vitiligo, encourages early diagnosis, combats stigma, and supports social inclusion.
26 June	International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking	Observed to raise awareness about drug abuse, strengthen prevention, rehabilitation, and international cooperation against illicit drug trafficking.
26 June	United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture	Observed to reaffirm the global commitment to eliminating torture, promoting justice, rehabilitation, accountability, and protection of human rights.
27 June	World MSME Day	Theme: "Empowering MSMEs through Innovation and Sustainable Industrial Development." The day recognizes the contribution of MSMEs in employment generation, innovation, entrepreneurship, and sustainable economic growth.

Important Days of May 2026

Date	Day / Observance	Theme / Description
1 May	International Labour Day 2026	Observed to honour workers and promote labour rights, fair wages, and safe working conditions . The 2026 focus is on psychosocial workplace health and work-life balance.
1 May	Gujarat Foundation Day	Marks the formation of Gujarat in 1960 after separation from Bombay State. Celebrates Gujarat's cultural heritage, unity, and economic progress.
1 May	Maharashtra Day	Celebrates the formation of Maharashtra in 1960 . The day honours the Samyukta Maharashtra Movement and the cultural identity of Marathi-speaking people.
4 May	International Firefighters Day 2026	Observed to honour the courage and sacrifice of firefighters worldwide. Established in 1999 following the 1998 Victoria wildfire tragedy in Australia.
4-10 May	Fire Safety Week 2026	Theme: "Safe Schools, Safe Hospitals, and a Fire-Safety Aware Society". Focuses on improving fire preparedness in hospitals and public institutions.





Date	Day / Observance	Theme / Description
5 May	World Asthma Day 2026	Theme: "Access to anti-inflammatory inhalers for everyone with asthma – still an urgent need" . Highlights the importance of inhaled corticosteroids and asthma management.
7 May	World Athletics Day 2026	Promotes fitness, sportsmanship, youth participation, and healthy living through athletics activities such as running, jumping, and throwing.
7 May	Rabindranath Tagore Jayanti (165th Birth Anniversary)	Celebrates the legacy of Rabindranath Tagore , Nobel Laureate, poet, philosopher, educationist, and author of Jana Gana Mana .
8 May	World Red Cross Day 2026	Theme: "Keeping Humanity Alive" . Commemorates the birth anniversary of Henry Dunant and honours humanitarian service worldwide.
8 May	World Thalassemia Day 2026	Theme: "Hidden No More: Finding the Undiagnosed. Supporting the Unseen." Focuses on awareness, early diagnosis, and support for people affected by thalassemia.
8 May	World Ovarian Cancer Day 2026	Theme: "No Woman Left Behind" . Highlights equal access to early diagnosis, treatment, and cancer care worldwide.
11 May	National Technology Day 2026	Commemorates the 1998 Pokhran Nuclear Tests and highlights India's advances in AI, digital services, semiconductors, defence technology, and innovation.
11–17 May	Mental Health Awareness Week 2026	Theme: "Action" . Promotes practical steps for mental wellbeing, emotional support, mindfulness, and community engagement.
12 May	International Nurses Day 2026	Theme: "Our Nurses. Our Future. Empowered Nurses Save Lives." Celebrates the contribution of nurses and marks the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale .
12 May	International Day of Plant Health 2026	Theme: "Plant Biosecurity for Food Security" . Highlights the importance of plant protection, sustainable agriculture, and biodiversity conservation.
15 May	International Day of Families 2026	Theme: "Families, Inequalities and Child Wellbeing" . Focuses on family support systems, child development, and social protection.
16 May	Sikkim Statehood Day 2026	Marks 51 years of Sikkim's statehood and commemorates its integration into India in 1975 .
18 May	International Museum Day 2026	Observed to highlight the role of museums in preserving cultural heritage, education, and social understanding. Organized by ICOM .
18 May	World AIDS Vaccine Day 2026	Raises awareness about the urgent need for an effective HIV vaccine and ongoing research efforts.
20 May	World Bee Day 2026	Theme: "Bee together for people and the planet – A partnership that sustains us all" . Highlights the role of pollinators in food security and biodiversity.
20 May	World Metrology Day 2026	Theme: "Metrology: Building Trust in Policy Making" . Marks the anniversary of the Metre Convention and promotes accurate measurements.
21 May	International Tea Day	Celebrates tea's cultural and economic significance while promoting sustainable tea cultivation and fair labour practices.
21 May	Anti-Terrorism Day	Observed in memory of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi , who was assassinated on 21 May 1991 . Promotes peace and national unity.
22 May	International Day for Biological Diversity 2026	Theme: "Acting locally for global impact" . Promotes biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, and sustainable development.
23 May	World Turtle Day 2026	Raises awareness about the conservation of turtles and tortoises and the threats they face from pollution, habitat loss, and climate change.
25 May	World Thyroid Day 2026	Observed to raise awareness about thyroid health, early diagnosis, and treatment of thyroid disorders. Highlights prevention through iodine intake, regular screening, and healthy lifestyle habits.
25 May	Birth Anniversary of Rash Behari Bose	Commemorates the contribution of revolutionary leader Rash Behari Bose, who played a major role in the Ghadar Movement, founded the Indian Independence League in Japan, and laid the foundation of the Indian National Army (INA).
25 May	World Football Day 2026	Celebrates football's role in promoting peace, unity, inclusion, gender equality, youth empowerment, and sustainable development. Established by the United Nations in 2024 to mark 100 years of the first international football tournament at the 1924 Olympics.
28 May	Eid-ul-Adha (Bakrid) 2026	One of Islam's most important festivals commemorating Prophet Ibrahim's devotion and sacrifice. Celebrated through Qurbani, prayers, charity, and sharing with the underprivileged during the Hajj season.





Date	Day / Observance	Theme / Description
29 May	International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers 2026	Observed to honour the courage, sacrifice, and service of UN peacekeepers. Commemorates the first UN peacekeeping mission (UNTSO) launched in 1948 and recognizes contributions toward global peace and security.
30 May	Goa Statehood Day 2026	Marks 39 years of Goa becoming India's 25th state in 1987. Celebrates Goa's cultural identity, heritage, freedom movement, and contributions to tourism and development.

Important Days of April 2026

Date	Day / Observance	Theme / Description
April 1	Utkal Divas	Marks formation of Odisha (1936); celebrates linguistic identity and culture.
April 1	Reserve Bank of India Foundation Day	Established in 1935; focuses on monetary policy, inflation control, and financial stability.
April 2	World Autism Awareness Day	Theme: "Autism and Humanity – Every Life Has Value"; promotes inclusion and awareness.
April 3	Good Friday	Commemorates crucifixion of Jesus Christ; symbolizes sacrifice and redemption.
April 5	National Maritime Day	Theme: "Maritime India – Empowering Progress"; celebrates India's shipping and trade sector.
April 5	Easter Sunday	Celebrates resurrection of Jesus Christ; symbolizes hope and renewal.
April 6	International Day of Sport for Development and Peace	Theme: "Sport: Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers"; promotes peace and inclusion.
April 7	World Health Day	Theme: "Together for Health. Stand with Science"; highlights global health cooperation.
April 10	World Homoeopathy Day	Theme: "Homoeopathy for Sustainable Health"; marks birth of Samuel Hahnemann.
April 11	Jyotirao Phule Jayanti	200th birth anniversary year; promotes education, equality, and social reform.
April 11	National Safe Motherhood Day	Theme: "Equity in Maternal Healthcare: Leaving No Mother Behind"; focuses on maternal health.
April 13	Jallianwala Bagh Massacre Day	Remembers victims of 1919 massacre; symbolizes sacrifice and freedom struggle.
April 14	Ambedkar Jayanti	Honors B. R. Ambedkar; promotes equality and social justice.
April 14	Baisakhi	Harvest festival; marks Khalsa formation by Guru Gobind Singh.
April 14	Puthandu	Tamil New Year; symbolizes new beginnings and prosperity.
April 14	Bohag Bihu	Assamese New Year; celebrates agriculture, spring, and cultural identity.
April 15	Pohela Boishakh	Bengali New Year; promotes cultural unity and renewal.
April 15	Himachal Day	Marks formation of Himachal Pradesh (1948); celebrates statehood and development.
April 16	World Voice Day	Theme: "Caring for Our Voices"; promotes vocal health awareness.
April 17	World Hemophilia Day	Theme: "Diagnosis: First Step to Care"; raises awareness on bleeding disorders.
April 18	World Heritage Day	Theme: "Emergency Response for Living Heritage..."; promotes heritage conservation.
April 19	World Liver Day	Theme: "Solid Habits, Strong Liver"; focuses on liver health awareness.
April 21	National Civil Services Day	Honors civil servants; linked to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
April 21	World Creativity and Innovation Day	Theme: "Harnessing Creativity for Global Progress"; promotes innovation and SDGs.
April 22	Earth Day	Theme: "Our Power, Our Planet"; promotes environmental protection.
April 23	World Book and Copyright Day	Promotes reading and copyright; honors authors like Shakespeare.
April 23	English Language Day	Celebrates global use of English; linked to William Shakespeare.
April 24	National Panchayati Raj Day	Theme: "Sashakt Panchayat, Sarvangeen Vikas"; promotes local governance.
April 25	World Malaria Day	Theme: "Driven to End Malaria..."; focuses on disease prevention and awareness.




Important Days of March 2026

Date	Day/Observance	Detailed Key Points
March 1	Zero Discrimination Day	- Observed globally on 1 March - Theme 2026: <i>People First</i> - 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
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





Date	Day/Observance	Detailed Key Points
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
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





Date	Day/Observance	Detailed Key Points
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
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

Important Days of February 2026

FEBRUARY 2026 - DAYS & OBSERVANCES - COMPREHENSIVE TABLE

Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description	Key Details
1-7 Feb	World Interfaith Harmony Week	Peace and tolerance	Promotes peace, tolerance, and harmony among different religions
2 Feb	World Wetlands Day	"Wetlands and Traditional Knowledge: Celebrating Cultural Heritage"	Focus on cultural heritage and wetland conservation
4 Feb	International Day of Human Fraternity	Global solidarity	Promotes mutual understanding and global solidarity
4 Feb	World Cancer Day	"United by Unique"	Patient-centered cancer care awareness
9 Feb	International Epilepsy Day	"The Epilepsy Pledge"	Observed on 2nd Monday of February; Symbol: Lavender/Purple; First observed 9 Feb 2015
10 Feb	International Day of Arabian Leopard	Conservation awareness	Raises awareness about endangered Arabian leopard conservation
10 Feb	National Deworming Day (India)	Child health	Aims to eliminate intestinal worm infections among children
10 Feb	World Pulses Day	Nutritional benefits	Promotes nutritional and environmental benefits of pulses
10 Feb	Safer Internet Day	Digital safety	Encourages safe and responsible use of digital technology
10 Feb	International Epilepsy Day	Epilepsy awareness	Raises awareness about epilepsy and supports patients
11 Feb	International Day of Women and Girls in Science	STEM participation	Promotes equal participation of women in STEM fields





Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description	Key Details
11 Feb	World Unani Day	Healthcare tradition	Celebrates contributions of Unani medicine in healthcare
11 Feb	World Day of the Sick	Care and support	Focuses on care and support for sick individuals
12 Feb	International Day for Prevention of Violent Extremism	Counter-radicalization	Promotes global efforts to prevent radicalization and extremism
12 Feb	National Productivity Day (India)	Sector improvement	Encourages productivity improvement across sectors
13 Feb	World Radio Day	Mass communication	Celebrates the power of radio as a mass communication medium
13 Feb	National Women's Day (India)	Sarojini Naidu	Birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu ('Nightingale of India'); 147th birth anniversary in 2026; first woman President of INC (1925)
15 Feb	International Childhood Cancer Day	"Demonstrating Impact"	Established 2002 by Childhood Cancer International (CCI); Symbol: Gold Ribbon; 3-year initiative 2024–2026
17 Feb	Global Tourism Resilience Day	Tourism sustainability	Declared by UNGA (Resolution A/RES/77/269); First observed 17 Feb 2023; 4th GTRD Conference held in Nairobi, Kenya
18 Feb	International Asperger's Day	Neurodevelopmental awareness	Birth anniversary of Hans Asperger (Austrian pediatrician); Condition now included in ASD under DSM-5; Adopted by UNGA 2007
18–20 Feb	Losar Festival 2026	Tibetan New Year	Marks start of Fire Horse Year (once in 60 years in Tibetan zodiac); Celebrated in McLeod Ganj, Himachal Pradesh; Dalai Lama present
20 Feb	Arunachal Pradesh Foundation Day	Statehood anniversary	Statehood granted 20 February 1987 (24th state); NE's largest state by area; Borders: China, Bhutan, Myanmar, Assam, Nagaland
20 Feb	World Day of Social Justice	"Renewed Commitment to Social Development and Social Justice"	Observed since 2009 (proclaimed by UN 26 Nov 2007); Based on World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen 1995; ILO established 29 Oct 1919
21 Feb	International Mother Language Day	"Youth voices multilingual education"	27th IMLD observance in 2026; Promotes linguistic diversity and cultural heritage; UNESCO declared Feb 21 IMLD Nov 17, 1999; First observed Feb 21, 2000
21 Feb	World Pangolin Day	Wildlife conservation	Observed third Saturday of February; 15th observance in 2026; First celebrated 2012; 530,978 pangolins involved in 2,222 illegal trade seizures 2016–2024
22 Feb	World Scout Day	Youth service	Celebrates scouts worldwide; Baden-Powell founded Scouting 1907 at Brownsea Island; 1920 first global Scout Jamboree at Olympia, London; 3.3 million scouts worldwide by 1939
22 Feb	World Thinking Day	Girl Guides & Girl Scouts	Celebrated by 153 countries; Marks centenary (100th anniversary) of WTD in 2026; Theme: "Our Friendship"; Organized annually by WAGGGS
24 Feb	Central Excise Day	Tax administration	Commemorates Central Excise Act, 1944 (signed 24 Feb); Honors Central Board of Excise & Customs (CBEC); Central Excise Department one of oldest in India (established 1855); ~1000 excise duty items currently
27 Feb	National Protein Day (India)	Health & nutrition	7th National Protein Day observance in 2026; Launched 2020 with "Right Protein" (RTP) campaign; First observed Feb 27, 2020; Led by United States Soybean Export Council (USSEC)
27 Feb	World NGO Day	Civil society impact	Recognizing and celebrating contributions of independent organizations worldwide; Founded 2009 by Marcis Liors Skadmanis; First observed Feb 27, 2014; International recognition 2014 by EU and UN





Obituaries (National/International)

Obituaries (National/International) of July 2026

- **Padma Shri** awardee **Girish Bharadwaj**, popularly known as the “**Bridge Man of India**,” passed away at the age of **76**. A **mechanical engineer** and grassroots innovator, he constructed over **140 low-cost suspension bridges** across **Karnataka, Kerala, Telangana, and Odisha**, connecting remote villages to schools, hospitals, and markets. His first bridge, built in **1989** across the **Payaswini River**, pioneered affordable engineering for difficult terrains. Bharadwaj’s work transformed rural connectivity and remains a lasting symbol of **inclusive infrastructure**, innovation, and sustainable community development.
- Former **Qatar Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani** passed away at the age of **74**. Serving as Emir from **1995 to 2013**, he transformed Qatar through the development of the **North Field gas reserves**, expansion of **LNG production**, and establishment of the **Qatar Investment Authority**. He also launched **Al Jazeera** and laid the foundation for hosting the **2022 FIFA World Cup**. Following his death, **Qatar declared national mourning**, while leaders including **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** paid tribute to his visionary leadership and lasting global legacy.
- **Sir Garfield Sobers**, one of cricket’s greatest **all-rounders**, passed away at the age of **89**. The **West Indies** legend scored **8,032 Test runs**, took **235 Test wickets**, made a then-world record **365***, and became the first cricketer to hit **six sixes in an over in first-class cricket**. He was **knighthooded in 1975** and inducted into the **ICC Hall of Fame**, leaving behind an extraordinary cricketing legacy.
- Veteran **Congress leader** and former **Uttarakhand Minister Hira Singh Bisht** passed away on **26 July 2026** in **Dehradun** at the age of **85** following a **cardiac arrest**. A **three-time MLA** representing **Doiwala and Rajpur**, he served as a **Cabinet Minister** in the **N.D. Tiwari Government**, handling portfolios such as **Transport, Labour, and Technical Education**. Beyond politics, he contributed significantly to **sports administration** as a founder member of the **Cricket Association of Uttarakhand**, supported the development of **Raipur Cricket Stadium**, and worked for **labour welfare** through his leadership in **INTUC**.
- Former **Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Vishwa Nath (V.N.) Sharma** passed away in **New Delhi** on **31 July 2026** at the age of **95**, concluding an illustrious military career spanning over **four decades**. He served as the **14th Chief of the Army Staff** from **1 May 1988 to 30 June 1990** and became the **first post-Independence commissioned officer** to rise to the Army’s highest position. Commissioned into the **16th Light Cavalry** in **1950**, he played a key role during the **1987 Sumdorong Chu stand-off** with China. **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** and **Army Chief General Dhiraj Seth** paid tribute to his outstanding service and contribution to India’s defence preparedness.

- Legendary Italian footballer **Franco Baresi** passed away at the age of **66**, with **AC Milan** confirming the news on **31 July 2026** after earlier dismissing false rumours. Widely regarded as one of the greatest **defenders** in football history, Baresi spent his entire **20-year professional career** with **AC Milan**, making over **700 appearances**, captaining the club for **15 seasons**, and winning **six Serie A titles** and **three European Cups**. He also won the **1982 FIFA World Cup** with **Italy** and captained the national team to the **1994 FIFA World Cup Final** despite recovering from knee surgery. His **leadership, defensive excellence**, and **loyalty** left an enduring legacy in world football.

Obituaries (National/International) of June 2026

Raja Randhir Singh Passes Away at 79

Renowned Indian shooter, five-time Olympian, and veteran sports administrator **Raja Randhir Singh** passed away at the age of **79** in **New Delhi**. Born on **18 October 1946** in **Patiala, Punjab**, he was one of India’s most accomplished shooters and represented the country at **five Olympic Games**—**Mexico City (1968)**, **Munich (1972)**, **Montreal (1976)**, **Moscow (1980)**, and **Los Angeles (1984)**. He also served as a reserve shooter at the **1964 Tokyo Olympics**.

He created history by winning the **Gold Medal in Men’s Trap Shooting** at the **1978 Asian Games**, becoming the **first Indian shooter to win an Asian Games gold medal**. Honoured with the **Arjuna Award** in **1979**, he later served as the **Secretary General of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** and became the **first Indian President of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA)**. His contribution as both an athlete and sports administrator remains unparalleled.

K. P. Dhanapalan Passes Away at 76

Senior Congress leader and former **Member of Parliament K. P. Dhanapalan** passed away at the age of **76** in **Kerala**. Beginning his political career through the **Kerala Students Union (KSU)**, he later became a prominent Congress leader and represented the **Chalakudy constituency** in the **15th Lok Sabha (2009–2014)**. He also served as **President of the Ernakulam District Congress Committee (DCC)** and **Chairman of MILMA**, contributing significantly to Kerala’s political and cooperative sectors.

Suman Kalyanpur Passes Away at 89

Veteran playback singer **Suman Kalyanpur** passed away at the age of **89**, leaving behind a remarkable legacy in Indian music. Renowned for her melodious voice, she was among the most respected singers of the **1960s and 1970s** and made immense contributions to **Hindi, Marathi, and several regional film industries**. Beginning her playback career in **1954**, she became famous for timeless songs and memorable duets with **Mohammed Rafi**. Besides film music, she excelled in **devotional songs, ghazals, and thumris**. In **2023**, she was honoured with the **Padma Bhushan** for her outstanding contribution to Indian music.





Peabo Bryson Passes Away at 75

Legendary R&B singer **Peabo Bryson**, a **two-time Grammy Award** winner, passed away at the age of **75**. Best known for Disney classics like "**A Whole New World**" and "**Beauty and the Beast**," he became one of the defining voices of contemporary R&B. Beginning his career in the **1970s**, he collaborated with renowned artists such as **Roberta Flack** and **Angela Bofill**, leaving behind a timeless musical legacy.

Marcia Lucas Passes Away at 80

Academy Award-winning film editor **Marcia Lucas** passed away at the age of **80**. She was best known for editing the original **Star Wars** trilogy, winning the **Academy Award for Best Film Editing** for **Star Wars: Episode IV – A New Hope**. She also worked on **American Graffiti** and **Taxi Driver**. Her pioneering editing style significantly influenced modern cinematic storytelling and Hollywood filmmaking.

Pahlaj Nihalani Passes Away at 76

Veteran Bollywood producer and former **CBFC Chairperson** **Pahlaj Nihalani** passed away at the age of **76** due to a liver-related illness. He produced several successful films, including **Ilzaam**, **Aankhen**, **Aag Hi Aag**, and **Rangeela Raja**, while also launching actor **Govinda's** Bollywood career. He served as **Chairperson of the Central Board of Film Certification (2015–2017)** and remained a prominent yet controversial figure in Indian cinema.

Dr. Subhash C. Kashyap Passes Away at 97

Former **Lok Sabha Secretary-General** and eminent constitutional expert **Dr. Subhash C. Kashyap** passed away at the age of **97**. Widely regarded as a leading authority on the **Indian Constitution and Parliamentary System**, he authored **more than 100 books** and played a significant role in constitutional reforms, including the "**One Nation, One Election**" initiative. His work continues to serve as an invaluable resource for students, lawmakers, and civil services aspirants.

Balwinder Singh Dhaliwal Passes Away at 67

Arjuna Awardee and former Asian Games medal-winning shot putter **Balwinder Singh Dhaliwal** passed away at the age of **67**. A **10-time National Champion**, he won the **Bronze Medal** at the **1982 Asian Games**, set an **Asian Record** in **1986**, and later dedicated himself to coaching young athletes. His outstanding contribution earned him the **Arjuna Award**, **Maharaja Ranjit Singh Award**, and a place in the **Limca Book of Records**.

Jagannath Prasad Das Passes Away at 90

Eminent **Odia writer**, former **IAS officer**, and distinguished cultural personality **Jagannath Prasad Das** passed away at the age of **90**. He made significant contributions to **Odia literature**, public administration, and social welfare, particularly through famine relief initiatives in **Kalahandi**, earning widespread respect across Odisha.

Marjane Satrapi Passes Away at 56

Internationally acclaimed **graphic novelist**, filmmaker, and **illustrator** **Marjane Satrapi** passed away at the age of **56**. Best known for her autobiographical graphic novel **Persepolis**, she explored themes of **identity, revolution, freedom, and human rights**, leaving a lasting impact on global literature and cinema.

A.C. Sreehari Passes Away at 56

Renowned **Malayalam poet, academic, and literary critic** **A.C. Sreehari** passed away at the age of **56**. His contributions to **modern Malayalam poetry**, literary criticism, and higher education enriched Kerala's literary and academic landscape.

Salim Kumar Passes Away at 56

Veteran Malayalam actor, comedian, writer, and filmmaker **Salim Kumar** passed away at the age of **56**. Beginning his career as a mimicry artist, he appeared in **over 300 films** and became one of Malayalam cinema's finest performers. He won the **National Film Award for Best Actor** for **Adaminte Makan Abu** and received multiple **Kerala State Film Awards**, leaving behind a remarkable legacy in Indian cinema.

Bharathiraja Passes Away at 84

Legendary filmmaker **Bharathiraja** passed away at the age of **84** in **Chennai**. Widely regarded as the pioneer of **rural storytelling in Tamil cinema**, he transformed Indian filmmaking through authentic depictions of village life. Over a career spanning several decades, he directed **over 40 films**, won **six National Film Awards**, multiple **Filmfare Awards South**, and several **Tamil Nadu State Film Awards**, becoming one of India's greatest filmmakers.

Jaspal Rana Passes Away at 49

Padma Shri, Arjuna Award, and Dronacharya Award recipient **Jaspal Rana** passed away at the age of **49**. One of India's most decorated pistol shooters, he won numerous medals at the **Asian Games** and **Asian Championships** before becoming a highly respected shooting coach. As **High-Performance Pistol Coach**, he mentored athletes including **Manu Bhaker** and **Saurabh Chaudhary**, playing a major role in India's international shooting success.

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David Hockney Passes Away at 88

Celebrated British contemporary artist **David Hockney** passed away at the age of **88** in **London**. A leading figure of the **Pop Art movement**, he became internationally renowned for his vibrant swimming pool paintings, photography, collage, stage design, and pioneering digital artworks. His artistic innovations continue to influence contemporary art across the world.

François Englert Passes Away at 93

Belgian theoretical physicist and **2013 Nobel Prize in Physics** laureate **François Englert** passed away at the age of **93**. Along with **Peter Higgs**, he developed the **Brout–Englert–Higgs mechanism**, explaining how fundamental particles acquire mass through the **Higgs field**. The theory was experimentally confirmed by the discovery of the **Higgs Boson at CERN in 2012**, becoming one of the greatest milestones in modern particle physics.

Lieutenant General Vijay Oberoi Passes Away at 84

Former **Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS)** **Lieutenant General Vijay Oberoi** passed away at the age of **84**. Despite losing his right leg during the **1965 India–Pakistan War**, he rose to become one of the Indian Army's most respected officers. He played a key role in **post-Kargil military reforms**, served as **DGMO** and **Vice Chief of Army Staff**, and later founded the **Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS)** and the **War Wounded Foundation**.

Robert A.F. Thurman Passes Away at 84

Renowned American scholar of **Tibetan Buddhism** and **Padma Shri** awardee **Robert A.F. Thurman** passed away at the age of **84**. A distinguished author, educator, and translator, he became the **first American ordained in the Tibetan Buddhist tradition** under the **14th Dalai Lama**. He authored over **20 books**, co-founded **Tibet House US**, and received the **Padma Shri in 2020** for promoting Buddhist studies and literature.

Krishnaswamy Bhagyaraj Passes Away at 73

Veteran Tamil filmmaker, actor, screenwriter, and director **Krishnaswamy Bhagyaraj** passed away at the age of **73**. Popularly known as the **"Screenplay King,"** he directed **more than 25 films**, acted in **over 75 films**, and influenced generations of filmmakers with his unique storytelling style.

Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol Passes Away at 47

Thailand's **Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol** passed away at the age of **47**. A **UN Goodwill Ambassador**, she was internationally recognised for her work in **justice reform, prison rehabilitation, and women's rights**. She played a major role in promoting the **UN Bangkok Rules** and launched the **Kamlangjai Campaign** to improve the welfare of incarcerated women.

Gavri Devi Passes Away at 98

Renowned **Mand folk singer** **Gavri Devi** passed away at the age of **98** in **Rajasthan**. Best known for her iconic rendition of **"Kesariya Balam,"** she devoted nearly **eight decades** to preserving Rajasthan's rich folk music tradition. She received the **Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, Rajasthan Ratna Award**, and several lifetime achievement honours for her outstanding contribution to Indian folk music.

Obituaries (National/International) of May 2026

- Legendary Indian photojournalist **Raghu Rai** passed away at **83**, marking the end of an era in **Indian photography**. Known for documenting India's **social, political, and cultural journey**, he battled **cancer** before his demise. Starting his career in **1965**, he gained global recognition after being mentored by **Henri Cartier-Bresson** and joining **Magnum Photos**. His iconic work covered the **1971 India-Pakistan War**, refugees, and everyday life. A recipient of the **Padma Shri**, he also worked with **India Today**, shaping modern **photojournalism** in India.
- Veteran actor-director **Bharat Kapoor** passed away at **80** in **Mumbai**, leaving a rich legacy in **Indian cinema**. Beginning his career in **1972**, he acted in over **150 films**, known for versatile roles in movies like *Noorie* and *Khuda Gawah*. He also gained popularity through **television serials** such as *Tara* and *Amanat*. As a director, he helmed films like *Raeeszada*. Renowned for **strong supporting roles** and **character depth**, Kapoor significantly contributed to both films and TV, inspiring generations and enriching India's cinematic heritage.
- Legendary media entrepreneur **Ted Turner** has died at the age of **87**, according to Turner Enterprises. Widely regarded as the pioneer of modern television journalism, Turner revolutionized global media by launching **CNN on June 1, 1980**, the world's first **24-hour news channel**. His innovation transformed television news from scheduled bulletins into continuous live coverage of global events. Turner also reshaped cable television through channels such as **Turner Broadcasting System, Cartoon Network, and Turner Classic Movies**.
- Swapan Sadhan Bose, popularly known as **"Tutu Bose,"** passed away at the age of **79** in Kolkata after suffering a cardiac arrest. A highly respected football administrator, Tutu Bose remained associated with **Mohun Bagan Super Giant** for over three decades and served the club in major roles including **secretary and president**. He played a crucial role in modernizing the club's administration and became an influential figure in Kolkata's football culture and Indian football management. His mortal remains will be kept at the Mohun Bagan club tent for fans to pay tribute before the cremation, while family members and sports personalities remembered him as a pillar of support and leadership in Indian football.
- Former England cricket captain **M. J. K. Smith** passed away at the age of **92**, marking the end of a distinguished era in English cricket. Known for elegant strokeplay and positive captaincy, he scored over **39,000 first-class runs**, including **69 centuries**, and more than **30,000 runs for Warwickshire**. Smith represented England in **50 Test matches** and captained the side in **25 Tests between 1963 and 1966**, admired for his attacking leadership. After retirement, he served as **Warwickshire chairman** and later worked as an **ICC match referee**, continuing his contribution to cricket.





- Former Indian basketball captain and Olympian **Jennifer Paes** passed away after a battle with cancer, marking a major loss for Indian sports. She represented India at the **1972 Munich Olympics** and later captained the **Indian women's basketball team**, becoming one of the pioneering women athletes in the country. Jennifer belonged to one of India's most celebrated sporting families and was the mother of tennis legend **Leander Paes**. Her leadership, discipline, and pioneering role helped strengthen women's basketball during its formative years, leaving behind a lasting and inspirational sporting legacy.
- Indian-origin technology leader **S. Soma Somasegar** passed away at the age of **59**, leaving a major legacy in global technology innovation. Born in **Puducherry** and educated at **Anna University**, he joined **Microsoft** in **1989** and played a major role in developing **Windows, Visual Studio, and the .NET ecosystem** over a **27-year career**. He also established **Microsoft's India Development Center in Hyderabad in 1998**, significantly strengthening India's software innovation ecosystem. After retirement, he became Managing Director at **Madrona Venture Group**, investing in **AI, cloud, and enterprise technology startups**.
- Legendary **NASCAR driver Kyle Busch** reportedly passed away at the age of **41**, shocking the motorsports world. Known as "**Rowdy**" for his aggressive racing style, Busch won **two NASCAR Cup Series championships** and **63 Cup Series races** during an iconic **22-season career**. Tributes poured in from racing stars including **Denny Hamlin, Brad Keselowski, and Dale Earnhardt Jr.**, praising his talent and impact on the sport. Beyond competition, Busch mentored young drivers and remained a major figure in motorsport, leaving behind a lasting legacy, family, and devoted global fanbase.
- Renowned **Urdu poet Bashir Badr** passed away in **Bhopal** at the age of **91** after a prolonged battle with dementia. Celebrated for his simple yet deeply emotional **ghazals**, Bashir Badr played a crucial role in making Urdu poetry accessible to a wider audience. Born in **Ayodhya**, he authored acclaimed works such as **Aahat** and **Kulliyate Bashir Badr** and was honoured with several prestigious awards, including the **Padma Shri**. His passing marks the end of an era in Urdu literature, prompting tributes from literary figures, including **Javed Akhtar**.
- **Dhanendra Kumar**, the first Chairman of the **Competition Commission of India (CCI)**, passed away at the age of **80** following a fire accident at his residence in **Hauz Khas, New Delhi**. A retired **IAS officer** from the **1968 Haryana cadre**, he played a pivotal role in shaping India's modern competition law framework and strengthening fair market practices. Appointed as the founding Chairman of the CCI in **2009**, Kumar helped establish mechanisms to protect consumer interests and promote healthy competition. His contributions left a lasting impact on India's regulatory and economic landscape.

Obituaries (National/International) of April 2026

- Vijaypat Singhania, former Chairman of Raymond Group, passed away at the age of **87**, marking the end of an era in India's textile industry. Born on **October 4, 1938**, he led Raymond from **1980**, transforming it into a **global premium fabric brand**. A **Padma Bhushan awardee (2006)**, he was also a record-setting aviator. He handed leadership to Gautam Singhania in **2000**, resolving later disputes in **2024**.
- Rahul Arunoday Banerjee, a noted Bengali actor, died at the age of **43** in a tragic drowning accident during a TV shoot near **Talsari, Digha** on **March 29, 2026**. He entered the sea for filming but failed to return and was later declared dead at a hospital. Mamata Banerjee expressed grief, calling him a "distinguished actor." Known for films like **Zulfiqar, Na Hannyate, and Byomkesh Phire Elo**, his demise shocked the industry.
- Former Chandrikapersad Santokhi passed away on **March 30, 2026**, at the age of 67, marking the end of a significant political career. He served as President of Suriname (2020–2025) and was known for **economic reforms**, IMF-backed stabilization, and strong governance. A former police chief and justice minister, he strengthened **India-Suriname ties**. Narendra Modi expressed condolences, highlighting his global and diaspora contributions.
- Mohsina Kidwai, veteran Indian National Congress leader and former **Union Minister**, passed away at **94** in **Noida** on April 8, 2026. With a **six-decade political career**, she served in multiple ministries and held positions across **Legislative Council, Assembly, Lok Sabha, and Rajya Sabha**. A trusted leader of **Indira Gandhi** and **Rajiv Gandhi**, she played a key role in party decision-making. Her demise marks the end of an era, remembered for her **dedication, leadership**, and contributions to **Indian politics**.
- **C. D. Gopinath**, India's oldest Test cricketer, passed away at 96 in Chennai, marking the end of a historic era. He was the last surviving member of the team that secured India's first-ever Test victory against England national cricket team in 1952. Gopinath played 8 Tests, scoring 242 runs, including an unbeaten 50 on debut at Brabourne Stadium. Beyond playing, he served as selector, selection committee chairman, and team manager. His contributions laid a strong foundation for Indian cricket, and his legacy remains deeply respected.
- India mourns the passing of **Sonam Wangchuk (Retd.)**, known as the "**Lion of Ladakh**," who died at **61** in **Leh** on April 10, 2026. A **Maha Vir Chakra** awardee, he became a hero during the Kargil War, leading troops in the **Batalik sector** under extreme conditions and securing key positions. His **courage, leadership, and tactical excellence** played a crucial role in early successes of the war. Remembered as a symbol of **bravery and patriotism**, his legacy continues to inspire generations of Indian soldiers.





- The legendary singer Asha Bhosle passed away on **April 12, 2026**, in **Mumbai** at 92 due to **multiple organ failure**, marking the end of an **eight-decade musical era**. Starting young, she rose to fame with **Naya Daur (1957)** and became known for her **versatility** across genres like **cabaret, ghazals, and classical music**. Honored with **Padma Vibhushan, Dadasaheb Phalke Award**, and a **Guinness World Record**, she leaves behind an unmatched **global musical legacy**.
- Oscar Schmidt, legendary basketball icon known as “**Holy Hand**”, passed away at **68**, leaving a lasting **global legacy**. A **Hall of Famer**, he played from **1974–2003**, becoming one of the **greatest international scorers** despite never joining the NBA. Representing **Brazil** in **five Olympics**, he scored over **1,000 points**, including a **record 55-point game**. His standout moment came in the **1987 Pan American Games**, leading Brazil to victory over the USA. Inducted into major **Hall of Fames**, his impact on **global basketball, scoring excellence, and national pride** remains unforgettable.
- Dr. Gopalrao Patil, renowned pediatrician and former **Rajya Sabha MP**, passed away on **April 21, 2026**, in **Latur** at **94**. Known as “**Devmanus**”, he dedicated his life to **child healthcare and social welfare**, providing **free medical services** in rural areas. Educated at Osmania University, he earned immense public trust. He also served in Parliament (1994–2000) and contributed to key committees. Founder of **Shiv Chhatrapati Shikshan Sanstha**, he promoted **education and pediatric care**. His legacy reflects **compassion, service, and lasting impact on community health and development**.
- Nadendla Bhaskar Rao passed away at **90** in **Hyderabad**, marking the end of a long **political career**. He is best remembered for the **1984 ‘August Coup’**, when he briefly became Chief Minister during N. T. Rama Rao’s absence, triggering major **political unrest**. His tenure lasted just **31 days**, making it one of the shortest in state history. A lawyer-turned-politician, he served with multiple parties including **Congress, TDP, and BJP**. His legacy remains significant for its impact on **democratic norms and Andhra Pradesh politics**.
- Shiv Ratan Agarwal, Chairman and MD of Bikaji Foods International Ltd, passed away at **74** in **Chennai**, marking a major loss to India’s **packaged food industry**. He founded Bikaji in **1993** in **Bikaner**, transforming traditional snacks like **Bikaneri bhujia** into a **globally recognized brand**. Under his leadership, the company expanded across **India and international markets**. Known for promoting **Indian snacks worldwide**, his legacy includes **entrepreneurship, employment generation, and brand building**, leaving a lasting impact on India’s **FMCG sector and global food presence**.
- Gurbax Singh Grewal, a member of India’s 1968 Olympic bronze medal-winning hockey team, passed away at 84 due to a heart attack. He played a key role in India’s strong era in international hockey and represented the nation at the 1968

Mexico City Olympics alongside his brother Balbir Singh Grewal—a rare sibling achievement. Beyond his playing career, he contributed as a sports officer with Western Railways, nurturing young talent. His legacy lives on through his contributions to Indian hockey and grassroots development, marking the end of an era.

Obituaries (National/International) of March 2026

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.

Obituaries (National/International) of February 2026

INDIAN CULTURAL & ACADEMIC FIGURES

- 1. Father Thomas V. Kunnunkal** Father Thomas V. Kunnunkal, former CBSE Chairman and Padma Shri awardee, passed away at age 99 in New Delhi.
- 2. Hugh Gantzer** Hugh Gantzer, prominent travel writer and Padma Shri recipient, passed away at age 95 in Mussoorie.
- 3. Andre Beteille** Andre Beteille, renowned Indian sociologist and Padma Bhushan recipient, passed away at age 91 in Delhi.
- 4. Mani Shankar Mukhopadhyay (Shankar)** Renowned Bengali novelist Mani Shankar Mukhopadhyay (Shankar) passed away (Feb 20, 2026) at age 93 in Kolkata; born Dec 7, 1933 in Jessore (present Bangladesh); 2021 Sahitya Akademi Award for autobiographical work 'Eka Eka Ekashi'; wrote nearly 100 novels & stories including 'Chowringhee' (1962), 'Jana Aranya' (1975) – adapted in Satyajit Ray's Calcutta Trilogy films portraying urban struggles and moral compromises; 'Chowringhee' adapted as 1968 film starring Uttam Kumar.
- 5. Joe Simon** - Kannada Filmmaker Veteran Kannada filmmaker Joe Simon, renowned director, actor, lyricist, and writer, age 80, passed away suffering sudden cardiac arrest during KFC meeting; left legacy of 100+ films including "Sahasa Simha" starring Vishnuvardhan and acclaimed works like "Mr. Vasu" and "Ravivarma".

INDIAN POLITICAL FIGURES

- 6. Mukul Roy** - Former Union Railway Minister Mukul Roy, former Union Minister and founding All India Trinamool

Congress member, passed away (Feb 23, 2026) at age 71 in Kolkata; born April 17, 1954; served as 32nd Union Railway Minister (2012) under PM Manmohan Singh; earlier served Minister of State (MoS) Shipping (2009-2011) in UPA II government; also served TMC Rajya Sabha Leader (2009-2012); political career challenged by Saradha chit fund case and Narada 2015 sting operation; won 2021 West Bengal Assembly Election from Krishnanagar Uttar for BJP; returned to TMC in June 2021.

7. Ricky Andrew J Syngkon - Shillong MP Ricky Andrew J Syngkon, Member Parliament (MP) Shillong Lok Sabha constituency (Meghalaya), passed away (Feb 23, 2026) at age 54 in Shillong; born Jan 6, 1972; previously served as Assistant Professor of Economics at North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU); began political career with Voice People Party (VPP), a Meghalaya-based regional party; won 2024 General Elections defeating Vincent H. Pala (INC); entered 18th Lok Sabha as first-time MP focusing on connectivity, tribal welfare, youth empowerment, inclusive governance.

8. R Nallakannu - CPI Leader Veteran Communist Party India leader R Nallakannu passed away (Feb 25, 2026) in Chennai at age 101.

INDUSTRIAL & BUSINESS LEADERS

9. Jatinder Mehra - Steel Industry Veteran Jatinder Mehra, Essar Group Vice Chairman Metals & Mining, steel industry veteran with 60+ years experience, passed away (Feb 25, 2026) at age 86 in New Delhi; born March 3, 1939 in Lahore (present Pakistan); served as Executive Director at Steel Authority India Limited (SAIL); became Chairman-Managing Director (CMD) at Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL); accelerated capacity expansion, improved operational productivity, implemented strategic modernization initiatives; 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award from Indian Steel Association (ISA).

GLOBAL FIGURES - TECHNOLOGY & INTERNET

10. David J. Farber - Internet Pioneer David J. Farber, "Grandfather of the Internet", died at 91 in Tokyo (heart failure); career at Bell Labs from mid-1950s; mentored Jonathan Postel (IP development); teaching at Keio University since 2018.

GLOBAL FIGURES - ENTERTAINMENT & ARTS

11. James Van Der Beek - Hollywood Actor James Van Der Beek, Hollywood actor known for "Dawson's Creek", passed away at age 48.

12. Robert Duvall - Oscar-Winning Actor Robert Duvall, Oscar-winning actor, died at age 95 in Middleburg; born 5 January 1931; won Best Actor for "Tender Mercies" (1983); received 7 Oscar nominations; known for "The Godfather" (as Tom Hagen) and "Apocalypse Now".

13. Frederick Wiseman - Documentary Filmmaker Frederick Wiseman, documentary filmmaker, died at age 96 in Massachusetts; born 1 January 1930; directed 40+ documentaries including "Titicut Follies" and "High School"; received Honorary Oscar (2016).





Miscellaneous Current Affairs | One-Liners

Miscellaneous Current Affairs | One-Liners of July 2026

- The **Ministry of Law and Justice** introduced the **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026**, increasing the **Supreme Court's sanctioned judge strength from 33 to 37** (38 total including the **CJI**). The move aims to address nearly **92,385 pending cases** and improve judicial efficiency across the country.
- The **Aadhaar App**, developed by **UIDAI** under the **Ministry of Electronics & IT**, crossed **4 crore downloads** in 2026, reflecting rapid adoption of Digital India services. It enables **address, mobile, and email updates**, **e-Aadhaar downloads**, and **biometric lock/unlock** features, with **free email updates available till December 2026**.
- **CSIR-CSMCRI**, in partnership with **Rite Water Solutions**, launched **JAL-YAAN**, India's **first solar-powered water purification van**, designed for **remote and disaster-hit regions**. Using **Reverse Osmosis (RO) and Ultrafiltration (UF) technologies**, the mobile unit also provides **emergency electricity** during floods, cyclones, and other disasters.
- The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** granted environmental clearance to the **Naying Hydel Project**, a **1,000 MW hydroelectric project** on the **Siyom River** in **Arunachal Pradesh**, near the **India-China border**. The project is expected to strengthen **renewable energy generation, border infrastructure**, and **socio-economic development** in the region.
- The **Supreme Court**, through the **Department of Justice**, directed the formation of a **Uniform Post-Retirement Benefits Committee** to recommend standardized benefits for retired **Chief Justices and High Court judges**, covering **security, medical reimbursement, telecommunications, and accommodation**.
- India approved its **first 100 MWh Vanadium Redox Flow Battery (VRFB) Energy Storage System** under the **Ministry of Power / NTPC Renewable Energy Limited**, scheduled for **2027**. Located at **Khavda Solar Park, Gujarat**, it marks the country's **first indigenous utility-scale non-lithium battery project**, strengthening **grid stability** and **Atmanirbhar Bharat**.
- The **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** hosted the **5th BRICS Working Group on Geospatial Technologies and its Applications** in 2026, focusing on **GIS, AI, remote sensing, and Positioning, Navigation and Timing (PNT)**. The meeting aims to strengthen international cooperation in **disaster management** and **interoperable digital infrastructure**.
- The **DGCA**, under the **Ministry of Civil Aviation**, is developing a **Digital Aviation Incident Reporting Platform** to digitize **Mandatory Occurrence Reports (MORs)**, replacing manual systems. The initiative will enable **faster investigations, compliance monitoring, and quicker regulatory action** as India's aviation sector expands.
- **Paninian India Private Ltd.** unveiled the **Yantur 4.5 kN Turbofan Engine Programme** under **Atmanirbhar Bharat** in 2026, designed for **combat drones, cruise missiles, and unmanned aerial platforms**. The engine features **digital twin-based health monitoring** and scalable thrust up to **12.5 kN**, expected to power the **Svayatt L1 platform**.
- **NHAI**, under the **Ministry of Road Transport & Highways**, launched the **Digital Local Pass and MargMitra Help Centre** on the **RajmargYatra Mobile App**. The **Digital Local Pass** enables commuters within **20 km of toll plazas** to obtain digital monthly passes via **DigiLocker, VAHAN, and FASTag**, while **MargMitra**, an **AI-powered multilingual assistant**, provides toll support and grievance tracking.
- **Central KYC (CKYC)**, managed by **CERSAI** under the **Ministry of Finance**, is a centralized identity verification system allowing customers to complete KYC once and use it across **banks, NBFCs, mutual funds, and insurance companies** through a unique **14-digit CKYC Identification Number (KIN)**.
- The **Ministry of Coal** signed a technical cooperation agreement with **Germany's GIZ** to release the first **AAROH (Annual Report on Mine Closure)**, documenting the **scientific closure of 42 coal mines** since Independence. The partnership strengthens initiatives like **RECLAIM, L.I.V.E.S., and SUVIKALP** for ecosystem restoration and community development.
- The **Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF)** and **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)** launched the **Campus Biodiversity Register (CBR) Initiative**, enabling colleges and universities to document species using citizen science platforms like **iNaturalist, eBird, and SeasonWatch**. Registrations remain open until **November 2026**, with documentation continuing till **June 2027**.
- Under the **Nuclear Energy Mission**, India will develop at least **five indigenous Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)** by **2033** through the **Department of Atomic Energy / BARC**, including **Bharat SMR, SMR-55, and HTGR** technologies. The programme supports India's target of **22 GW nuclear capacity by 2031-32** and **100 GW by 2047**.





- The **Ministry of Education** plans to introduce a new law to curb **examination paper leaks**, featuring **fast-track courts** and **strict penalties** for offenders. The proposed legislation aims to dismantle **organised examination fraud networks** and restore public confidence in India's recruitment and admission systems.
- **VDA and GAIL** launched the **Electric Boat Conversion Pilot Project** at **Namo Ghat, Varanasi**, converting fuel-powered boats into electric boats equipped with **15 kW motors, lithium batteries, and GPS tracking**. Initially, **20 boats** will be converted to promote clean river transport on the **Ganga**.
- The **Ministry of Textiles** organized the **Weaves of India Festival 2026**, showcasing **116 traditional handloom weaves** including **Banarasi Silk, Jamdani, Kanchipuram Silk, and Sambalpuri Ikat**. The event also celebrates the **12th National Handloom Day**, commemorating the **Swadeshi Movement of 1905**.
- **Indian Railways** launched an **AI-based linen stain detection pilot project** using **computer vision and machine learning** to improve hygiene in **AC coach bedrolls**. The system is being piloted at mechanised laundries in **Pune, Jaipur, and Jodhpur**, complementing existing quality checks.
- The **Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C)**, under **MeitY / Ministry of Home Affairs**, directed **GitHub** to remove repositories linked to **Bitchat**, a Bluetooth-based decentralised messaging app created by **Jack Dorsey**. The government cited concerns over **national security, cybercrime, and misinformation**, invoking provisions of the **IT Act, 2000**.

Miscellaneous Current Affairs | One-Liners of May 2026

- India, through **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** and **National Biodiversity Authority**, launched a **five-year biodiversity project (2025–2030)** with support from **United Nations Development Programme** and **Global Environment Facility**. Focused on **Tamil Nadu** and **Meghalaya**, it strengthens **grassroots governance** by integrating biodiversity into **Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDs)**. The initiative promotes **community participation, sustainable livelihoods, and eco-friendly enterprises**. It supports institutions like **PRIs** and **BMCs**, ensures **Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)**, and empowers **women and tribal communities**, enhancing **biodiversity conservation and local development**.
- India submitted revised **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** to the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change** for **2031–2035**, targeting **47% emission reduction, 60% non-fossil energy capacity, and a 3.5–4 billion tonne carbon sink**. Aligning with the **Paris Agreement**, the plan emphasizes **clean energy, forest expansion, and green growth**. Supported by initiatives like **Green Hydrogen Mission** and **International Solar Alliance**, India strengthens its role in **global climate action**,

- progressing toward its **2070 net-zero goal** while balancing development and sustainability.
- India has deployed the **Aarogya Maitri portable healthcare system** in **Jamaica** under its **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)** framework, marking a major step in global humanitarian outreach. Coordinated by the **Ministry of External Affairs** and National Security Council Secretariat, the initiative delivers **rapid, technology-driven medical support** in disaster situations. It strengthens ties with **CARICOM nations** and showcases India's role as a **reliable global healthcare partner**, focusing on **disaster response, healthcare collaboration, and capacity building** in vulnerable regions.
 - India and the **European Union (EU)** have launched a **₹169 crore joint initiative** to strengthen **EV battery recycling capacity** under the **India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC)**. The project focuses on addressing key challenges in the rapidly growing **electric vehicle ecosystem**, including resource security and environmental sustainability. Supported by leaders such as **Ajay Kumar Sood** and **Hervé Delphin**, the initiative aims to develop advanced recycling technologies for recovering critical minerals like **lithium, cobalt, and nickel** from used lithium-ion batteries. Key features include **high-efficiency material recovery processes, digital battery collection systems, pilot demonstration projects, and a joint pilot recycling line in India**. Funded through the EU's **Horizon Europe** program and India's **Ministry of Heavy Industries**, the initiative supports the development of a **circular economy** and strengthens long-term clean energy and EV sustainability goals.
 - India inaugurated its **Pavilion** at the **61st La Biennale di Venezia** in **Venice, Italy**, showcasing the exhibition **"Geographies of Distance: remembering home"** under the leadership of **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**. Curated by **Amin Jaffer** and supported by **Ministry of Culture, Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre** and **Serendipity Arts**, the pavilion explores **memory, migration, identity, ecology, and belonging** through works of five Indian artists. The exhibition strengthens India's **cultural diplomacy**, promotes **contemporary Indian art globally**, and highlights the country's growing presence on international cultural platforms.
 - India has advanced a renewed **MSME cooperation agenda** under its **BRICS Chairship 2026** by organising the first **SME Working Group Meeting** on **April 24, 2026**. Led by the **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises**, the virtual meeting focused on **MSME access to finance, fintech-driven credit ecosystems, digital lending, financial inclusion, and cross-border trade payments**. Discussions under the **BRICS Partnership on the New Industrial Revolution** highlighted the role of **MSMEs in employment, innovation, exports, and inclusive growth**. India will also host the inaugural **BRICS MSME Forum** to strengthen policy coordination and institutional cooperation among **BRICS nations**.





- India has assumed the **Chair of the Common Criteria Development Board (CCDB)** for the **2026–28 term**, following a decision at the Common Criteria Recognition Arrangement (CCRA) Meeting held in Tokyo. The move highlights India's growing influence in shaping global **cybersecurity and IT security standards**. The Common Criteria Development Board is the technical body that develops and updates international standards for evaluating the security of IT products. It supports the Common Criteria Recognition Arrangement, a global agreement that allows member countries to mutually recognize cybersecurity certifications, reducing the need for repeated testing across nations. India has been part of the CCRA since 2013 through the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and its certification body STQC Directorate. This leadership role strengthens India's position in global digital trust, secure technology certification, and international cybersecurity cooperation.
- Indian travellers continue to enjoy easier access to countries such as Bhutan, Nepal, Malaysia, Maldives, and Sri Lanka. Meanwhile, Singapore retained the world's strongest passport ranking with access to 192 destinations.
- India successfully hosted the Kimberley Process Intersessional Meeting 2026 in Mumbai under the leadership of Piyush Goyal, focusing on **transparency, governance, and ethical diamond trade**. The meeting brought together governments, industry leaders, and civil society to strengthen the **Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS)** and prevent **conflict diamonds** from entering global markets. India promoted its **3C Vision — Credibility, Compliance, and Consumer Confidence** — while emphasizing responsible sourcing and monitoring reforms. As the world's largest **diamond cutting and polishing hub**, India reinforced its leadership role in the global diamond industry and laid the foundation for further discussions at the upcoming KP Plenary in New Delhi.
- India has assumed the **chairmanship of the Regional Cooperative Agreement (RCA) for 2026** under the **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**, reinforcing its leadership in peaceful nuclear cooperation. The announcement came during the **48th Meeting of National Representatives** in Navi Mumbai, attended by delegates from Asia-Pacific and African countries. The RCA promotes collaboration in **healthcare, cancer treatment, agriculture, water management, environmental sustainability, and radiation technology** using nuclear science. India has been closely associated with the RCA since early discussions at **Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) in 1964**, highlighting its longstanding regional scientific role.
- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** inaugurated the **Indian War Memorial** at **Imjingak Peace Park, South Korea**, alongside minister **Kwon Oh-eul**, strengthening bilateral defence and

diplomatic relations. The memorial honours Indian military contributions during the **Korean War**, including the **60 Parachute Field Ambulance unit** and the **Custodian Force of India**, which treated over **222,000 patients** and supervised prisoner-of-war repatriation. The visit also saw signing of an **MoU on veterans welfare, cultural exchanges, memorial projects, and historical preservation**, adding a humanitarian and historical dimension to the growing India–South Korea strategic partnership.

Miscellaneous Current Affairs | One-Liners of April 2026

- Yashoda and Krishna by Raja Ravi Varma has become **India's most expensive artwork**, selling for **₹167.20 crore** at a Mumbai auction. The masterpiece, depicting a **mythological scene of Yashoda and Krishna**, was खरीदी by Cyrus S. Poonawalla. This record-breaking sale highlights the **global recognition and rising value of Indian art**, setting a new benchmark and showcasing India's **rich artistic and cultural heritage**.

Miscellaneous Current Affairs | One-Liners of March 2026

- 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.

Miscellaneous Current Affairs | One-Liners of February 2026

BUDGET & FINANCIAL ALLOCATIONS

1. **Union Budget 2026-27 Presentation** Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** presented ninth consecutive Union Budget on **1 February 2026**.
2. **DoT Budget Allocation** Union Budget allocated **₹73,990.94 crore** to Department of Telecommunications; announced **SHE Marts** for women entrepreneurs.
3. **Ground-Based Astronomy Infrastructure** Union Budget announced major expansion of astronomy infrastructure in **Ladakh and southern India**.
4. **Biogas Excise Duty Exemption** Budget proposed excise-duty exemption on **biogas/compressed biogas** component in blended CNG.
5. **CPI Base Year Revision** Ministry of Statistics changed CPI base year to **2024**; reduced **Food & Beverages** weight from **45.86%** to **36.75%** in revised index.

FINANCIAL SECTOR DEVELOPMENTS

6. **IRDAI Reinsurance Advisory Committee** IRDAI reconstituted Reinsurance Advisory Committee for three-year tenure.
7. **Slice SFB New Products** Slice Small Finance Bank introduced digital savings account, UPI-linked credit card, and digital FDs.
8. **UAE Stablecoin Approval** Central Bank of UAE approved country's first USD-backed stablecoin.
9. **Paysharp Payment Aggregator License** Fintech startup Paysharp received Payment Aggregator-Physical licence from RBI.

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

10. **Railway Kavach 4.0 Rollout** Indian Railways commissioned Kavach Version 4.0 over **472.3 route kilometres** in single day.
11. **Mumbai Bullet Train Bridge** India completed **100-metre steel bridge** for **Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train Project**.
12. **Haven-1 Space Station Launch** Vast Space's private space station **Haven-1** set for **2027 SpaceX Falcon 9 launch**.

13. Delhi Airport - Asia-Pacific Ranking Indira Gandhi International Airport ranked **5th** busiest in Asia-Pacific region **2025** with **46.18 million one-way departing seats** (OAG data); jumped from **9th position** in **2019 pre-COVID**; surpassed **Singapore Changi (42.57M)**, **Suvarnabhumi (39.49M)**, **Incheon (43.40M)**; **IndiGo expansion** major growth contributor.

14. NHAI Bee Corridors Initiative First ecological initiative to develop **pollinator corridors** along **national highways**; native species: **Neem, Karanj, Mahua, Palash, Jamun, Siris**; **40 lakh trees target** in **FY27**.

15. V.O. Chidambaranar Port Certification V.O. Chidambaranar Port (Tamil Nadu) became **first Major Port** with **IGBC Platinum + Shunya Plus certification**; **70%+ green cover**, **100% renewable energy on campus**.

LEGAL & POLICY REFORMS

16. **Gujarat Shops Establishments Amendment Bill 2026** Gujarat Legislative Assembly unanimously passed **Shops Establishments Amendment Bill 2026**; allows **night shifts for women (9pm-6am)** with **mandatory safety, welfare safeguards**; increases **daily working hours** from **9 to 10 hours**; raises **overtime limit** from **125 to 144 hours** over 3-month period; **overtime wages paid twice ordinary rate**; **written woman employee consent required**; employers provide **rest rooms, ladies toilets, night creche, harassment protection, workplace residence transportation**.
17. **Insolvency Code Amendment Bill** Union government plans to introduce amendment bill in Parliament's second half session.
18. **Supreme Court Menstrual Health Ruling** Supreme Court declared **menstrual health** as **integral part of Right to Life** under **Article 21**.
19. **Supreme Court Water Tribunal Order** Supreme Court directed government to establish tribunal for **Pennaiyar river water dispute**.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMS

20. **Mukhya Mantri Eti Koli Duti Paat (Assam)** Assam government launched scheme providing **one-time financial assistance** to **tea garden workers**.
21. **Bharat Taxi Launch** Union Minister **Amit Shah** launched **Bharat Taxi**, India's first **cooperative-based ride-hailing platform**.
22. **Seva Teerth Complex** PMO shifted to new complex on **Raisina Hill** after **78 years**.

CULTURAL & POSTAL INITIATIVES

23. **DoP Stamps - 'Puppets of India'** 8 commemorative postage stamps (**₹5 denomination**) released featuring **Indian puppets**: **Kathputli (Rajasthan)**, **Yakshagana (Karnataka)**, **Benir Putul (West Bengal)**, **Pavakathakali (Kerala)**, **Ravanachhaya (Odisha)**, **Tolu Bommalatta (Andhra Pradesh)**.





24. Tamil Nadu State Film Awards Government of Tamil Nadu announced long-pending State Film Awards for 2016 to 2022.

25. Mumbai Melody Road Mumbai inaugurated India's first melody road playing "Jai Ho".

ENVIRONMENTAL & CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

26. Demwe Lower Hydel Project 1,750 MW project on Lohit River, Arunachal Pradesh; EC extended to 2037 (original clearance: February 2010); involves 162.12 m concrete gravity dam; 1,416 ha forest diverted.

27. Sangtam Naga Tribe - Pangolin Conservation USLP passed resolution banning pangolin hunting; part of Wildlife Trust of India's Countering Pangolin Trafficking Project; all 8 pangolin species under CITES Appendix I.

28. National Biobank for Lysosomal Storage Diseases National Biobank for LSDs (Lysosomal Storage Diseases) launched at FRIGE, Ahmedabad; collaboration with TIGS (Bengaluru); covers 530 patients over 17 years (2008–2025); LSDs are rare inherited metabolic diseases due to enzyme deficiencies.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE & TECHNOLOGY

29. India AI Governance Framework - M.A.N.A.V PM Modi launched M.A.N.A.V framework for ethical AI at India AI Impact Summit 2026.

30. India Guinness World Record - AI Pledges India created Guinness World Record collecting 2,50,946 valid responsible AI use pledges in 24-hour period (Feb 16-17, 2026); announced by Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw at India AI Impact Summit

2026; 5+ lakh students, educational institutions participated; campaign launched by India AI Mission with Intel India.

31. 8-Year-Old Ranvir Sachdeva - Youngest Summit Speaker 8-year-old Ranvir Sachdeva became youngest speaker at India AI Impact Summit 2026; started coding age 3, began studying machine learning models at young age; delivered keynote on inclusive, ethical Artificial Intelligence; emphasized AI accessibility for common citizens, not limited to experts/corporations; interacted with Sundar Pichai (Google CEO), Sam Altman (OpenAI CEO).

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS & EVENTS

32. NPCI International × PayNet Malaysia QR-based UPI payments enabled at DuitNow QR points in Malaysia for Indian travellers; Phase 2: Malaysian visitors will use DuitNow app at UPI QR codes in India.

33. Earthshot Prize 2026 Mumbai to host the Earthshot Prize founded by Prince William; awards £1 million each to 5 climate innovators.

34. India-France AI Governance Partnership PM Modi launched M.A.N.A.V framework for ethical AI in collaboration with France at India AI Impact Summit 2026.

STATISTICAL & INSTITUTIONAL UPDATES

35. NSSTA 18th Foundation Day National Sample Survey and Training Academy (NSSTA) celebrated 18th Foundation Day; theme: 'Reimagining Capacity Building for Official Statistics for Viksit Bharat@2047'; Dr Saurabh Garg (Secretary, MoSPI) emphasized: "data = 5th factor of production".

Static Takeaways Current Affairs

Static Takeaways Current Affairs of July 2026

Aspect	Details
Andhra Pradesh	CM: Chandrababu Naidu Governor: Abdur Nazeer/Abdul Nazeer Capital: Amaravati
Assam	CM: Hemanta Sarma/Himnata Sarma Governor: Laxman Prasad Acharya/Laxman Acharya Capital: Dispur
Bihar	CM: Samrat Chaudhary Governor: Arif Khan Capital: Patna
Chhattisgarh	CM: Mohan Majhi Governor: Ramen Deka Capital: Raipur
Delhi	Chief Minister: Rekha Gupta Governor: Tarnjit Singh Capital: New Delhi
Gujarat	CM: Bhupendra Patel Governor: Acharya Devrat/Acharya Devrat Capital: Gandhinagar





Aspect	Details
Haryana	CM: Nayab Saini Governor: Ashim Kumar Ghosj Capital: Haryana
Jharkhand	CM: Hemant Soren Governor: Santosh Gangwar Capital: Ranchi
Karnataka	CM: DK Shivakumar Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot Capital: Bengaluru
Kerala	CM: V. D. Satheesan Governor: R. Arlekar Capital: Thiruvananthapuram
Madhya Pradesh	CM: Mohan Yadav Governor: Mangubhai Patel Capital: Bhopal
Maharashtra	CM: Devendra Fadnavis Governor: Jishnu Dev Verma Capital: Mumbai
Meghalaya	CM: Konrad Sangma Governor: C. H. Vijayashankar Capital: Shillong
Odisha	CM: Mohan Majhi Governor: Haribabu Khambhapati/Haribabau Khambhapati Capital: Bhubaneshwar
Rajasthan	CM: Bhajanlal Sharma Governor: Haribhau Bagade/Haribhau Bagde Capital: Jaipur
Tamil Nadu	CM: Joseph Vijay/Joesph Vijay Governor: R. Arlekar Capital: Chennai
Uttarakhand	CM: Pushkar Singh Dhami Governor: Gurmit Singh Capital: Dehradun (Winter)
West Bengal	CM: Suwendu Adhikari Governor: R. N. Ravi Capital: Kolkata
Australia	Prime Minister: Anthony Albanese
England	Prime Minister: Keir Starmer
France	President: Emmanuel Macron
Germany	Chancellor: Friedrich Merz
Israel	Prime Minister: Benjamin Netanyahu Capital: Jerusalem
Italy	Prime Minister: Giorgia Meloni
Japan	Prime Minister: Sanae Takaichi Capital: Tokyo
Nepal	Prime Minister: Balen Shah





Aspect	Details
New Zealand	Prime Minister: Christopher Luxon
Saudi Arabia	Head of Country: Mohammed Bin Salman
United States (USA)	President: Donald Trump • Capital: Washington, D.C.
Venezuela	President: Delcy Rodriguez
Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	Governor: Sanjay Malhotra
SEBI	Chairperson: Tuhin Kanta Pandey
DBS Bank	CMD & MD: Rajat Verma
ICC	Chairman: Jay Shah
OpenAI	Founder: Sam Altman

Static Takeaways Current Affairs of June 2026

Aspect	Details
Myanmar	President: Min Aung Hlaing Capital: Naypyidaw
Cambodia	Prime Minister: Hun Manet Capital: Phnom Penh
Venezuela	President: Delcy Rodríguez Capital: Caracas
Norway	Prime Minister: Jonas Gahr Støre Capital: Oslo
France	President: Emmanuel Macron Capital: Paris
United Kingdom (England)	Prime Minister: Keir Starmer Capital: London
Germany	Chancellor: Friedrich Merz Capital: Berlin
Japan	Prime Minister: Fumio Kishida Capital: Tokyo
Nepal	Prime Minister: Balen Shah Capital: Kathmandu
United States	President: Donald Trump
Italy	Prime Minister: Giorgia Meloni
Karnataka	Chief Minister: D. K. Shivakumar Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot Capital: Bengaluru
Maharashtra	Chief Minister: Devendra Fadnavis Governor: Jishnu Dev Verma Capital: Mumbai
Assam	Chief Minister: Himanta Biswa Sarma Governor: Laxman Prasad Aacharya Capital: Dispur
Gujarat	Chief Minister: Bhupendra Patel Governor: Acharya Devvrat Capital: Gandhinagar
Delhi	Chief Minister: Rekha Gupta Lieutenant Governor: Taranjit Singh
West Bengal	Chief Minister: Suvendu Adhikari Governor: R. N. Ravi Capital: Kolkata
Uttar Pradesh	Chief Minister: Yogi Adityanath Governor: Anandiben Patel Capital: Lucknow
Tamil Nadu	Chief Minister: Joseph Vijay Governor: R. Arlekar Capital: Chennai
Kerala	Chief Minister: V. D. Satheesan Governor: R. Arlekar Capital: Thiruvananthapuram
Odisha	Chief Minister: Mohan Majhi Governor: Hari Babu Kambhampati Capital: Bhubaneswar
Bihar	Chief Minister: Samrat Chaudhary Governor: Arif Khan Capital: Patna
Jharkhand	Chief Minister: Hemant Soren Governor: Santosh Gangwar Capital: Ranchi





Aspect	Details
Andhra Pradesh	Chief Minister: N. Chandrababu Naidu Governor: S. Abdul Nazeer Capital: Amaravati
Madhya Pradesh	Chief Minister: Mohan Yadav Governor: Mangubhai Patel Capital: Bhopal
Meghalaya	Chief Minister: Conrad K. Sangma Governor: C. H. Vijayashankar Capital: Shillong
Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	Governor: Sanjay Malhotra
Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)	Chairperson: Tuhin Kanta Pandey
International Cricket Council (ICC)	Chairman: Jay Shah
World Bank	President: Ajay Banga
Ministry of Home Affairs	Minister: Amit Shah
Ministry of Finance	Minister: Nirmala Sitharaman
Ministry of Commerce & Industry	Minister: Piyush Goyal
Ministry of External Affairs	Minister: S. Jaishankar
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare	Minister: Shivraj Singh Chouhan
Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command	Vice Admiral: Sanjay Vatsayan
Chief of the Naval Staff (27th)	Admiral: Krishna Swaminathan
Chief of Defence Staff	General: N. S. Raja Subramani
Commander-in-Chief, Andaman & Nicobar Command (20th)	Vice Admiral: Vineet McCarty
Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Central Air Command	Air Marshal: Tarun Chaudhry

Static Takeaways Current Affairs of May 2026

Aspect	Details
Andhra Pradesh	Governor: Abdul Nazeer • CM: Chandrababu Naidu • Capital: Amravati
Gujarat	Governor: Acharya Devvrat • CM: Bhupendra Patel • Capital: Gandhinagar
Maharashtra	Governor: Jishnu Dev Varma • CM: Devendra Fadnavis • Capital: Mumbai
West Bengal	Governor: R. N. Ravi • CM: Suwendu Adhikari • Capital: Kolkata
Uttar Pradesh	Governor: Anandiben Patel • CM: Yogi Adityanath • Capital: Lucknow
Karnataka	Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot • CM: Siddaramaiah • Capital: Bengaluru
Rajasthan	Governor: Haribhau Kisanrao Bagde • CM: Bhajan Lal Sharma • Capital: Jaipur





Aspect	Details
Assam	Governor: Laxman Prasad Acharya • CM: Himanta Biswa Sarma • Capital: Dispur
Kerala	Governor: Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar • CM: V. D. Satheesan • Capital: Thiruvananthapuram
Tamil Nadu	Governor: R. N. Ravi • CM: Vijay Joseph • Capital: Chennai
Telangana	Governor: Shiv Pratap Shukla • CM: Revanth Reddy • Capital: Hyderabad
Odisha	Governor: Hari Babu Kambhampati • CM: Mohan Charan Majhi • Capital: Bhubaneswar
Chhattisgarh	Governor: Ramen Deka • CM: Vishnu Deo Sai • Capital: Raipur
Uttarakhand	Governor: Gurmit Singh • CM: Pushkar Singh Dhami • Capital: Dehradun
Haryana	Governor: Ashim Kumar Ghosh • CM: Nayab Singh Saini • Capital: Chandigarh
Madhya Pradesh	Governor: Mangubhai Patel • CM: Mohan Yadav • Capital: Bhopal
Sikkim	Governor: Om Prakash Mathur • CM: Prem Singh Tamang • Capital: Gangtok
Puducherry	Lieutenant Governor: K. Kailashnathan • CM: N. Rangasamy • Capital: Puducherry
Ladakh	Lieutenant Governor: Vinai Kumar Saxena
UAE	President: Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan • Capital: Abu Dhabi
USA	President: Donald Trump • Capital: Washington, D.C.
China	President: Xi Jinping • Capital: Beijing
Russia	President: Vladimir Putin • Capital: Moscow
Finland	President: Alexander Stubb • Capital: Helsinki
Denmark	PM: Mette Frederiksen • Capital: Copenhagen
Netherlands	PM: Rob Jetten • Capital: Amsterdam
Portugal	President: Antonio José Seguro • Capital: Lisbon





Aspect	Details
Vietnam	President: To Lam • Capital: Hanoi
Switzerland	President: Guy Parmelin • Capital: Bern
Ethiopia	President: Taye Atske Selassie • Capital: Addis Ababa
Bangladesh	Prime Minister: Tarique Rahman • Capital: Dhaka
Norway	PM: Jonas Gahr Støre • Capital: Oslo
Sweden	PM: Ulf Kristersson • Capital: Stockholm
Italy	Prime Minister: Giorgia Meloni • Capital: Rome
Cyprus	President: Nikos Christodoulides • Capital: Nicosia
Saudi Arabia	Crown Prince & PM: Mohammed bin Salman • Capital: Riyadh
Canada	PM: Mark Carney • Capital: Ottawa
Myanmar	President: Min Aung Hlaing • Capital: Naypyidaw
NITI Aayog	Chairperson: Narendra Modi
Ministry of Panchayati Raj	Minister: Rajiv Ranjan Singh (Lalan Singh)
Ministry of Defence	Minister: Rajnath Singh
Ministry of Finance	Minister: Nirmala Sitharaman
Ministry of Home Affairs	Minister: Amit Shah
Ministry of MSME	Minister: Jitan Ram Manjhi
Ministry of Communications	Minister: Ashwini Vaishnaw
Chief Election Commissioner	Gyanesh Kumar
Union Environment Minister	Bhupender Yadav
Union Agriculture Minister	Shivraj Singh Chouhan
RBI	Governor: Sanjay Malhotra
SEBI	Chairman: Tuhin Kanta Pandey
ISRO	Chairman: V. Narayanan
Supreme Court of India	CJI: Justice Surya Kant
WHO	Director-General: Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
UNGA	President: Annalena Baerbock
European Union	President, European Commission: Ursula von der Leyen
NSE	Chairperson: Srinivas Injeti
CBFC	Chairperson: Shekhar Vempati
Prasar Bharati	Chairperson: Prasoon Joshi
Bharti Airtel	Chairman: Sunil Bharti Mittal
ICICI Bank	MD & CEO: Sandeep Bakhshi




Static Takeaways Current Affairs of April 2026

Category	Entity	Key Details
Ministry	Ministry of Finance	Minister: Nirmala Sitharaman
Ministry	Ministry of Defence	Minister: Rajnath Singh
Ministry	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment	Minister: Virendra Kumar Khatik
Organization	World Trade Organization	Founded: 1995; HQ: Geneva; DG: Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala; Members: 166
Organization	Securities and Exchange Board of India	Estd: 1988; HQ: Mumbai; Chairman: Tuhin Kanta Pandey
Organization	Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India	Founded: 1999; HQ: Hyderabad; Chairperson: Ajay Seth
Organization	World Anti-Doping Agency	Founded: 1999; HQ: Montreal, Canada
Organization	Institute of Chartered Accountants of India	Founded: 1949; HQ: New Delhi; President: Charanjot Singh Nanda
Organization	Competition Commission of India	Founded: 2003; HQ: New Delhi; Chairperson: Ravneet Kaur
Organization	UNESCO	Founded: 1945; HQ: Paris; DG: Khaled El-Enany
Organization	International Olympic Committee	Founded: 1894; HQ: Lausanne; President: Kirsty Coventry
Organization	World Bank	President: Ajay Banga
Organization	International Cricket Council	Chairman: Jay Shah
Bank	Bank of Baroda	Founded: 1908; HQ: Vadodara; CEO: Debadatta Chand
Bank	Reserve Bank of India	Governor: Sanjay Malhotra
Bank	State Bank of India	MD: Challa Sreenivasalu Setty
State	Uttar Pradesh	CM: Yogi Adityanath; Governor: Anandiben Patel; Capital: Lucknow
State	Telangana	CM: Anumula Revanth Reddy; Governor: Shiv Pratap Shukla; Capital: Hyderabad
State	Gujarat	CM: Bhupendra Patel; Governor: Acharya Devvrat; Capital: Gandhinagar
State	Arunachal Pradesh	CM: Pema Khandu; Capital: Itanagar
State	Andhra Pradesh	CM: N. Chandrababu Naidu; Governor: Abdur Nazeer
State	Bihar	CM: Samrat Chaudhary; Governor: Arif Khan
State	Karnataka	CM: Siddaramaiah; Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot
State	Meghalaya	CM: Conrad Sangma
State	Punjab	CM: Bhagwant Mann; Governor: Gulab Chand Kataria
UT	Delhi	CM: Rekha Gupta; LG: Vinai Kumar Saxena; Capital: New Delhi
Country	Myanmar	Capital: Naypyidaw; President: Aung Hlaing
Country	Mongolia	Capital: Ulaanbaatar; PM: Nyam-Osoryn Uchral
Country	Italy	Capital: Rome; President: Sergio Mattarella; Currency: Euro
Country	Russia	President: Vladimir Putin; Capital: Moscow
Country	China	President: Xi Jinping; Capital: Beijing
Country	United States	President: Donald Trump; Currency: USD
Country	United Kingdom	PM: Keir Starmer; Currency: Pound
Country	France	President: Emmanuel Macron; Currency: Euro
Country	Israel	PM: Benjamin Netanyahu
Regulatory	Chief Election Commissioner	Gyanesh Kumar
Company	Policybazaar	CEO: Sajja Chaudhary
Company	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited	CMD: Sanjay Khanna
Company	Adani Group	Chairman: Gautam Adani
Company	Reliance Industries	Chairman: Mukesh Ambani




Static Takeaways Current Affairs of March 2026

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"
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





Category	Entity (Full Name)	Key Details
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
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

Static Takeaways Current Affairs of February 2026

MASTER REFERENCE TABLE - COMPREHENSIVE ORGANIZATIONS, GOVERNMENTS & INSTITUTIONS

S.No	Entity Name	Type/Category	Key Person(s)	Location/ Headquarters	Founded/ Established	Key Details
1	World Health Organization (WHO)	International Organization	Director-General: Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus	Geneva, Switzerland	7 April 1948	Global health governance
2	World Bank	International Organization	President: Ajay Banga	Washington D.C., USA	1944	International development financing
3	United Nations (UN)	International Organization	Secretary-General: António Guterres	New York, USA	1945	Global governance
4	FAO (Food & Agriculture Organization)	International Organization	DG: Qu Dongyu	Rome, Italy	1945	Food security & agriculture





S.No	Entity Name	Type/Category	Key Person(s)	Location/Headquarters	Founded/Established	Key Details
5	World Food Programme (WFP)	UN Agency	—	Rome, Italy	1961	Hunger relief & food assistance
6	WIPO (World Intellectual Property Org)	International Organization	DG: Daren Tang	Geneva, Switzerland	1967	IP protection & innovation
7	ADB (Asian Development Bank)	International Organization	President: Masato Kanda	Philippines	1966	Asian development financing
8	ICC (International Cricket Council)	Sports Organization	CEO: Sanjog Gupta	Dubai, UAE	1909	Global cricket governance
9	UNAOC (UN Alliance of Civilizations)	International Organization	High Representative: Miguel Ángel Moratinos	New York, USA	2005	Interfaith dialogue & cooperation
10	NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)	Military Alliance	—	—	4 April 1949	Western military alliance
11	BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation)	Media Organization	Director-General: Timothy Douglas Davie	London, UK	1922	Global media broadcaster
12	State Bank of India (SBI)	Nationalised Bank	Chairman: Challa Sreenivasulu Setty	Mumbai, Maharashtra	1955	India's largest bank
13	Central Bank of India	Nationalised Bank	MD & CEO: Kalyan Kumar	Mumbai, Maharashtra	21 Dec 1911	Historic Indian bank
14	Punjab National Bank (PNB)	Nationalised Bank	MD & CEO: Ashok Chandra	New Delhi	1894	PSU bank, 130 years old
15	Indian Overseas Bank	Nationalised Bank	MD & CEO: Ajay Kumar Srivastava	Chennai, Tamil Nadu	1937	"A friend you can bank upon"
16	UCO Bank	Nationalised Bank	MD & CEO: Ashwani Kumar	Kolkata	—	State-owned bank
17	Axis Bank	Private Bank	CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry	Mumbai	1993	Leading private sector bank
18	YES Bank	Private Bank	—	Mumbai	2004	Retail banking focus
19	IDFC First Bank	Private Bank	MD & CEO: V. Vaidyanathan	Mumbai, Maharashtra	2015	Merged entity (IDFC + Capital First)
20	Equitas Small Finance Bank	Small Finance Bank	MD & CEO: P. N. Vasudevan	Chennai, Tamil Nadu	2007	Inclusive banking focus
21	Slice Small Finance Bank	Small Finance Bank	CEO: Rajan Bajaj	Guwahati, Assam	2016	Fintech-driven SFB
22	AU Small Finance Bank	Small Finance Bank	—	Jaipur, Rajasthan	2017 (as SFB)	First SFB to transition to Universal Bank
23	NABARD	Financial Institution	Chairman: Shaji K V	Mumbai, Maharashtra	12 July 1982	Rural development financing
24	SEBI	Regulatory Body	Chairman: Tuhin Kanta Pandey	Mumbai	12 April 1988	Securities market regulator
25	RBI (Reserve Bank of India)	Central Bank	Governor: Sanjay Malhotra	Mumbai	1935	Central monetary authority





S.No	Entity Name	Type/Category	Key Person(s)	Location/ Headquarters	Founded/ Established	Key Details
26	IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory Authority)	Regulatory Body	Chairman: Ajay Seth	Hyderabad, Telangana	1999	Insurance sector regulator
27	CBIC (Central Board of Indirect Taxes)	Government Board	Chairperson: Vivek Chaturvedi	New Delhi	26 Jan 1944	Excise & customs authority
28	NSO (National Statistics Office)	Statistical Body	DG: Narender Kumar Santoshi	New Delhi	2019	Economic statistics (merged CSO + NSSO)
29	DRDO (Defence Research & Dev Org)	Defence Organization	Chairman: Dr. Samir V. Kamat	New Delhi	1958	Military technology development
30	CCI (Competition Commission of India)	Regulatory Body	Chairperson: Ravneet Kaur	New Delhi	14 October 2003	Competition law enforcement
31	NGT (National Green Tribunal)	Tribunal	—	New Delhi	18 October 2010	Environmental disputes tribunal
32	DPIIT	Department	—	New Delhi	1995 (Renamed 2019)	Startup & innovation promotion
33	UIDAI (Unique Identification Authority)	Statutory Body	Chairman: Neelkanth Mishra; CEO: Bhuvnesh Kumar	New Delhi	Aadhaar Act 2016	Biometric identity system
34	NCDEX	Commodity Exchange	MD & CEO: Dr. Arun Raste	—	—	Agricultural futures trading
35	Indian Navy	Defence Force	Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi	New Delhi	1950	Naval warfare force
36	Indian Coast Guard	Defence Force	Director General: Paramesh Sivamani	New Delhi	1978	Maritime security force
37	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL)	Maharatna PSU	—	New Delhi	1959	Energy & petroleum major
38	Shipping Corporation of India (SCI)	PSU	CMD: Captain Binesh Kumar Tyagi	Mumbai	1961	Maritime shipping operator
39	GAIL (India) Limited	PSU	—	New Delhi	1984	Natural gas transmission (51.8% govt)
40	Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC)	PSU	CMD: Parminder Chopra	New Delhi	1986	Power sector financing
41	REC Limited	PSU	CMD: Jitendra Srivastava	—	1969	Power distribution financing
42	Food Corporation of India	PSU	—	—	1965	Food procurement & distribution
43	Ministry of Finance	Government Ministry	Cabinet Minister: Nirmala Sitharaman; MoS: Pankaj Chaudhary	New Delhi	—	Economic policy & budgets





S.No	Entity Name	Type/Category	Key Person(s)	Location/Headquarters	Founded/Established	Key Details
44	Ministry of Railways	Government Ministry	Minister: Ashwini Vaishnaw	New Delhi	—	Rail transportation
45	Ministry of Corporate Affairs	Government Ministry	Union Minister: Nirmala Sitharaman; MoS: Harsh Malhotra	New Delhi	—	Corporate governance
46	Ministry of Statistics & Prog Implementation	Government Ministry	Minister of State: Rao Inderjit Singh	New Delhi	—	National statistics
47	Uttar Pradesh	Indian State	CM: Yogi Adityanath; Governor: Anandiben Patel	Lucknow	—	National Parks: Dudhwa; Wildlife sanctuaries: 8 major
48	Maharashtra	Indian State	CM: Devendra Fadnavis; Governor: Acharya Devvrat	Mumbai	—	National Parks: Tadoba, Sanjay Gandhi, Chandoli
49	Tamil Nadu	Indian State	CM: M. K. Stalin; Governor: R. N. Ravi	Chennai	—	National Parks: Mudumalai, Mukurthi, Gulf of Mannar Marine
50	Rajasthan	Indian State	CM: Bajan Lal Sharma; Governor: Haribhau Bagade	Jaipur	—	National Parks: Ranthambhore, Sariska, Keoladeo
51	Gujarat	Indian State	CM: Bhupendra Patel; Governor: Acharya Devvrat; Dy CM: Harsh Sanghvi	Gandhinagar	—	Major industrial & trade hub
52	Madhya Pradesh	Indian State	CM: Mohan Yadav; Governor: Mangubhai Patel; Finance Minister: Jagdish Devda	Bhopal	—	Central Indian state
53	Assam	Indian State	CM: Himanta Biswa Sarma; Governor: Lakshman Prasad Acharya	Dispur	—	National Parks: Kaziranga, Manas, Dibru-Saikhowa
54	Punjab	Indian State	CM: Bhagwant Mann; Governor: Gulab Chand Kataria	Chandigarh	—	Granary of India
55	Kerala	Indian State	CM: Pinarayi Vijayan; Governor: Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar	Thiruvananthapuram	—	National Parks: Eravikulam, Silent Valley
56	Andhra Pradesh	Indian State	CM: N. Chandrababu Naidu; Governor: S. Abdul Nazeer	Amaravati	—	IT & industrial hub





S.No	Entity Name	Type/Category	Key Person(s)	Location/ Headquarters	Founded/ Established	Key Details
57	Arunachal Pradesh	Indian State	CM: Pema Khandu; Governor: D. Mishra	Itanagar	—	National Parks: Namdapha, Mouling
58	Nagaland	Indian State	CM: Neiphiu Rio; Governor: La. Ganesan	Kohima	—	National Parks: Intanki
59	Jharkhand	Indian State	CM: Hemant Soren; Governor: Santosh Gangwar	Ranchi	—	Mineral-rich state
60	Delhi (UT)	Union Territory	CM: Rekha Gupta; LG: Vinai Kumar Saxena	New Delhi	—	National capital
61	United States of America	Country	President: Donald J. Trump	Washington D.C.	—	Currency: USD; Global superpower
62	Japan	Country	PM: Shigeru Ishiba	Tokyo	—	Currency: Japanese Yen; Tech leader
63	Spain	Country	PM: Pedro Sánchez	Madrid	—	Currency: Euro; EU member
64	United Arab Emirates (UAE)	Country	President: Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan	Abu Dhabi	—	Currency: UAE Dirham; Regional hub
65	Kyrgyzstan	Country	President: Sadyr Japarov	Bishkek	—	Currency: Kyrgyzstani Som; Central Asia
66	Switzerland	Country	—	Bern	—	Currency: Swiss Franc; Neutral
67	Israel	Country	—	Jerusalem	—	Currency: Israeli New Shekel; Middle East
68	South Korea	Country	—	Seoul	—	Currency: Won; Tech hub
69	Kenya	Country	—	Nairobi	—	Currency: Kenyan Shilling; East Africa
70	Poland	Country	President: Karol Nawrocki; PM: Donald Tusk	Warsaw	—	Currency: Złoty; EU & NATO member
71	Netherlands	Country	—	Amsterdam	—	Currency: Euro; EU member
72	Saudi Arabia	Country	King: Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud	Riyadh	—	Currency: Saudi Riyal; Oil major
73	Bangladesh	Country	—	Dhaka	—	Currency: Bangladeshi Taka (BDT)





S.No	Entity Name	Type/Category	Key Person(s)	Location/Headquarters	Founded/Established	Key Details
74	Bulgaria	Country	President: Iliana Iotova; PM: Rosen Zhelyazkov	Sofia	—	Currency: Euro; EU member
75	Australia	Country	PM: Anthony Albanese	Canberra	—	Currency: Australian Dollar; Asia-Pacific
76	Barbados	Country	—	Bridgetown	—	Currency: Barbadian Dollar (BBD)
77	Toyota Motor Corporation	Corporate Entity	Chairman: Akio Toyoda	Japan	1937	Global automotive giant
78	All India Sugar Trade Association (AISTA)	Industry Association	—	—	17 January 2016	Sugar industry unification

