

1. Macroeconomic Growth and GDP Forecasts for India

- The **Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)** forecasted India's GDP growth at **7.6%** for FY26 and **7.0%** for FY27.
- The **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** lowered its FY27 growth forecast to **6.1%** (down from **6.2%**), while maintaining **7.6%** for FY26.
- **S&P Global** raised its FY27 growth forecast to **7.1%**, while keeping FY26 at **7.6%**.
- **CRISIL** predicted FY27 growth at **7.1%**.
- **Fitch Ratings** projected FY27 growth at **6.7%**.
- The **World Bank** expected FY27 growth at **6.5%**.
- **Moody's** estimated FY27 growth at **6.45%**.
- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** forecasted FY27 growth at **6.4%**.

2. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Regulations and Financial Data Updates

- Under the leadership of the **26th Governor Dr. Sanjay Malhotra**, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** extended its revised **Capital Market Exposure (CME)** framework until **July 1, 2026**.
- Loans against eligible securities are now capped at **₹1 crore** per individual and **₹25 lakh** for **Initial Public Offerings (IPOs)** and **Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOPs)**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** mandated that corporate guarantees must be provided when financing is extended to subsidiary entities.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** launched **Payment Vision 2028** under the theme "**Shaping India's Payment Frontier**", mapping action plans through **December 2028**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** penalized **Airtel Payments Bank** with a fine reported between **₹31.3 lakh to ₹31.8 lakh** for failing to disclose compliances in its FY25 financial statements.
- Payments Banks are differentiated banks requiring a minimum capital of **₹100 crore**; they can accept a maximum deposit of **₹2 lakh** per customer but cannot issue loans or credit cards.

3. Updates in Financial Schemes, Taxation, and Asset Management

- The **Ministry of Finance** retained unchanged interest rates for Q1 of FY27 for **Small Savings Schemes** (e.g., **Public Provident Fund** at **7.1%**, **Sukanya Samriddhi** at **8.2%**, and **Kisan Vikas Patra** at **7.5%**).
- Under **Section 402 of the Income Tax Act 2025**, banks must automatically deduct a **10% Tax Deducted at Source (TDS)** on interest income exceeding **₹5,000** for ordinary citizens and **₹1,00,000** for senior citizens.
- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** mandated insurers to prepare financial statements strictly according to Indian accounting standards, effective **April 1, 2026**.
- **Lakshya Asset Management Company (AMC)** received **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** approval to launch its mutual fund business.
- **Lakshya Asset Management Company (AMC)** marks the first **Asset Management Company (AMC)** to be headquartered in **Ahmedabad, Gujarat**.

4. Manufacturing, Energy, and e-Mobility Policy Extensions

- The **Prime Minister's Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE)** scheme was originally launched in **October 2024** to replace the former **Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles (FAME)** programs.
- Incentives for **electric two-wheelers** have been extended till **31 July 2026**.
- Incentives for **electric three-wheelers**, including **e-rickshaws and e-carts**, continue till **31 March 2028**.
- The outlay earmarked for incentivising e-2Ws is **₹1,772 crore**
- The **National Statistical Office (NSO)** released the 33rd edition of the **Energy Statistics of India 2026**, reporting a total renewable capacity of **47,43,000 MW**.
- The **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** extended the deadline for the **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM KUSUM)** scheme to **March 31, 2027**.

5. Digital Census 2027 and Economic Census Announcements

- India's 16th census, scheduled to commence on **April 1, 2026**, will be its first fully digital enumeration using mobile apps.
- **Census 2027** will be India's **16th Census** and **8th after Independence**.
- Citizens will be assigned a **11-digit** (or sometimes 16-digit) **Self Enumeration ID**.
- The census is funded with an allocation of **₹178 crore** under the **Census Act 1948**.
- Sand artist and **2014 Padma Shri** awardee **Sudarsan Pattnaik** was appointed as the brand ambassador for **Digital Census 2027** by the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- The official mascots for the census are **Pragati** (female) and **Vikas** (male).
- The **8th Economic Census** is concurrently scheduled for **2027**.

6. Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) Amendment Bill 2025

- The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)** was originally enacted in 2016 and is regulated by the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)**.
- The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) Amendment Bill 2025** was passed in the **Lok Sabha**.

7. Introduction of New Television Rating Policy

- The **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**, led by **Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw**, released the new television rating policy guidelines.
- Net worth requirements for TV rating agencies have been dropped from **₹20 crores** to **₹5 crores**.
- The policy mandates that **50%** of the board of directors must be independent, without any ties to advertising agencies or broadcasters.
- Rating agencies must scale their operations to **80,000** meter homes within **18 months**, targeting an ultimate goal of **120,000** homes.

8. Deployment of Smart Policing Initiatives

- The **Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)** and the **Delhi Police** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to deploy nine indigenous technological solutions for surveillance and cybersecurity.
- Deployed innovations include a **Facial Recognition System** and "**Fraud PRO**" to spot suspects and missing persons.
- A secure messaging and calling platform named "**Samvad**" and a dedicated video conferencing tool called "**C-DOT Meet**" were introduced.

9. State-Specific Development Projects and Infrastructure Programs

- **Prime Minister Modi** launched **₹20,000 crore** worth of development projects in **Gujarat**, including the **Ahmedabad-Dholera Expressway** and the **Samrat Samprati Museum** at **Koba Village, Gandhinagar**.
- He also inaugurated **Kaynes Semicon's ₹3,300 crore** semiconductor assembly and test facility in **Sanand** under the **India Semiconductor Mission**.
- The Central Government allocated **₹25,000 crore** under the **Pride of Hills Scheme** for special development assistance in 9 hill states, with **Nagaland** exclusively receiving **₹3,880 crore**.
- **Meghalaya** became the 12th state to sign a reform-linked **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** for rural water supply under **Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0**.
- The **Punjab** cabinet, under **Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann**, approved the **Mukimantri Man Dhan Satgar Yojana** with a **₹9,300 crore** budget, dispensing **₹1,000** to women and **₹1,500** to Scheduled Caste women via direct bank transfer.
- **Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0** holds an additional **₹1.5 lakh crore** outlay, with **₹67,300 crore** allocated in the **FY26** budget.

10. Cultural Heritage Recognitions and Global Observances

- During the 13th Episode of '**Mann Ki Baat**' broadcasted on **March 29th**, **Prime Minister Modi** commended **Nagaland's Naga community** for merging modern learning with traditional preservation.
- India took part in the 20th anniversary of **Earth Hour** on **March 28th**.

- The Prime Minister brought national attention to the "**Morung**" system, an indigenous community-based education model where elders teach life skills and history.
- Praise was also directed at a **Chizami-based** women-led seed bank responsible for conserving over **150 traditional seed varieties**.

11. Aviation Infrastructure, Partnerships, and Appointments

- **Prime Minister Modi** inaugurated Phase 1 of the **Noida International Airport** in **Jewar, Uttar Pradesh**, built at a cost of **₹11,282 crores**.
- **Vir Vikram Yadav** succeeded **Faiz Ahmed Kidwai** as the new Chief of the **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)**.
- **Willie Walsh** (current Director General of the **International Air Transport Association (IATA)**) was appointed CEO of **IndiGo**, replacing **Pieter Elbers**.

12. Expansion of Ports and Foreign Development Assistance

- **Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ)** established India's inaugural "**Port of Refuge**" locations as defined by the **International Maritime Organization**.
- The established locations are **Dighi Port** on the West Coast (near Mumbai) servicing the **Arabian Sea** and **Persian Gulf** routes, and **Gopalpur Port** on the East Coast (Odisha) servicing the **Bay of Bengal** and **Malacca Strait** routes.
- **Japan** pledged an **Official Development Assistance (ODA)** loan totaling **₹16,420 crore (275 billion Japanese Yen)** to India.

13. Defense Procurements, Technologies, and Armed Forces Exercises

- The **Ministry of Defense** signed a contract with **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** for two **Indian Air Force (IAF)** mountain radar systems designed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** (value: **₹1,950 crore**).
- The government launched the procurement of European **Advanced Short Range Air-to-Air Missiles (ASRAAM)** (with a **25 km range**) to replace Russian **R-73** missiles on the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**'s **MiG-29** jets.
- The **Indian Army** finalized its first capital procurement contract via the **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)**, signing a **₹25.90 crore** deal for 93 telescopic handlers from **JCB India Limited**.
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** conceptualized India's first helicopter-launched drone system, "**Vayu Baan**", featuring a **50+ km** standoff strike range and Kamikaze/ISR capabilities.
- **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE)** in Kolkata delivered multiple warships to the **Indian Navy**: **INS Dunagiri** (5th **Nilgiri-class** stealth frigate under **Project 17A**), **INS Agray** (4th **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC)**), and survey vessels **INS Sandhayak** and **INS Sanshodhak** (4th of its class).
- The **Indian Navy** hosted **IMEX-TTX**, a maritime exercise in **Kochi, Kerala**, and a tri-service exercise named **Dweep Shakti** was conducted in the **Andaman and Nicobar** region.

14. Breakthroughs in Space, Artificial Intelligence, and Legal Tech

- The **European Space Agency (ESA)** deployed two satellites (**IOD-1** and **IOD-2**) from **New Zealand** for the "**Celeste In-Orbit Demonstration Mission**".
- The "**Nyay Setu**" AI Chatbot (a voice-first, multilingual AI legal assistant) and its mascot "**Dishika**" were unveiled at the "**Disha Program**" in **New Delhi** by **Vice President CP Radhakrishnan** and **Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal**.
- **Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad** launched the "**Krishnamurthy Tandon School of Artificial Intelligence**".

15. International Relations, Summits, and Conventions

- India will host the inaugural **BRICS Youth Coordination Meeting 2026** in **New Delhi** under its chairship, administered by the **Department of Youth Affairs**.
- **Tom Suozzi** was designated as the Vice Chair of the **Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans**, an entity founded in **1993** to nurture defense partnerships and diplomacy.
- The 9th edition of the **India Pharma 2026** convention is scheduled for **April 13-14** in **New Delhi**.

- The **BRICS Youth Coordination Meeting 2026** operates under the theme "**Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation, and Sustainability**".
- The **India Pharma 2026** event is organized by the **Department of Pharmaceuticals**, the **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)**, and the **Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance** under the theme "**Discover in India: Leapfrogging Life Sciences Innovation**".

16. Sports Achievements and Recognitions

- Cricketer **Virat Kohli** became the first batter in **Indian Premier League (IPL)** history to surpass **4,000 runs** during run-chases (achieved playing for **Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB)** against **Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH)** at the **M. Chinnaswamy Stadium**).
- Cricketer **Ravichandran Ashwin** secured a contract with the **San Francisco Unicorns**, becoming the first Indian international cricketer to join the US-based **Major League Cricket**.
- Athlete **Lokesh Sathyanathan** made history as the first Indian to surpass the 8-meter mark in the indoor long jump, recording **8.21 meters** to place 8th at the **Tucson Invitational 2026** in the US.
- **32-year-old** Spanish badminton icon **Carolina Marin** announced her retirement due to a severe knee injury.
- In Billiards, **Pankaj Advani** claimed his first **National 9-Ball Pool Championship** title in **Ludhiana** by defeating **Nitin Sharma**.
- **Virat Kohli** simultaneously eclipsed **Shoaib Malik** to become the 6th highest run-scorer in global T20 history.
- **Sheetal Devi**, a Jammu & Kashmir native and India's first female armless archer (who won gold at the **World Para Archery Championship**), was named **Para Archer of the Year 2025** at the **World Archery Awards**
- At the **World Archery Awards**, **Hennie** (USA) was named **Archer of the Year**, **Baptiste Addis** (France) secured **Young Archer of the Year**, and Korea's **Recurve Men's team** won **Best Team**.
- **Carolina Marin's** legacy includes a **2016 Rio Olympic Gold Medal** and being the first woman to win three **World Championship** titles (**2014, 2015, and 2018**).
- The long jump event at the **Tucson Invitational 2026** was won by **Cordell Tinch** at **8.29 meters**.

17. Journalism Awards, Important Observances, and Obituaries

- The 20th edition of the **Ramnath Goenka Journalism Awards**, organized by the **Indian Express Group**, was addressed by **Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan**.
- **April 1** was observed as **Odisha Day (Utkal Divas)**, commemorating its linguistic-based formation as a separate province in **1936**.
- **March 30** marked **Rajasthan Foundation Day** and the **International Day of Zero Waste**.
- **Chandrikapersad Santokhi**, the former President of **Suriname (2020-2025)** and a highly regarded leader of the Indian diaspora, passed away at the age of **67**.
- **T.A. Rajendran**, a distinguished veteran Malayalam actor and director, recently passed away.
- The **International Day of Zero Waste** was observed under the theme "**Food Waste**".
- Other important days included **March 25 (International Day of the Unborn Child)** and **March 29 (88th World Piano Day)**.
- The late **Chandrikapersad Santokhi** was a past recipient of the prestigious **Pravasi Bharatiya Samman**.