

- Reserve Bank of India Issues Regulatory Penalties and Launches Digital Initiatives**
 - A penalty of ₹2.70 lakh was imposed on **Manappuram Finance**, a **Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)**, for non-compliance with **Key Managerial Personnel (KMP)** compensation guidelines.
 - A penalty of ₹18.76 lakh was imposed on **One97 Communications (Paytm)** for **Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA)** violations.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** launched a pilot program called the "**Awareness Programme on Digital Payments**" in **Maharashtra** alongside **CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd.**
- Cred** received final approval from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to operate as a **Payment Aggregator**.
- Reserve Bank of India Launched 6th Digital Payment Awareness Week** was observed nationally from **March 9 to March 13**.
- India's GDP Growth Forecasts Upgraded and Fiscal Health Index Released**
 - International rating agency **Fitch** revised India's **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** growth estimate for the current financial year (**FY 2025-26**) upward from **7.4%** to **7.5%** in its **Global Economic Outlook**.
 - The **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** growth for the following financial year (**FY 2026-27**) is estimated at **6.7%**.
 - National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog** launched the **Fiscal Health Index**.
 - The **Fiscal Health Index** categorized the states of **Odisha, Goa, and Jharkhand** in the "**Achiever**" category.
- Government Authorities Launch Niveshak Shiksha Pilot Project for Investors**
 - Under financial regulations, assets are officially categorized as "unclaimed" if ignored for **7 years** in the case of shares, and **10 years** in the case of bank deposits.
 - The **Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA)** (operating under the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs**) partnered with the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** to launch the "**Niveshak Shiksha Pilot Project**".
 - As part of this initiative, they organized a "**Niveshak Shivir**" (Investor Camp) in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.
- Government Expands Mandatory Gold Hallmarking to 380 Districts**
 - The central government formally initiated the **6th phase** of the mandatory **Hallmarking of Gold Jewellery and Gold Artefacts Order 2026**.
 - Seven new districts were added to the mandatory hallmarking list: **Rupnagar, Banda, Beed, Gomati, Katihar, Beawar, and Neemuch**.
 - This expansion increases the total number of mandatory hallmarking districts nationwide to **380**.
 - Mandatory hallmarking requires a unique 6-digit alphanumeric **Hallmark Unique Identification (HUID)** code for **14, 18, 20, 22, 23, and 24-carat** gold items.
 - The **Hallmark Unique Identification (HUID)** code is verifiable by consumers on the **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Care app**.
 - Hallmarking for **9-carat** gold remains voluntary.
- Razorpay Launches World's First AI-Powered Agent Studio**
 - Razorpay** launched the world's first **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**-powered "**Agent Studio**", constructed using the **Cloud Agent Software Development Kit (SDK)**.
 - Razorpay** additionally introduced an **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**-native layer termed the **Agentic Experience Platform**.
- Aviation Regulator Imposes Heavy Penalty on Indigo Airlines**
 - The **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)** formally fined **Indigo** airlines a sum of **₹22.2 crore**.
- Key Leadership Appointments Announced Across the Financial Sector**
 - Vinay Muralidhar Tonse** has been appointed as the **Managing Director (MD)** and **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** designate of **Yes Bank**, set to assume charge on **April 6, 2026**.
 - Parthanil Ghosh** has been appointed as the **Managing Director (MD)** and **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of **HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company**, effective **April 16, 2026**.
 - Former Defense Accounts Official **Kompella Venkata Ramana Murthy** was appointed as a **Whole-Time Member** of the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**.
- Prime Minister Releases 22nd Instalment of the PM-KISAN Scheme**
 - The fully central-sector-funded **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)** scheme was officially launched on **February 24, 2019**, with retroactive implementation starting from **December 2018**.
 - Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** released a fresh instalment (the **22nd instalment**) of the **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)** scheme directly from **Guwahati, Assam**.
 - The latest release transferred over **₹18,640 crore** to **9.32 crore** land-holding farmer families across the country.

- The scheme continues to provide eligible farmers with an annual financial benefit of ₹6,000, distributed systematically in three equal instalments.
12. **Government Advances on the Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat Campaign Goals**
- The mission to eradicate child marriage is legally supported by the **Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006** and the **Child and Adolescent Labour Act 1986**.
 - The government aggressively advanced the "**Child Marriage Free India**" (**Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat**) campaign.
 - By **March 2026**, the ongoing campaign successfully reached **11.81 crore** people.
 - The campaign operates with the explicit goal of completely eradicating child marriage across India by the year **2030**.
13. **FSSAI Abolishes Annual Renewals with New Lifetime Validity Licenses**
- The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** abolished the mandatory annual license renewal process, entirely replacing it with a lifetime validity license.
 - Registrations are officially tiered by annual turnover:
Basic Registration: Under ₹1.5 crore.
State License: ₹1.5 crore to ₹50 crore.
Central License: Over ₹50 crore.
14. **Investments Boost Nuclear Energy, 6G Technology, and FASTag Framework**
- The **Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)** is actively developing new reactors to be situated at the **Tarapur Atomic Power Station in Maharashtra**. This includes a **220 Megawatt (MW) Bharat Small Modular Reactor (BSMR-200)** costing ₹5,960 crore, and two **55 Megawatt (MW) Small Modular Reactors** with a combined cost of ₹7,000 crore.
 - The Indian Government formally approved **104** independent research projects, allocating ₹271 crore to develop next-generation **6G** telecom technology.
 - The **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** increased the annual **FASTag** pass fee for non-commercial vehicles (vans, jeeps, cars) by **2.5%** (from ₹3,000 to ₹3,075), effective **April 1, 2026**.
 - **FASTag** operates on **Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)** technology.
15. **Centre Approves Massive Disaster Relief Funds for Six States**
- A high-level committee managed by Home Minister **Amit Shah** officially approved central assistance totaling ₹1,912.99 crore to support six devastated states.
 - The relief packages include allocations for **Gujarat (₹778.67 crore)**, **Andhra Pradesh (₹341.48 crore)**, **Jammu & Kashmir (₹330.34 crore)**, **Himachal Pradesh (₹288.39 crore)**, **Nagaland (₹158.41 crore)**, and **Chhattisgarh (₹15.70 crore)**.
16. **Landmark Euthanasia Ruling and Launch of Online Critical Care Clinic**
- Medical guidelines for the "Right to Die with Dignity" were originally formulated under the **2018 Common Cause Judgment** and are legally considered a fundamental right under **Article 21** of the Indian Constitution.
 - The **Supreme Court of India** permitted the withdrawal of life support for 32-year-old **Harish Rana**, a patient suffering from 100% quadriplegia who remained in a permanent vegetative state for nearly 13 years following a balcony fall.
 - **Safdarjung Hospital in New Delhi** successfully launched India's first online critical care follow-up clinic.
17. **Forest Rules Amended and National Gender Platform in Agriculture Launched**
- The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** successfully amended **Rule 9(12)** of the **Van Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan Rules 2023**.
 - The **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** announced the development of a **National Gender Platform** at the **Global Conference on Women in Agri-Food Systems in New Delhi**.
 - **Rashtrapati Bhavan** hosted the "**Purple Fest**", an event organized by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.
 - The "**Purple Fest**" was organized to formally celebrate the achievements and talents of **Divyangjan** (persons with disabilities).
18. **Assam Achieves Major Infrastructure and Export Milestones**
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated infrastructure projects worth ₹23,550 crore in **Silchar**, forming part of a broader ₹47,800 crore state initiative.
 - The centerpiece is the foundation stone for a ₹2,864 crore, **166 km** access-controlled greenfield expressway connecting **Silchar to Shillong**.
 - A ₹122 crore **Agriculture College** was officially announced for the **Karimganj** district.

- **Assam** dispatched its first international export consignment of **Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged Joha Rice** to **Italy** and the **UK**.
19. **Lt. Gen. Syed Ata Hasnain Appointed as the New Governor of Bihar**
 20. **Maharashtra Enacts RTO Permits for Passenger Electric Vehicles**
 21. **Madhya Pradesh Expands Procurement Schemes and Records Highest Leopard Population**
 - The state officially expanded the **Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana** to comprehensively cover mustard procurement.
 - **Madhya Pradesh (MP)** formally declared the year **2026** as the "**Year of Agriculture**".
 - The state successfully recorded India's largest leopard population, tallying at **3,907**.
 - The state will formally introduce "**Garbh Sanskar**" education within its universities to integrate traditional cultural learnings into higher education.
 22. **Goa Secures Key Partnerships and Publishes World Atlas**
 - **Goa** was successfully ranked **5th** in the **Export Preparedness Index** for small states / **Union Territories (UTs)**.
 - The state hosted **India Energy Week** and established a modern partnership with **Starlink** to provide satellite internet.
 - **Goa** officially added a third district named **Kushavati** and became the 2nd Indian state (trailing **Keralam**) to publish a **World Atlas**.
 - Defense Minister **Rajnath Singh** successfully commissioned the **Indian Coast Guard** ship "**Samudra Pratap**" in **Goa**.
 - Looking forward, **Goa** is scheduled to host the 7th season of **Ultimate Table Tennis** in **July 2026**.
 22. **Uttar Pradesh Launches Broadband Project GANGA**
 - The **Uttar Pradesh** government inaugurated **Project GANGA (Government Assisted Network for Growth and Advancement)**.
 23. **Regional Updates from Tamil Nadu, Mizoram, and Rajasthan**
 - **Tamil Nadu**: The Central Government officially granted approval to rename **Tuticorin Airport** to **Thoothukudi Airport**.
 - **Mizoram**: The state observed **Chapchar Kut**, its traditional spring festival, in the capital city of **Aizawl**.
 - **Rajasthan**: The state celebrated the **Gangaur Festival**.
 - The **Gangaur Festival** in Rajasthan is prominently dedicated to worshipping **Goddess Gauri**.
 24. **Geopolitical Tensions Escalate in the Strait of Hormuz Prompting UNSC Resolution**
 - The **Strait of Hormuz**, separating **Iran** and **Oman**, remains heavily scrutinized.
 - **India** acted as a co-sponsor, alongside **134** other nations, for a **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** resolution demanding that the **Islamic Republic of Iran** immediately cease attacks against **Jordan** and **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)** countries.
 - The resolution passed with thirteen **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** members voting in favor, while **China** and **Russia** abstained.
 - Recognized as an "oil highway," the narrow sea passage (33 km wide generally and just 3 km wide at its tightest point) handles **20-25%** of all global oil transit, connecting the **Persian Gulf** to the **Gulf of Oman** and the **Arabian Sea**.
 25. Japan's **Aichi-Nagoya** will host the **20th Asian Games** in **2026** (featuring the mascot "**Honohon**").
 26. **Italy** is preparing to host the **25th Winter Olympics** in **Milano Cortina**, while **Srinivash Dempo** received the prestigious "**Knight of the Order of the Star of Italy**".
 27. The 11th iteration of "**Exercise LAMITIYE**" (which translates to friendship) took place between the armed forces of **India** and **Seychelles** at the **Seychelles Defence Academy**.
 28. Executing the **22,000-nautical-mile "Lokayan 26"** global expedition, the **Indian Naval Ship INS Sudarshini** arrived at **Valletta, Malta**.
 29. Other globally relevant military exercises noted include **Mitra Shakti (Sri Lanka)**, **Ekuverin (Maldives)**, and **AIME (African nations)**.
 30. **India Dominates Medal Tally at the World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026**
 - The prestigious **World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026** was conducted over three days in **New Delhi**.
 - **India** thoroughly dominated the medal tally, securing first place with **208 total medals (75 Gold, 69 Silver, 64 Bronze)**.
 - **Russia** secured a distant second place with **35 medals**.
 - Prominent Indian gold medalists included: **Sumit Antil** (Men's Javelin throw, 69.25m), **Subodh Bhatt** (Men's 400m T13), **Bhavik Kumar** (Men's 400m T46/T47), **Manoj Kumar Sabhapati** (Men's Wheelchair 400m)

T53/T54), **Tejalben Amaraji Damor** (Women's 400m T11/T12), **Lakshmi** (Women's Shot Put), **Shailesh Kumar** (Men's Long Jump), **Rohit Kumar** (Men's Shot Put), **Preeti Pal** (Women's 200m), and **Shubham Julal** (Men's Shotput).

31. Sportstar Aces Awards 2026 Honors Exceptional Athletic Achievements

- The **Sportstar Aces Awards 2026** was officially hosted in **Mumbai** to celebrate and honor the highest contributors to Indian and international sports.
- **Awards of Excellence:** Won by **Tania Sachdev** (Chess), **Manika Batra** (Table Tennis), and **Rani Rampal** (Hockey).
- **Sports Star of the Year:** Awarded to **Mohammed Siraj** (Male) and **Smriti Mandhana** (Female).
- **National Team of the Year:** Secured by the **Indian Women's Cricket Team**.
- **Harmanpreet Kaur** was officially awarded the title of **Captain & Moment of the Year**.

32. Major Milestones and Retirements Across Global Individual Sports

- **Chess:** **Mayank Chakraborty** attained the title of India's **94th Chess Grandmaster**, securing the title by placing first at the **8th Grandmaster tournament** located in **Stockholm, Sweden**.
- **Athletics:** At the **Mondo Classic** in **Uppsala, Sweden**, Swedish pole vaulter **Armand Duplantis** shattered his own pole vault world record for the 15th time, achieving a massive clearance of **6.31 meters**.
- **Formula One:** Driving for **Mercedes AMG**, 19-year-old Italian **Kimi Antonelli** seized his maiden F1 victory at the **Chinese Grand Prix**. (**Kimi Antonelli** is the second youngest race winner in F1 history.)
- **Cricket:** Accomplished former **Pakistan** captain and wicketkeeper **Sarfraz Ahmed** officially declared his retirement from international cricket.
- **Mayank Chakraborty** is historically the first player from **Assam** and the wider **North East region** to achieve the Grandmaster title.

33. Prestigious Honors Bestowed for Literature and High-Altitude Mountaineering

- Renowned Tamil lyricist and writer **Vairamuthu** received the prestigious **60th Jnanpith Award** for the year **2025**.
- **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)** Professor **Arpita Patra** successfully ascended **Nevado Ojos del Salado** (**6,893 meters**).

34. Important Observances, Book Releases, and Obituaries in March

- **March 16 - National Vaccination Day:** Observed annually in India, the **2026** theme was designated as "**Vaccines for All: Building a Resilient Future**".
- **March 15 - Combating Islamophobia:** Officially recognized globally as the **International Day to Combat Islamophobia**.
- **March 14 - Mathematics:** Concurrently celebrated as **Pi Day** and **International Mathematics Day**, featuring the specific theme "**Mathematics and Hope**".
- **Book Release:** Retired Lt. Gen. **KJS 'Tiny' Dhillon** authored and released a new book titled "**Operation Sindoor: The Untold Story of India's Deep Strike Inside Pakistan**".
- **Obituary:** **Kushal Das**, the prominent sports administrator and former General Secretary of the **All India Football Federation (AIFF)**, passed away.