

1. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Rejects Ujjivan Small Finance Bank's Universal Bank Application

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) returned Ujjivan Small Finance Bank's application to convert into a Universal Bank.
- AU Small Finance Bank was previously the first to successfully achieve this status.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) conversion criteria require a 5-year satisfactory track record and listing on recognized stock exchanges.
- A minimum net worth of ₹1,000 crore is mandatory for conversion.
- This maintains stringent regulatory standards, requiring banks to hold a Capital to Risk-Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) of 15% or above.
- The criteria also strictly mandate Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) to remain below 3% and Net NPA below 1%.

2. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Issues New Regulatory Frameworks for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) replaced its old scoring model to identify Upper Layer NBFCs with a new absolute asset size threshold of ₹1 Lakh Crore.

- These identified entities will now undergo a regulatory review every 5 years.
- Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) with a Net Owned Fund (NOF) above ₹50 crore and a credit rating of AA or above are now permitted to open branches anywhere in India.
- NBFCs with an NOF above ₹50 crore but a rating below AA are restricted to opening branches strictly within their home state.
- All branch applications must be submitted through the PRAVAH portal.
- Government-owned NBFCs (like NABARD, SIDBI, and EXIM Bank) are now subject to tighter regulatory oversight, as earlier proposals preventing their inclusion in the Upper Layer have been removed.

3. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Mandates Free Currency Exchange Services Across All Bank Branches

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued master directions requiring all bank branches to provide free, non-discriminatory exchange services to the general public.

Significance / Impact • This ensures smooth circulation and proper management of physical currency

4. Visa, HDFC Bank, CheQ, and AU Small Finance Bank Launch Innovative Credit Cards

- Visa and HDFC Bank launched a limited-edition digital credit card named the "FIFA World Cup 2026 Pixel Play Credit Card".
- CheQ and AU Small Finance Bank partnered to launch India's first co-branded LED-powered credit card.
- The HDFC Bank card features a "Spend and Win" campaign where users can win match tickets and merchandise.

5. Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) Authorizes 17 Banks for Precious Metal Imports

- The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) officially authorized 17 banks to import gold and silver until March 31, 2029.
- While 15 banks can import both metals, the Union Bank of India and SBER Bank are authorized to import only gold.

6. Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) Issues Revised Cyber Security Guidelines

- The Information Security Risk Management Committee is now mandated to meet at least once a quarter.
- Compliance reports related to the guidelines must be submitted within 30 days.

7. National Stock Exchange (NSE) Approves Formation of National Coal Exchange of India Limited

- The National Stock Exchange (NSE) received official approval from the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to establish the "National Coal Exchange of India Limited".

8. India's Key Economic Indicators Show Shifts in Trade Deficit, UPI Volume, and CAD

- India's **Current Account Deficit (CAD)** is projected to rise to **2%** of the **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**, increasing from earlier projections of **0.8% to 1.5%**.
- **China** has overtaken the **United States (US)** to officially become India's largest trading partner.
- The **India Digital Payments Report 2025** indicated that India processed **228.5 billion Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** transactions by volume in the year **2025**.
- India's exports to **China** increased by **36.66%** to reach **\$19.47 billion**, while imports increased by **16%**.

9. Government Announces Fund II for SWAMIH Investment Fund

- The **Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income Housing Investment Fund (SWAMIH)** was initially launched in **2019** by the **Finance Ministry** and is managed by **SBI CAP** (an **SBI** subsidiary).
- **Fund II** was announced for **2025-26** with a **₹15,000 crore** budget to complete an additional **1 lakh** stalled homes.

10. Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) and Government e-Marketplace (GeM) Announce Digital Growth Initiatives

- The **GeM "Womaniya" Initiative** was launched in **2019** to provide a digital interface to boost women entrepreneurs' participation in public procurement on the **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** (which originally launched in **2016**).
- The **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** launched the **"My LIC"** platform for customers to manage policies, pay premiums, and take paperless loans.
- **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** also launched **"Super Sales Saathi"** for agents and intermediaries to track policies and manage marketing tools. The app is built on LIC's **DIVE (Digital Innovation & Value Enhancement)** platform.

11. Key Industry Agreements Signed by MSME Ministry and JSW Steel

- The **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **NICDC Logistic Data Service Limited (NLDDSL)**.
- The **JSW Steel Board** approved a **50/50 joint venture** with South Korea's **POSCO** group.
- The joint venture will establish an integrated steel plant in **Odisha**.

12. Government of India Launches ₹1 Lakh Crore Urban Challenge Fund

- The **Government of India** launched operational guidelines to support transformative urban projects in **Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities**, particularly focusing on hilly and **Northeast** regions.
- The fund is backed by **₹1 Lakh Crore**. The Center covers **25%** of project costs, while **50%** is funded through municipal bonds, bank loans, and public-private partnerships.
- Implementation spans from **2025-26 to 2030-31** (extendable by **3 years**), with funds released by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** by **September 2026**.
- The fund is broken down into **₹90,000 crore** for actual projects, **₹5,000 crore** for capacity building/preparation, and **₹5,000 crore** for the **Credit Repayment Guarantee Sub Scheme**.

13. Major Infrastructure Boost Across Amaravati, Highways, and Rural Roads

- The **World Bank** released **\$340 million** for **Phase 1** of the **Amaravati Capital Project** in **Andhra Pradesh** (part of a **₹15,000 crore** total project, co-financed by the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and the **World Bank**, each committing **\$800 million**).
- **Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor** (a **213 km, 6-lane** expressway connecting **Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand**, costing **₹12,000 crore**).
- **Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi** inaugurated a phase of the **Ganga Expressway** on **April 19** in **Hardoi district, Uttar Pradesh** (a **594 km six-lane** road linking **12 districts**, connecting **Bijauli village** in **Meerut** to **Judapur Dandu village** in **Prayagraj**).
- The Cabinet extended **Phase 3** of the **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)** until **March 2028** with a total funding outlay increased to **₹83,977 crore**.

- The **World Bank's International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)** approved a **\$225 million loan** with a **35-year** maturity to maintain and upgrade an **800 km** highway corridor in **Rajasthan**. This project introduces a **"Step Up Loan Structure"** in India for the very first time.

14. Initiatives Launched for Water Conservation in Railways and Gig Economy Employment

- The **Kankariya Coaching Depot** in **Ahmedabad** has officially become India's first water-neutral railway depot.
- The **Labor Ministry** signed an **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Porter** (a logistics company) and **GigIndia** via the **National Career Service (NCS)** portal.

15. Key Government Directives Issued in Education, Health, Security, and Technology

- The **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)** launched the **3rd edition** of the **Vibrant Advocacy for Advancement and Nurturing of Indian Languages (VAANI)** scheme to promote technical education using **22** Indian regional languages.
- The **Meghalaya Government** approved an ordinance to amend the **State Language Act 2005**, officially elevating the **Khasi** and **Garo** languages to full official language status alongside English.
- **Telangana** declared cancer a "**notifiable disease**," making it strictly mandatory for all hospitals, labs, and clinics to report positive cases within a **one-month** timeframe.

Key Features of the VAANI 3.0 Scheme

Financial Assistance: AICTE has allocated **₹4 crore annually** to support academic activities.

Event Support: The scheme supports around **200 conferences, seminars, and workshops** each year.

Institutional Funding: Selected AICTE-approved institutions will receive up to **₹2 lakh per event**, which typically lasts two to three days.

Language Coverage: The program promotes knowledge dissemination in **22 Indian languages**, including Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Bengali, Marathi, and Punjabi.

16. Tourism Initiatives Launched and New Rajya Sabha Secretary Appointed

- **Rajya Sabha** Chairman **CP Radhakrishnan** appointed **Dr. K.S. Somasekhar** as the new **Rajya Sabha Secretary** to handle the upper house's administrative body.
- **NITI Aayog** Vice Chairman **Suman K Bery** launched an anthology titled "**Divya Bharat: A Window to the Soul of India**," featuring **3,000** curated listings to promote cultural heritage.
- Chief of Defense Staff **Anil Chauhan** flagged off the **Surya Bhumi Challenge 2.0** in **Uttarakhand**, an **113 km** expedition across the **Char Dham** corridor aiming to promote religious tourism.

17. Global Space Developments Involving NASA, Space Nuclear Power, and Amazon

- **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** four-person **Artemis II** crew (**Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, Christina Koch, and Jeremy Hansen**) safely splashed down in the **Pacific Ocean** off **San Diego** in the **Orion** capsule.
- The **United States (USA)** unveiled the **National Initiative for American Space Nuclear Power Policy**, targeting the deployment of low-to-mid power nuclear reactors in space orbit by **2028** and on the **Moon** and **Mars** by **2030**.
- **Amazon** is acquiring **Globalstar** in an **\$11.57 billion** deal to bolster its "**Project Kuiper**," a **low Earth orbit (LEO)** satellite network designed to rival **SpaceX's Starlink**.
- **NASA** and the **European Space Agency** announced that a **SpaceX Falcon Heavy** rocket will launch the '**Rosalind Franklin**' rover to **Mars** in **2028** to search for past and present signs of life.

18. Advancements in Indian Technology, AI Missions, and ISRO Partnerships

- **Herbalife India** and **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** signed an **MoU** to establish India's first **Center of Excellence** on plant cell fermentation technology at the **IIT Madras Research Park** in **Chennai**.
- **Meta** replaced its **LLaMA 4** AI model with a new model named "**Muse Spark**," designed for reasoning in math, science, and health.
- India saw a **30.2%** increase in patent applications, reaching **143,729** filings (**69%** domestic, led by **Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Maharashtra**), making India the world's **6th** largest patent filer globally.

19. Indian Defense Forces Undertake Exercise DUSTLIK and Samudra Sahas Expedition

- The **Indian Army** departed for the **7th** edition of the India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise "**DUSTLIK**," held from **April 12 to 25, 2026**, at the **Gurumsaray Training Area** in **Uzbekistan**.
- The **Indian Army** flagged off its first **Blue Water Sailing Expedition** named "**Samudra Sahas**" from **Marve, Mumbai**, as part of the **Artillery Regiment's bicentenary** celebrations.

- India also participated in the **World Border Security Congress in Vienna, Austria**, where the delegation, led by Additional Director General **Anand Prakash Badola**, highlighted India's maritime security leadership.

- The "**Samudra Sahas**" expedition is a **520-nautical-mile** journey on **21-foot Seabird** class boats divided into four legs (**Mumbai to Vijaydurg, Goa, Vijaydurg**, and back to **Mumbai**), led by Captain **Kshitij Nair** and Subedar **Prakash Phande**.

20. Major Cricket Announcements, Player Contracts, and Global Sporting Achievements

- **Ajit Agarkar's** contract as the Chief Selector of the **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** Senior Selection Committee was renewed for another year, targeting the **2027 ODI World Cup** (hosted by **South Africa, Namibia, and Zimbabwe**).

- **Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA)** became the first state association to launch an annual player contract system for domestic cricket players (who do not represent India internationally or play in the IPL). Grades include: **Grade A (₹12-15 lakh)**, **Grade B (₹8-12 lakh)**, and **Grade C (₹8 lakh)**.

- In the **Wisden Cricketers' Almanack 2025 (163rd Edition)**, Australia's **Mitchell Starc** was named Leading Men's Cricketer, and India's **Deepti Sharma** named Leading Women's Cricketer.

- Indian shooters **Palak Gulia** and **Mukesh Nelavalli** won gold in the **10m Air Pistol** mixed team event at the **ISSF World Cup 2026 in Granada, Spain**, setting a junior category world record. China topped the tally (**8 golds**), Germany second (**1 gold**), India third (**1 gold**).

- **Aaradhya Kapil**, a **10-year-and-7-month-old** boy, became the youngest Indian chess player to secure an **International Master** norm after drawing against Australia's **Samuel Asaka** in Spain.

- Other Wisden awards: **Abhishek Sharma** (Leading T20 Cricketer), **Shubman Gill** (**Wisden Trophy** for scoring over **430** runs). Others recognized included **Ravindra Jadeja, Rishabh Pant, Mohammed Siraj**, and England's **Haseeb Hameed**.

- **Sanju Samson** won the **International Cricket Council (ICC)** Player of the Month (**March 2026**) Men's award, while **Amelia Kerr** won the Women's award.

- Tennis star **Carlos Alcaraz** became the global brand ambassador for **Infosys**.

21. Global Rankings, Awards, Important Days, and Memory Tricks

- **Gautam Adani** became the richest person in Asia (**ranking 19th globally**) with a net worth of **\$92.6 billion** on the **Bloomberg Billionaires Index**, surpassing **Mukesh Ambani** (**20th globally, \$90.8 billion**). Globally, **Elon Musk** is wealthiest (**\$656 billion**), followed by **Larry Page** and **Jeff Bezos**.

- Bollywood actress **Sayani Gupta** (also cited as **Sani Gupta**) won the **Harvard South Asian Association Award** (South Asian Person of the Year).

- Kerala Botanist **N. Aleem Yusuf** won the **World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) National Award** for developing an AI app named "**Neophyte ID**" to identify invasive plant species.

- **April 20** is observed as **UN Chinese Language Day**, honoring **Cangjie** (the legendary inventor of Chinese characters), coinciding with "**Guyu**" (Grain Rain). The 2026 theme is "**Chinese Language: Shining Civilizations and Fluent Futures Forum. Chinese Learning and Youth Engagement for a Multilingual UN 2 World**". The UN has six official languages (Arabic, Chinese [added **1945**], English, French, Russian, Spanish), but its two working languages are English and French.

- **April 10: 108th** anniversary of the **Champaran Satyagraha (1917)**.

- **April 13: 107th** anniversary of the **Jallianwala Bagh** massacre (**1919**).

- **April 14: National Fire Service Day** (honoring firefighters from the **1944 Bombay Dock** explosion) and **World Quantum Day** (Theme: "**Shaping the quantum workforce**").

- **April 14–20: Fire Service Week** (Theme: "**Safe School, Safe Hospital, and Fire Safety Aware Society - Together for Fire Prevention**").

- **April 15: World Art Day** (Theme: "**A garden of expression: cultivating community through art**").

- **April 16: World Voice Day** (Theme: "**Caring for our vision**").

- **South Asian Countries Memory Trick: "BAN BIM"** stands for **Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Nepal, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka**.

- **Punatsangchu-I Hydro Power Project** is a **1200 MW** project located in **Bhutan**.

Nandyla Banking Coaching Center