

1. Various Institutions Update India's GDP Projections and Macroeconomic Indicators

- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** raised India's GDP growth forecast for both FY27 and FY28 to **6.5%**, while projecting **7.6%** for FY26.
- The **World Bank** revised India's GDP growth prediction to **6.6%**, up from its previous **6.3%**.
- **Standard & Poor's (S&P)** and **CRISIL** projected the GDP at **7.1%** for FY27.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** projected growth at **6.9%** for FY27.
- **SBI Research** forecasted growth between **6.8%** to **7.1%**, while **Morgan Stanley** projected **6.2%** for FY27.
- The **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** projected growth at **6.1%**, and **Moody's** projected **6.0%** for FY27.
- India's Wholesale Price Inflation (WPI) for March 2026 rose to a 3-month high of **3.88%** (rounded to **3.9%**).
- The Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation for March 2026 stood at **3.4%**.
- The **IMF** and **World Bank** are headquartered in **Washington D.C., USA**.
- The **IMF** has **190 member countries** (with **Andorra** being the 190th), and its Managing Director is **Kristalina Georgieva**.

2. India's Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Inflows and International Trade Dynamics

- India received **\$47.87 billion** in total FDI equity inflows during the April-Dec FY26 period.
- **Singapore** emerged as the top FDI source country with **\$17.6 billion** (**37%** of the total share), followed by the **USA** (**\$7.8 billion**) and **Mauritius** (**\$4.8 billion**).
- The top sectors receiving FDI were Computer software/hardware (**22%**) and services (**18%**).
- The top states receiving FDI were **Maharashtra** with the highest at **\$50.38 billion**, followed by **Karnataka** at **\$11.15 billion**.
- **China** overtook the **USA** to become India's largest trading partner in 2025-26 with a total trade value of **\$151.1 billion**.
- India exported **\$19.47 billion** to **China** but imported **\$131.63 billion**, resulting in a massive trade deficit of over **\$112 billion**.
- India and **South Korea** established a target to reach **\$54 billion** in bilateral trade by **2030**.
- **South Korean** company **POSCO Group** and **JSW Steel** signed a **\$7.3 billion** joint venture to build a **6-million-ton** steel plant in **Odisha** by **2031**.
- **South Korean** President **Lee Jae-myung** arrived in India on an official visit.

3. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Regulations on Note Exchange and Bank Operations

- The **RBI** mandated that all bank branches (even without a currency chest) must provide free, non-discriminatory note and coin exchange services to everyone, including non-customers.
- For soiled notes (dirty or faded but intact), the exchange limit is **20 pieces** or **₹5,000** per day over the counter, with larger amounts credited to a bank account within **7 days**.
- For mutilated notes (missing portions), the limit is **5 pieces** on the spot, while more pieces take **30 days** to process.
- Rejections apply to notes with political or religious slogans (e.g., "**Modi Hatao**").
- Severely burnt or brittle notes require submission directly to an **RBI** office.
- The **RBI** cancelled the license of the **National Urban Co-operative Bank of Pratapgarh**.
- **Shriram Finance** received in-principle approval from the **RBI** to begin a Primary Dealer (PD) business through its subsidiary, **Shriram Overseas Investment Limited**, allowing them to underwrite and trade government securities.
- The **RBI** allowed premature redemption for **Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs)** issued in 2020-21 (**Series VII**).
- Depositors of the cancelled co-operative bank will receive insurance protection up to **₹5 lakh** from the **Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)**.
- **Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs)** have an **8-year** maturity period, but investors can opt for premature withdrawal after **5 years**.

- The redemption prices for **SGBs** are fixed by the **RBI** based on gold price data from the **Indian Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA)**.
- Imperfect notes are defined as washed, shrunk, burnt, or written on.

4. Significant Milestones in Digital Banking and Financial Technologies

- The **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** launched an AI-powered chatbot named "**Abhay**".
- Chief Justice of India **Surya Kant** unveiled the "**Abhay**" chatbot.
- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** partnered with **TransUnion CIBIL** to allow users to check credit scores directly on the **Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM)** application.
- Fintech platform **CheQ** partnered with **AU Small Finance Bank** to launch India's first co-branded LED-powered credit card.
- The **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** launched two new digital apps under its **Digital Innovation and Value Enhancement (DIVE)** initiative.
- The "**My LIC**" app allows customers to manage policies and pay premiums, while "**Super Sales Saathi**" equips agents with real-time policy tracking and AI-driven digital sales kits.
- The **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** was founded on **September 1, 1956**, is headquartered in **Mumbai**, and its **Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director** is **R. Doraiswamy**.

5. Key Developments by Global Financial Institutions and Corporate Sector

- The **World Bank Group** launched the multilateral '**Water Forward**' initiative.
- The **World Bank** targets **400 million** people via country-led "**Water Compacts**", while partner institutions (**Asian Development Bank (ADB)**, **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)**, **European Investment Bank (EIB)**, and **New Development Bank (NDB)**) target the remaining **600 million**.
- The **World Bank** approved a **\$225 million** step-up loan to modernize **800 km** of state highways in **Rajasthan**.
- The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** launched the world's first **Sovereign Financial Cloud** in partnership with **Core 42**.
- **Kuwait** and **Papua New Guinea** were added to the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** Grey List.
- The **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** received **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** approval to launch the "**National Coal Exchange of India Limited**".
- The **Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU)** and **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to share suspicious transaction information.
- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** appointed **Rakesh Bhanot** as the acting Director General to lead its investigative arm, succeeding **Anuman Patnayak**.
- The '**Water Forward**' initiative aims to ensure water security for **1 billion** people by **2030** and will fund and advise countries on resilience against floods and droughts.
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) spending by **NSE-listed** companies increased by **23%** to **₹22,212 crore** in 2024-25.
- The top CSR spenders were **Reliance Industries**, **HDFC Bank**, and **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)**, with **Maharashtra** receiving the highest CSR funds.

6. Wealth Rankings and Global Economic Projections by the WEF

- Following a surge in **Adani Group** stocks, **Gautam Adani** (**\$92.6 billion**) surpassed **Mukesh Ambani** (**\$90.8 billion**) to become the richest person in India and Asia.
- The **World Economic Forum (WEF)** released a report titled "**Growth in the New Economy: Toward a Blueprint**".
- **Elon Musk** remains the richest person globally.

7. Legislative Updates in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Appointments

- The **131st Constitutional Amendment Bill of 2026** (also known as the **Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam** or **Women's Reservation Bill 2026**) was defeated in the **Lok Sabha**.
- The bill proposed a **33%** reservation for women alongside seat delimitation.
- In the **Rajya Sabha**, Chairperson **C.P. Radhakrishnan** appointed **Dr. K.S. Soma Sekhar** as Secretary.
- **Harivansh Narayan Singh** was elected unopposed as Deputy Chairperson of the **Rajya Sabha** for his third consecutive term.
- The bill required a special two-thirds majority (**360** votes or **352** out of **528** present MPs) but received only **298** votes in favor and **230** against.
- The **Lok Sabha** is known as the Lower House or Popular House, with a maximum constitutional strength of **550** (**530** states, **20** Union Territories), though it currently stands at **543**.

8. Major National Infrastructure and Technological Advancements

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated India's first greenfield integrated refinery-cum-petrochemical complex in **Pachpadra, Rajasthan**.
- India's first advanced 3D glass chip packaging unit is being established in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha** by **Heterogeneous Integration Packaging Solutions Pvt Ltd**.
- The Union Cabinet approved extending the **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana 3 (PMGSY-3)** beyond its original **March 2025** deadline to **March 2028**, with a revised outlay of **₹83,977 crore**.
- The **Central Electricity Authority (CEA)** Chairman announced a target to increase India's nuclear power capacity from **8.8 GW** to **100 GW** by **2047**, coinciding with 100 years of independence.
- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, approved the creation of the **Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool** with a sovereign guarantee of **₹12,980 crore**.

9. Government Schemes, Cultural Policies, and Educational Initiatives

- The **Ministry of Textiles**, alongside the **National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT)**, launched "**Vishwa Sutra**" (Weaves of India for the world) at the **61st Femina Miss India 2026** event.
- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY)** constituted a Technology and Policy Expert Committee to support the newly established **AI Governance and Economic Group (AIG)**.
- The **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)** launched **VAANI 3.0 (Vibrant Advocacy for Advancement and Nurturing of Indian Languages)**.
- Over **55,200** startups were recognized in FY 25-26 under the **Startup India** initiative, taking India's total to **2.23 lakh**.
- The maximum loan facility per borrower under the **Startup India** credit guarantee scheme was increased to **₹20 crore**.
- The **Indian Railways** celebrated its **173rd Anniversary**, commemorated by Railway Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw**.
- "**Vishwa Sutra**" globally promotes Indian handlooms, showcasing a **30-piece** traditional weave collection blending Indian styles with designs from **30 countries**.
- The **VAANI 3.0** scheme has an annual allocation of **₹40 crore** and provides **₹2 lakh** to selected educational institutions.
- The **Indian Railways** anniversary commemorated the first passenger train journey on **April 16, 1853**, covering **34 km** from **Bori Bunder (Mumbai)** to **Thane**.

10. Advancements in Space Exploration and International Defense Operations

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** Space Application Centre partnered with the **Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE)** for sustainable land use, climate action, and biodiversity conservation.
- **ISRO** announced a **G20 satellite** mission for **2027** to study climate change, air pollution, and weather patterns.
- Australian Chancellor **Christian Stalker** visited India from April 14th to 17th, participating in the **17th India-Australia Joint Economic Commission** in **New Delhi**.

- **Australia** signed a **\$7 billion** deal to acquire advanced stealth warships where **Japan** will build and supply **Mogami-class** frigates to the **Royal Australian Navy** starting in **2029**.
- Under the **Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)** initiative, Indian Navy ship **INS Sunayna** visited **Phuket, Thailand**, and sailed for **Indonesia**.
- Chief of Defence Staff General **Anil Chauhan** flagged off the **Surya Devbhoomi Challenge 2.0** expedition in **Badrinath, Uttarakhand**.
- **INS Sunayna** conducted a Passing Exercise (**PASSEX**) with the **Royal Thai Navy** to improve inter-operability.

11. Notable State-Specific Initiatives and Developments

- **Telangana** observed "**Arrive Alive Road Safety Week**" (April 13-17) and introduced a **99-day** action plan titled "**Praja Palana Pragathi Pranalika**".
- **Andhra Pradesh's Amaravati Capital Region Development Authority** will raise **₹15,000 crore** from the **World Bank** and **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** for the Amaravati capital project.
- The **Punjab** Assembly passed the "**Anti-Disrespect Bill 2026**".
- In **Karnataka**, the **Bengaluru Water Board** became the first in India to receive **ISO 50001** certification by **Bureau Veritas**.
- The **Bannerghatta Biological Park** in **Karnataka** received **four cheetahs** from **South Africa**.
- **Meghalaya** granted official state language status to the **Khasi** and **Garo** languages alongside English.
- **Manipur** announced plans to establish a new bird sanctuary at the **Kharung Pat wetland** in **Kakching** district under the **Wildlife Protection Act**.
- **Project Sanjeevani** in **Telangana** is India's first fully integrated highway trauma care and rescue system.
- **Punjab's "Anti-Disrespect Bill 2026"** makes disrespect of the holy **Guru Granth Sahib** punishable by life imprisonment and a **₹25 lakh** fine.
- **Meghalaya Cabinet** approved the **Meghalaya Official Languages Ordinance, 2026** on April 16, 2026, granting **Khasi and Garo** full official status alongside English.
- **Telangana's** Chief Minister is **Revanth Reddy**, the Deputy CM is **Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka**, and the Governor is **Shiv Pratap Shukla**.
- India currently has **28 states and 8 Union Territories**.
- The arrival of cheetahs in **Karnataka** marks the first time imported cheetahs are housed outside **Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park**.

12. Key Appointments, Obituaries, and National Awards

- Former Union Railway Minister **Dinesh Trivedi** was appointed as India's new High Commissioner to **Bangladesh**, succeeding **Pranay Verma**.
- **Oscar Schmidt**, a **68-year-old** Brazilian basketball legend and five-time Olympian known as the "**Holy Hand**", passed away.
- **Balbir Punj**, former BJP Rajya Sabha MP, senior journalist, and author of "**Tryst with Ayodhya**" and "**Narrative Ka Mayajaal**", passed away at **76**.
- **Bhagwandas Raikwar (Dao)**, a pioneer of Bundeli martial arts who received the **Padma Shri** in April 2026, passed away at **83** in **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**.
- The **Sahitya Akademi Awards 2025** were given to **Navtej Sarna** (English) for **Crimson Spring**, **Mamta Kalita** (Hindi) for **Jeete Ji Allahabad**, and **Yogesh Vaidya** (Gujarati) for his poetry **Bhatt Khadki**.
- **Saadhvi Satish Sael** (also listed as **Sadhvi Sail**) representing **Goa**, was crowned **Femina Miss India World 2026** at the 61st grand finale held at **IIT Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.
- Bollywood actress **Sayani Gupta** was named **Person of the Year 2026** by the **Harvard South Asian Association**.
- **Dr. Chadri Shin Nas Rao**, Director of the **Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI)**, received the **9th MS Swaminathan Award (2024-25)** in **Hyderabad**.
- **Nitisha Yogesh Antakar** was crowned **Miss Sake India 2026** in **Mumbai**.

- The **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** awarded the **GreenPro Eco Label** to **Rathi Steel and Power Limited**.
- The theme for the **Femina Miss India World 2026** pageant was "**Daughters of the Soil**", and the winner will represent India at **Miss World 2027**.

13. Recent Developments and Victories in Sports

- The **Paralympic Committee of India (PCI)** and the **French Institute in India** launched the "**Para Udan Initiative**".
- Indian chess player **R Vaishali** won the **FIDE Women's Candidates 2026** tournament held in **Cyprus**.
- **A. S. Sharvaanica** won the **FIDE World Rapid Under-12 Girls Championship** held in **Serbia**.
- **Hockey Jharkhand** secured their third consecutive title at the **16th Hockey India Sub-Junior Women National Championship 2026** held in **Ranchi, Jharkhand**.

14. Important Days and Themes (April)

- **World Creativity and Innovation Day** was observed on **April 21**.
- **National Civil Service Day** was observed on **April 21**.
- **World Hemophilia Day** was observed on **April 17**.
- The **International Day for Monuments and Sites** was observed on **April 18**.
- **National Fire Service Day/Week** was observed on **April 14 / April 14-20**.
- The 2026 theme for **World Creativity and Innovation Day** was "**Harnessing Creativity for Global Progress**".
- The theme for **World Hemophilia Day** was "**Diagnostics first step to care**".
- The theme for the **International Day for Monuments and Sites** was "**Emergency response for living heritage in context of conflicts and distance**".
- The theme for **National Fire Service Day/Week** was "**Safe School, Safe Hospital, Fire Safety Aware Society, Together for Fire Prevention**".