



22-28 February Weekly Summary

India AI Impact Summit 2026

Inaugurated by PM Modi in New Delhi. India joins US-led Pact Silica Initiative as 10th member to secure global semiconductor supply chains.

Cashless Highways

Effective April 1, 2026: Cash payments discontinued at National Highway Toll Plazas. FASTag or UPI only. Non-tag vehicles charged double.

Naval Command Leadership

India assumes chairmanship of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) after 16 years. 9th Conclave led by CNS Dinesh K Tripathi.

NATIONAL

Vibrant Villages Program (Phase 2)

- Launched by Home Minister Amit Shah. ₹6,839 crore outlay targeting 1,954 villages along Pakistan & Bangladesh borders.

ECONOMY

PFC & REC Merger

- High-level panel formed to oversee merger of Power Finance Corporation and Rural Electrification Corporation.

TECH

Rare Earth Mission

- Domestic production of Rare Earth Permanent Magnets (REPM) to begin by end of 2026. Aim: Reduce 95% import dependency.

SOCIAL

Minority Affairs

- Chintan Shivir at Nalanda University. Launch of 'Nigrani App' and Haj Tourist Band.

Net Zero Milestone

Belagram (Maharashtra) declared India's first Net Zero Village. Honored at Mumbai Climate Week 2026.

Assam: Launched 'Provincialisation Management System' portal. 'Guru Dakshina Scheme' for teaching staff.

NDMA & CSIR-NIScPR partner for disaster policy research.

Aviation Expansion

Bihar approves 'Sonpur International Airport' (Greenfield). ₹1,302 crore allocated for land acquisition. Target: 2030.

GENDER BUDGET:

₹5.01 lakh crore
(9.37% of total budget).

PLI SCHEME:

Generated ₹2.16 lakh crore investment. Created 14+ lakh jobs.

Peru Leadership: Jose Maria Balcazar appointed Interim President following impeachment of Josue Jerry.

2012 → 2022-23

BASE YEAR

REVISION

GDP BASE YEAR REVISION:

Moving from 2012 to 2022-23.
Method: Double Deflation.

REGULATORY ACTION

RBI Action: Penalized UCO Bank (₹38.60 Lakh) for non-compliance on interest rates and locker norms.

INDUSTRY CONSOLIDATION

Schedule Change: New India Cooperative Bank removed from RBI Second Schedule following merger with Saraswat Cooperative Bank.

PRODUCT INNOVATION

Product Launch: ICICI Bank 'Swasthya Pension Scheme' (Retirement + Medical). Axis Bank & IndiGo co-branded cards.

GOVERNANCE & COMPLIANCE

Ease of Doing Business: Gyaneshwar Kumar Singh appointed Chair of IICA High-Level Advisory Group.



Global Summit Calendar



2026: G7 Summit
(Evian, France) -
PM Modi Invited.



Dec 2026: G20
Leaders Summit
(Miami, USA).



2027: AI Summit
(Geneva).



2028: AI Summit
(UAE).

Brazil-India: President Lula da Silva inaugurates 'ApexBrasil' trade office in New Delhi with 260-company delegation.

Exercise MILAN 2026

Largest edition inaugurated in Visakhapatnam. 74 nations participating. Theme: Camaraderie, Cohesion, Collaboration.

Gujarat MoU with L&T for 250 MW 'Green AI-ready Data Center' in Dholera. 100% renewable energy.

GI Tag: Salem Sago (Tamil Nadu) received Geographical Indication tag.

Ayush Film Festival: 'Wellness Beyond Walls' by Dr. Arun wins Best Film.

Pankaj Advani: Appointed Brand Ambassador for Libo Win.

Gyaneshwar Kumar Singh: Chairperson, IICA Advisory Group on Ease of Doing Business.

Guinness World Record

Most pledges for an AI responsibility campaign in 24 hours (25,946 pledges) under India AI Mission.

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Infrastructure Deal

Tata Group & TCS to build 100 MW AI infrastructure, scalable to 1 GW. Leveraging OpenAI's Codex.

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Language Tech

VoiceEra: Multilingual voice AI platform launched under Bhashini.

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Health AI

Indo-French Centre for AI in Health launched at AIIMS New Delhi.

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UNESCO Heritage Award of Merit: Our Lady of Grace Cathedral (Vasai, Maharashtra).

CEO of the Year: Subodh Gupta recognized at **Business Leader of the Year Awards.**

Obituaries

Mani Shankar Mukherji ('Shankar'): Eminent Bengali author and Sahitya Akademi awardee (92).

Ricky Andrew J. Syngkon: Member of Parliament from Shillong.

M.M. Baig: Veteran Filmmaker.

BILLIARDS

Pankaj Advani wins inaugural Libo Win Champion Cup 2026.

CRICKET

Ellyse Perry (Australia) becomes 3rd most-capped woman player (350). Harmanpreet Kaur holds top spot.

STATEHOOD DAYS

Feb 20 Mizoram & Arunachal Pradesh.

94

India's Medal Tally at Asian Shooting Championship 2026. Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar sets world record.

PARALYMPICS

Ban on Russia and Belarus lifted for Milano Cortina Winter Paralympics 2026.

BOOK RELEASE

'The Sage Who Visioned Hinduism' (Sree Narayana Guru). Authored by Shashi Tharoor.

INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY

Feb 21

Theme: Youth voices on multilingual education. VP releases Tamil/Gujarati Constitution trans.

WORLD PEACE & UNDERSTANDING DAY

Feb 23

World Peace & (Rotary International).

UP: Semiconductor Hub

- PM inaugurated HCL-Foxconn unit in Jewar, Noida.
- Part of 'India Semiconductor Mission' (₹1,000 crore budget).

TRANSIT INFRASTRUCTURE: THE NAMO BHARAT & METRO INTEGRATION

Inauguration

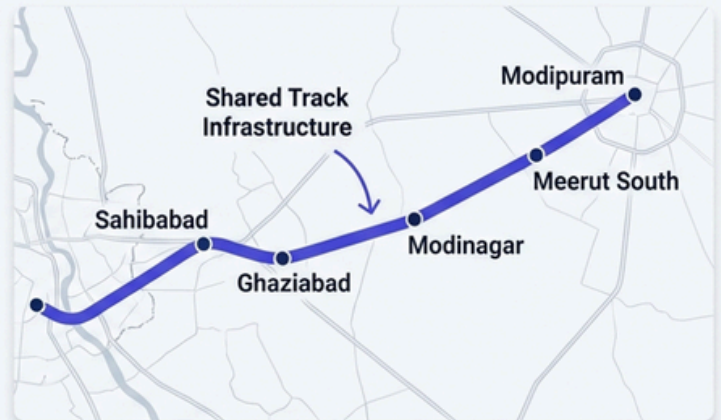
Prime Minister Modi dedicated the 82 km Delhi-Meerut *Namo Bharat* Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) and Meerut Metro sections at Shatabdi Nagar Station.

Operational Synergies

- **Shared Infrastructure:** Both systems utilize the same tracks and stations.
- **Namo Bharat:** Connects Delhi to Meerut regional hubs.
- **Meerut Metro:** India's fastest metro (120 km/h operational speed); covers 23 km in 30 minutes.

Industrial Impact

- **Make in India:** 100% of rolling stock manufactured by Alstom (formerly Bombardier) in Hyderabad.
- **Policy Update:** National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) mandates toll payments exclusively via FASTag from April 1.



Bihar: Aviation Hub

- Cabinet approved Greenfield International Airport in Sonpur.
- 4,228 acres; designed as South Asia's largest aviation hub.

Counter-Terrorism: PRAHAAR

- Launched by Home Minister Amit Shah.
- **PRAHAAR:** Prevention of Terror Attack to Protect Citizen and National Interest.
- **Focus:** Cross-border terrorism, drone attacks, and cyber threats.

Social Reform: Maharashtra

- **Sondhala** village declared 'Caste-Free' via 'Aamchi Jaat Manavata' resolution.
- **Actions:** Banned discrimination; supports widow remarriage.

Andhra Pradesh: Energy Storage

- Waaree Energies establishing India's largest Li-ion battery gigafactory.
- Capacity: 16 Gigawatt hours (GWh) | Investment: ₹8,175 crore.

Conservation: '1 GB Didi'

- **Jharkhand:** Palamu Tiger Reserve initiative.
- Women employed as 'Vanjeevi Didis' (forest ambassadors) with monthly stipends.

Food Security: 'Meri Rasoil'

- **Punjab:** Scheme launched to provide free food kits to 40 lakh Blue Card holder families.

ECONOMIC STRATEGY: MONETIZATION & EXPORT FRAMEWORKS

₹16.72 Lakh Crore

NMP 2.0 Monetization Target (2025-2030)

MONETIZATION

National Monetization Pipeline (NMP) 2.0

- **Launch:** By Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman; developed by NITI Aayog.
- **Structure:** 5-year pipeline aiming for ₹5.8 lakh crore in private sector investment.
- **Sector Priority:** 1. Highways, 2. Power, 3. Ports.

TRADE & EXPORTS

Export Promotion Mission (EPM)

- **Budget:** ₹2,560 crore for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
- **Niryat Protsahan:** ₹1,400 crore for factoring support and e-commerce credit guarantees.
- **Niryat Disha:** ₹1,160 crore including TRACE (certification reimbursement) and FLOW (warehousing).

Data Revision

- Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S) revised Merchandise Trade Indices base year to **FY 2022-23**.

NPCI & Unified Payments Interface (UPI)

- **Global Reach:** Recognized as world's largest real-time payment system (**170 billion annual transactions**).
- **One World Wallet:** Expanded to travelers from 40 countries.
- **Voice Commerce:** Partnership with Razorpay for AI-assisted food ordering.

Global Summits

- **G7 Summit:** PM Modi invited to the 52nd G7 Summit (2026) in France.
- **Gaza Peace:** India participated as observer in Board of Peace for Gaza meeting (Washington D.C.).

Banking Regulation

- **Penalty:** ₹38.60 lakh imposed on UCO Bank.
- **Exclusion:** New India Co-operative Bank removed from RBI 2nd Schedule.
- **Solar Financing:** MIGA issued \$197.67 million guarantee to Citibank for SBI rooftop solar loans.

International Leadership

- **Netherlands:** Rob Jetten became youngest and first openly gay Prime Minister.

Maritime Leadership



- **IONS Chairmanship:** Indian Navy assumed chair of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (2026-2028).
- **Leadership:** Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi took charge from Royal Thai Navy.

Bilateral Ties: India-Brazil

- Signed agreements on MSME cooperation and **Postal Service digitization**.
- Target set to increase bilateral trade volume by 2030.

Corporate Milestone

- **Amazon:** Surpassed Walmart as world's largest company by revenue (\$76.9 billion net sales).

Health Technology

- **AIIMS New Delhi:** Launched Indo-French Centre for AI & Health.
- **AIIMS Bhubaneswar:** Inaugurated Robotic Surgery System.
- **Vaccines:** Indigenous Adult Diphtheria (Td) vaccine launched.

AI Governance

- **New Delhi Declaration:** Adopted by 89 countries (Bangladesh joined as 89th) to leverage AI for growth.
- **Record:** Guinness Record for 'most AI responsibility pledges in 24 hours'.

Project Cheetah Expansion

- **Translocation:** 8 new cheetahs arriving from Botswana to Kuno National Park.
- **Total Count:** 46 Cheetahs.
- **New Habitats:** Preparations underway at Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary and Nauradehi.

Green Energy & Resources

- **Solar Finance:** MIGA issued \$197.67 million guarantee to Citibank for rooftop solar loans to SBI.
- **Rare Earth Magnets:** India targets 66,000 MTPA capacity by 2026 to reduce import reliance.
- **Net Zero:** Belagram (Maharashtra) recognized as First Net Zero Village.

BAFTA Awards:

- *Heeramandi:* Best Children's and Family Film.
- *One Battle After Another:* Best Film.
- Alia Bhatt: Debut presenter.
- **UNESCO:** Our Lady of Grace Cathedral (Maharashtra) won 2025 Award of Merit.

• **Jose Maria Balcazar:** Interim President of Peru.

- **Rajan Bajaj:** MD & CEO of Slice Small Finance Bank.
- **Vivek Chaturvedi:** Chief of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).

Obituaries

- **Mukul Roy:** Former Railway Minister & TMC founder.
- **Mani Shankar Mukherjee:** Renowned Bengali author ('Shankar').
- **Vungzagin Valte:** Manipur MLA.

GDP Projections (SBI Research/NSO)

- **Q3 GDP (Oct-Dec):** 8% to 8.1% (Driven by rural consumption).
- **FY27 Projection:** 6.8% to 7.2% (vs Global 3.3%).

Missile Systems

- **Test Fire:** Indian Army successfully tested *Strela-10* Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) in Pokhran.
- **Capability:** Neutralizes low-flying aircraft/drones (6-10 km range).

Naval Commissions & Expeditions

- **INS Anjadip:** 3rd Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft commissioned.
- **INS Sudarshini:** Reached Egypt as part of Lokayan 2026 maritime expedition.

Exercises & Institutional

- **Dharma Guardian:** India-Japan joint military drill commenced in Uttarakhand.
- **Merger Panel:** Oversight panel formed for merger of Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and Rural Electrification Corporation (REC).

- **Ice Hockey:** USA Men won Gold (first since 1980); USA Women also secured Gold.

- **Billiards:** Pankaj Advani won the inaugural Labour Win Champions Cup 2026.
- **Tennis:** Tomas Martin Etcheverry won the Rio Open title.
- **Khelo India:** 2nd leg of Winter Games 2026 began in Gulmarg, J&K.

Double Taxation Avoidance Convention

- **New Rate (5%):** Companies with >10% shareholding (Capital gains/Dividends).
- **New Rate (15%):** All other categories.
- **Previous Rate:** Flat 10% for all.

Important Days



Feb 20: Foundation Day (Mizoram & Arunachal Pradesh)



Feb 21: Int'l Mother Language Day



Feb 22: World Thinking Day



Feb 24: Central Excise Day



Chandigarh Profile



• **Administration:** Shared capital of Punjab & Haryana.
Administrator: Gulab Chand Kataria.



• **Architecture:** Planned by Le Corbusier.
(Note: Sector 13 omitted due to superstition).



• **Symbols:**
- Emblem: Open Hand Monument.
- Animal: Grey Mongoose. 
- Bird: Grey Hornbill. 



• **GI Tag:** Phulkari embroidery.

CM Jan Sunwai Portal (Delhi)

- Launch: CM Rekha Gupta.
- Modes: App, Portal, Call Center, Offline.



H3 Related Initiatives

- CM Pragati: Portal for asset records.
- Accountability: Negative feedback triggers auto-escalation.



Bangla Yuva Sathi Scheme (West Bengal)

- **Effective:** April 1st.
- **Benefit:** ₹1,500 monthly assistance.
- **Budget:** ₹5,000 Crore allocation.
- **Eligibility:** Unemployed youth (21-40), Class 10 pass, not covered by other schemes.
- **Duration:** Max 5 years.

1.1 Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Infrastructure & Governance

Greenfield High-Security Data Center

- **Location:** Established in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.
- Selected for geographic safety from cross-border drone/missile threats.
- Located away from high-risk seismic zones.

Function & Standards

- Serves as the second data center, complementing the primary facility in Kharghar, Navi Mumbai.
- Houses core computing systems for regulatory functions, settlements, and currency management.
- **Standards:** Achieved **Tier-IV certification**, ensuring highest reliability standards.



Skill India Campaign ('Badhna Hai To Yahan Judna Hai')

- **Objective:** Accelerate digital skill movement.
- **Minister:** Jayant Chaudhary.



Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) Data



Maritime & Transit Developments

- **Maritime:** ₹1500 crore project foundation at V.O. Chidambaranar Port, TN.
- **RTS (Rapid Rail):** 82 km Namo Bharat corridor (Delhi-Meerut).
- **Technology:** Rolling stock manufactured by Alstom (France).



Trade & E-Commerce Outlook (BCG Report)

Market Size 2030:	\$280-\$300 billion
User Base 2030:	440 Million
E-services Growth:	20% Annually

Indigenous Tetanus and Adult Diphtheria (Td) Vaccine



- **Launched By:** Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda at CRI Kasauli.
- **Purpose:** Replaces TT vaccine; combats diphtheria immunity decline.
- **Target:** **55 Lakh doses** for Universal Immunization Program by **April 2026**.

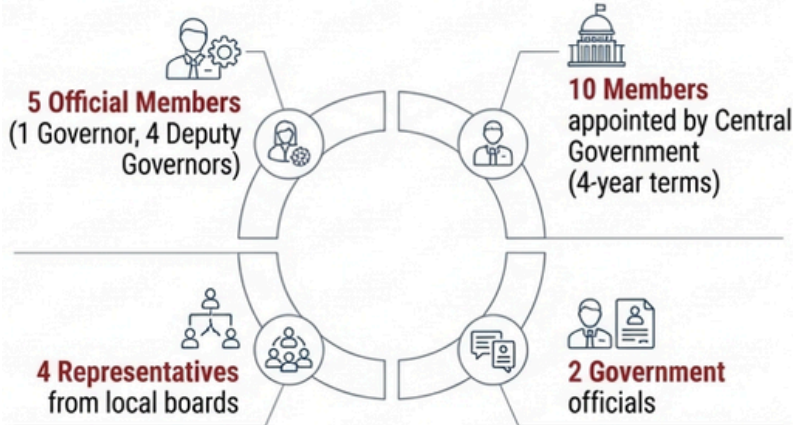
Ukraine Reconstruction

- **Total Estimate:** **\$588 Billion (+12%)**.
- **GDP Impact:** Shrunk 21% since 2021.

621st Central Board Meeting

- **Venue:** Held in **New Delhi**.
- **Leadership:** Chaired by RBI Governor **Sanjay Malhotra**; Addressed by Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman**.
- **Key Attendees:** Chief Economic Advisor **V. Anantha Nageswaran**.

Board Composition (21 Members)



Constitution in Regional Languages

- Unveiled by Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan.
- **New Versions:** Tamil (World's oldest classical language) and Gujarati.
- **Legal Glossary:** 8th edition released.
- **Translation Status:** Available in Bodo, Dogri, Santhali (New), and Nepali.

Election Commission of India (ECI)

- **Chair:** Chief Election Commissioner **Gyanesh Kumar**.
- **Venue:** **Bharat Mandapam**, New Delhi.
- **Key Themes:** Promoting **cooperative federalism**.
- **Technology:** Showcase of 'ECI-NET' digital platform.

National Monetization Pipeline (NMP) 2.0 Overview

Launch & Scope

H3: Launch Details

- **Launcher:** Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman**.
- **Developer:** NITI Aayog.
- **Scope:** 5-year roadmap (FY 2026 to FY 2030).
- **Covers** Central Ministries and Public Sector Entities.

The Numbers

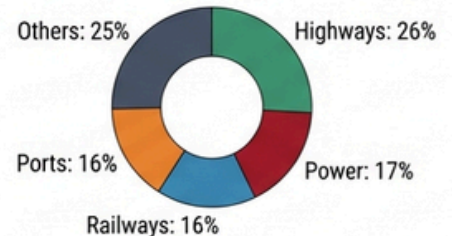
H3: Financial Targets

₹16.72 Lakh Crore

- **Mechanism:** Monetization of brownfield public infrastructure via leasing (no ownership transfer).
- **Private Investment Target:** ₹5.8 Lakh Crore.

Sectors & Oversight

H3: Top Contributing Sectors



H3: Oversight

- **Chair:** Cabinet Secretary (**TV Somanathan**).
- **Body:** Empowered Core Group.

Unified Payments Interface (UPI)

- **Global Recognition:** Platform praised by New Zealand media.
- **Feature:** 'UPI One World Wallet' launched.
- **Target:** Inbound foreign tourists (**Not for outbound Indians**).
- **Function:** Person-to-merchant payments via UPI QR.
- **Operator:** Authorized Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) issuers.

Naval Operations

INS Sudarshini ('Lokayan 26')

- Concluded 10-month voyage at Safaga, Egypt.
- **Scope:** **22,000 nm**, **13 countries**, Gulf of Aden/Red Sea.
- **Theme:** Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.

INS Anjadeep Commissioned

- 3rd Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC).
- **Nickname:** 'Dolphin Hunter'.
- **Builder:** **GRSE Kolkata**.

Netherlands Leadership

- **New PM:** Rob Jetten (38), D66 Party.
- **Distinction:** **Youngest & first openly gay PM**.
- **Parliament:** 'States General'.



Aerospace & Exercises



C-390 Millennium Partnership

- **Partners:** Embraer (Brazil) & Mahindra Group (India).
- **Role:** Bidding to replace IAF Antonov An-32 fleet.
- **Capability:** Unpaved runway operations.

Joint Exercises



🇯🇵 **Japan:** Dharma Guardian



🇲🇵 **Mongolia:** Nomadic Elephant



🇱🇰 **Sri Lanka:** Mitra Shakti



🇳🇵 **Nepal:** Surya Kiran

Treaties & Corporate

- **India-Brazil:** Green finance for MSMEs.
- **Foxconn-HCL:** Semiconductor unit in Noida, UP (2026).

UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards

- **Award of Merit:** Our Lady of Grace Cathedral, Vasai (1574).
- **Method:** Traditional lime repair (no cement).

Rashtrapati Bhavan Update

- Statue of Sir Edwin Lutyens replaced by bronze bust of C. Rajagopalachari (Rajaji).

BAFTA Awards (London)

- **Film:** 'Boong' (Manipuri).
- **Director:** Lakshmi Priya Devi.
- **Category:** Best Children and Family Film.

Cultural Events

- **39th Surajkund Intl. Crafts Mela:** Faridabad, Haryana.

- **Dehing Patkai NP:** Assam.
- **Anchar Lake:** Srinagar.
- **Feb 17:** Annular Solar Eclipse ('Ring of Fire').

Union Territory Profile

- Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu:
- **Formation:** Merged Jan 26, 2020.
 - **Capital:** Daman | **Largest City:** Silvassa.
 - **Administrator:** Praful Khoda Patel.
 - **Geography:** Damanganga River, Dudhni Lake.
 - **Heritage:** Diu Fort (1535), Bom Jesus Church.
 - **Culture:** Warli painting, Tarpa dance.

Tennis Highlights

- **ITF Women's Open (Bengaluru):** Hanne Vandewinkel def. Vaishnavi Adkar.
- **Record:** Adkar is first Indian woman in ITF W10000 final since Sania Mirza.
- **Rio Open:** Won by Tomas Martin Etcheverry.
- **Delray Beach:** Sebastian Korda (3rd ATP title).

In Memoriam

- **Mukul Roy:** Founding member of TMC.

Important Days

- **Feb 21:** Intl. Mother Language Day.
- **Feb 22:** World Thinking Day.
- **Feb 23:** World Peace/Understanding Day.
- **Feb 24:** Central Excise Day.
- **Feb 25:** Kuwait National Day (Independence 1961).

- **Policy Name:** PRAHAAR
- **Agency:** Ministry of Home Affairs
- **Acronym Definition:**
 - Prevention
 - Responses
 - Aggregating internal capacities
 - Human rights

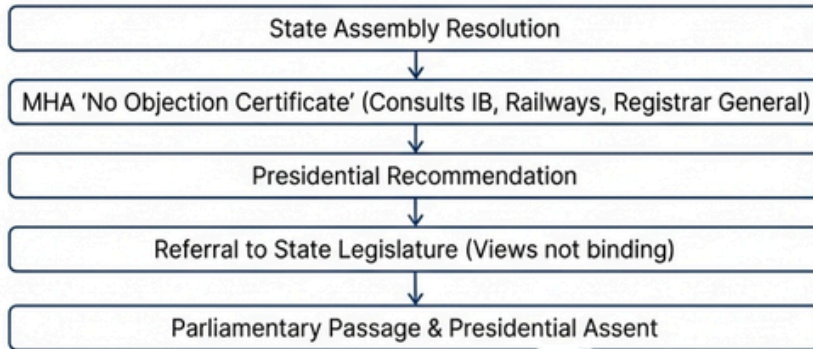


Legislative and Constitutional Updates: Kerala Renaming

Change from 'Kerala' to 'Keralam'

- Proposal: Union Cabinet approved name change to align with Malayalam linguistic roots.
- Historical Context: 'Keralaputra' cited in Ashoka's rock edicts; resolutions passed by Assembly in Aug 2023 & June 2024.
- Key Figures: CM Pinarayi Vijayan, Governor Rajendra Arlekar.

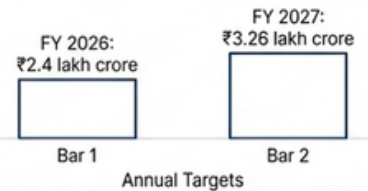
Article 3 Process



- **DigiLocker Revamp:** High-level committee formed by MeitY; headed by Ajay Sawhney.
- **Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH):**
 - Campaign: '**Badhna Hai To Yahan Judna Hai**' (Minister Jayant Chaudhary).
 - Ambassador: Amitabh Bachchan.
 - Scope: Supports 21+ languages.

National Monetization Pipeline (NMP) 2.0

- **Launch:** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman (supported by NITI Aayog)
- **Timeline:** 2025-2030.
- **Total Target:** ₹16.72 lakh crore (₹5.8 lakh crore via private investment).



Note: 26% (₹4,42,000 cr) allocated to Highways, Logistics, Ropeways.

- **The Teacher App 2.0:** Launched by Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. AI-driven (45 tools) for NEP curriculum (Classes 1-12).
- **Delhi's 'Raahveer' Scheme:** Rewards for assisting road accident victims (Sec 134A Motor Vehicles Act). ₹25k reward; ₹1 lakh national award.

Kerala Logistics Master Plan

- Vizhinjam Seaport MoUs (₹2,000 crore total):
 - IOCL (₹700 cr): Bunkering
 - CONCOR (₹600 cr): Rail infra
 - CWC (₹700 cr): Logistics park

RBI Institutional Data



- **Foundation:** April 1, 1935
- **Governor:** Sanjay Malhotra



- **Deputy Governors:** Satish Chandra Murmu, Swaminathan Janakiraman, T. Rabi Sankar, Poonam Gupta.

Wildlife:

8 Cheetahs airlifted from Botswana to Kuno National Park National Park (Total: 46).

Science:

Prof. V. Ravindran (IIT Madras) appointed to UN Scientific Panel on AI.

Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB)



- **Status:** Early redemption for Oct 2018/2019 tranches.
- **Terms:** 8-year maturity (exit at 5); 2.5% interest.



- **Taxation Alert:** Automatic capital gains exemption removed for premature redemption. 12.5% tax on bonds held for full 8 years.

- **GDP Growth (Q3 FY26):** SBI forecasts **8%-8.1%** (Global: 3%-3.1%).

- **E-commerce:** **\$200-\$220 billion** by 2030 (BCG).

- **IT Services:** AI revenue **\$10-\$12 billion** in FY 2026. **Total tech revenue \$353 billion** (NASSCOM)

- Netherlands: PM Rob Jetten (38, D6 party). **Youngest/First openly gay PM.**
- Guinea: President Mamady Doumbouya.
- Yemen: PM Shaya Mohsen Zindani.

- Afghanistan: Taliban appointed Mufti Noor Ahmad Noor as Charge d'Affaires to India.



MSP Update (Raw Jute): Raised by ₹275 to ₹5,925 per quintal for 2026-27 season (Jute Corporation of India).

State Rankings

Decarbonization Leaders

Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala

Readiness/Performance

Delhi, Haryana

Market Enablers

Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh (10% EV adoption), Rajasthan



IOC Athletes' Commission (Term to 2028)

- Chair: Pau Gasol (Spain)
- Vice-Chair 1: Maja Włoszczowska (Poland)
- Vice-Chair 2: Abhinav Bindra (India)
- Vice-Chair 3: Oluseyi Smith (Canada)



Honors & Titles

- Israel: PM Modi awarded 'Speaker of Knesset Medal'.
- Indonesia: Dr. Bhargava Mallappa received royal title 'Dato' from Kerajaan Kutai Mulawarman.



Exercise Vajra Prahar (16th Ed)

- **Participants:** India & USA ('Green Berets').
- **Location:** Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh.
- **Focus:** Special ops in mountainous terrain.

Feb 24: Central Excise Day 2026 (1944 Act).

Feb 26: 60th Death Anniversary of V.D. Savarkar (Author of 'The Indian War of Independence').



Exercise Dharma Guardian (7th Ed)

- **Participants:** Indian Army (Ladakh Scouts) & Japan Ground Self-Defense Force.
- **Location:** Chaubatia, Uttarakhand.

Volcanoes

- Barren Island (India's only active)
- Mt. Kanlaon (Philippines)
- Mt. Etna (Italy, Europe's tallest/active)

National Capital Territory of Delhi

Profile

Governance:

LG Vinay Kumar Saxena; CM Rekha Gupta.

History:

UT (1956); NCT (1991, 69th Amendment).

Heritage Sites:

- Qutub Minar, Humayun's Tomb, Lotus Temple, Akshardham, Red Fort, India Gate.

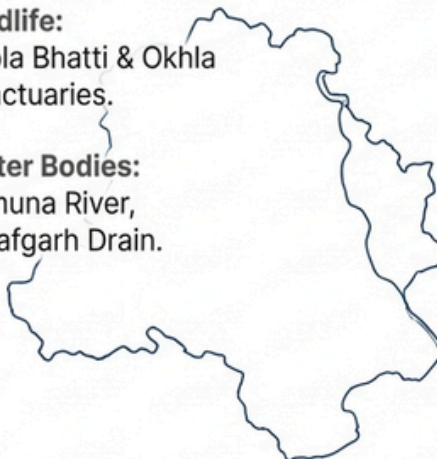
Symbols & Nature

Wildlife:

Asola Bhatti & Okhla Sanctuaries.

Water Bodies:

Yamuna River, Najafgarh Drain.



State Symbols:



Animal: Nilgai



Bird: Pigeon/House Sparrow



Tree: Flamboyant/Gulmohar



Flower: Alfalfa

GI Tags:

Premium Basmati Rice.

Books Released

- 'Atal Bihari Vajpayee: The Eternal Statesman' (Vijay Goel)
- 'Vishwaguru Srila Prabhupada' (Dr. Usha Upadhyay)

- **Khelo India Winter Games:** Phase 2 in Gulmarg, J&K.
- **Mountaineering:** Indian Army scaled Mt. Aconcagua (Argentina).

- **Aviation:** Bengaluru Int'l Airport (ACI ASQ Award 2025).
- **Cinema:** 'Boong' (BAFTA Best Children & Family Film).
- **Events:** National Arogya Fair (Shegaon); World Ocean Science Congress (Goa).

Obituaries

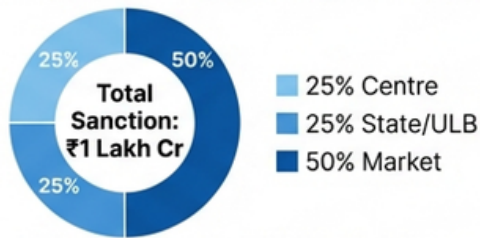


- Mukul Roy: Former Railway Minister & TMC leader.



- Robert Carradine: Hollywood actor (71).

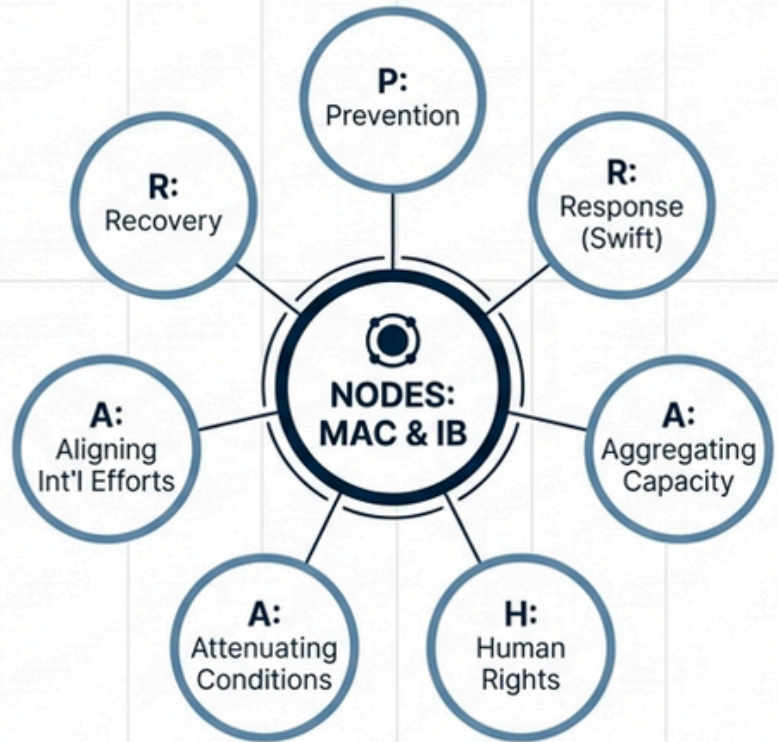
Urban Challenge Fund



Total Sanction: ₹1 Lakh Cr (Stimulating ₹4 Lakh Cr).
Guarantee: ₹5,000 Cr for small bodies.

Counter-Terrorism

PRAHAAR: National Counter-Terrorism Policy



- **SuJeevika:** Biotech trade intelligence. Target: \$1T Bio-economy by 2047.
- **Bhodhan AI:** IIT Madras Center of Excellence (₹500 Cr).
- **UIDAI:** New mascot 'Uday'; Google Maps integration.

Digital Currency in Public Distribution (e-RUPI)



Puducherry: Leakage prevention via authorized shops.
Gujarat: Annapurthi Grain ATMs (25kg in 35 seconds).
Target: Expanding to **Chandigarh & Dadra Nagar Haveli.**

Constitutional Amendments

State Reorganization: Article 3



- **Proposal:** Renaming "Kerala" to "Keralam"
- **Procedure:** Amendment to First Schedule via Parliament.
- **Presidential Role:** Recommendation required; State consent sought but not binding.

State Welfare Grid

Delhi

Raahveer Scheme. ₹25,000 reward for 'Golden Hour' accident assistance.

West Bengal

Banger Yuva Sathi. ₹1,500 monthly unemployment allowance.

Uttar Pradesh

Excise Policy 2028-29. Target: ₹65,000 Cr revenue. Heritage liquor exports permitted

Banking & Regulation: RBI Initiatives

Regulatory Action



Compensation Limits Hiked (Eff. July 2026)

- Base Compensation: ▲ ₹30 Lakh
- Additional Comp: ▲ ₹3 Lakh



Strategic

SBI Mutual Fund → **9.99%** Stake in Bandhan Bank.



Int'l

ESMA MoU: Recognition of Central Counterparties (CCPs).

Corporate Performance (Q3 FY26)

Non-Financial Company Sales Growth

Manufacturing: +11.4%

Non-IT Services: +10.6%

IT Services: +8.8%

318 Listed Companies. Ends 11-quarter streak of single-digit growth.

Leadership

PM Narendra Modi: "Knesset Medal" (First global leader). Awarded by Israeli Parliament.

Dalai Lama: Grammy Award (Best Audio Book) for *Meditation*.

Global Teacher Prize: Rubal Nagi (Dubai).

Sovereign Gold Bonds
 Rate: **2.5%**.
 Maturity: **8 Years**.
 Limit: **4kg/Individual**.

CPI Update
 Base Year Revised:
2012 → 2024.

Corporate Sector
Hurun's Unlisted Gems (Rev > ₹1,000 Cr)
1★ Rank: **Reliance Retail** Fastest Grower: **Tata Electronics**
 Institutional Note: **NSIC** upgraded to Schedule A **CPSE** (Ministry of MSME).

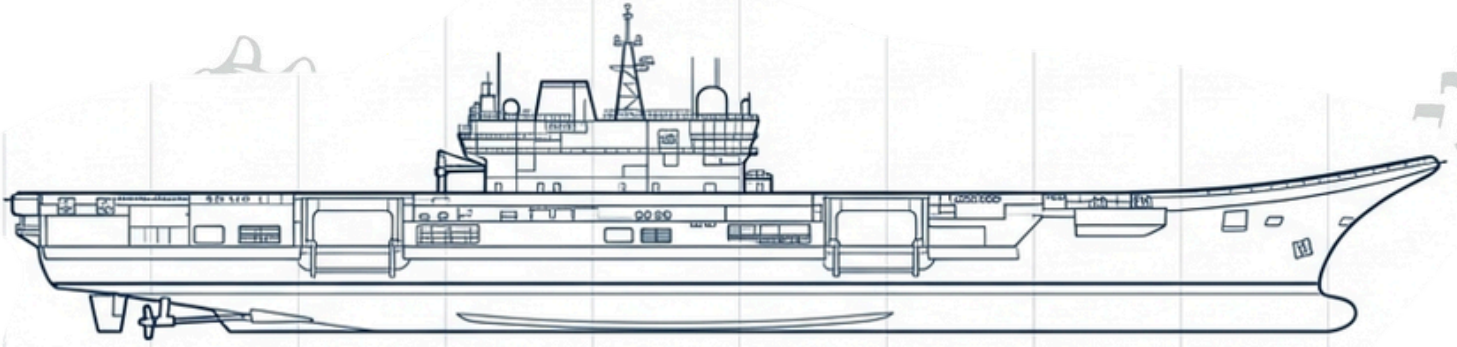
Raw Jute MSP (2026-27)
₹5,925 / Quintal
 • Increase: +₹275
 • Return over Cost: 61.8%
 • Nodal Agency: Jute Corporation of India (JCI)

IMF Article IV Review (USA)
 GDP Forecast: 2.4% (2026).
 Fiscal Warning: Current Account Deficit risk 7-8%.

Strategic Drill: Agni Varsha (Pokhran)
 • Validated **T-90, K-9 Vajra, Apache**.

Global Indices 2026		
Index	Metric	Value
Henley Passport Index	Rank:	75
	Visa-free:	56 Countries
World Bank Gender Equality	Legal:	67/100
	Enforcement:	53/100

Exercise	Partner/Type	Location
Vajra Prahar	US (Special Forces)	-
Khanjar (13th)	Kyrgyzstan	Masimari, Assam
Dharma Guardian	Japan	Uttarakhand
Kalari Leap	IAF Southern Command	Lakshadweep



INS Vikrant: Host of Exercise MILAN 2026 (Visakhapatnam).

Key Appointments

NITI Aayog Nidhi Chhibber (Interim CEO)	GIC Re Hitesh R. Joshi (CMD)
State Leadership Sumitra Pawar (Dy CM, MH)	State Leadership Yumnam Khemchand Singh (CM, MN)
Committees Pullela Gopichand (Sports Coaching)	Committees A.M. Sahu (PFRDA/NPS)

UN Engagements

Sachin Tendulkar: UN Global Road Safety Champion.

V. Ravindran: UN Scientific Panel on AI.

Airport Milestones

- **Bengaluru:** Best Airport at Arrival (ASQ 2025).
- **Kochi:** First Hydrogen-powered buses.
- **Adampur** renamed: Shri Guru Ravidas Ji Airport.

Decarbonization Leaders

- Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala.

Goa releases state-level **'Bird Atlas'**.

Santosh Trophy: Services ('8th Title') def. Kerala.

- **Mount Aconcagua:** Indian summit (Highest in S. America).
- **Kilauea Volcano:** Activity noted (Hawaii).



Winter Olympics 2026:

'Milan-Cortina'.

Mascots: "Tina' & 'Milo".

New Sport: Ski Mountaineering.

Hockey: Germanpreet Singh (150 Caps').

Economic Term: Seigniorage

Face Value of Currency



Printing Cost



Seigniorage (Profit)

Definition: The profit earned by the RBI from the issuance of currency.

Obituaries

Andre Beteille, T.K. Oommen, R. Nallakannu.

Feb 1: Coast Guard Raising Day

Feb 4: World Cancer Day

Feb 10: World Pulses Day

Feb 27: World NGO Day

Maharashtra & Manipur

Maharashtra Reserves



- **Pench, Nawegaon, Melghat, Tadoba, Sahyadri, Bor.**

Manipur



- **Festivals: Gaan-Ngai, Lai Haraoba.**



- **Parks: Keibul Lamjao, Shirui.**

J&K Administration & Geography



- **Admin: LG Manoj Sinha | CM Omar Abdullah.**



- **Hydro: Jhelum, Chenab (Baglihar/Salal Dams).**



- **Symbols: Hangul (Animal), Chinar (Tree), Lotus (Flower).**



- **GI Tags: Saffron, Pashmina, Basohli Painting.**

EY Economy Watch Projection

FY26-27 Growth:
6.8% – 7.2%

IMF Warning



USA Debt could reach 140% of GDP.

\$400 Million

Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC)

- Loan agreement with Japanese banks (SMBC & MUFG).
- Executed via GIFT City branches.
- Funds designated for railway projects.

\$300 Million

IIFL Home Finance

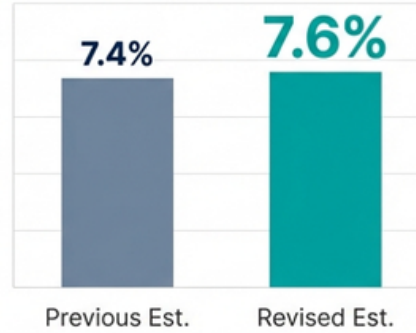
- Loan agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- Focus: Affordable housing finance for lower-income borrowers.

Manufacturing Growth

↑ 10.1%

Year-on-year sales growth in private non-financial manufacturing companies (Feb 2026, RBI Data).

GDP Revisions (NSO)



- FY 2025-26 projection raised.
- New base year: 2022-23.
- Q3 (Oct-Dec) growth: 7.8%.

LRS Remittance Limits

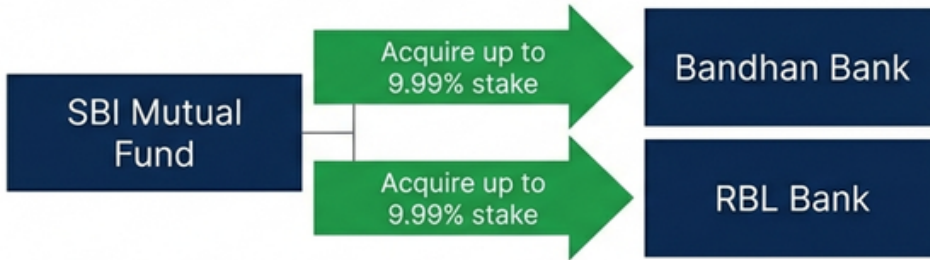
\$250,000

General annual limit per individual.

\$50,000

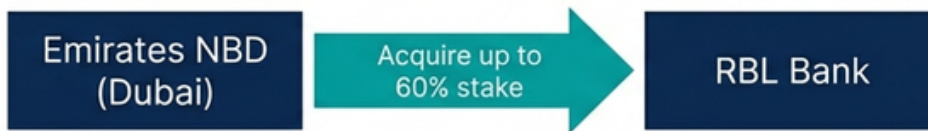
Limit for global fractional shares.

SBI Mutual Fund Strategic Stakes



- Approved by RBI.
- Clearance validity: 1 year.

Foreign Direct Investment



- Approved by Competition Commission of India (CCI).

Sri Lanka's Blue Bond



Sri Lanka's Blue Bond

- **Issuer:** DFCC Bank (Sri Lanka).
- **Value:** 3 Billion LKR.
- **Traded at:** NSE International Exchange (GIFT City).
- **Purpose:** Marine conservation projects.

NSE Global Access



NSE Global Access

- Launched at GIFT City.
- Allows Indian retail investors/NRIs to invest in global equities & ETFs.

NHB Regulatory Mandate

- Regulator: National Housing Bank.
- Requirement: Housing Finance Companies must maintain a minimum capital of ₹20 crore.

Energy Policy

Mandatory E20 Petrol

- 20% ethanol blend mandatory by April 1, 2026.
- Minimum RON 95 standard.

Schedule B

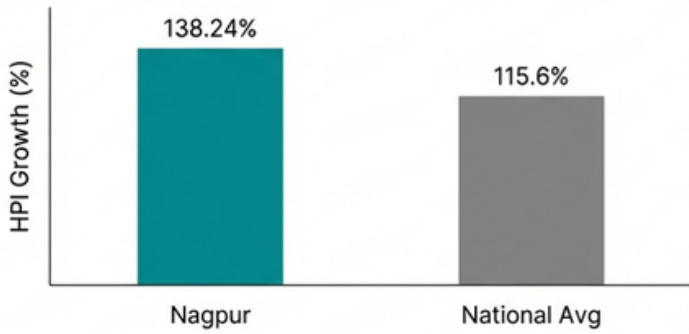


Schedule A

National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC)

- Status upgraded to Schedule A.

Regional Spotlight: Nagpur



- Highest Housing Price Index growth in Q3 FY26.
- Drivers: Infrastructure investment & Logistics hub goals for 2047.

Road Safety: Raahgeer Scheme

- Announced by Rekha Gupta for Delhi.
- Objective: Comprehensive road accident assistance.

Deepening India-Israel Ties



- **Agreements:** AI, Quantum Tech, Critical Minerals, UPI Integration.
- **Trade:** Rose from \$200M (1992) to \$3.75 Billion currently.
- **Honor:** PM Modi received the 'Speaker of the Knesset Medal'.

Future Telecom

6G Standards

- Telecommunication Engineering Center & IIT Kharagpur partnership for India-specific 6G development.

Infrastructure Bureaucracy

Rajmarg Pradesh Portal

- Online No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for highway infrastructure (cables, fuel stations).

India-Nepal

- Pact for climate change & biodiversity conservation.

Aviation Logistics

- MoU: Kempegowda Airport (Bengaluru) & Frankfurt Airport for cargo expansion.

World Bank Report

- 'Women, Business and the Law 2026': Global score of 67 for women's economic law enforcement.



Nationwide HPV Vaccination Drive

- Launched by PM Modi from Ajmer, Rajasthan.
- Target: Free vaccination for 14-year-old girls to prevent cervical cancer.
- Administration: Voluntary at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs.

NITI Aayog Leadership

- **Nidhi Chhibber** appointed additional charge as **CEO** (replacing B.V.R. Subrahmanyam).

ESIC Platinum Jubilee

- Employees' State Insurance Corporation (Est. 1952) begins 75th-year celebrations at Bharat Mandapam.

General Insurance Corporation (GIC)

- **Hitesh R. Joshi** recommended as CMD by FSIB.

Hindi Advisory Committee

- Reconstituted under Chairmanship of Minister **J.P. Nadda**.

UN Global Road Safety

- **Sachin Tendulkar** appointed as Campaign Ambassador.



Border Infrastructure (Land)

- **Indo-Nepal:** SSB infrastructure inaugurated in Araria, Bihar.
- **Sikkim:** BRO restored Tarum Chu bridge and Changthang-Lachen axis.

Exercises & Aviation (Air)

- **Agni Varsha:** Army exercise at Pokhran, Rajasthan.
- **Kalari Leap:** Air Force exercise in Lakshadweep/Minicoy.
- **Milestone:** President Murmu flew in HAL 'Prachand' Light Combat Helicopter.

Cyber Defense (Digital)

- **RBI Workshop:** 60-bank session on cyber fraud.
- **Focus:** MHA's I4C (Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre).

Sports Achievements

- **Wrestling:** Sujeet Kalkal (Gold, 65kg) at UWW Ranking Series.
- **Tennis:** ITF35 Tournament hosted in Kalaburagi.

Ladakh Profile

Governance

- **UT Formation:** Oct 31, 2019.
- **Lt. Governor:** Kavinder Gupta.

Geography

- **Key Features:** Siachen Glacier, Indus River, Pangong Tso.
- **Record:** Umling La (Highest motorable road at 19,000 ft).

Symbols

- **Animal:** Snow Leopard.
- **Bird:** Black-necked Crane.

GI Tags

- Wood Carving, Pashmina, Apricot, Sea Buckthorn.

The Orange Economy

- **Goal:** Create 1 million creative/cultural jobs by 2026.

Literature Releases

- 'Atal Bihari Vajpayee: The Eternal Statesman' (by Vijay Goel).
- 'Biography of Srila Prabhupada' (by Usha Upadhyay).

- **Feb 28:** National Science Day (Theme: Women in Science).
- **Feb 27:** National Protein Day.
- **Feb 24:** Central Excise Day.
- **Feb 21:** Int. Mother Language Day.
- **Feb 20:** World Day of Social Justice.

In Memoriam

- Maroof Raza (67): Defense analyst & former Army officer.
- T.K. Oommen: Renowned Sociologist.
- Jitendra Mehra: Steel industry veteran (SAIL, Essar).