

1. Government Launches PRARAMBH Campaign & New Income Tax Reforms

- The government is replacing the old **1961 Act** with a new income tax framework.
- The new system aligns with "MANAV"

M: Moral and Ethical Systems

A: Accountable Governance

N: National Sovereignty

A: Accessible and Inclusive AI

V: Valid and Legitimate Systems

and the spirit of "Nagrik Devo Bhava".

- Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** launched the nationwide "**PRARAMBH**" (**Policy Reform and Responsible Action for Mission Viksit Bharat**) campaign to educate citizens on upcoming tax changes.
- The new **Income Tax Act** will become officially effective on **April 1, 2026**.
- The Finance Minister also launched an Artificial Intelligence chatbot named "**Kar Saathi**" alongside the **Income Tax Website 2.0**.
- These initiatives are overseen by the **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)**, which was founded in **1964** and is currently headed by **Ravi Agarwal**.
- **New Tax Slabs (2026-27):**
 - **Rs 0 to Rs 4 lakh: 0% tax.**
 - **Rs 4 lakh to Rs 8 lakh: 5% tax.**
 - **Rs 8 lakh to Rs 12 lakh: 10% tax.**
 - **Income above Rs 24 lakh: 30% tax.**

2. Presentation of Delhi Economic Survey (FY 2025-26)

- The **Delhi Economic Survey (FY 2025-26)** was presented by **Rekha Gupta**.
- The state expects an anticipated **7.92% growth** in per capita income, reaching **₹5,31,610**.
- The **Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)** is projected to achieve a **9.42% growth**, reaching **₹13,27,055 crore**.
- Delhi expects to maintain a robust revenue surplus of **₹9,661 crore**.

3. Launch of Modified Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs

- The Government modified the **Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme** in line with **Budget 2025-26** to expand support for MSMEs.
- Minimum machinery investment condition reduced from **75% to 60%** of project cost.
- **Service sector MSMEs** also made eligible.
- **Member Lending Institutions (MLIs)** may extend loans up to **₹100 crore**.
- **National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC)** will provide **60% guarantee coverage**.
- **Guarantee tenure: 10 years.**
- Scheme validity: **4 years** or until cumulative guarantees of **₹7 lakh crore**, whichever is earlier.

4. Government Introduces Credit Guarantee Scheme for MFIs 2.0

- The **Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro Finance Institutions 2.0 (CGS MFI 2.0)** was introduced specifically to increase credit flow in the microfinance sector.
- The scheme offers a **₹20,000 crore** loan guarantee.
- **Guarantee cover:**
 - **80%** of amount in default for **small NBFC-MFIs / MFIs**

- 75% for medium
- 70% for large

- **Guarantee fee: 0.50% per annum**
- Valid till **30 June 2026** or until **₹20,000 crore** is guaranteed, whichever is earlier.
- Estimated to benefit about **36 lakh** small borrowers through on-lending.

5. First Bharat Electricity Summit (BES) and Power Sector Initiatives

- The inaugural **Bharat Electricity Summit (BES)** was held at **YashoBhoomi, New Delhi** from **March 19-22**.
- The overarching theme was "**Electrifying growth empowering sustainability connecting globally**".
- Authorities launched the "**India Energy Stack**", which is an AI/machine learning-based power grid.
- Simultaneously, the **Prakriti 2026 Conference** (also organized by BEE) was inaugurated by Union Power Minister **Manohar Lal** in **New Delhi** to promote carbon credit trading schemes and transparency in corporate carbon emissions.
- The summit reinforced India's crucial environmental targets: reaching **500 GW** of non-fossil capacity by **2030** and achieving net-zero emissions by **2070**.
- It was announced that the 2nd edition of the **Bharat Electricity Summit** will be held in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**, in **2028**.

6. Strategic Upgrades to LPG Infrastructure & Supply Chain

- The **US-Israel conflict** severely impacts the **Strait of Hormuz**, a vital transit route for **20%** of world oil/gas.
- India is heavily reliant on the Middle East, importing **88%** of crude oil, **50%** of natural gas, and **60%** of LPG, necessitating stronger domestic supply chains.
- India's second LPG carrier, named "**Nanda Devi**", arrived at **Vadinar Port (Gujarat)** carrying **46,500 metric tons** of gas. (It follows the first ship, "**Shivalik**", which arrived at **Mundra**).
- The first **LPG ATM** in the **National Capital Region (NCR)** was launched at **Central Park Flower Valley** in **Gurugram**.
- The **LPG ATM** is a pilot project by **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)**.
- The ATM dispenses **15 kg** lightweight composite fiber cylinders (containing **14 kg** of gas) in just **2 to 3 minutes**, replacing the traditional heavier **31 kg** metal cylinders.

7. Launch of National AI Skilling Initiative

- The initiative targets the growth of the "**Orange Economy**" (creative industries).
- The **Central Government**, in partnership with **Google** and **YouTube**, launched a massive training drive.
- The program will train **15,000** content creators and media professionals in Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- Training focuses on animation, VFX, gaming, and comics at the **Indian Institute of Creative Technology (IICT)** located in **Mumbai**.

8. RBI Mandates Two-Factor Authentication (2FA) for Digital Payments

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has mandated **Two-Factor Authentication (2FA)**—such as OTP, passwords, or biometrics—for all digital payments, regardless of the transaction amount.
- **Implementation Deadlines:**
 - Effective **April 1, 2026**, for all domestic transactions.
 - Effective **October 1, 2026**, for cross-border transactions.

9. India's Banking Sector Faces Severe Liquidity Deficit

- The situation was compounded by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** selling **\$20 billion** in the market to defend the falling Rupee.
- India's banking system faced a severe **₹65,900 crore** liquidity deficit for the first time in **2026**.

10. Bank of Baroda Launches Industry-First UPI Overdraft Facility

- **Bank of Baroda** became the first Indian bank to launch an overdraft facility of ₹5,000 on a credit line exclusively via **UPI**.
- The facility is strictly available for verified women **Self Help Group (SHG)** members who hold active **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana** accounts.

11. Corporate Sector Appointments and Divestments

- **South Indian Bank:** Appointed **Jose Joseph Kattoor**, a former **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** Executive Director, as the Non-Executive Part-Time Chairman. He replaces **V.J. Kurian** for a **3-year term** starting **March 23**.
- **City Union Bank:** Appointed prominent Indian cricketer **Ravindra Jadeja** as its brand ambassador for a **2-year term**.
- **Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMCC):** Divested a **30.99%** stake in **Infina Finance** for a total of **₹1,293.91 crore**.
- **South Indian Bank**, established in **1929**, holds the distinction of being Kerala's first private sector scheduled bank.

12. Release of Global Terrorism Index 2026

- The index measures the impact of terrorism globally, ranking a total of **163 countries**.
- The **Global Terrorism Index** was published by the Australian think tank, **Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)**.
- **Pakistan** ranked **1st** as the worst-affected country globally.
- It is followed by **Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, and Mali**.
- **India** was ranked **13th** in the index.

13. International Accords, Border Trade, and Withdrawals

- **India-China Border Trade:** Trade through the **Lipulekh Pass** will resume in **2026** after being suspended since **2020**. The pass connects Uttarakhand's Kumaon region to Tibet at an altitude of **5,334 meters** and will be operational from **June to September**.
- **India-Bhutan MoU:** An **India-Bhutan Postal MoU** was signed to enhance connectivity during **Ministry of Communication Secretary Vandita Kaul's** visit to Bhutan.
- **WHO Withdrawal:** **Argentina** officially withdrew from the **World Health Organization (WHO)**.

14. Defence Exercises and National Security Initiatives

- **Exercise Kakadu 2026:** Hosted by the **Royal Australian Navy** featuring **19 nations** and **6,000 personnel**. India's **INS Nilgiri** won the prestigious **Kakadu Shield** trophy.
- **Exercise Amogh Jwala:** The Indian Army's **Southern Command** validated technology-driven mechanized warfare capabilities over **13 days** at **Babina Field Firing Ranges, UP**, utilizing Apache helicopters, drones, and fighters.
- **Warship Commissioning:** **INS Taragiri**, the fourth stealth frigate built under **Project 17A**, will be commissioned on **April 3** in **Visakhapatnam**. It was built by **Mazagon Dock**.
- **Security Training:** **Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU)** signed an MoU with the **SSB Academy** in **New Delhi** to accredit border-guarding training programs.
- **INS Taragiri** boasts a high level of self-reliance with **75% indigenous content**.

15. State Governance Updates: Environment, Budgets, and Exports

- **Manipur:** Launched the '**Ningol Van**' (or '**Ningol Won**') Initiative on the **International Day of Forests** to empower women ("Ningols") in preventing deforestation. The state has a **74%** forest cover.
- **Tamil Nadu:** Emerged as India's top textile exporter for **FY 2024-25** based on **NIRYAT** data, outpacing **Gujarat** and **Maharashtra**.
- **State Finances:** Both **Uttarakhand** and **Himachal Pradesh** increased petrol prices by **₹5**. Additionally, HP Chief Minister **Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu** presented a **₹54,928 crore** state budget for **FY27**.

- Tamil Nadu shipped textile exports worth **\$7,997.17 million**, which accounts for **21.84%** of India's total textile exports.

16. Governance Milestones and National Commission Appointments

- **PM Milestone:** Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** surpassed **Pawan Kumar Chamling** to become India's longest-serving elected head of government (serving **8,931 days** combined as Gujarat CM and India's PM).
- **National Dental Commission (NDC):** Replacing the old **Dental Council of India**, this new commission under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** will regulate dental institutions and their fee structures.
- **NDC Appointments:** Appointees include Chairman **Dr. Sanjay Tiwari**, Education Board President **Dr. Chandrashekar Janakiram**, and Assessment & Rating Board President **Lt Gen Retd. Nanda Kishore Sahoo**.
- Prime Minister Modi simultaneously crossed the digital milestones of **30 million** YouTube subscribers and **100 million** Instagram followers.

17. Sports Records and Tribal Games Tournaments

- **Mountaineering Record:** Visakhapatnam adventurer **Bhupathi Raju Anmesh Varma** set a Guinness World Record by scaling the **Seven Volcanic Summits** (from **Mount Elbrus** in Europe to **Mount Sidley** in Antarctica) in just **92 days, 4 hours, and 45 minutes**.
- **Cricket Record:** 15-year-old **Utangu Shimaninde (Phiona)** from Rwanda became the youngest women's T20 centurion by scoring **111 runs off 65 balls** against Ghana, breaking **Prosscovia Alako's** previous record.
- **ICC Awards:** Indian pacer **Arundhati Reddy** and Pakistani opener **Sahibzada Farhan** won the **ICC Player of the Month** for **February 2026**.
- **Tribal Games:** **Chhattisgarh** (across **Raipur, Jagdalpur, Surguja**) hosted the inaugural **Khelo India Tribal Games**, featuring **2,300 athletes** competing in archery, mallakhamb, and athletics.
- The **Melbourne Cricket Ground** is slated to host the historic **150th Anniversary Test** match between **Australia** and **England** in **March 2027**.

18. National and International Awards & Obituaries

- **Water Prize:** **Kavya Mani** (Director, **UNU-INWEH**) won the **Stockholm Water Prize 2026** for her "water bankruptcy" concept.
- **History Prize:** Historian **William Dalrymple** won the **\$10,000 Mark Lynton History Prize** for his book, "**The Golden Road**".
- **State Honours:** **Tata Group** Chairman **N. Chandrasekaran** received the **Honorary Knight Commander (KBE)** from **King Charles III**.
- **Culture Award:** Actress **Rituparna Sengupta** won the **Women Empowerment Award for Art and Culture** at the **UK House of Commons**.
- **Banking Award:** **Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank** won a **National Award** for its **2024-25 Self Help Group (SHG) Bank Linkage** performance.
- **Obituary:** **Datta Meghe**, veteran **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)** leader and former **Maharashtra MP** (born **1936**), passed away at the age of **89**.
- **Kavya Mani** is the youngest recipient of the **Stockholm Water Prize** at the age of **44**.

19. Important Commemorative Days and Health Campaigns (March 20-24)

- **March 20:** Observed as the **17th World Sparrow Day** (Theme: "**Creating world-friendly cities and communities**") and the **World Day of Theatre for Children and Young People** (26th observance).
- **March 21:** Observed as **World Forestry Day / International Day of Forests** (Theme: "**Forests and Economies**"); **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination** (61st anniversary); and **World Down Syndrome Day** (15th observance, Theme: "**Together against loneliness**").
- **March 22:** Observed as **World Water Day** (Theme: "**Water and Gender**").

- **March 23:** Observed as **World Meteorological Day** (established 1950, Theme: "Observing Today, Protecting Tomorrow") and **Martyrs' Day (Shaheed Diwas)**, commemorating the 1931 execution of **Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru, and Sukhdev Thapar**.
- **March 24:** Observed as **World TB Day**, commemorating **Dr. Robert Koch's 1882** discovery of the TB bacterium (officially launched in 1982). The theme is "Yes! We can end TB: Led by countries, powered by people"
- **TB Eradication Goals:** The UN eradication target is 2030. India's target (originally set for 2025) has been extended to 2028.
- India's TB fight is supported by the **Ni-kshay Portal**, the **Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana** (which provides ₹1,000 monthly nutrition aid), and the "TB Harega Desh Jeetega" campaign.

20. Art, Culture Festivals, Book Releases, and Static GK

- **Art Festival:** The **Tribes Art Festival 2026** was organized by the **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)** and the **National Gallery of Modern Art** in **New Delhi**. It showcased **75** tribal artists and **30** tribal forms.
- **Books:** Nobel Peace Prize laureate **Kailash Satyarthi** released a new book titled "**Karuna: The Power of Compassion**".
- **Static GK Facts:**
 - The **Prambanan Temple** complex (also known as **Roro Jonggrang**) is a **9th-century UNESCO** site located in **Yogyakarta, Indonesia**.
 - **College Park Airport** holds the record as the world's oldest operational airport. (Situated in College Park, Maryland, near Washington D.C, USA)

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న హి సుప్తస్య సింహస్య ప్రవిశంతి ముఖే మృగాః ॥

పరిశ్రమతోనే పనులు నెరవేరతాయి, మనోరథములని బట్టి కాదు.

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The great tasks can be accomplished and achieved only with proper industry and efforts. It calls for great tenacity of purpose with strong will and determination. The tasks cannot be done or fulfilled with mere wishful thinking.

Even the mighty Lion, who is supposed to be the king of the jungle, has to hunt to gratify the hunger when he is hungry. Just because the lion is king of the jungle, the animals never themselves enter Lion's mouth when it is resting to fulfill his hunger.