

1. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology Unveils Orange Economy and AI Digital Initiatives

- The "**Orange Economy**" (Creative Economy) integrates culture, technology, and intellectual property.
- **Union Minister for Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Ashwini Vaishnaw**, unveiled three key initiatives to strengthen India's media, broadcasting, and digital sectors.
- The **National AI Skilling Initiative** was launched in collaboration with **Google** and **YouTube**.
- The **My Waves Platform** was introduced as a citizen-centric creator **Over-The-Top (OTT)** platform, described as an "Instagram for India" allowing users to freely create, upload, and share digital content.

2. Government Launches Digital Audit Portal and Funding for Rural Development

- The **Real-Time Internal Audit Portal** was launched by the **Ministry of Rural Development** and developed by the **National Informatics Centre (NIC)**.
- **NITI Aayog** sanctioned **₹1.55 crore** in funding to the **Rural Incubation Skilling and Entrepreneurship (RISE)** center in **Anantapur district, Andhra Pradesh**.

3. State Governments Introduce Major Digital and Structural Governance Initiatives

- The **Gujarat** state assembly passed the **Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill**.
- **Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel** launched the **Sugam Digital Gujarat** initiative.
- The **Manipur** government, under the administration of **Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla**, launched the **Ningol Van Pahal (Ningaol 1) Initiative**.
- **Gujarat** became the **second Indian state** to pass the **Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill**, following **Uttarakhand**.

4. Central Government Introduces CAPF Umbrella Law and Tax Awareness Campaign

- The central government introduced an "umbrella law" for **Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF)** to retain **Indian Police Service (IPS)** officers on deputation for top leadership roles.
- The **Income Tax Department** launched the **Income Tax "Prarambh" Campaign**.
- The "**Prarambh**" Campaign serves as a nationwide awareness drive to educate citizens regarding the **Income Tax Act 2025**.

5. India Experiences GDP Projection Downgrade and Capital Expenditure Reduction

- Global investment bank **Goldman Sachs** downgraded **India's** GDP growth projection for the calendar year **2026** to **5.9%** (reduced from previous estimates of **6.5%** to **~7%**).
- **National Statistical Office (NSO)** data revealed that "India Inc." (private Indian companies) reduced private capital expenditure (**CapEx**) plans by **16.5%** for **FY27**.

6. SEBI Introduces Sweeping Market Reforms at 213th Board Meeting in Mumbai

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** held its **213th Board Meeting** in **Mumbai** to address conflicts of interest, social impact investments, and alternative investment regulations.
- **Social Impact Funds (SIF)** were regulated as a subcategory of **Category 1 Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)** that invest in non-profits and social enterprises.
- The minimum individual investment value for **Social Impact Funds (SIF)** was drastically reduced from **₹2 lakh** to **₹1,000** (having previously transitioned through a **₹1 lakh** threshold).
- Mutual funds are now authorized to invest in **Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)**.
- Approved the "**Netting of Funds**" mechanism for **Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs)**.

7. Government Modifies Credit Guarantee Schemes for MSMEs and Microfinance Institutions

- The **Credit Guarantee Scheme for Microfinance Institutions 2.0** was introduced to maintain credit flow up to **₹20,000 crores** to **Non-Banking Financial Company-Microfinance Institutions (NBFC-MFIs)**.
- **MCGS (Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme)** now offers a **60%** guarantee cover (reduced from **75%**) provided by the **National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC)** for **Member Lending Institution (MLI)** loans.
- The **Microfinance Scheme 2.0** is valid until **June 30** or until the loan ceiling is reached.
- **MCGS Loan Details:** Maximum loan limit is **₹100 crore** for machinery and equipment. Loans up to **₹50 crore** have a repayment period up to **8 years** with a **2-year moratorium**.
- **MCGS Financial Structuring:** Borrowers make a **5%** upfront contribution (refundable **1%** annually starting the fourth year). Annual guarantee fee is **0%** (Year 1), **1.5%** (Years 2-4), and **1%** thereafter. Total tenure is **10 years**, running for **4 years** or until the limit reaches **₹7 lakh crore**.
- **Microfinance Scheme 2.0 Default Guarantee:** Coverage via **NCGTC** is tiered at **80%** for small, **75%** for medium, and **70%** for large NBFCs. Guarantee fees are capped at **0.5%** per annum, with interest rates limited to **External Benchmark Lending Rate (EBLR)** or **Marginal Cost of Funds Based Lending Rate (MCLR)** plus **2%**.

8. Major Corporate Actions, Digital Payment Mandates, and Telecommunications Initiatives

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** mandated compulsory **Two-Factor Authentication (2FA)** for all domestic online digital payment transactions starting **April 1**, and cross-border payments starting **October 1**.
- **Union Minister Nitin Gadkari** launched the **Rajmarg Infra Investment Trust (RIIT)**, sponsored by the **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)**.
- **Department of Telecommunications** launched the **5G Innovation Hackathon (2nd Edition)**.
- **Swatantra Microfin** became India's second-largest NBFC microfinance institution after amalgamating with **CIFCPL** and **Swatantra Holdings**.
- **Razorpay & Servi AI** partnered to build voice-led, multilingual digital commerce solutions in India.

9. Defense Upgrades: Naval Commissioning, Joint Exercises, and Industry MoUs

- **INS Taragiri**, constructed by **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited**, is scheduled for commissioning into the **Indian Navy** on **April 3, 2026**.
- The **Indian Navy** stealth frigate **INS Nilgiri** participated in the sea phase of **Exercise Kakadu** hosted by **Australia**.

- The **Indian Army** conducted **Exercise Amogh Jwala** in **Babina, Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Indian Navy Leadership:** Headquartered in **Delhi**. The Chief of Naval Staff is **Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi**, and the Vice Chief is **Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan**.
- **Major Bilateral Exercises Listed:** **India-Maldives** (Ekuverin), **India-Bangladesh** (Bongo Sagar), **India-France** (Shakti, Varuna, Garuda), **India-US** (Tiger Triumph, Yudh Abhyas, Vajra Prahar), **India-UK** (PASSEX), **India-Singapore** (Bold Kurukshetra, SIMBEX), **India-Sri Lanka** (SLINEX), **India-Japan** (Dharma Guardian, JIMEX), **India-Malaysia** (Samudra Lakshmana, Harimau Shakti), **India-Indonesia** (Garuda Shakti), **India-Oman** (Al Najah, Eastern Bridge, Naseem Al Bahr), **India-Kyrgyzstan** (Khanjar), **India-Egypt** (Cyclone-I), **India-Saudi Arabia** (Sada Tanseeq), **India-Russia** (Indra), **India-Nepal** (Surya Kiran), **India-Thailand** (Maitree).
- **Multilateral Exercises:** **Sea Dragon** (Australia, India, Japan, South Korea, US) and **ZAPAD** (Russia, India, and others).
- **Educational Note:** **Nomadic Elephant** is an exercise between **India-Mongolia**.

10. Global Sports Milestones, Mega IPL Deals, and Sports Economics Report

- **Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB)** was fully acquired from **United Spirits Ltd.** for over **₹16,000 crore (\$1.78 billion)** by a consortium led by the **Aditya Birla Group** (comprising **Times India Group, Walt Ventures, and Blackstone**).
- **India** will host the **22nd World Indoor Athletics Championship 2028** (March 3-5, 2028) at the **Kalinga Stadium Complex** in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.
- **NITI Aayog** released a report titled "**Realizing the Export Potential of India's Sports Equipment Manufacturing Sector**".
- A commemorative Test match is scheduled at the **Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG)** in **2027** to celebrate the **150th anniversary** of Test cricket.
- **India's** current sports exports sit at approximately **\$275 million** annually (a **0.5%** global share), heavily concentrated in **Jalandhar** and **Meerut**.
- **ICC Player of the Month (February 2026):** India's **Arundhati Reddy** won the Women's T20 award; Pakistan's **Shahzaib Farhan** won the Men's award. The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** is headquartered in **Dubai**, with **Jay Shah** as Chairman and **Sanjog Gupta** as CEO.
- **Fanny Udasu Minande** from **Rwanda** broke the record as the youngest centurion in Women's T20 cricket history.
- **2028 Los Angeles Olympics:** The official design was unveiled, inspired by the official **Los Angeles** flower, the "Bird of Paradise," and the California "Super Bloom".
- **Future Olympic Host Venues Mapped:** Summer (**2028 USA, 2032 Australia**) and Winter (**2026 Italy, 2030 France, 2034 USA**).

11. Global Indices, Environmental Rankings, and Major Political Records

- The **Global Terrorism Index 2026** was published by the Sydney-based **Institute for Economics and Peace**.
- The **IQAir Pollution Report 2025** was published.
- On **March 2**, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** completed **8,931 days** in office, officially becoming the longest-serving head of an elected government in Indian history.
- **Bhupathi Raju Animesh Varma (Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh)** set a **Guinness World Record** as the fastest individual to climb the seven volcanic summits.

- The **Global Terrorism Index** showed global deaths from terrorism declined by **28%**, and attacks dropped by **22%** across the **163 countries** evaluated.
- **Pakistan** ranked **1st** (most impacted by terrorism globally) for the first time with **1,239 deaths** in **2025**, followed by **Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, and Mali**. **India** improved its standing to **13th** (up from **14th** in 2025).
- The **IQAir Pollution Report** ranked **Pakistan** as the most polluted country globally, followed by **Bangladesh** and **Tajikistan**. **India** ranked as the **6th** most polluted nation.
- **PM Modi** surpassed former Sikkim Chief Minister **Pawan Kumar Chamling's** record (**8,930 days**). His tenure aggregates his **12+ years** as **Gujarat CM** (elected **2001, 2002, 2007, 2012**) and his Prime Ministerial term. He is entering his **25th** continuous year of leadership. The top four historical leaders are **Narendra Modi, Pawan Kumar Chamling, Jyoti Basu, and Naveen Patnaik**.

12. Science, Environmental Conservation, and Technological Advancements

- The **1st Bharat Electricity Summit 2026** was held in **New Delhi**, inaugurated by **Power Minister Manohar Lal Khattar**, and organized by the **Bureau of Energy Efficiency**.
- Russia's **Rosatom** signed an agreement to construct the "**Ninh Thuan 1**" nuclear power plant in **Vietnam**.
- **India Post** and **Bhutan Post** signed an MoU focusing on tech development and logistics.

Significance / Impact

- The rare earth permanent magnet plant produces the world's strongest magnets (featuring a tetragonal crystal pattern) to bolster domestic **Electric Vehicle (EV)**, renewable energy, and advanced electronics capabilities.
- The **Russia-Vietnam** nuclear pact involves two units producing a **2400 MW** capacity to satisfy growing energy demands.

13. Key Corporate Appointments, National Awards, and Obituaries

- **Jos Joseph Kattoor** (former **RBI** Executive Director) was appointed as the Non-Executive Part-Time Chairman of **South Indian Bank** in March 2026, succeeding **VJ Kurian**. **Thomson Thomas** was named Non-Executive Independent Director for a 3-year term.
- **Krishan Kumar Thakur** replaced **Priyadarshini Gadam** as Director on the Board of the **National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC)**.
- **CA PV Narayanan Rao** was inducted as a co-opted member of the **Institute of Chartered Accountants of India's (ICAI) Sustainability Reporting Standards Board (SRSB)** for the 2026-27 term.
- Cricketer **Ravindra Jadeja** was selected as the brand ambassador for **City Union Bank**.
- **Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank** (or **Karnataka Gramin Bank**) secured the **SHG Bank Linkage National Award 2024-25** from the **Ministry of Rural Development**.
- **Kalpana Soren** (Jharkhand MLA) received the **Women Empowerment Trailblazer Award**.
- **South Indian Bank** was established in **1929** as Kerala's first private sector scheduled bank (**PR Seshadri** serves as MD and CEO).

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- **Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank** disbursed ₹2,835 crore to 80,000 Self-Help Groups (SHGs). The award was presented by **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** and received by **VM Rupmani Devi**, aligning with the government's policy push for "One State One Rural Bank".
- **NMDC** is India's largest iron ore producer and a **Navratna Public Sector Undertaking (PSU)** under the **Ministry of Steel**.
- The **Women Empowerment Trailblazer Award** was presented at the **BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry Women Empowerment (BRICS CCI WE) Annual Women Summit 2026** in **New Delhi**.
- **Obituaries: Datta Meghe** (Veteran **BJP** leader, former Member of Parliament serving in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, and MLC in **Maharashtra**) and **Chuck Norris** (Legendary **US** Hollywood actor and martial arts master).

14. March Observances and Literary Releases

- Release of the newly published book "**Karuna: The Power of Compassion**", authored by Nobel laureate **Kailash Satyarthi**.
- **March 20:** Observed as **World Day of Theater for Children and Young People**, **UN French Language Day** (French is the UN Secretariat working language, spoken by **321 million** people in **29 countries**), and **International Nowruz Day** (first observed in **2010**).
- **March 21:** Observed as **World Poetry Day** (27th observance; Theme: "**Poetry as a Bridge for Peace and Inclusion**"), **World Glacier Day** (2nd observance), **International Day of Forests** (14th observance; Theme: "**Forests and Economies**"), and **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**.
- **March 23:** Observed as **Martyr's Day (Shaheed Diwas)** in **India**, and **World Meteorological Day 2026** (Theme: "**Observing Today, Protecting Tomorrow**").
- **March 24:** **World Tuberculosis Day 2026** (Theme: "**Yes! We can end TB!**").
- **March 25:** **International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery** (Theme: "**Justice in Action: Confronting History, Advancing Dignity, Empowering Futures**").
- **March 25:** **International Day of the Unborn Child** (Established in **1999** by **Pope John Paul II**, coinciding with the Christian Feast of the Annunciation).

15. Static General Knowledge: Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)

- **PM-JAY** was launched on **September 23, 2018**.
- It holds the distinction of being recognized by the **World Bank** as the world's largest government-sponsored health insurance scheme.
- Guarantees a health insurance cover of **₹5 lakh** per family per year for all eligible citizens.
- The structural components are divided into two main pillars:
 1. **Health and Wellness Centers:** Now renamed **Ayushman Arogya Mandir**, designated for providing free medicines and diagnostics.
 2. **Jan Arogya Yojana:** The core insurance framework.
- The scheme ensures a completely cashless and paperless treatment framework.
- It is operational across **36,290** empanelled public and private hospitals nationwide.

- Digitization is supported by the **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)**, which was launched in **2021**.
- Issues a unique **14-digit Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA)** Digital Health ID to citizens to securely track their medical history.

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