

1. Government Extends IVFRT Scheme for Five Years

- The **Immigration Visa Foreigners Registration and Tracking (IVFRT)** scheme is a digital system ensuring national security and interlinking immigration processes.
- The scheme has been extended for five years, from **April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2031**.
- The extension comes with a financial outlay of **₹1,800 crore**.
- The system is implemented by the **Ministry of Home Affairs** through the **Bureau of Immigration**.

2. Union Cabinet Approves Revamped RCS UDAN Scheme

- The **Union Cabinet** approved a revamped **Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik)**.
- The scheme aims to add **120** new destinations, develop **100** new airports (costing **Rs 100 crore** each), and establish **200** modern helipads (costing **Rs 15 crore** each or **₹361 crore** total).
- Reported financial outlays include **₹28,840 crore** over **8 years** and **Rs 2,840 crore** over the next **10 years (FY 2026-27 to 2035-36)**.
- The broader package implication is **Rs 3,640 crore**.
- The scheme provides **3-year operations and maintenance (O&M)** support.
- It offers **80-90% Viability Gap Funding** for airlines.

3. Uttar Pradesh Launches Nivesh Mitra 3.0 and Private Business Park Policy

- Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath** launched **Nivesh Mitra 3.0**, a single-window portal.

4. Gujarat Assembly Passes Uniform Civil Code (UCC) 2026

- The **Gujarat Assembly** passed the **Uniform Civil Code (UCC)**, drafted by a committee chaired by retired Justice **Ranjana Desai**.
- Marriages must be registered within **60 days** (failure invites a **Rs 10,000** fine).
- Fraudulent or multiple marriages carry punishments up to **7 years**.
- Out-of-court divorces are invalid and punishable by up to **3 years**; only court-approved divorces are recognized.
- Live-in relationships require mandatory registration (failure results in **3 months** imprisonment or a **Rs 10,000** fine), and individuals aged **18-21** must inform their parents.
- **Gujarat** becomes the second state after **Uttarakhand** to implement uniform personal laws.

5. Tripura Adopts Haryana's Digital Auto Appeal System

- **Tripura** agreed to utilize **Haryana's** digital Auto Appeal System.
- **Madhya Pradesh** was the first state to implement the **Right to Service Act**.

6. Government Implements Shakti Sadan Scheme and Widow Homes

(i) Background / Introduction

- The central government merged the **Swadhar Greh** and **Ujjwala** schemes under **Mission Shakti** on **April 1, 2022**, to form the **Shakti Sadan Scheme**.
- The scheme functions as a relief and rehabilitation home for distressed women, such as trafficking victims.
- There are **419** functional Sadans under the **Ministry of Women and Child Development** (headed by **Annapurna Devi**).
- A fully central-funded **Home for Widows in Vrindavan** was inaugurated on **August 31, 2018**.

7. Launch of Digital Portals and AI Chatbots for Public Services

- **Ministry of Health** launched the **"TB Mukh Bharat"** app and an **AI** chatbot named **"Khushi"** on **World TB Day**.
- **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** partnered with the **Digital India Bhashini Division (Bhashini)**.
- **National Housing Bank (NHB)** launched the **Griha Sugam Portal**.
- **National Commission for Women (NCW)** partnered with **Truecaller** to launch the **"True Cyber Saki"** toolkit.
- The **Khushi** chatbot provides **Tuberculosis (TB)** guidance in **12** regional languages to aid elimination by **2025** (TB primarily affects the lungs).

- The **Bhashini** partnership delivers pension services in all **22** languages listed in the **Eighth Schedule of the Constitution**.

8. Government Mandates 4% Retail Inflation Target for RBI

- The **Government of India** mandated the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to keep the retail inflation target at **4%**.
- The mandate spans the next five years (**April 2026 to March 2031**).
- The target operates with a tolerance band of **+/- 2%**, keeping retail inflation between **2% and 6%**.

9. OECD and S&P Global Release GDP Growth Forecasts

- The **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** revised India's GDP growth to **6.1%** for **FY 2026-27** and **7.6%** for the current financial year.
- **S&P Global** predicted India's GDP growth at **7.1%** for **FY27** and **7.2%** for **FY28**.
- The **OECD** was founded in **1961**, is based in **Paris**, and consists of **38** members.

10. SEBI Introduces Verified App Label, Reforms, and Appointments

- **SEBI** partnered with **Google** to issue a verified badge for genuine financial apps on the **Play Store** under the principle "**first verify, then invest**".
- **Kompella Venkata Ramana Murthy** was appointed as a Whole-Time Member for **3 years**, replacing **Ashwani Bhatia**.
- Reforms include reducing the non-consideration timeframe for registrations due to show-cause notices to **6 months**.
- The minimum investment for social impact funds was lowered to **Rs 1,000**.

11. Major NBFC Acquisitions and Launch of HDFC Next Option Platform

- Japan's **MUFG Bank (Mitsubishi group)** acquired a **20%** stake in **Shriram Finance Limited (SFL)** with **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approval.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** approved **Avenir Investments** to acquire a **41.23%** stake in **Samman Finserv** for **₹8850 crore**.
- The **MUFG Bank** deal is cited as the largest cross-border investment in India's financial sector, valued at **₹39,618 crore** or approx. **\$4.4 billion** (also reported as **₹3,968 crore**).
- **Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)** require a minimum **₹10 crore** capital to open, and **RBI** approval is needed for acquiring **26%** or more equity.

12. PM Modi Establishes Empowered Groups for West Asia Conflict

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** initiated a "**Team India**" approach to address the geopolitical implications of conflicts in **West Asia**.
- **Seven** empowered groups were established to evaluate the conflict's implications.
- Conveners: **Vikram Misri** (Strategic Issues), **Anuradha Thakur** (Economy, Finance, Supply Chain), **Neeraj Mittal** (Petroleum, Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), Energy), **Rajat Kumar Mishra** (Fertilizers/Agri Inputs), **Nidhi Khare** (Prices/Supply of Essentials), **Vijay Kumar** (Transport/Logistics), and **Sanjay Jaju** (Info, Comm, Public Engagement).

13. Key International Summits and Diplomatic Appointments

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will travel to **France** for the **G7 Summit (June 15-17)**, following External Affairs Minister (**EAM**) **S. Jaishankar's** attendance at the **G7 Foreign Ministers' meeting**.
- The **9th Foreign Office Consultations** took place in **Belgrade, Serbia**, led by **Siby George** and **Damjan Jovic** (focusing on trade, defense, science, and tech).
- The **14th World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference** was held in **Yaoundé, Cameroon**, chaired by **Luc Magloire**.
- The **BRICS CCI WE Summit** was hosted in **New Delhi (March 21-23)**.
- **P. Kumaran** was appointed India's High Commissioner to the **UK**, replacing **Vikram Doraiswami**, who was appointed Ambassador to **China**.
- The **WTO** (established **1995, Geneva**) has **166** members, with **Timor-Leste** as the **166th** member (and **11th ASEAN** member).

- The **BRICS** summit theme was "**Women in Innovation, Science, Leadership, Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Inspiring Change, Shaping Tomorrow**".

14. Leader Approval Ratings, and QS Rankings

- A **Morning Consult** survey ranked PM **Narendra Modi** as the most popular global democratic leader with a **68%** approval rating.
- In the **16th** edition of the **QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026**, **IIT ISM Dhanbad** ranked **21st** globally in engineering/mineral mining.
- **IIM Ahmedabad** ranked **21st** in business, management, and marketing.

15. Indian Navy Launches Operation Urja Suraksha and Army Partners with IIT Madras

- The **Indian Navy** launched **Operation Urja Suraksha** to protect maritime energy supply routes carrying crude oil, **LPG**, and **LNG** amid West Asia tensions.
- The **Indian Army Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (EME)** partnered with the **IIT Madras Pravartak Technologies Foundation**.

16. Agnikul Cosmos Successfully Tests 3D-Printed Rocket Engine Agnite

- Space startup **Agnikul Cosmos** successfully test-fired "**Agnite**" from **Chennai**.
- The engine is the world's first and largest fully 3D-printed, single-piece rocket booster engine.

17. Culture, Books, and Sports Developments

- The **Ministry of Culture** signed an MoU with **YouTube** to globally promote Indian traditional folk and tribal music.
- The **49th Yonex-Sunrise Junior National Badminton Championship** was held in **Sikkim**.
- Nobel laureate **Kailash Satyarthi** authored a new book, "**Karuna: The Power of Compassion**".

18. Important Days and Themes (March 21 - March 27)

- **March 21: World Day for Glaciers and World Down Syndrome Day.**
- **March 24: World TB Day and International Day for the Right to the Truth.**
- **March 25: International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade and International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members.**
- **March 27: World Theatre Day.**
- **Down Syndrome Day Theme: "Together Against Loneliness".**
- **World TB Day Theme: "Yes! We can end TB, led by countries, powered by people".**
- **Victims of Slavery Theme: "Justice in Action/Justice and action: Confronting history, advancing dignity, empowering future".**
- **World Theatre Day Theme: "Theatre and a Culture of Peace"** (Initiated in **1961** by the **International Theatre Institute**, established **March 27, 1948**).

19. Key Awards and Obituaries

- Bengali writer **Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay** won the **35th Saraswati Samman 2025** for his **2020** novel "**Harabati Katha**".
- **Azim Premji** was awarded the **ISB Research Catalyst Award**.
- Veteran Malayalam actor and director **E.A. Rajendran** passed away.
- **Lionel Robert Jospin**, former Prime Minister of **France**, passed away.