

1. Successful Trials of India's First Hydrogen Train

- Developed by the **Integral Coach Factory (ICF)** in **Chennai**.
- Oscillation trials for India's first hydrogen-powered train were successfully completed by the **Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO)**.
- During trials, the train covered **20 km** at a maximum speed of **70 km per hour**.
- The train will operate between **Jind** and **Sonipat** in **Haryana**.

2. Launch of PRISM-SD Portal for Rail Road Inspections

- **Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari**, and **Union Minister for Railways and IT, Ashwini Vaishnaw**, jointly launched the **Rail Road Inspections and Stages Management Steel Girders (PRISM-SD)** portal.

3. Inauguration of Noida International Airport

- The **Rs 11,200 crore** project was developed by **Yamuna International Airport Limited**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of **Zurich Airport**.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the first phase of this greenfield airport located in **Gautam Buddha Nagar**.

4. Operationalization of India's First Port of Refuge

- The initiative holds high strategic significance given the ongoing **West Asia** conflicts that are blocking the **Strait of Hormuz**.
- **Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ)** operationalized India's first "port of refuge".
- **Dighi Port** in **Maharashtra** and **Gopalpur Port** in **Odisha** play major roles in this initiative.
- Provides structured support and safe harbor to distressed vessels along India's **11,000 km** coastline.

5. Meghalaya Signs MoU Under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0

- **Meghalaya** became the **12th** state to sign a reform-linked **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Union Government**.
- Nationally, a newly approved budget of **₹1.51 lakh crore** will support the mission.
- **Meghalaya** has successfully achieved an **83.59%** rural tap water coverage rate.
- The national deadline to provide **100%** functional tap water to every household has been officially extended to **December 2028**.

6. Progress Under The LaQshya Program

- The **LaQshya Program** is a quality improvement initiative by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** focused on labor rooms and maternity **Operation Theaters (OTs)**.
- Currently, **1,244** labor rooms and **917** maternity OTs have achieved certification.

7. RBI Imposes Penalties on Multiple Financial Institutions

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed combined penalties exceeding **Rs 2 crore** across various institutions.
- **Union Bank of India**: Penalized **Rs 95.40 lakh**.
- **Bank of India**: Penalized **Rs 58.50 lakh**.
- **Central Bank of India**: Penalized **Rs 63.6 lakh**.
- **Pine Labs**: Penalized **Rs 3.1 lakh**.

Union Bank of India was penalized for failing to comply with **Income Recognition and Asset Classification (IRAC)** norms, conducting unauthorized electronic banking transactions, and delaying customer account credits by over **10 days** during "shadow reversals".

- **Bank of India** was penalized for violating **Priority Sector Lending (PSL)** norms and directions concerning interest on deposits.

8. RBI Mandates Limit on Forex Net Open Position (NOP)

- Effective **April 10, 2026**, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** directed Authorized Dealer banks to limit their **Net Open Position (NOP)** for foreign exchange to **\$100 million**.

9. RBI Master Direction on Unique Identifiers

- By **January 2027**, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** plans full implementation of a single framework for **Legal Entity Identifiers (LEI)** and **Unique Transaction Identifiers (UTI)** in financial markets.

- The **Legal Entity Identifier (LEI)** is specifically a **20-character** code designated for companies.

9. RBI Sets Ways and Means Advances (WMA) Limit for FY 2026-27

- **Ways and Means Advances (WMA)** is a temporary loan mechanism (up to **90 days**) used to manage cash flow mismatches.
- For the first half of **FY 2026-27**, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** set the central government's WMA limit at **₹2.50 lakh crore**, marking a substantial increase from the historical **₹1.5 lakh crore**.
- If **75%** of the WMA limit is utilized, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** may initiate fresh market borrowings.
- WMA interest is strictly linked to the **Repo Rate**.
- Overdrafts (loans exceeding **90 days**) will carry a higher interest rate of **Repo Rate + 2%**.

10. RBI Approves 2026-27 Budget and Utkarsh 3.0

- Decisions were made during the **622nd** meeting of the Central Board of Directors of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, held in **Patna, Bihar**, and chaired by **RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra**.
- The board officially approved the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**'s **2026-27** accounting year budget.
- The board also approved '**Utkarsh 3.0**', a medium-term strategy framework covering the period **2026-29**.
- The meeting heavily reviewed state borrowings, noting **Karnataka** as the highest borrower at **₹10,000 crores**.

11. Government Borrowing Plan for FY 2026-27

- The **Government of India** aims to borrow a total of **₹16.09 lakh crore** through **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**-auctioned Government Dated Securities maturing between **3 to 50 years**.

12. Government Retains 4% Retail Inflation Target

- The inflation framework currently utilizes **2024** as the **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** base year.
- Retail inflation was recorded at **3.21%** in February, up from **2.74%** in January.
- The **Government of India** retained the **4%** retail inflation target for a five-year period (**April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2031**).
- The tolerance band officially remains at **+/- 2%**, ensuring the policy objective is keeping inflation strictly between **2%** and **6%**.
- Historically, **New Zealand** was the first country to successfully implement inflation targeting in **1990**.

13. Ministry of Defense Signs Procurement Contracts Worth Rs 858 Crore

- The **Ministry of Defense** signed two major contracts totaling **Rs 858 crore**.
- **Indian Army**: Procured **2S6 Tunguska Air Defense Missile Systems** from Russia's **Rosoboronexport** for **Rs 445 crore**.
- **Indian Navy**: Signed a **Rs 413 crore** contract with **Boeing India Defense Private Limited** for the maintenance of **P-8I Poseidon aircraft**.

14. Indian Navy Initiates Operation Urja Suraksha

- **Operation Urja Suraksha** was launched to safely escort India-bound energy shipments (**LNG, LPG, and crude oil**) navigating the critical **Strait of Hormuz**.
- Escorted vessels include the LPG carriers **Pine Gas, Jag Vasant, Shivalik, Nanda Devi**, and the crude oil tanker **Jag Ladki**.

15. IAF Unveils Project Vayu Baan for Small Drones

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** unveiled **Project Vayu Baan**, India's first helicopter-dropped small drone project.
- The drone features autonomous navigation, a **50 km** range, **30 minutes** of endurance, and electro-optical/infrared sensors.

16. Indian Navy Hosts IMEX TTX 2026

- The exercise precedes India officially assuming the chairmanship of the **Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)** for the **2026-2028** term.
- The **Indian Navy** hosted the **Indian Ocean Naval Symposium Maritime Exercise (IMEX TTX 2026)** in **Kochi**.

17. Indian Navy International Ship Deployments

• **Indian Navy ship INS Trikand** was actively deployed to **Maputo, Mozambique** in the **Indian Ocean Region**.

Concurrently, **INS Sudarshini** reached **Sète, France**.

• **INS Sudarshini** is participating in the "**Escale à Sète**" traditional tall ships festival as part of the **Lokayan 26** voyage, which covers **22,000 nautical miles**.

18. UN Launches Multinational Task Force for Strait of Hormuz

• The **United Nations** launched a multinational task force led by **Jorge Moreira da Silva**.

19. Ukraine and Saudi Arabia Formalize Air Defense Deal

• **Ukraine** and **Saudi Arabia** successfully formalized an air defense cooperation agreement.

20. India and European Union Sign Aviation Pact

• **India** and the **European Union** signed a pact to implement proper safety standards in the aviation sector.

21. World Happiness Report Rankings Released

• **Finland** ranked as the world's happiest country for the ninth consecutive year, followed closely by other Nordic nations.

• **Afghanistan** was officially ranked the unhappiest country globally.

• **India** positively improved its rank to **116th** (up from **118th**) with a recorded life evaluation score of **4.536**.

22. Balendra "Balen" Shah Becomes New Prime Minister of Nepal

• In recent political developments, the **Rastriya Swatantra Party** won **182** out of **275** election seats on **March 5**.

• **Balendra Shah (Balen Shah)** of the **Rastriya Swatantra Party** became the **47th Prime Minister** of **Nepal**.

• He succeeds interim PM **Sushila Karki** in the office.

• He holds the record as the youngest Prime Minister of **Nepal**.

23. Adani Group Honored with Net Zero Award

• The award was presented at **India Climate Week 2026**, an event organized by the **Carbon Market Association of India**.

• **Dr. Arun Kumar Sharma** accepted the "**Net Zero Leadership Honor**" on behalf of the **Adani Group**.

• The honor particularly highlights the **Khavda Renewable Energy Plant** in **Gujarat**, which is the world's largest solar energy park.

24. IRDAI Authorizes Allianz Jio Reinsurance Ltd / Allianz Jio Re

• Headquartered in **Mumbai**, the entity is a **50:50** joint venture between **Jio Financial Services Limited** and the **Allianz Group**.

• The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** authorized **Allianz Jio Reinsurance Ltd / Allianz Jio Re** to underwrite reinsurance business in India.

25. Prano's Fusion Develops India's Smallest Tokamak "Pragya"

• Created by the **Bengaluru**-based startup **Prano's Fusion**.

• The startup developed "**Pragya**," which is India's first privately developed and smallest Tokamak device.

• The device boasts a remarkably small radius of just **40 cm**.

26. Winners Announced at 8th Hockey India Annual Awards

• **Men's Player of the Year (Balbir Singh Sr. Award)**: Won by **Hardik Singh** (his **3rd** win), accompanied by a **Rs 20 lakh** prize.

• **Women's Player of the Year (Balbir Singh Sr. Award)**: Won by **Navneet Kaur** (her **1st** win), accompanied by a **Rs 20 lakh** prize.

• **Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award**: Awarded to **Zafar Iqbal**, a **1980 Moscow Olympics** gold medalist (prize **Rs 25 lakh**).

• Upcoming U-21 Players: **Princedeep Singh** and **Sakshi Rana** received **Rs 10 lakh** each.

27. Key Achievements in International Tennis and Formula 1

• **Tennis**: **Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus)** won her second consecutive **Miami Open** title by defeating **Coco Gauff**.

• **Formula 1**: **19-year-old Kimi Antonelli (Mercedes)** won the **Japanese Grand Prix**.

- **Aryna Sabalenka** became the first woman since **Iga Swiatek** in **2022** to win both **Indian Wells** and the **Miami Open** in the same year.

- **Kimi Antonelli** made history by becoming the youngest driver to lead the World Championship standings.

28. Major Retirements in Hockey and Badminton

- Indian men's hockey Olympic medalist **Gurjant Singh** officially retired from international hockey.

- Prominent badminton player **Carolina Marin** formally announced her retirement.

- **Carolina Marin** is notably remembered for winning the **2016 Rio Olympic Gold** against India's **PV Sindhu**.

28. Kalpana Soren Wins Women Empowerment Trailblazer Award

- **Kalpana Soren** won the **Women Empowerment Trailblazer Award**.

29. Arijit Basu Appointed Chairman of IndusInd Bank

- Former **State Bank of India (SBI)** Managing Director **Arijit Basu** was appointed as the Part-time Chairman of **IndusInd Bank**.

- He officially replaces **Sunil Mehta** in the role.

30. New Appointments at National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)

- **Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti** assumed charge as the Chairperson of the **National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)**.

- She succeeds **Hansraj Gangaram Ahir**.

31. Sudipti Pradhan to Represent Sikkim at World Youth Parliament

- **Sudipti Pradhan** is actively representing **Sikkim** at the **World Youth Parliament**.

32. Passing Away of Veteran Industrialist Vijaypat Singhania

- Veteran industrialist **Vijaypat Singhania** passed away.

- He was a prominent former Chairman of the **Raymond Group**.

- He was a distinguished recipient of the **Padma Bhushan**.

33. Celebration of Rajasthan Day 2026

- Commemorates the historic **1949** merger of four princely states (**Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner, and Jaisalmer**).

- **Rajasthan Day** was observed on **March 30**.

- The official **2026** theme is "**Heritage and Harmony**".

- The state's current Chief Minister is **Bhajan Lal Sharma**, and the Governor is **Haribhau Bagde**.

34. Observation of International Day of Zero Waste

- The **International Day of Zero Waste** was celebrated globally on **March 30**.

35. Observation of World Piano Day

- Observed globally on the **88th day of the year**, which symbolically represents the piano's **88 keys**.

- **World Piano Day** was celebrated on **March 29**.

- The official theme for the celebration was "**Celebrating the 88 keys**".

36. IOC Announces New Biological Policy for Los Angeles Olympics

- The **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** announced a policy taking effect at the **2028 Los Angeles Olympics**, restricting the female category strictly to biological females.