

1. Successful Trial Run of India's First Hydrogen Train

- The train was developed by the **Chennai-based Integral Coach Factory (ICF)**.
- **Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw** announced the successful technical and oscillation trial run of India's first hydrogen-powered train.
- The trial was conducted by the **Research Design and Standard Organisation (RDSO)** on the **Jind-Sonipat route** in **Haryana**.
- The trial covered a distance of **20 km** at a speed of **70 km/h**.
- This places **India** alongside **Germany, Sweden, Japan, and China** in operating hydrogen-powered trains.
- It is currently the world's longest hydrogen train set, consisting of **10 coaches**.

2. Progress of the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme

- The **Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS)** was launched in **2022** by the **Ministry of Railways**.
- The scheme aims to comprehensively redevelop **1,338 railway stations** to be highly passenger-friendly.
- As of **March 2026**, **172 stations** (including **Ayodhya Dham** and **Alnavar**) have been successfully redeveloped.
- The **2025-26 budget allocation** is **₹1,218 crore**, with **₹7,253 crore** effectively utilized to date.

3. Inauguration of Noida International Airport Phase 1

- The airport directly aligns with the **UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik)** regional connectivity scheme, which was launched on **October 21, 2016**.
- The **UDAN** scheme connects Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities via the **Airports Authority of India (AAI)**.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated Phase 1 of the airport in **Jewar, Uttar Pradesh**.
- The project was built with a massive investment of **₹11,200 crore**.
- It was developed on a **Public-Private Partnership (PPP)** model in collaboration with Switzerland's **Zurich International Airport**.

4. Delhi to Become a Global Media and Entertainment Hub

- **Prasar Bharati** is a public service broadcaster established in **1997** under the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**, headquartered in **New Delhi**.
- The **Delhi Government** (via the **Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation (DTTDC)**) signed a landmark agreement with **Prasar Bharati**.

5. Inauguration of Kaynes Semicon OSAT Plant in Gujarat

- The plant is part of the broader **2021 India Semiconductor Mission**, which launched with an enormous **₹76,000 crore** outlay.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **Kaynes Semicon OSAT (Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test)** plant in **Sanand, Gujarat**.

6. Appointment of New Chairperson for the NCBC

- The **National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)** operates directly under the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.
- It was originally formed as a statutory body in **1993**.
- **Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti** was appointed as the new Chairperson of the **NCBC**.
- The **NCBC** officially gained constitutional status in **2018** through the historic **102nd Constitutional Amendment** under **Article 338B**.

7. 20th Anniversary Celebration of Earth Hour

- The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** and **WWF India** proudly celebrated the **20th anniversary of Earth Hour**.
- The event heavily featured a major public outreach campaign in **Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh**.

8. Creation of India's Smallest Privately Developed Tokamak Device

- India's first privately developed smallest Tokamak device was successfully created.
- The unique technological device is officially named "**Pragya**".
- It was conceptualized and built entirely by the company **ProNus Fusion**.

9. Indonesia Bans Social Media for Children and Relocates Capital

- **Indonesia** officially banned all social media usage for children under the age of **16**.

- The country is also currently undertaking the massive task of relocating its national capital from **Jakarta** to **Nusantara**.

10. United Nations Launches Task Force for the Strait of Hormuz

- The **United Nations (UN)** was established in **1945**, has **193 member countries**, and is headquartered in **New York**.

- The UN aggressively launched a task force to safeguard maritime trade navigating the strategic **Strait of Hormuz**.

- It is led by **Jorge Moreira da Silva**, the Executive Director of the **UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS)**.

- The necessary political engagement for the mission is led by **Jean Arnault**.

11. India and the European Union Sign Aviation Working Arrangement

- The **European Union (EU)** was established in **1993** via the **Maastricht Treaty**, consists of **27 members**, and is headquartered in **Brussels**.

- India's **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)** and the **European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA)** signed a working arrangement on **March 23, 2026**.

- The primary outcome is the establishment of a Final Assembly Line for **Airbus H125 (AS350)** helicopters in the **Vemagal Industrial Area, Karnataka**.

- The facility is built via partnership between **Airbus Helicopters** and **Tata Advanced Systems Limited**.

12. Ukraine and Qatar Sign Bilateral Defense Cooperation Pact

- **Ukraine's** capital is **Kyiv** (currency: **Hryvnia**), and **Qatar's** capital is **Doha** (currency: **Riyal**).

- **Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy** and **Qatar's Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani** officially signed a bilateral defense cooperation agreement.

- The defense mechanisms are specifically targeted against the dangerous "**Shahed**" drones heavily used by **Iran** and **Russia**.

13. World Buddhist Peace Conference 2026

- The mega event was formally organized by the **Telangana Tourism Development Corporation** in conjunction with the **Vietnam Buddhist Sangha**.

- The **World Buddhist Peace Conference** was held from **March 27 to 29** in **Hyderabad** and **Buddhavanam (Telangana)**.

14. RBI Imposes Monetary Penalties on Multiple Financial Institutions

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** consistently monitors compliance and penalizes institutions failing regulatory guidelines.

- A Payments Bank accepts demand deposits up to **₹2 lakh**, must invest **75%** of balances in short-term government securities, requires minimum capital of **₹300 crore** to convert to a Small Finance Bank after **5 years**, and cannot lend, accept term deposits, or act as business correspondents.

- The **Central Bank of India (CBI)** (HQ: **Mumbai**, MD/CEO: **Kalyan Kumar**) was fined **₹63.60 lakh** for non-compliance with KYC/financial inclusion guidelines, failing to upload KYC details on time, and improperly opening multiple Basic Savings Bank Deposit Accounts (BSBDA).

- The **Union Bank of India (UBI)** (HQ: **Mumbai**, CEO: **Ashish Pandey**, Tagline: "Good people to bank with") was fined **₹95.40 lakh** for not crediting shadow reversals for unauthorized electronic transactions within the required **10 working days**.

- The **Bank of India (BOI)** (HQ: **Mumbai**, CEO: **Rajneesh Karnatak**, Tagline: "Relationships beyond banking") was fined **₹58.50 lakh** for ignoring priority sector lending classification and deposit interest directives.

- **Airtel Payments Bank** was severely fined **₹31.8 lakh** for failing to disclose certain customer complaints in annual financial statements.

- **Pine Labs** (HQ: **Noida**, CEO: **B. Amrish Rau**) was fined **₹3.10 lakh** for issuing Full KYC Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) without proper verification and non-compliance with PPI directions.

15. Release of RBI Payment Vision 2028 Document

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** released an ambitious roadmap strictly titled "**Shaping India's Payment Frontier**".

- The vision clearly aims to aggressively expand the digital payment ecosystem by **December 2028**.

16. Morgan Stanley Report Evaluates Indian Economy Resilience

- The **Morgan Stanley Report on India** stated the economy is highly resilient due to strong domestic demand, high GST collections, and a positive **Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)**.
- It warned of major threats from global conflicts, particularly the Middle East crisis involving **Israel, Iran,** and the **United States (US)**.

17. PLFS Annual Report 2025 and Industrial Growth Data Released

- Overall Index of Industrial Production (IIP) data is periodically released by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)**.
- Data for the Eight Core Sectors (holding a massive **40.27% weightage** in the IIP) is officially released by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**.
- The **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) Annual Report 2025** was released by the **NSO** under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**.
- The report notes an urban Labor Force Participation Rate of **59.3%**, a Worker Population Ratio of **57.4%**, and an unemployment rate of **3.1%**.
- India's industrial growth (IIP) actively stood at **5.2%** in **February** (up from **5.1%** in **January**), with manufacturing output notably growing by **6%**.
- Major employment sectors structurally identified include agriculture (**43%**), services (**13.1%**), manufacturing (**12.1%**), and construction (**12%**).
- **ICRA** (established **1991**, headquartered in **Gurugram**) optimistically projected India's GDP growth rate at **7.6%** for **2025-26** and **6.5%** for **2026-27**.

18. Interest Rates Kept Unchanged for Small Savings Schemes

- Interest rates for **12 specific small savings schemes** officially remain unchanged for the **April-June quarter**.
- This stabilization actively marks the **9th consecutive quarter** where these specific central rates remain fully unmodified.
- Key maintained rates include the **Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (8.2%)**, **Sukanya Samriddhi Account (8.2%)**, **National Savings Certificate (7.7%)**, **Kisan Vikas Patra (7.5%, 115 months maturity)**, and **Public Provident Fund (7.1%)**.

19. UNESCO GEM Report Highlights Educational Inequalities

- The **UNESCO GEM Report** titled "**Access and equity: countdown to 2030**" was released.
- The data notes that **1 in 6 school-age children** (amounting to **273 million globally**) remain totally out of school.
- The report highlights that only **2 in 3 students** actively complete secondary education in **2024**.
- Top-performing nations displaying an impressive **50% reduction** in out-of-school populations include **Madagascar, Togo, Morocco, Vietnam, Georgia, and Turkey**.

20. DPIIT Signs MoUs for Industry Innovation

- The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** effectively signed an MoU with **Krafton India** to vigorously strengthen the digital and creative "**Orange Economy**".

21. EaseMyTrip Wins the ICC Tourism Excellence Award

- The prestigious **Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC)** was originally founded in **1925** in **Kolkata** by the industrialist **G.D. Birla**.
- The prominent platform **EaseMyTrip** successfully won the **ICC Tourism Excellence Award**.
- The massive honor was specifically granted in the crucial **Tour and Travel Operations** category.
- Recent data highlights that the states of **Uttar Pradesh** and **Maharashtra** consistently see the absolute highest tourist footfalls in **India**.

22. Indian Navy Hosts IMEX-26 and Secures Vital Defense Contracts

- The **Indian Navy** successfully hosted the 3rd edition of the **IONS Maritime and Tabletop Exercise (IMEX-26)** at the **Maritime Warfare Centre** in **Kochi, Kerala**.

- The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** signed an enormous **₹858 crore contract** with Russia's **JSC Rosoboronexport** for advanced air defense system procurement and maintenance, including an explicit **₹445 crore deal** for the **Tunguska Air Defence Missile System**.

- The **MoD** also formalized a **₹43 crore contract** with **Boeing India Defence Pvt Ltd** for depot-level inspection and maintenance of the Navy's **P-8I long-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft** ("Buy Indian" category).

- Historically, **India** officially assumed the **IONS chairmanship** for the **2026-2028 cycle** after a massive **16-year gap**.

23. Indian Army Executes Landmark GeM Deal and Procures Prahaar LMGs

- The **Indian Army** successfully signed its very first capital procurement contract strictly via the **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** portal—an impressive **₹25.9 crore deal** with **JCB India Limited** for **93 telescopic handlers** under the "Buy Indian" category.

- **Adani Defence and Aerospace** officially delivered the first colossal batch of **2,000 'Prahaar' 7.62mm Light Machine Guns** directly to the Indian Army.

- The 'Prahaar' guns are aggressively manufactured in **Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh**, and form part of a monumental **4,000-gun order** to be securely completed over **3 years**.

24. ESA Launches Advanced 'Celestis' Navigation Satellites

(i) Background / Introduction • Global space entities heavily invest in testing sophisticated positioning infrastructures to improve satellite navigation tracking.

(ii) Key Developments / Announcements / Decisions • The **European Space Agency (ESA)** actively launched two advanced '**Celestis**' satellites (specifically designated **IOD-1** and **IOD-2**).

- The high-tech satellites were launched from operations in **New Zealand**.

25. Jannik Sinner and Aryna Sabalenka Secure the Tennis "Sunshine Double"

- The term "Sunshine Double" notoriously denotes winning both the prestigious **Indian Wells** and **Miami Open** tournaments in the exact same month.

- Italy's **Jannik Sinner** phenomenally won the **2026 Miami Open Men's Singles** title by totally defeating **Jiri Lehecka**.

- Having also claimed the recent **Indian Wells** title, Sinner proudly completed the legendary "Sunshine Double".

- Belarus's **Aryna Sabalenka** similarly completed the impressive Sunshine Double strictly in women's singles.

- **Jannik Sinner** impressively became only the **8th man in history** to manage this exact athletic feat.

26. Historic Cricket Records Broken in IPL and Major League Cricket

- **Virat Kohli** became the absolute first batter in **Indian Premier League (IPL)** history to remarkably cross **4,000 runs** during chases.

- **Sunil Narine (Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR))** surpassed **Kieron Pollard** to become the most-capped overseas player in **IPL** history with a massive **190 matches**.

- **R. Ashwin** broke ground as the first Indian international player to officially join the **USA's Major League Cricket (MLC)**, famously signing with the **San Francisco Unicorns**.

- In corporate alignments, **Virat Kohli** was recently appointed by **United Spirits Limited** as the official brand ambassador strictly for its prominent **Johnnie Walker blended water** campaign.

27. World Archery Awards 2025

- India's **Sheetal Devi** was officially and proudly named the **World Archery Para Archer of the Year 2025**.

- France's **Baptiste Addis** impressively took home the title of **Young Archer of the Year**.

28. Gurjant Singh Retires Amidst the 8th Annual Hockey India Awards

- Indian hockey veteran **Gurjant Singh** retired during the specific awards ceremony. Over a stellar **130-match career** (with **33 goals**) since his **2017 debut**, he notably won Bronze medals at the **Tokyo 2020** and **Paris 2024 Olympics**, Gold at the **2017 Asia Cup** and **2023 Asian Games**, and the **2016 Junior FIH World Cup**.

- **Zafar Iqbal** was honored with the legendary **Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award**.

- **Hardik Singh** and **Navneet Kaur** won the prestigious **Balbir Singh Sr. Player of the Year** awards.
- **Gurjant Singh** notably received the respected **Arjuna Award** in 2021.
- **Hockey Punjab** was officially crowned the **Best Member Unit**.

29. **Kimi Antonelli Wins the 40th Japanese Grand Prix**

- Mercedes driver **Kimi Antonelli** successfully won the **40th Japanese Grand Prix** at **Suzuka**.
- **Oscar Piastri** took second place, while **Charles Leclerc** officially secured third.

30. **IOC Issues New Gene Eligibility Policy for Female Category**

Starting with the massive **2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games**, strict eligibility for the female category will actively require a once-in-a-lifetime test.

- The test must specifically detect the mandatory presence of the **SRY gene**.
- Athletes who do not qualify under this strict regulation can alternatively compete in the designated male, mixed, or open categories.

31. **20th Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards Ceremony**

- **Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan** proudly presented the highly respected honors.
- The **20th Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards** was held explicitly in **New Delhi**.
- The ceremony officially recognized **25 outstanding journalists** who produced exceptional work strictly across **18 separate categories**.

32. **Obituaries: Vijaypat Singhania and Rahul Arunoday Pass Away**

- **Vijaypat Singhania**, the heavily influential former chairman of the **Raymond** group, passed away at the age of **87**.
- **Rahul Arunoday**, a highly respected and talented Bengali Actor, also recently passed away.
- It is notable that **Vijaypat Singhania** was previously recognized by the state with the prestigious **Padma Bhushan** award in **2006**.

33. **Global Observances: Eiffel Tower Day and Zero Waste Day**

- **Eiffel Tower Day** was grandly celebrated on **March 31**, strictly marking the historic **1889 inauguration** of the massive **~330-meter structure**.
- The **International Day of Zero Waste** was heavily observed on **March 30th** to actively promote sustainable waste management.
- The highly specific **2026 theme** for **Eiffel Tower Day** is "**Timeless Innovation**".
- The focused global theme for this year's **International Day of Zero Waste** heavily centers strictly around combating "**Food waste**".