

1. Government Launches Phase 1 of Census 2027

- Marks the longest gap since independence at **16 years**.
- Governed by the **Census Act of 1948** (Sections **3** and **17A**) and **Census Rules 1990**.
- The first Indian census was conducted in **1872**.
- The **Government of India** launched Phase 1 on **April 1st**.
- **Phase 1** (House-listing and housing census) runs from **April** to **September**.
- **Phase 2** (Population enumeration) begins in **February 2027**.
- Conducted by the **Office of the Registrar General of India** under the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**.
- It is **India's** first fully digital census, utilizing smartphones and online portals.
- For the first time since **1931**, it will include caste enumeration across all communities.
- The allocated budget is **₹1,178.24 crore**.
- It covers **36 states/UTs**, **792 sub-districts**, and **6,392 villages**.
- It consists of a **33-question survey** and a self-enumeration portal available in **16 languages**.

2. Government Extends Atal Bhujal Yojana to March 2026

- It is a flagship government scheme aimed at sustainable groundwater management through community participation.
- Initially launched for a five-year period (**2020-2025**).
- The scheme has been officially extended to **March 2026**, with awareness initiatives continuing until **2027**.
- Total funding allocation is **₹6,000 crore**, funded on a **50:50** basis by the **Government of India (₹3,000 crore)** and the **World Bank (₹3,000 crore)**.

3. Launch of Mission Karmayogi for Scientists

- The initiative was launched during the **SADHANA** event held at **Vigyan Bhavan** in **New Delhi**.
- Union Minister **Dr. Jitendra Singh** launched the first-ever administrative capacity-building program under **Mission Karmayogi** specifically for scientists and academicians.
- Unveiled the revamped **UNATI portal** and a roadmap for the national rollout of **Karmayogi Kartavya Kaka**.

4. Notification of Solid Waste Management Rules 2026

- Replaces the older **2016** waste management framework.
- The government notified the new **Solid Waste Management Rules 2026**.
- The new rules legally mandate a 4-stream waste segregation process directly at the source.
- Ensures standardized separation into specific categories: Wet (**Green bin**), Dry (**Blue bin**), Sanitary (**Red bin**), and Special care (**Black bin**).

5. Ministry Notifies New TV Rating Policy 2026

- The **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB)** officially notified the **New TV Rating Policy 2026**.
- The minimum net worth required to register as a TV rating agency was reduced from **₹20 crore** to **₹5 crore**.
- Agencies must scale operations to **80,000** meter homes within **18 months**, aiming for a long-term goal of **1.2 to 2 lakh homes**.

6. Extension of OTT SIM Binding Deadline

- Replaces an older rule that required an auto-logout from messaging applications after **6 hours**.
- The **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)**, operating under the **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)**, extended the deadline for **Over-The-Top (OTT)** SIM binding to **December 31, 2026**.

7. Organization of Bharat Tribes Fest

- Organized by the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** in association with the **Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)**.
- The festival was held at **Sundar Nursery** in **New Delhi**.
- Inaugurated by the Union Minister of Tribal Affairs, **Jual Oram**.

8. Unnat Krishi Mahotsav Held in Madhya Pradesh

- The government hosted an agricultural exhibition and training event named **Unnat Krishi Mahotsav**.
- The event is to be held in **Raisen, Madhya Pradesh**.

9. Statutory Status for Amaravati as Andhra Pradesh Capital

- **Parliament** passed the **Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Amendment Bill 2026** via voice vote in the **Lok Sabha** (awaiting **Rajya Sabha** passage and Presidential assent).
- Grants statutory status to **Amaravati** as the sole, permanent capital of the state.
- The status is effective retroactively from **June 2, 2024**.
- Current State Leadership: Chief Minister is **N. Chandrababu Naidu**, Deputy CM is **Pawan Kalyan**, and Governor is **S. Abdul Nazeer**.

10. Google Announces AI Data Center in Andhra Pradesh

11. Launch of BIRAC BioNEST Incubation Centre in Mysuru

- Union Minister **Dr. Jitendra Singh** officially launched the **Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) BioNEST Incubation Centre**.
- The center is located at the **Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI)** in **Mysuru, Karnataka**.

12. Mukhyamantri Annapurna Yojana Launched in Odisha

- Chief Minister **Mohan Charan Majhi** launched the "**Mukhyamantri Annapurna Yojana**".
- Provides an additional **5 kg** of free rice per month to eligible beneficiaries, bringing the total to **10 kg** per month.

13. Safe Mobility Program for Women Launched in Uttar Pradesh

- The **Uttar Pradesh** state government launched a "**Safe Mobility Program**".
- The state is providing **1,000 e-rickshaws** to women operating in **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)** to act as drivers.

14. "GenZ Vote" Awareness Song Launched in Kerala

- Chief Election Commissioner **Gyanesh Kumar** launched a dedicated awareness song titled "**GenZ Vote**".
- The launch event was held in **Kochi, Kerala**.

15. Reintroduction of Blackbucks in Chhattisgarh

- **Blackbucks** are actively being reintroduced to the wild in **Chhattisgarh**.
- The animals are being reintroduced specifically into the **Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary** located in the **Mahasamund** district.

16. First Female Commissioner Appointed for BMC

- **Ashwini Bhide** was officially appointed as the Commissioner of the **Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)** in **Maharashtra**.

17. Moody's Downgrades India's FY27 GDP Forecast

- Credit rating agency **Moody's** officially downgraded **India's Financial Year 2026-27 (FY27) Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** growth forecast.
- The growth projection was reduced from **6.8%** to **6%**.

18. RBI Monetary Policy Committee Meeting and Banking Data Updates

- The **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** met from **April 6-8**.
- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** data revealed total bank deposits grew by **10%** to **₹250.1 lakh crore**.
- Total bank credit reached **₹227.7 lakh crore**.
- The share of **Current Account Savings Account (CASA)** in total deposits fell to **37.9%** in **December**.

19. RBI Introduces Benchmark Issuance Strategy for State Borrowings

- States and UTs are scheduled to borrow a massive **₹2,54,509 crore** from the market in **Quarter 1 (Q1)** of **Financial Year 2026-27 (FY27)**.

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** introduced a new "**Benchmark Issuance Strategy**".

20. Emirates NBD Acquires Stake in RBL Bank

- **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** banking limits are up to **49%** (automatic route) and **74%** (government route) for private banks, and up to **20%** for public sector banks.

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** approved **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**-based **Emirates NBD** to acquire up to a **74%** stake in **RBL Bank**.

21. RBI Cancels License of Shirpur Merchant Co-operative Bank

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** officially canceled the banking license of **Shirpur Merchant Co-operative Bank**.
- Depositors of the bank are insured to receive claims up to **₹5 lakh** through the **Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)**.

22. IRDAI Retains D-SII Status for Three Insurers

The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** is headquartered in **Hyderabad** and chairman is **Ajay Seth**.

- Similarly, **Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)** require extra capital (**State Bank of India (SBI)** needs an extra **0.80%** in **Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1)** ratio; **ICICI Bank** and **HDFC Bank** require an extra **0.20%**).

- The **IRDAI** retained **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)**, **New India Assurance Company Limited (NIACL)**, and **General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re)** as **Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs)** for **Financial Year 2025-26 (FY26)**.

23. Record Volume in UPI Transactions for March 2026

- In **March 2026**, the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** logged its highest-ever volume with a staggering **22.64 billion** transactions.

- On a daily average, there were **730 million** transactions occurring, worth **₹95,243 crore**.

24. Bharti Airtel Achieves 650 Million Customer Milestone

- **Bharti Airtel** officially crossed **650 million** customers.

25. Razorpay Partners with OpenAI for AI Integrations

- Leading payment gateway **Razorpay** officially partnered with AI research organization **OpenAI**.

26. Government Announces Custom Duty Exemptions on Petrochemicals

- The Central Government fully exempted **40** critical petrochemical products from customs duty.

- The exemption will remain active until **June 30th**.

27. Major Ports Record Highest Cargo Handling in FY25-26

- Static fact: **India** currently has **14** major ports, with **12** operational under central control.

- **India's** major ports handled a record **915.17 million tonnes** of cargo in **Financial Year 2025-26 (FY26)**.

- This performance easily surpassed the government's official target of **904 million tonnes**.

- The top performers were **Deendayal Port**, **Paradip Port**, and **Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA)**.

28. India Signs Shipbuilding Skill Pact with South Korea

- The **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW)** signed an implementation plan with **South Korea's Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)**.

29. Surge in India's Defense Exports for FY25-26

- The government has set a highly ambitious goal to reach **₹50,000 crore** in defense exports by **2030**.

- **India's** defense exports hit an all-time high of **₹38,424 crore**.

- The **United States (US)**, **France**, and **Armenia** emerged as the top destinations for Indian defense equipment.

30. Indian Navy Fleet Inductions and Enhancements

- Inducted **INS Aridhaman**, the third nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) of the **Arihant class**.

- Inducted **INS Malvan**, an **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC)** built by **Cochin Shipyard** (part of an 8-ship project equipped with radar, sonar, torpedoes, and rockets).

- Inducted **INS Sanshodhak**, the fourth and final ship under the **Survey Vessel Large (SVL)** program, built by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)** and designed by the **Warship Design Bureau (WDB)** (Preceding vessels: **Sandhayak**, **Nirdeshak**, and **Ikshak**).

- **Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)** supplied **4,000 tonnes** of special-grade steel to build stealth guided-missile frigate **INS Taragiri** (built by **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders**) under **Project 17A**.

• **INS Trikand**, an older Russian-built **Talwar-class** frigate, deployed to **Dar es Salaam, Tanzania** for joint training and defense cooperation.

31. Military Exercises and Tri-Service Seminars

• **India** conducted Exercise '**Dweep Shakti**', a joint tri-service exercise (**Army, Navy, Air Force**).

• The '**Ran Samvad**' Seminar, a tri-service military seminar, was held at the **Air Force Training Command** in **Bengaluru**. It is the brainchild of **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Anil Chauhan**.

32. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched 'Mission MITRA' (Mapping of Interoperable Traits and Response Assessment) in Leh, Ladakh.

33. Sports: Key Tournaments and Milestones

• **Archery: India** topped the rankings at the **World Archery Para Series** in **Bangkok**, winning **16** medals (**7 Gold, 5 Silver, 4 Bronze**). **18-year-old** archer **Payal Nag** won a gold medal, defeating **Sheetal Devi**.

• **Khelo India Tribal Games 2026**: Held in **Chhattisgarh** (mascot '**Morvi**'). **Karnataka** emerged as the overall champion with **38** medals (including **23** golds). **Odisha** secured 2nd place, and the host, **Chhattisgarh**, ranked 9th.

• **Squash**: Indian players completely swept the **Asian Squash Federation (ASF) Awards 2025** (maintaining a winning streak since 2022). **Abhay Singh** won Men's Player of the Year, **Anahat Singh** won Junior Girls, and the **Indian Boys Team** secured the Team Award. (**Satomi Watanabe** from **Japan** won the Women's Player Senior award).

• **Athletics: Murali Sreeshankar** won the men's long jump at the **Indian Athletics Series 2026** in **Bengaluru** with an **8.15m** jump.

• **Cricket: Bhuvneshwar Kumar** became the first fast bowler to take **200** wickets in **Indian Premier League (IPL)** history.

• **Boxing**: The **7th National Sub-Junior (Under-17) Boxing Championship** commenced in **Nagpur** with **600** young boxers participating.

• **Mountaineering/Cycling: Divya Singh** (from **Uttar Pradesh**) became the first Indian female to cycle to the **Everest Base Camp** (**5,364** meters altitude), completing the journey from **Kathmandu** in just **14** days.

34. Important Appointments and Political Milestones

• **Krishna Kumar Singh** has been given the additional charge as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the **Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)**.

• Senior Advocate **Menaka Guruswamy** took oath as a Member of Parliament in the **Rajya Sabha**.

• **Blanka Vlašić** (a double Olympic medalist and multiple world champion high jumper from **Croatia**) was appointed as the International Event Ambassador for the **18th edition** of the **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) World 10K Bengaluru 2026** race.

35. Awards and Recognitions

• **Tripura** won top honors at the **Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar 2025** under the **Deendayal Upadhyay** and **Nanaji Deshmukh** Awards. Within the state, **Sepahijala** was named Best District Panchayat, **Kanchabari** won Health-Friendly, and **Baikunthpur** won Women-Friendly.

• **Gitanjali Om Prakash** won the **Mrs. International World Classic 2026** title in **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**. She also claimed special titles for Mrs. Empowerment and Most Exotic National Costume.

36. New Book Releases

• "**The Forgotten Indian Prisoner of World War II**" was authored by **Gautam Hazarika**.

• "**The Sultan of Bollywood Salman Khan**" was authored by **Mohar Basu**.

37. Important Days and Observances (April 1 to April 7)

• The **World Health Organization (WHO)** is headquartered in **Geneva** with **194** member countries (Note: the **United States of America (USA)** and **Argentina** have formally decided to withdraw from the **WHO**).

• **April 1 to 7: Prevention of Blindness Week** (Theme: raising awareness about avoidable vision loss and eye care).

• **April 2: International Children's Book Day** (Theme: **Plant Stories and World Will Do**).

• **April 3: 260th Raising Day of the Army Medical Corps**.

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- **April 4: United Nations (UN) International Day of Conscience** (Theme: **Acting with Ethics, Faith and Integrity**).
- **April 5: 63rd National Maritime Day** (Theme: **Maritime India: Empowering Progress**). Also marked globally as **Easter Sunday**.
- **April 6: International Day of Sport for Development and Peace** (Theme: **Sport Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers**).
- **April 7: World Health Day**.
- The theme for World Health Day 2026 is "**Together for Health, Stand with Science**".