



April 2026

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1. G.V. Satish Sir (Best Picks)

1. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee Review

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) held its 60th bi-monthly Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting for the financial year 2026-27.
- The Repo Rate was kept unchanged at 5.25% to prevent inflation from rising due to geopolitical conflicts in West Asia.
- The Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) remains at 5.00%, Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) at 5.50%, Bank Rate at 5.50%, Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) at 3%, and Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) at 18%.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) projected India's GDP growth rate at 7.6% for FY26 and 6.9% for FY27.
- The MPC maintained a "Neutral" stance.
- CPI inflation is projected at 4.6% for FY27.

2. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Launches 'Utkarsh 2029' Strategy

- The framework, named 'Utkarsh 2029' (or Utkarsh 3.0), spans the three-year period from April 2026 to March 2029.
- It is built on six strategic pillars and 49 priorities, including expanding the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) for cross-border payments under "Project Sa-Mudra".

3. First Unicorn of FY27 - KreditBee

- Digital lending platform KreditBee became the first unicorn of the 2026-2027 financial year.
- India currently has roughly 128 unicorns, with total valuation standing around \$391 billion.

4. Amul Crosses ₹1 Trillion Turnover Milestone

- Anand Milk Union Limited (AMUL) became India's first Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) company to cross a turnover of ₹1 lakh crore (₹1 Trillion).
- The company registered an 11% growth in the financial year 2025-26.

5. Bank of Baroda (BoB) Crosses ₹30 Lakh Crore Global Business & Launches 'Bob Samvaad'

- Bank of Baroda (BoB) achieved a historic milestone by crossing ₹30.78 lakh crore in total global business, registering a 14% growth.
- The bank also launched 'Bob Samvaad', an industry-first, AI-powered multilingual conversational platform supporting 22 languages.
- Bank of Baroda (BoB) is headquartered in Vadodara, Gujarat, and its MD & CEO is Debadatta Chand.

6. IRDAI Designates LIC, GIC Re, and NIACL as D-SIIs

- IRDAI designated the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re), and New India Assurance Co. Ltd (NIACL) as Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs) for FY26.
- These are designated as "too big to fail" institutions.
- IRDAI is headquartered in Hyderabad and is chaired by Ajay Seth.

7. Emirates NBD Acquires 74% Stake in RBL Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) regulates Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) limits in private sector banks.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved Dubai-based Emirates NBD to acquire up to a 74% stake in RBL Bank (formerly Ratnakar Bank Limited).
- The acquisition deal is valued at ₹26,853 crore.

8. New Income Tax Rules & 'Kar Sathi' AI Platform

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) notified new rules and launched a digital platform to simplify tax filing effective April 1, 2026.

- Under the "PRARAMBH 2026" campaign, total tax rules were reduced from 510 to 333, and forms from 399 to 190.
- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) launched 'Kar Sathi', a 24/7 AI-powered tax assistance platform/chatbot in Hindi and English.
- Changes include the introduction of a single tax year and mandatory PAN for property deals exceeding ₹20 lakh.
- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) is chaired by Ravi Agarwal.

9. Small Savings Scheme Interest Rates Kept Unchanged

- The Ministry of Finance reviews interest rates for small saving schemes every quarter based on government securities yields.
- Rates have been kept unchanged for Q1 FY27 (April 1 to June 30), marking the 8th consecutive quarter without changes.
- The Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (SCSS) and Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY) continue to offer the highest rate at 8.2%.
- Other key rates: Public Provident Fund (PPF) at 7.1%, Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) at 7.5%, and National Savings Certificate (NSC) at 7.7%.
- Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) matures in 115 months.

10. UPI Marks 10th Anniversary with Record Transactions

- Developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) in 2016, the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) completed 10 years.
- In March 2026, UPI recorded an all-time high of 22.64 billion transactions worth ₹29.53 lakh crore.
- The daily average transaction for March was 730 million.

11. World Bank & IMF GDP Forecasts for India

- The World Bank upgraded India's FY27 growth forecast to 6.6% (from 6.3%) and FY26 to 7.6%.
- Conversely, Moody's downgraded the FY27 forecast to 6.0% due to geopolitical conflicts in West Asia.
- International Monetary Fund (IMF) increased its FY27 projection by 30 basis points to 6.5%.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) projected 6.9% for FY27.

12. SEBI Launches 'SEBI SETU' Platform

- SEBI launched the 'SEBI SETU' digital platform to simplify registration for investment advisors, providing a single-window interface.

13. Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 Launched

- The Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 was officially notified with a massive corpus of ₹10,000 crore. • Funds will not be given directly to startups but routed through SEBI-registered Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs).
- The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) acts as the implementing agency.

14. Amaravati Declared Sole Capital of Andhra Pradesh

- Parliament passed the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Amendment Bill 2026, officially declaring Amaravati as the sole and permanent capital of Andhra Pradesh.
- The bill has a retrospective effect starting from June 2, 2024.

15. Parliament Passes Jan Vishwas Bill 2026

- The Jan Vishwas Bill 2026 was passed, amending 784 provisions across 80 Central Acts.
- It strictly decriminalizes 717 minor offenses across 79 central acts, replacing jail time with civil and monetary penalties.

16. Government Launches Digital Census 2027

- The Government of India launched Phase 1 of Census 2027 on April 1st, marking the longest gap since independence (16 years).

- It is India's first fully digital census, utilizing smartphones and offering a self-enumeration portal in 16 languages.
- It has an allocated budget of ₹1,178.24 crore and, for the first time since 1931, will include caste enumeration across all communities.
- Citizens are assigned a 16-digit Self Enumeration ID.
- Conducted by the Office of the Registrar General of India under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

17. NCERT Granted 'Deemed to be University' Status

- The Ministry of Education, on the recommendation of the University Grants Commission (UGC), granted "Deemed-to-be-University" status to the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).
- The status was granted under the 'De Novo' category.
- Includes its six constituent institutions located in Ajmer, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Mysore, and Shillong.

18. CBSE Introduces AI and Coding Curriculum

- The Ministry of Education and Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) introduced Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Computational Thinking (CT) into the curriculum for classes 3 to 8.
- The rollout is effective from the 2026-27 academic session.
- Curriculum developed in collaboration with institutes like IIT Madras.

19. India's First Hydrogen-Powered Train Trial

- India successfully conducted trials of its first hydrogen-powered train on the 20 km Jind-Sonipat route in Haryana.
- The trial train reached speeds up to 70 km/hr.
- Developed by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai and trialed by the Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO).

20. NITI Aayog Report on Women's Evolving Credit Market

- NITI Aayog released the second edition of the report "From Borrowers to Builders: Women and India's Evolving Credit Market."
- The report highlights that women now hold 26% of India's total credit (worth ₹76 lakh crore).
- Credit penetration among women increased significantly from 19% in 2017 to 36% in 2025.
- Released in collaboration with the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) and TransUnion CIBIL.

21. Energy Statistics of India 2026 Report

- India's renewable energy capacity reached a massive 47,43,000 MW (Solar: 33,43,000 MW; Wind: 11,00,063 MW).
- Over 70% of the total renewable energy generation potential is concentrated in six states, led by Rajasthan (23.70%).
- Confirms India's ranking as the 3rd largest globally in renewable energy installed capacity (surpassing Brazil).
- Solar energy currently holds the highest share (around 71%) of India's renewable energy.

22. Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) Districts Recategorized

- The Ministry of Home Affairs revised the categories of Naxal/LWE-affected districts across the country.
- The "most affected" category has been replaced by "LWE Affected Districts of Concern" and "Legacy and Thrust Districts".
- The 'Red Corridor' has shrunk dramatically from 200 districts in 2005 to just 38 districts currently.

23. Solid Waste Management Rules 2026 Notified

- The government notified the new Solid Waste Management Rules 2026, replacing the older 2016 framework.
- The rules mandate a 4-stream waste segregation at the source: Wet (Green bin), Dry (Blue bin), Sanitary (Red bin), and Special care (Black bin).

- Operates on the "polluter pays" and circular economy principles.
- Entities generating over 100 kg of waste daily are strictly classified as bulk waste generators.

24. First 500 MW Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) Attains Criticality

- The indigenously built 500 MW Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at the Kalpakkam Nuclear Complex in Tamil Nadu successfully attained its first criticality.
- India is now the second country in the world (after Russia) to have a commercial fast breeder reactor.
- Fast breeder reactors generate more fuel (plutonium) than they consume.
- Designed by the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR) and operated by BHAVINI.

25. INS Aridhaman Commissioned into Indian Navy

- Defense Minister Rajnath Singh commissioned INS Aridhaman, India's third indigenous nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), in Visakhapatnam.
- Built by Defense Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) with 70% indigenous content, it features 8 vertical launch tubes and can carry 3,500 km range K-4 missiles.

26. INS Taragiri Stealth Frigate Commissioned

- The stealth guided-missile frigate INS Taragiri was commissioned into the Indian Navy at Visakhapatnam.
- It is the fourth ship built under the Project 17A (Nilgiri-class) initiative.
- Built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL).

27. MoD Signs ₹1,950 Crore Contract with BEL for Mountain Radars

- The Ministry of Defense signed a ₹1,950 crore contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).
- The contract is to procure two highly advanced Mountain Radar Systems for the Indian Air Force.
- Additional contracts included a ₹445 crore deal for the Tunguska air defense system and a ₹413 crore deal for P-8I aircraft MRO.

28. India's Defense Exports Hit Record High of ₹38,424 Crore

- India's defense exports reached an all-time high of ₹38,424 crore in FY26, marking a 62.66% year-on-year growth.
- Défense Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) contributed 54.84%, while the private sector contributed 45.16%.
- India now exports to over 80 countries (top destinations: USA, France, Armenia).
- The government has set an ambitious target to reach ₹50,000 crore in defense exports by 2030.

29. NASA's Artemis II Mission Successfully Completes Lunar Flyby

- NASA's Artemis II crewed lunar flyby mission successfully returned to Earth with a Pacific Ocean splashdown.
- The 10-day mission used the Space Launch System rocket and the Orion spacecraft.
- The crew (including Christina Koch and Victor Glover) broke the spaceflight distance record previously set by Apollo 13 in 1970, traveling 1.1 million kilometers from Earth.

30. ISRO Prepares for Gaganyaan with IADT-02 and Mission MITRA

- ISRO successfully completed the Integrated Air Drop Test 02 (IADT-02) using an IAF Chinook helicopter to test parachute recovery systems for the crew module.
- ISRO also conducted "Mission MITRA" in Leh, Ladakh, simulating space-like conditions (low oxygen, extreme cold) to test astronaut endurance.
- Gaganyaan mission targeted for 2027.

31. India-Egypt Joint Military Exercise 'Cyclone-IV'

- A 25-member Indian Army contingent participated in the 4th edition of the joint special forces exercise "Cyclone-IV".
- The exercise took place in Anshas, Egypt from April 9-17.
- India and Egypt also alternate in conducting the 'Desert Warrior' and 'Bright Star' exercises.

32. India-Uzbekistan Joint Military Exercise 'DUSTLIK'

- The 7th edition of the joint military exercise "DUSTLIK" between the Indian Army and the Uzbekistan Army was conducted.
- The exercise took place at the Gurumsaray Field Training Area in Namangan, Uzbekistan.
- It featured 60 Indian personnel, including members from the Mahar Regiment and the Indian Air Force.

33. India Withdraws Bid to Host COP 33 Climate Summit

- India officially withdrew its proposal to host the UN's COP 33 climate summit scheduled for 2028.
- Following India's exit, South Korea is the sole remaining bidder expressing interest for the Asia-Pacific group.
- COP 31 (2026) will be in Antalya, Turkiye, and COP 32 (2027) will be in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

34. India Elected to UN ECOSOC Subsidiary Bodies

- India was elected unopposed to several UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) subsidiary bodies for the 2027–2030 and 2027–2029 terms.
- Additionally, Indian diplomat Preeti Saran was re-elected to the UN Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (CESCR).

35. Thailand to Host World Bank & IMF Annual Meetings

- For the first time in 35 years (since 1991), Thailand will host the annual meeting of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- The summit will be held in Bangkok from October 12 to 18, 2026.
- The theme is "Thailand's New Horizons: Empowering People, Building Resilience".

36. India Leads Globally in Nagoya Protocol Compliance

- The Nagoya Protocol is an international agreement tied to the Convention on Biological Diversity ensuring fair sharing of genetic resources.
- India has emerged as the global leader in issuing Internationally Recognized Certificates of Compliance (IRCCs).
- India issued 3,561 IRCCs out of the 6,311 issued globally, accounting for over 56% of the global total.

37. India and New Zealand Conclude Free Trade Agreement

- India and New Zealand successfully concluded a historic Free Trade Agreement.
- The agreement aims to significantly boost economic ties and bilateral trade between the two nations.

38. UNESCO Releases 2026 Global Education Monitoring Report

- UNESCO released the 2026 Global Education Monitoring (GEM) report titled "Access and Equity: Countdown to 2030".
- The report highlighted that 273 million children, adolescents, and youth were out of school globally in 2024.

39. First Danish Chamber of Commerce Established in New Delhi

- Denmark announced the establishment of its first Danish Chamber of Commerce in New Delhi.

40. Sanjay Khanna Appointed CMD of BPCL

- Sanjay Khanna was appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL).
- He will serve until May 31, 2029, succeeding G. Krishnakumar.
- BPCL is a leading "Maharatna" public sector energy enterprise.

41. Veer Vikram Yadav Appointed Director General of Civil Aviation

- Veer Vikram Yadav was appointed as the new Director General / Chief of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).
- He replaced Faiz Ahmed Kidwai.

42. William Walsh Appointed as New CEO of IndiGo

- Willie Walsh, currently the Director General of IATA, was appointed as the new CEO of IndiGo. • He will join the airline in August 2026, replacing Pieter Elbers.
- IndiGo is headquartered in Gurugram, Haryana.

43. Key Global Leadership Appointments (Hungary, Iraq, Vietnam)

- Hungary: Peter Magyar (Tisza Party) won a landslide victory, ending PM Viktor Orbán's 16-year rule.
- Iraq: Parliament elected Nizar Amedi (former Environment Minister) as the new President.
- Vietnam: To Lam was re-elected as the President for a 5-year term.
- In Myanmar, the pro-military parliament elected junta chief Min Aung Hlaing as the new President.

44. Menaka Guruswamy Becomes India's First Openly Queer MP

- Senior Advocate Menaka Guruswamy took an oath as a Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha.
- She is officially India's first openly queer MP.
- She was nominated by the Trinamool Congress (TMC).

45. Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay Awarded 35th Saraswati Samman 2025

- The Saraswati Samman is one of India's most prestigious literary awards, presented by the KK Birla Foundation since 1991.
- Author Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay's literary work "Hara Parvati Katha" was selected for the 35th Saraswati Samman for the year 2025.
- The award includes a cash prize of ₹15 lakh, a citation, and a plaque.

46. Uttarakhand and Odisha Police Awarded President's Police Color

- The President's Police Color (also known as "Nishan") is the highest institutional recognition for police organizations in India, established in 1951.
- The Uttarakhand Police and Odisha Police were awarded the prestigious President's Police Color by President Droupadi Murmu.
- The honor was officially presented on the 19th Police Foundation Day / Utkal Divas.

47. Wisden Cricket Awards 2026 Announced

- Mitchell Starc was named Leading Men's Cricketer, and India's Deepti Sharma was named Leading Women's Cricketer.
- India's Abhishek Sharma was named Leading T20 Cricketer.
- Four Indians (Shubman Gill, Ravindra Jadeja, Rishabh Pant, and Mohammed Siraj) were among the Five Cricketers of the Year.
- Shubman Gill also won the Wisden Trophy for an outstanding 430-run performance in a single Test match.

48. Sheetal Devi Named World Para Archer of the Year

- Sheetal Devi (a 19-year-old armless archer from Jammu & Kashmir who shoots with her feet) was named the World Para Archer of the Year 2025/2023.
- She is the first female armless archer to win gold at the World Para Archery Championship.
- American Hennie won the general Archer of the Year award.

49. Historic IPL Milestones by Virat Kohli and Bhuvneshwar Kumar

- Virat Kohli became the first player in IPL history to cross 4,000 runs in run-chases (playing for RCB against SRH).
- Bhuvneshwar Kumar became the first fast bowler (and second player overall behind Yuzvendra Chahal) to take 200 wickets in IPL history.
- Shubman Gill also became the youngest player to score 4,000 runs in the IPL.

50. Ayush Shetty Wins Silver at Badminton Asia Championships

- At the Badminton Asia Championships 2026 held in Ningbo, China, India's Ayush Shetty won a silver medal in the Men's Singles event.
- This marks India's first silver medal in this specific championship.
- He lost the final match to China's Shi Yu Qi.



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2. Amounts & Agreements

1. Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) Loan to India

- Japan committed a loan of ₹16,420 crore (275 billion Japanese Yen).
- The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is specifically providing financial assistance of ₹3,708 crore for a healthcare, medical education, and nursing project in Maharashtra.
- The funds will be utilized for urban transport projects such as the Bengaluru Metro Phase 3 and Mumbai Metro.
- It will also support healthcare infrastructure in Maharashtra (districts like Mumbai, Nagpur, Wardha) and agriculture/horticulture projects in Punjab.

2. Multilateral Funding for Amaravati Capital Development

- Amaravati has been officially declared as the sole capital of Andhra Pradesh, prompting massive infrastructural investments
- The World Bank released 340 million USD for Phase 1 of the Amaravati Capital Development Project.
- An additional \$150 million is expected by April 2026.
- The project is jointly supported by the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), with each committing 800 million USD.

3. India & ADB \$800 Million Loan Agreement

- India continues to partner with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to finance key infrastructure initiatives. Key Developments
- India and the ADB signed a loan agreement worth \$800 million.
- The loan is earmarked for power sector enhancements, metro rail development, and skill development projects across the country.

4. Vietnam's Vingroup Investment in Maharashtra

- Vingroup will invest approximately \$6.5 billion in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region.

5. Google's \$15 Billion AI Data Center Investment

- Google announced a massive \$15 billion investment to set up an AI Data Center and Hub.
- The facility will be located in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, and will have a 1 Gigawatt capacity.

6. Amazon's \$11.57 Billion Acquisition of Globalstar

- Amazon announced a massive \$11.57 billion deal to acquire the global satellite communication firm Globalstar.

7. Emirates NBD's 74% Stake Acquisition in RBL Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) regulates Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) limits in private sector banks.
- The RBI approved Dubai-based Emirates NBD to acquire up to a 74% stake in RBL Bank (formerly Ratnakar Bank Limited),.
- The acquisition deal is valued at ₹26,853 crore.
- Emirates NBD must maintain at least a 51% shareholding, effectively turning RBL Bank into a Foreign Bank subsidiary.
- The approval is valid for one year starting April 1, 2026, to increase the stake from 51% to 74%,.
- Emirates NBD is the third foreign bank to receive a Wholly Owned Subsidiary (WOS) model license from the RBI.

8. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Acquires Colombo Dockyard

- Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) acquired a 51% stake in Sri Lanka's Colombo Dockyard PLC.
- The acquisition was completed for an amount of ₹249.5 crore.

9. CCI Approves Advent International's Stake in ABHFL

- The CCI approved Advent International's proposal to acquire a 14.286% stake in Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited (ABHFL).
- The acquisition value is reported as ₹750 crore / ₹2,750 crores.

10. Ministry of Defense Contracts for Mountain Radars and MRO

- The MoD signed a ₹1,950 crore contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) to procure two Mountain Radar Systems for the Indian Air Force.
- Additional deals worth ₹858 crore were signed, including a ₹445 crore contract with Rosoboronexport for the Tunguska air defense system and a ₹413 crore contract with Boeing India for P-8I aircraft MRO.

11. Cabinet Approves Mega Hydroelectric Projects in Arunachal Pradesh

- The Cabinet approved an investment of approximately ₹40,000 crore for two mega hydroelectric projects.
- The 1,200 MW Kalai-II project on the Lohit river in Anjaw district was approved with an outlay of ₹14,000 crore to ₹14,150 crore.
- The 1,720 MW Kamala project was approved with an outlay of ₹26,000 crore.
- Kalai-II will be developed by a joint venture between THDC India Ltd and the state government, while Kamala will be implemented by NHPC Ltd.,

12. Cabinet Approves NBS Rates for Kharif 2026

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by PM Modi, regulates fertilizer subsidies to support the agriculture sector.
- The Cabinet fixed Nutrient-Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers for the Kharif 2026 season (April 1 to Sept 30).
- A total budget of ₹41,533.81 crore has been allocated for this subsidy.
- Subsidy rates : Nitrogen ₹47.32/kg, Phosphate ₹52.76/kg, Potash ₹2.38/kg, and Sulfur ₹3.16/kg.

13. Central and State Government Scheme Allocations

- Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0: Launched with a massive corpus of ₹10,000 crore to boost the startup ecosystem, routed through SEBI-registered AIFs.
- Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0: Received an additional outlay of ₹1.5 lakh crore, with ₹67,300 crore allocated in the FY26 budget
- Atal Bhujal Yojana: Allocated a total of ₹6,000 crore, funded 50:50 by the GoI and World Bank.
- National Quantum Mission: Approved for 2023-2031 with a budget of ₹6,003.65 crores.
- Pride of Hills Scheme: The Center allocated ₹25,000 crore for special development in 9 hill states, with Nagaland specifically receiving ₹3,880 crore.
- RoSCTL Scheme: Extended until Sep 30, 2026, with a budget allocation of ₹5,000 crore for 2026-27.
- Namo Drone Didi Yojana: Allocated a ₹1,261 crore budget to provide 15,000 agricultural drones to women SHGs.
- Census 2027: The government allocated ₹1,178.24 crore for India's fully digital census.

14. Record Auction Sale of Raja Ravi Varma Painting

- A 19th-century canvas titled "Yashoda and Krishna" by Raja Ravi Varma was sold for ₹167.20 crores.
- It is the highest-valued Indian artwork ever sold at auction, surpassing an MF Husain painting that previously sold for ₹118 crores.
- The painting was acquired by Cyrus S. Poonawalla, Chairman of the Serum Institute of India.

3. Appointments & Resignations

1. Major Political Shifts in State Governments

- Nitish Kumar resigned from his position as the Chief Minister of Bihar and took the oath as a Rajya Sabha member.
- Samrat Choudhary is set to become the new Chief Minister of Bihar, forming the first-ever BJP-led government in the state.
- Ashwini Bhide, nicknamed the "Metro Woman", was appointed as the Municipal Commissioner of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), replacing Bhushan Gagrani.
- Anugu was appointed as Odisha's first woman Chief Secretary.

2. First Openly Queer Member of Parliament

- Senior Advocate Menaka Guruswamy took an oath as a Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha.
- She became India's first openly queer MP.
- She was nominated to the Rajya Sabha by the Trinamool Congress (TMC).

3. Reshuffle of Union Government Secretaries

- Chanchal Kumar was appointed as the Information & Broadcasting Secretary, replacing Sanjay Jaju.
- Sanjay Jaju was transferred to serve as the Secretary of the Ministry of DoNER (Development of North Eastern Region).
- Bhuvnesh Kumar (or Bhuvanesh Kumar) was appointed as the Tourism Secretary.
- Srivatsa Krishnawas appointed as the Minority Affairs Secretary.
- Rohit Kansal was appointed as the Rural Development Secretary.
- Narendra Bhushan took charge as the Secretary of the Department of Land Resources.

4. Supreme Court Legal Appointments

- Dindra Pal Singh Kakama, Ravindra Kumar, and Anil Koshik were appointed as Additional Solicitor Generals (ASGs) at the Supreme Court.

5. Leadership Changes in Defense and Infrastructure PSUs

- Sanjay Khanna was appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) until May 31, 2029, succeeding G. Krishnakumar.
- Burra Vamsi Rama Mohan was appointed as the CMD of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited for a term from April 1, 2026, to July 31, 2030, succeeding Dr. Ravindra Kumar Tyagi.
- Krishna Kumar Singh (Krishnan Kumar Singh) took additional charge as the CMD of the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) for a three-month period (May 2 to July 1), following the resignation of Amarendu Prakash.
- Saleem Ahmed was appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL).
- Jagmohan, the CMD of Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), was appointed as the non-executive chairman of the newly acquired Colombo Dockyard.

6. Aviation Sector Executive Appointments

- Veer Vikram Yadav was appointed as the new Director General / Chief of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), replacing Faiz Ahmed Kidwai.
- Willie Walsh, currently IATA's Director General, was appointed as the new CEO of IndiGo, joining in August 2026.

7. Banking and Insurance Sector Appointments

- Rajesh Kumar Singh was appointed as the MD and CEO of Canara Bank.
- Vinay Murlidhar Tose took charge as the MD & CEO of Yes Bank for a three-year term, replacing Prashant Kumar.
- K. Satyanarayana Raju (former Canara Bank MD & CEO) was appointed as the MD & CEO of the newly established Indian Digital Payment Intelligence Corporation (IDPIC).
- Rajiv Kumar Swami was appointed as the MD & CEO of Cholamandalam MS General Insurance, replacing V. Suryanarayanan.

8. ONDC Executive Restructuring

- The Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) completely revamped its top-tier management.
- Vibhor Jain was appointed as the new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), succeeding Thampy Koshy.
- Rohit Lohiriya was appointed as the Chief Business Officer (CBO).
- Manoj Thakur was appointed as the Chief Operating Officer (COO)

9. Appointments in Academic and Research Institutions

- Rahul Singh was appointed as the head of the CBSE, replacing Nidhi Chhibber (who is now the CEO of NITI Aayog).
- Dr. Thomas J. Pucadyil was appointed as the Director of the Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council - National Centre for Cell Science (BRIC-NCCS) in Pune, succeeding interim director Dr. Manisha Inamdar.
- The NCERT reconstituted its National Syllabus and Teaching Learning Material Committee, appointing MC Pant as Chairman and Manjul Bhargava as Co-chairperson / Vice Chairman.
- U.B. Pravin Rao (former Infosys COO) was appointed as the Chairperson of the NASSCOM Foundation, succeeding Rostow Ramanan.
- Manali Kshirsagar was noted as the first woman Vice-Chancellor of Nagpur University.

10. Indian Army Leadership Transitions

- Lieutenant General Dhiraj Seth was appointed as the 49th Vice Chief of Army Staff, succeeding Lt Gen Pushendra Pal Singh.
- Lt Gen Pushendra Pal Singh was subsequently moved to serve as the General Officer Commanding-in-C (GOC-in-C) of the Western Command.

11. International Presidential and Prime Ministerial Elections

- Mongolia: Former hip-hop artist Uchral Nyam-Osor was appointed as the new Prime Minister, replacing Khishgeegiin Nyambaatar (also cited contextually as Zandanshatar Gombojav / Zandan Shatir).
- Hungary: Peter Magyar (Tisza Party) won the parliamentary elections with a landslide victory.
- Vietnam: To Lam (General Secretary of the Vietnam Communist Party) was elected/re-elected as the President of Vietnam for a 5-year term.
- Iraq: The Iraqi Parliament elected Nizar Amedi (former Environment Minister) as the new President.
- Djibouti: Ismail Omar Guelleh was re-elected for his 6th consecutive term as President.
- Myanmar: Pro-military parliament elected military junta chief Min Aung Hlaing as the new President

12. Appointments in Global Agencies and Foreign Intelligence

- Preeti Saran (or Priti Saran) was re-elected to the UN Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (CESCR) for the 2027–2030 (and 2027–2029) terms.
- Tom Suozzi was appointed as the Vice Chair of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans in the USA.
- PV Sindhu was elected chair of the BWF (Badminton World Federation) Athletes' Commission for the 2026-2029 term.
- Major General Roman Gofman was appointed as the new director of Israel's intelligence agency, Mossad.

13. Recent Brand Ambassador Designations

- Sudarsan Pattnaik: Renowned sand artist appointed as the brand ambassador for the 16th Census of India (2027) by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Smriti Mandhana: Appointed as the brand ambassador for the premier sportswear brand '188' (recently acquired by Agilias Sports).
- Blanka Vlašić: Croatian high jumper and double Olympic medalist appointed as the international event ambassador for the 18th TCS World 10K Bengaluru 2026.
- Ranveer Singh: Appointed as the first-ever brand ambassador for Jindal Stainless.
- Virat Kohli: Roped in by United Spirits for their Johnnie Walker Lux blended water campaign.
- AR Rahman (DAC Developers and Yamaha Music), MS Dhoni (Pune Grand Tour 2026), Sachin Tendulkar (UN's Road Safety), and Bhavita Mandwa (Chanel's first India House Ambassador).



4. Arts & Cultural Affairs

1. Bharat Tribes Fest & 'RISE' Initiative

- The festival was held at Sundar Nursery in New Delhi over a 19-day period from March 18th to April 5th.
- It was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Tribal Affairs, Jual Oram.
- The festival featured cultural performances, tribal food, handloom/handicraft exhibitions, and workshops.
- The "RISE" initiative was launched here, which is an inclusive tribal clothing brand inspired by Tripura's traditional hand-woven 'Risa'.

2. Cultural Installations, Heritage & Museums

- Samrat Samprati Museum: PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the Samrat Samprati Museum on the occasion of Mahavir Jayanti. Located at Koba Village in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, the museum highlights Jain history, Emperor Samprati, and promotes a message of non-violence and heritage preservation.
- Swami Vivekananda Statue in USA: Seattle became the first US city to host a life-size bronze statue of Swami Vivekananda, installed at Westlake Square Park. It was sculpted by Naresh Kumawat and gifted by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR).
- Vikramaditya Vedic Clock: The world's second Vikramaditya Vedic Clock was installed at the Kashi Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi (the first is in Ujjain, MP). It was inaugurated by UP CM Yogi Adityanath and MP CM Mohan Yadav.
- Surajkund International Crafts Mela: The 39th edition of the mela began in Haryana with the theme "Vocal to Global".

3. UK Tour of the Sacred 'Shikshapatri'

- Oxford University's Bodleian Libraries launched a UK-wide tour of the "Shikshapatri" to commemorate its 200th anniversary in 2026.
- The Shikshapatri is a rare and sacred Hindu text consisting of 212 Sanskrit verses.

4. Constitution of India Translated into Sindhi Language

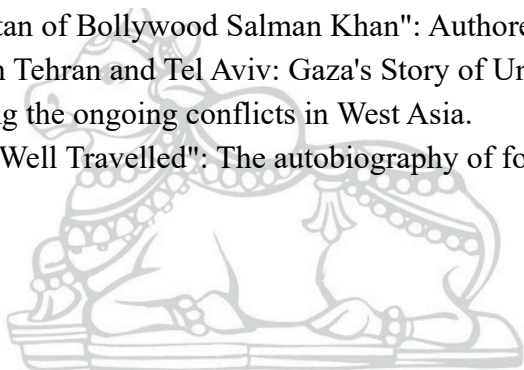
- Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan released the latest version of the Constitution of India translated into the Sindhi language.
- The translation incorporates both Devanagari and Perso-Arabic (Persian) scripts.
- It was released at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on the occasion of Sindhi Bhasha Diwas (Sindhi Language Day), observed on April 10.
- Sindhi was added to the 8th Schedule via the 21st Constitutional Amendment Act in 1967.

5. Regional New Years, Harvest Festivals & Traditional Arts

- Assam: Celebrated 'Rongali Bihu' (or 'Bohag Bihu'), marking the Assamese New Year and the arrival of the spring season.
- Tamil Nadu: Celebrated 'Puthandu', the regional New Year.
- Kerala: Celebrated 'Vishu' (the regional New Year) and 'Thrissur Pooram', an annual temple festival held at the Vadakkunnathan Temple.
- Tripura: Celebrated 'Garia Puja', a traditional tribal harvest festival.
- Static GK - Indian Folk Arts: Madhubani & Manjusha (Bihar), Pattachitra (Odisha), Kalighat & Patua (West Bengal), Warli (Maharashtra), Paitkar, Sohrai & Kohbar (Jharkhand), Kalamkari (Andhra Pradesh), Phad, Bani Thani & Pichhwai (Rajasthan), Thangka (Sikkim, HP, Ladakh, Arunachal), and Pithora (Gujarat, MP).

6. Newly Released Books and Autobiographies

- "Tides of Time: Bharat's History Through Murals in Parliament" (also cited as "Ties of Time: Bharat History to Rurals in Parliament"): Authored by Sudha Murty and released by Vice President CP Radhakrishnan in New Delhi. The book focuses on the paintings on the 58 walls of the Samvidhan Sadan.
- "The Forgotten Indian Prisoner of World War II": Authored by Gautam Hazarika.
- "The Sultan of Bollywood Salman Khan": Authored by Mohar Basu.
- "Between Tehran and Tel Aviv: Gaza's Story of Unending War": Authored by Colonel Rajiv Agarwal, highlighting the ongoing conflicts in West Asia.
- "A Road Well Travelled": The autobiography of former CBI Director R.K. Raghavan.



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5. Awards & Prizes

1. World Archery Awards 2025/2023

- Sheetal Devi (from Jammu & Kashmir, a 19-year-old armless archer who shoots with her feet) was named the World Para Archer of the Year.
- The Archer of the Year award was given to American Hennie (Turkey).
- The Young Archer of the Year award went to Baptiste Addis (France).
- The Best Team award was given to Korea's Recurve Men's team.

2. Asian Squash Federation (ASF) Awards 2025

- Abhay Singh (India) won the Men's Player of the Year.
- Anahat Singh (India) won the Girls' Junior / Girls' Player of the Year.
- Satomi Watanabe (Japan) won the Women's Player Senior award.
- The Indian Junior Boys Team won the Men's Team Award.
- Fahim Gul (Pakistan) and Peter Genever (Hong Kong) won Coach of the Year.

3. Wisden Cricket Awards and ICC Players of the Month

- Mitchell Starc was named Leading Men's Cricketer, Deepti Sharma as Leading Women's Cricketer, and Abhishek Sharma as Leading T20 Cricketer by Wisden.
- Four Indians (Shubman Gill, Ravindra Jadeja, Rishabh Pant, and Mohammed Siraj) alongside England's Haseeb Hameed were named the Five Cricketers of the Year.
- Shubman Gill also won the Wisden Trophy for an outstanding 430-run performance in a single Test match at Edgbaston.
- Sanju Samson was awarded the ICC Men's Player of the Month for March, and New Zealand's Amelia Kerr won the ICC Women's Player of the Month.

4. Hockey India Annual Awards 2025

- Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award: Zafar Iqbal (Member of the 1980 Moscow Olympics Gold-winning team).
- Player of the Year (Men): Hardik Singh (winning for the third time).
- Player of the Year (Women): Navneet Kaur.
- Goalkeeper of the Year (Baljit Singh Award): Bichu Devi Kharibam.
- Defender of the Year (Pargat Singh Award): Sanjay. • Midfielder of the Year (Ajit Pal Singh Award): Sumit.
- Forward of the Year (Dhanraj Pillay Award): Sukhjeet Singh.
- Upcoming Player (Under 21): Sakshi Rana (Women) and Prinsideep Singh (Men).

5. Cricket Legends Honored at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium

- Stands at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru were officially named after Rahul Dravid and Anil Kumble.

6. President's Police Color (Nishan) Award

- The President's Police Color, also known as "Nishan," is the highest institutional recognition for police organizations in India, established in 1951.
- The Uttarakhand Police and Odisha Police were awarded the prestigious President's Police Color.
- The honor was officially presented by President Droupadi Murmu and the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The honor coincided with the 19th Police Foundation Day / 90th Police Foundation Day (Utkal Divas).

7. National Panchayat Awards 2025

- Sepahijala District Panchayat (Tripura) ranked 1st as the Best District Panchayat.
- Kanchanbari Gram Panchayat (Tripura) ranked 1st for the "Healthy Panchayat" category.
- Baikunthpur/Vaikuntapur Gram Panchayat (Tripura) ranked 3rd for the "Women-Friendly Panchayat" category.
- Climate Action awards were given to Dawha (Maharashtra), Biradhali (Karnataka), and Motipur (Bihar).
- Aatmanirbhar Panchayat awards went to Malyal (Telangana), Patabhadra (Odisha), and Gollapudi (Andhra Pradesh).

8. 20th Ramnath Goenka Journalism Awards

- Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan addressed the 20th edition of the Ramnath Goenka Journalism Awards organized by the Indian Express Group.
- 24 journalists were awarded across 19 categories.
- Awadhesh Akodia won the award for Hindi Print.
- Jayashree Nandi and Tanu Jain won for Environmental Reporting.
- Deeptiman Tiwari won for Government/Politics reporting.

9. 35th Saraswati Samman 2025

- The KK Birla Foundation has awarded the Saraswati Samman since 1991 to recognize outstanding literary works.
- Author Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay's literary work "Hara Parvati Katha" was selected for the 35th Saraswati Samman for the year 2025.
- The award includes a cash prize of ₹15 lakh, a citation, and a plaque.

10. Film and Entertainment Lifetime Achievement Awards

- IFFD 2026: Telugu actor Nandamuri Balakrishna was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the International Film Festival of Delhi (IFFD) for his 50-year contribution to Indian cinema.
- Chetak Screen Awards: Veteran actor Dharmendra received the Lifetime Achievement Award, which was accepted by his son Bobby Deol.
- At the Chetak Screen Awards, Ranveer Singh won Best Actor, Aditya Dhar won Best Director, and 'Homebound' won Best Film.
- Balakrishna's movie Bhagavanth Kesari also recently won Best Telugu Film at the 71st National Film Awards.

11. Mrs. International World Classic 2026

- An international beauty pageant was recently held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- Geetanjali Om Prakash became the first Indian to win the title of Mrs. International World Classic 2026.
- She also won special awards for "Mrs. Empowerment" and "Most Exotic National Costume".

12. Skytrax World Airport Awards 2026

- The Skytrax World Airport Awards 2026 ranked global airports based on passenger experience, with five Indian airports successfully making the global top 100.
- Singapore's Changi Airport ranked number one globally for the 14th time, also winning World's Best Airport Dining and Best Airport Immigration Service.
- Delhi's IGI Airport ranked 28th (Best Airport in India and South Asia).
- Bengaluru's Kempegowda Airport ranked 41st (Best Regional Airport in India and South Asia).
- Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport ranked 43rd (Best Airport Staff Service in India and South Asia).

• Goa's Manohar Parrikar (Mopa) Airport ranked 64th, and Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Airport ranked 66th.

13. Scientific, Telecom, and Corporate Excellence Recognitions

- MS Swaminathan Award 2024-25: Dr. Srinivasa Rao (Director of IARI) was selected for this award for his contributions to climate-resilient farming, receiving a gold medal and a ₹2 lakh cash prize.
- ESG Rating: Adani Green Energy received the highest ESG (Environment, Social, and Governance) rating of 87.3 among Indian companies from Care ESG Ratings for its excellence in climate risk management and corporate governance.
- GSMA Lifetime Achievement Award: Bharti Airtel's Sunil Bharti Mittal was recently awarded this global telecom honor.
- Great Place to Work: The Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) was recognized as a "Great Place to Work" for the third consecutive time.
- BioAct 2026: India was named Country of the Year at BioAct 2026 in Germany.

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6. Banking & Finance

1. Global and Domestic GDP Forecasts for India

- RBI: Projected GDP growth at 7.6% for FY26 and 6.9% for FY27.
- World Bank: Upgraded India's FY27 growth forecast to 6.6% (from 6.3%) and FY26 to 7.6% (from 7.2%).
- IMF: Increased its FY27 projection by 30 basis points to 6.5%.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB): Projected 6.9% for FY27 and 7.3% for FY28.
- Moody's (MDES): Downgraded the FY27 forecast to 6.0% (down from 6.8%).
- Morgan Stanley: Lowered its FY27 forecast to 6.2% (down from 6.5%).
- OECD: Cut its FY27 forecast to 6.1% (from 6.2%), maintaining 7.6% for FY26.
- CRISIL & S&P Global: Both maintained forecasts of 7.1% for FY27 and 7.6% for FY26., • ICRA: Forecasted 6.5% for FY27 and 7.6% for FY26.
- Fitch Ratings: Forecasted 6.7% for FY27 and 7.5% for FY26.
- ASSOCHAM: Predicts 7.6% for FY26 and 7.0% for FY27.
- World Bank President Ajay Banga stated they will invest \$8-\$10 billion in India over the next 5 years via the Country Partnership Framework (CPF).

2. Retail Inflation, Industrial Growth & PMI

- Retail Inflation: India's Consumer Price Index (CPI) based retail inflation reached a 13-month high of 3.4% in March 2026 (rural: 3.63%, urban: 3.11%)., The base year for CPI has been updated from 2012 to 2024.
- Industrial Growth: The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) growth stood at 5.2% in February 2026, with the manufacturing sector growing by around 6%.
- Services PMI: The HSBC Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for India's services sector eased to 57.5 in March, marking a 14-month low due to reduced domestic demand and rising input costs.
 - The Government and RBI have agreed to maintain the inflation target at 4% (with a +/- 2% tolerance band) until March 31, 2031.

3. RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) Review

- The Reserve Bank of India held its 60th bi-monthly Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting for FY27 from April 6-8.
- Repo Rate: Kept unchanged at 5.25% to prevent inflation from rising due to the West Asia conflict.
- Other Rates: Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) at 5.00%, Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) at 5.50%, Bank Rate at 5.50%, Fixed Reverse Repo Rate at 3.35%, CRR at 3%, and SLR at 18%.
- Stance: Maintained a "Neutral" stance, taking a wait-and-watch approach.
- Inflation Projection: CPI inflation is projected at 4.6% for FY27, with core inflation at 4.4%.
- The 6-member MPC (including Govt members Nagesh Kumar, Ram Singh, and Saugata Bhattacharya) made a unanimous decision to maintain stability amidst global tensions.
- The minutes of this MPC meeting will be published on the 14th day after the meeting.

4. RBI's "Utkarsh 2029" Strategy Framework

- The RBI launched a medium-term strategy framework for the three-year period from April 2026 to March 2029 named 'Utkarsh 2029' (or Utkarsh 3.0).
- It is built on six strategic pillars and 49 priorities/deliverables.

• Key focus areas include expanding the Digital Rupee (CBDC) for cross-border payments under "Project Sa-Mudra" (to modernize the currency management system), expanding UPI globally, and formalizing AI usage with purpose-built Large Language Models.

5. RBI Regulatory Mandates and Guideline Revisions

- Capital Market Exposure: Postponed from April 1 to July 1, 2026. Loans against shares/eligible securities are capped at ₹1 crore per individual; IPO/ESOP loans are capped at ₹25 lakh. For corporate acquisitions, banks can fund a maximum of 75% of the total value.
- Two-Factor Authentication (2FA): Mandated 2FA for all digital payments (UPI, cards, wallets) starting April 1, 2026, targeting full implementation by October 2026.
- NBFC Framework: Proposed moving NBFCs with asset sizes of ₹1 lakh crore or more, along with government-owned NBFCs (like IREDA), automatically into the "Upper Layer" of regulation. Small NBFCs (assets under ₹1,000 crore) are exempted and can deregister via the PRAVAAH platform.
- CRAR Calculation Relief: Allowed banks to freely include quarterly profits in their Capital to Risk (Weighted) Assets Ratio without strictly matching the 25% NPA provisioning requirement, and removed the mandatory Investment Fluctuation Reserve (IFR).
- Forex Exchange: Permitted resident Indians to exchange domestic currency for foreign exchange at international airport departure halls (previously only for non-residents).
- Cross-Border Remittances: Mandated near real-time Nostro account reconciliations (maximum one-hour intervals) to reduce settlement delays.
- Payment Vision 2028: Launched under the theme "Shaping India's Payment Frontier", it proposes an interoperability framework for TReDS and a Payment Switching Service (PASS) to enable seamless bank account portability.,

6. RBI Penalties and License Cancellations

• Canceled Licenses: Shirpur Merchants Co-operative Bank (Maharashtra) and National Urban Cooperative Bank Limited (Pratapgarh) lost their licenses due to poor finances., Depositors are insured up to ₹5 lakh by DICGC.

• Major Penalties:

- Airtel Payments Bank: ₹31.8 lakh (or ₹31.3 lakh) for disclosure lapses in FY25 financial statements.,
- Union Bank of India: ₹95.40 lakh for delays in crediting unauthorized transactions.
- Central Bank of India: ₹63.6 lakh for KYC deficiencies.
- Bank of India: ₹58.5 lakh for Priority Sector Lending (PSL) lapses.
- Himachal Pradesh State Cooperative Bank: ₹7.5 lakh for failing to review customer risk categorization.
- Pine Labs: ₹3.1 lakh for improper KYC regarding prepaid instruments.
- Other previously noted penalties include SBI (₹1.72 crore), UCO Bank (₹38 lakh), and Bank of Maharashtra (₹32.5 lakh).

7. GST Collections and Small Savings Scheme Rates

- GST Collection: March 2026 recorded a gross collection of ₹2 lakh crore (net ₹1.78 trillion), showing an 8.8% growth. The total GST collection for FY26 reached ₹22 lakh crore (up from ₹20 lakh crore in FY25).
- Small Savings Rates: Kept unchanged for Q1 FY27 (April 1 to June 30), marking the 8th consecutive quarter without changes.,
- Specific Rates: Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (SCSS) and Sukanya Samridhi Yojana (SSY) offer the highest rate at 8.2%. NSC is 7.7%, KVP is 7.5%, PPF is 7.1%, 5-Year TD is 7.5%, and Savings Account is 4%.
- GST 2.0 reforms (implemented Sept 2025) feature slabs of Nil, 5%, 18%, and a special 40% slab for "sin and luxury goods".

8. Income Tax Rule Changes and 'Kar Sathi' Platform

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) notified new rules and launched a digital platform to simplify tax filing effective April 1, 2026.
- Kar Sathi / Kar Shaki: Launched as a 24/7 AI-powered tax assistance platform/chatbot in Hindi and English.
- Tax Rule Simplification: Under the "PRARAMBH 2026" campaign, total tax rules were reduced from 510 to 333, and forms from 399 to 190.
- Major Changes: Introduced a single tax year. Children Education Allowance increased to ₹3,000/month, Hostel Allowance to ₹9,000/month. Meal exemption raised to ₹200. PAN is now mandatory for property deals exceeding ₹20 lakh.
- A new rule (Section 402) mandates an automatic 10% TDS on interest income if it exceeds ₹5,000 for citizens (₹1,00,000 for seniors).

9. Government Borrowing, Trade, and Public Finance

WMA Limit: RBI set the Ways and Means Advances limit at ₹2.5 lakh crore for the central government for H1 FY27.

- Central Borrowing: The Government of India plans to borrow ₹8.2 lakh crore in H1 FY27 (51% of the total ₹16.09 lakh crore target), including ₹1,000 crore via Sovereign Green Bonds.
- State Borrowing: The RBI unveiled a ₹2.25 lakh crore state borrowing plan for Q1 FY27, with states slated to borrow ₹2,54,059 crore. A pilot "Benchmark Issuance Strategy" was introduced for 9 states to borrow ₹1,53,900 crore.
- Trade Relief: The government exempted 40 critical petrochemical products from customs duty until June 30th (sacrificing ₹1,800 crore in revenue) to stabilize supply chains impacted by the West Asia conflict. Furthermore, SEZ units are now permitted to sell in the domestic market (DTA) with concessional custom duty until March 31, 2027.
- The RoSCTL and RoDTEP textile export schemes were extended until September 30, 2026.

10. Record Banking Milestones and Deposit Trends

- Bank of Baroda (BoB): Achieved a historic milestone by crossing ₹30 lakh crore in total global business, reaching ₹30.78 lakh crore (14% growth).
- Saraswat Cooperative Bank: Crossed the ₹1 lakh crore total business mark.
- Deposit Shifts: The RBI reported that the CASA (Current Account Saving Account) deposit ratio dropped to a 2-year low of 37.9% in December, as the public shifted investments to mutual funds and stocks. Overall bank deposits grew by 10% to ₹250.1 lakh crore, pushing the credit-deposit ratio to an all-time high of 83%.
- As of March 31, 2026, only ₹5,501 crore worth of withdrawn ₹2000 banknotes remain in circulation (98.45% returned).

11. New Banking Products, Collaborations & M&A

- Bank of Baroda 'Bob Samvaad': Launched an industry-first, AI-powered multilingual conversational platform supporting 22 languages to remove communication barriers.
- Bob World Lite: BoB partnered with Reliance Jio to launch this mobile banking app pre-installed on JioBharat 4G feature phones.
- CSB Bank: Launched the "Smart Save Account" featuring an auto-sweep facility converting balances above a set limit into 7% interest fixed deposits.
- Co-Branded Credit Cards: PhonePe partnered with SBI to launch a zero-joining-fee credit card (RuPay/Visa)., Visa and HDFC Bank launched a limited-edition FIFA World Cup 2026 Pixel Credit Card.
- DBS Bank India: Launched the 'DBS Aspire' premium banking program and debit card for affluent clients.

- **Bank Mergers:** The RBI approved the merger of the fraud-hit New India Co-operative Bank with Saraswat Co-operative Bank (effective August 2025). The RBI also rejected the Universal Bank application of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank.

- **GeM Sahay:** Punjab National Bank (PNB) partnered with the Government e-Marketplace to provide unsecured short-term credit to MSME sellers.

- **Axis Bank** successfully integrated into NPCI Bharat BillPay's "Banking Connect" platform.,

12. UPI Transaction Records and Digital Fintech

- **UPI's 10th Anniversary:** Developed by NPCI in 2016, UPI completed 10 years.

- **Record Transactions:** In March 2026, UPI recorded an all-time high of 22.64 billion transactions worth ₹29.53 lakh crore., The daily average transaction was 730 million.

- **Paytm Biometrics:** Paytm enabled biometric UPI payments (capped at ₹5,000) and cardless ATM withdrawals (capped at ₹10,000/month).

- **Cyber Security Accord:** FIU-IND (Financial Intelligence Unit India) signed an MoU with I4C (Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre) to combat financial crimes and digital frauds. • **Razorpay & OpenAI:** Partnered to allow developers to embed instant payment gateways directly into AI applications using OpenAI's Codex.,

- **UPI QR code deployment in India** grew by 15% year-on-year to reach 731.38 million.

13. SEBI Regulations and Capital Market Developments

- **IPO & MPS Relaxations:** SEBI granted a one-time extension for IPO observation letters expiring between April 1 and Sept 30, making them valid until Sept 30, 2026. It also temporarily relaxed the 25% Minimum Public Shareholding compliance.

- **SEBI IT Platforms:** SEBI Chairman launched three new IT platforms (Subcoms, e-adjudication portal, and an AI-based Cybersec audit compliance)., Additionally, SEBI launched the 'SEBI SETU' digital platform to simplify registration for investment advisors.

- **National Coal Exchange:** The National Stock Exchange (NSE) received MCA approval to form the "National Coal Exchange of India Limited" (₹100 crore capital, 60% NSE stake) for bidding-based coal trading.

- **Brent Crude Futures:** The NSE partnered with S&P Global to launch Brent Crude Futures to allow domestic trading in INR.

14. India's Startup Ecosystem and First FY27 Unicorn

- **KreditBee Becomes a Unicorn:** Digital lending platform KreditBee became the first unicorn of the 2026-2027 financial year (and third in 2026 overall). It raised \$280 million in a Series E pre-IPO round, reaching a \$1.5 billion valuation.

- **Mutual Fund Industry Growth:** The Asset Under Management (AUM) of the domestic mutual fund industry surged by 12.2% to reach ₹73.73 lakh crore., Lakshya AMC received SEBI approval to launch operations as the first AMC headquartered in Ahmedabad.

- **Tech Funding Report:** According to Tracxn, India remains the 4th highest-funded country globally, raising \$11.7 billion (an 18% decline from the previous year).

- **Total unicorn valuation in India** stands at around \$391 billion across roughly 128 unicorns.

15. IRDAI Regulatory Changes and 'Too Big to Fail' Insurers

- **D-SII Designation:** IRDAI designated LIC, General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re), and New India Assurance Co. Ltd (NIACL) as Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs) for FY26.

- **Ban on 'Dark Patterns':** IRDAI ordered all digital insurance platforms to stop using misleading user interfaces ("dark patterns") and submit compliance aligned with CCPA guidelines within 15 days.

- Ind AS Implementation: Under the new Actuarial, Finance and Investment Function Regulation 2026, all insurers must prepare financial statements based on Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) starting April 1, 2026.,
- New Insurers: M Pallonji Group received R1 (Stage 1) approval to start a general insurance venture with Federal Bank. Allianz Jio Reinsurance Limited also commenced operations.
- Pension Funds: PFRDA approved PPFAS Asset Management Company to act as a sponsor for setting up a pension fund under the National Pension System (NPS).
- IRDAI also formed a sub-committee of IAS officers to conduct a comprehensive review of India's private health insurance sector to achieve "insurance for all by 2047".



7. Defence Affairs

1. Indian Navy: Ship Commissioning, Deliveries & Submarines

- **INS Aridhaman Commissioned:** India's third indigenous nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), INS Aridhaman, was commissioned in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, by Defense Minister Rajnath Singh.
- Built by DRDO with 70% indigenous content, it features a displacement of 7,000 tonnes, a length of 130 meters, and a top speed of 24 knots.
- Part of the Arihant class, it features 8 vertical launch tubes, can carry 3,500 km range K-4 missiles and K-15 missiles, and solidifies India's full "nuclear triad" capability.
- **INS Taragiri Commissioned:** This stealth guided-missile frigate (the fourth ship under Project 17A) was commissioned into the Indian Navy at Visakhapatnam.
- Designed by the Warship Design Bureau and built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL), it integrates modern radar, sonar, BrahMos, and surface-to-air missiles. The Steel Authority of India (SAIL) supplied 4,000 tonnes of special-grade steel for its construction.
- **GRSE Warship Deliveries:** Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) simultaneously delivered three naval platforms:
 - **INS Dunagiri:** A Nilgiri-class Advanced Guided Missile Frigate (Project 17A) equipped with BrahMos cruise missiles.
 - **INS Sanshodhak:** The fourth and final ship under the Survey Vessel Large (SVL) program for oceanographic data collection and disaster relief (the first three were Sandhayak, Nirdeshak, and Ikshak).
 - **INS Agray:** The fourth Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC).
- **Cochin Shipyard Deliveries:** Delivered INS Malvan, the second ship in an 8-ship Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC) contract. It is equipped with radar, sonar, torpedoes, and ASW rockets, and is named after a coastal town in Maharashtra honoring Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's maritime heritage.
- **Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) Launches:** Launched INS Shachi / Sanchi (yard 1280), the first Next-Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV) as part of an 11-ship contract. GSL also delivered the ICGS Achal to the Coast Guard and launched the cadet training ship INS Krishna near Chennai.
- **Other Naval Milestones:**
 - The anti-submarine shallow watercraft Anjadep was inducted.
 - India successfully tested the K4 Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missile (SLBM) from INS Arihant.
 - The submarine INS Sindhughosh was decommissioned after 40 years of service.
 - President Droupadi Murmu completed a historic sortie aboard the submarine INS Vagsheer.
- Project 17A is a ₹45,000 crore initiative approved in 2015 to build 7 advanced warships with 75% indigenous components by 2026.

2. Indian Air Force & Aerospace Defence

- **Mountain Radars Contract:** The Ministry of Defense signed a ₹1,950 crore contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) to procure two Mountain Radar Systems for the IAF.
- Designed by DRDO's Electronics and Radar Development Establishment, these radars will detect aircraft and missiles in mountainous regions where signals typically drop.

- Tejas Engine Delivery and MRO: US-based GE Aerospace delivered the 6th "F404-IN20" engine to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the Tejas Light Combat Aircraft Mk1A (out of a 99-engine deal signed in 2021). GE Aerospace also finalized a contract to establish an MRO facility in India for these engines, which will be owned and controlled by the IAF.
- Vayu Baan Program: The IAF developed India's first helicopter-launched drone system for precision strikes, known as Vayu Baan. It features Kamikaze drones and ISR capabilities, offering a 50+ km standoff strike range while protecting helicopters from MANPADS threats.
- ASRAAM Missiles: The government initiated a process to equip the IAF's MiG-29 jets with European Advanced Short Range Air-to-Air Missiles (ASRAAM, 25 km range) to replace Russian R-73 missiles. MBDA partnered with Bharat Dynamics Limited to set up an assembly and testing facility in Hyderabad.
- Prachand LCH Factory: HAL inaugurated a new greenfield helicopter manufacturing facility in Tumakuru, Karnataka, specifically built to assemble Prachand Light Combat Helicopters (LCH).
- Air Defense Missile Deal: The MoD signed a ₹445 crore contract with Russian company Rosoboronexport for the Tunguska air defense missile system.

3. Indian Army Procurements & Operational Updates

- Light Machine Guns Delivery: Israel Weapon Industries (PLR systems, a joint venture with the Adani Group) delivered the first batch of 2,000 NEG V 7.62x51mm Light Machine Guns to the Indian Army. Named 'Prahaar' and manufactured in Malanpur, Madhya Pradesh, this is part of a larger 41,000-unit contract.
- First GeM Capital Procurement: The Indian Army executed its first capital procurement contract through the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) for ₹25.90 crore, procuring 93 telescopic handlers manufactured by JCB India Limited.
- VSHORAD Testing: The Army's Konark Corps tested the Sterla-10 VSHORAD system in Pokhran, Rajasthan.
- Operation Himsetu: The Indian Army's Trishakti Corps launched this operation to rescue tourists stranded by landslides in North Sikkim.
- Sikkim Sundari Radio: The Trishakti Corps launched "Sikkim Sundari," the first community 88.4 FM radio station in a border village in Sikkim to improve communication in high-altitude areas.

4. Joint Military Exercises & Expeditions

- Exercise DUSTLIK: The 7th edition of this joint military exercise between the Indian Army and the Uzbekistan Army took place from April 12-25 in the Gurumsaray Field Training Area, Namangan region of Uzbekistan. It featured 60 Indian personnel (45 from the Mahar Regiment and 15 from the IAF).
- Exercise Cyclone-IV: A 25-member Indian Army contingent participated in the 4th edition of this joint special forces exercise with Egypt in Anshas, Egypt (April 9-17). It focused on joint mission planning in desert and semi-desert terrains.
- Exercise Sea Dragon 2026: India participated in this anti-submarine warfare exercise alongside Quad+ nations (USA, Japan, Australia, New Zealand). The event was hosted by the US Navy's Task Force 72 at an Air Force base in Guam.
- Tri-Service Exercise Dweep Shakti: Conducted by the Armed Forces in the Andaman and Nicobar region, focusing on amphibious assaults, beach landings, and island defense against water-borne threats.
- IMEX-TTX: A maritime exercise hosted by the Indian Navy in Kochi, Kerala.
- India and Egypt also alternate in conducting the 'Desert Warrior' and 'Bright Star' exercises.

5. Maritime Deployments & Global Naval Expeditions

- **SAGAR Mission:** The Indian Naval Ship INS Sunayna was flagged off from Mumbai for the 'IOS SAGAR' mission. Carrying personnel from 16 friendly foreign countries, it focuses on anti-piracy and knowledge exchange, visiting ports like Colombo, Phuket, Jakarta, Singapore, Chittagong, Yangon, and Male, concluding in Kochi.
- **Lokayan 2026 Expedition:** The sailing vessel INS Sudarshini arrived in Sète, France, for the "Escale à Sète" international maritime festival (coinciding with the 400th anniversary of the French Navy). This is part of a 10-month voyage covering 22,000 nautical miles across 18 ports in 13 countries (having previously visited Oman, Egypt, and Malta).
- **INS Trikand Deployments:** This older Russian-built Talwar-class frigate arrived at Maputo (Mozambique) and Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) for joint exercises, professional engagements, and a PASSEX exercise to enhance maritime operations in the Southwest Indian Ocean region.

6. Defence Exports, Treaties & Infrastructure Development

- **Record Defense Exports:** India's defense exports reached an all-time high of ₹38,424 crore in FY26, marking a 62.66% year-on-year growth.
 - Defense Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) contributed ₹21,471 crore (54.84% share, showing a 151% growth).
 - The private sector contributed ₹17,000 crore (45.16% share, showing a 14% growth).
 - India now exports to over 80 countries (top destinations: USA, France, Armenia), aiming to reach ₹50,000 crore by 2030.
- **Large Cavitation Tunnel:** Defense Minister Rajnath Singh laid the foundation stone for a Large Cavitation Tunnel at the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL) in Visakhapatnam. Developed by DRDO, it is an underwater testing facility to evaluate ship propellers and submarine parts under varying water pressures to reduce noise.
- **BRO's Project Chetak:** The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) celebrated the 47th Raising Day of its "Project Chetak" in Bikaner, Rajasthan. Established in 1980 under the slogan "Chetak ka Prayas, Desh ka Vikas", it builds border infrastructure across Rajasthan, Punjab, and Gujarat.
- **P-8I MRO Contract:** The MoD signed a ₹413 crore contract with Boeing India Defence Private Limited for the maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) of the Indian Navy's P-8I maritime patrol aircraft.
- **DRDO tested a Gaganyaan drogue parachute in Chandigarh.**

7. International Defence News

- **Japan's Missile Deployment:** To counter regional threats, Japan tested its upgraded "Type 12" land-to-ship missile, which now has an extended range of 1000 km (up from 200 km).
- Developed by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, this deployment marks a shift from Japan's pacifist policy to a "stand-off strike capability."

8. International Affairs

1. India Withdraws from Hosting COP 33

- The bid was initially proposed by PM Modi during COP 28 in the UAE in 2023.
- Following India's exit, India handed the hosting opportunity over to the Asia-Pacific group, leaving South Korea as the sole bidder expressing interest.
- Upcoming COP locations mentioned: COP 31 will be held in Antalya, Turkiye (2026), and COP 32 will be in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (2027).

2. India Elected to UN ECOSOC Subsidiary Bodies

- India was elected unopposed to several UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) subsidiary bodies for the 2027–2030 and 2027–2029 terms.

3. WTO's 14th Ministerial Conference

- The 14th Ministerial Conference was held in Yaoundé, Cameroon.
- It was chaired by Cameroon's Minister of Trade, Luc Magloire Mbarga Atangana.
- India's delegation was led by Union Minister Piyush Goyal.

4. UN Task Force for Hormuz Crisis & UNSC Veto

- The UN launched a high-level task force to address the Hormuz crisis and safeguard global trade, led by UN Secretary-General António Guterres and headed by Jorge Moreira da Silva.
- Separately, Russia and China used their veto power in the UN Security Council to block a resolution introduced by Bahrain aimed at forcing Iran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

5. US and Argentina Withdraw from WHO

- The World Health Organization (WHO), headquartered in Geneva with 194 member countries, faced high-profile membership exits.
- The United States and Argentina have formally decided to withdraw from the WHO.

6. UNESCO Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report 2026

- UNESCO released the 2026 GEM report titled "Access and Equity: Countdown to 2030".
- The report highlighted that 273 million children, adolescents, and youth were out of school globally in 2024.
- 1 in 6 school-age children is entirely excluded from education.
- Countries like Madagascar, Togo, Morocco, Vietnam, Georgia, and Turkey have successfully reduced out-of-school rates by up to 80% since 2000.

7. World Bank & IMF Annual Meetings in Thailand

- For the first time in 35 years (since 1991), Thailand will host the annual meeting of the World Bank and IMF in Bangkok.
- It is scheduled for October 12 to 18, 2026, at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Center.
- The theme of the meeting is "Thailand's New Horizons: Empowering People, Building Resilience".

8. 15th Meeting of the CMS (Bonn Convention)

- The 15th Conference of Parties to the UN Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS/Bonn Convention) was held.
- The event successfully concluded in Campo Grande, Brazil.
- 40 new species (including the Cheetah, Snowy Owl, and Great Hammerhead Shark) were accorded protection due to steep population declines.
- The CMS is administered by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

9. India Leads in Nagoya Protocol Compliance

- India has emerged as the global leader, issuing 3,561 Internationally Recognized Certificates of Compliance (IRCCs) out of the 6,311 issued globally.
- India accounts for over 56% of the global total.

10. India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission (IRIGC-TEC)

- Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister, Denis Manturov, visited India to co-chair the IRIGC-TEC (India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation).
- External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar represented India.

11. India-Bangladesh Bilateral Meeting

- India's High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Pranay Verma, met with Bangladesh PM Tarique Rahman.
- They agreed to focus on public health, financial inclusion, technology, and economic stability.

12. India-Qatar Energy Talks

- Union Minister for Petroleum, Hardeep Singh Puri, visited Doha, Qatar.
- He met with Qatar's Energy Minister, Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi.

13. First Danish Chamber of Commerce in New Delhi

- Denmark announced the establishment of its first Danish Chamber of Commerce in New Delhi.

14. India and New Zealand Free Trade Agreement

- India and New Zealand concluded a historic Free Trade Agreement.

15. Social Media Bans for Minors in Indonesia, Greece, and Spain

- Indonesia: Became the first Southeast Asian and non-Western country to enforce a social media ban for children under 16 years of age (targeting platforms like YouTube, TikTok, Facebook, Instagram, Threads, X, Bigo Live, and Roblox).
- Greece: Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis announced plans to ban social media for children under 15 by 2027.
- Spain: Became the first European nation to ban social media for children under 16.
- Australia was the first globally to introduce a similar ban in December 2025. In India, Karnataka is the first state to propose a similar ban for children under 16.

16. Global IT and Trade Platforms (ITU & UAE)

- ITU Conference: The ITU World Telecom Development Conference was held in Baku, Azerbaijan, with a theme covering universal, meaningful, and affordable connectivity.
- TM Marketplace: Launched in the UAE, it is the Middle East's first digital platform for listing, buying, and selling registered trademarks.

17. 20th Anniversary of Earth Hour

- India participated in the 20th anniversary of Earth Hour on March 28th.
- Non-essential lights were turned off from 8:30 PM to 9:30 PM at major landmarks like India Gate and Qutub Minar.
- WWF India and the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change also organized awareness activities in Gwalior.

9. Meetings & Summits

1. WTO's 14th Ministerial Conference

- The 14th Ministerial Conference was held in Yaoundé, Cameroon.
- It was chaired by Cameroon's Minister of Trade, Luc Magloire Mbarga Atangana.
- India's delegation was led by Union Minister Piyush Goyal.

2. World Bank & IMF Meetings (Spring and Annual)

- Spring Meetings: Scheduled from April 13-18 in Washington D.C., where IMF Chief Kristalina Georgieva projected global growth at 3.3%.
- Annual Meetings: For the first time in 35 years (since 1991), Thailand will host the annual meeting of the World Bank and IMF in Bangkok.
- It is scheduled for October 12 to 18, 2026, at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Center. • The theme of the upcoming Bangkok meeting is "Thailand's New Horizons: Empowering People, Building Resilience".

3. 15th Meeting of the CMS (Bonn Convention)

- The 15th Conference of Parties to the UN Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS/Bonn Convention) was held.
- The event successfully concluded in Campo Grande, Brazil.
- 40 new species (including the Cheetah, Snowy Owl, and Great Hammerhead Shark) were accorded protection due to steep population declines.
- The CMS is administered by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

4. UN Climate Summits (COP) Hosting Updates

- India officially withdrew its proposal to host the COP 33 climate summit in 2028.
- Following India's exit, South Korea became the likely host/sole bidder for the Asia-Pacific group.
- Upcoming locations were noted: COP 31 will be held in Antalya, Turkiye (2026), and COP 32 will be in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (2027).

5. First-ever BRICS Youth Coordination Meeting 2026

- India hosted a youth-centric event under its BRICS chairship.
- The first-ever BRICS Youth Coordination Meeting was organized in New Delhi. • Organized by the Department of Youth Affairs, the theme of the meeting was "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation, and Sustainability".

6. India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission (IRIGC-TEC)

- Russia and India held high-level diplomatic and economic meetings.
- Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister, Denis Manturov, visited India to co-chair the IRIGC-TEC.
- External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar represented India.

7. Global Telecom, Digital, and Minerals Conferences

- ITU World Telecom Development Conference: Held in Baku, Azerbaijan, focusing on a theme of universal, meaningful, and affordable connectivity.
- G7 Critical Minerals Meeting: Held in Washington DC, with Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav participating.
- 6th ASEAN-India Digital Ministers Meeting: Focused on ensuring a secure digital ecosystem.

8. India Pharma 2026

- The 9th edition of India Pharma 2026 was held in New Delhi on April 13-14.

- It was organized by the Department of Pharmaceuticals alongside FICCI and the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance.

- The theme of the event was "Discover in India: Leapfrogging Life Sciences Innovation".

9. SMOPS 2026 Space Conference

- The 2nd edition of the International Conference on Spacecraft Mission Operations (SMOPS-2026) was held in Bengaluru from April 8-10.

- It was jointly organized by ISRO, the Astronautical Society of India, and the International Academy of Astronautics.

10. National Consultation on Tele-Law 2026

- Addressed by Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan, the event was organized by the Ministry of Law and Justice under the DISHA (Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice) scheme in New Delhi.

- An AI-powered chatbot named Nyaya Setu and its mascot (Dishika) were launched here to bridge the gap between citizens and legal services

11. Ran Samvaad Multi-Domain Warfare Seminar

- A tri-service multi-domain warfare strategy seminar called 'Ran Samvaad' was held from April 9-10 at the Air Force Training Command in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

12. Indian Navy Commander's Conference

- The first edition of the 2026 biannual Commander's Conference was held from April 14–16. at the Nausena Bhawan in New Delhi

13. Unnat Krishi Mela / Mahotsav

- Defense Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the Unnat Krishi Mela in Raisen district, Madhya Pradesh.

14. 13th Asian Textile Conference

- The 13th Asian Textile Conference was held in Hyderabad, Telangana. Significance / Impact

- During the event, Telangana CM A. Revanth Reddy declared a vision to make Telangana the textile capital of South Asia by 2047 through "Green Textile Hubs

15. Various Sectoral Summits & Roundtables

- Black Swan Summit: Kicked off in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, to boost the AI and digital finance ecosystem.

- Plast India 2026: Took place in New Delhi, focusing heavily on sustainable plastics.

- Internet Governance Forum: The 5th Edition of India's Internet Governance Forum was hosted in New Delhi.

- Agri Maitri Initiative Roundtable: Organized by Western Sydney University in New Delhi to boost India-Australia agricultural business cooperation.

- Business Conclave in Bengaluru: Tripura state participated in this conclave, successfully attracting over ₹2,000 crore in investment commitments.

10. Miscellaneous

1. Important Days in March

- March 25: Observed as the International Day of the Unborn Child.
- March 29: Observed as the 88th World Piano Day.
- March 30: International Day of Zero Waste was observed with the theme "Food Waste".
- March 30: Observed as Rajasthan Foundation Day.
- March 31: Observed as the International Transgender Day of Visibility.

2. Important Days in Early April (April 1 to April 7)

- April 1 to 7: Observed as Prevention of Blindness Week to raise awareness about avoidable vision loss and eye care, with the theme "United for Glaucoma Free World" ..,,,
- April 2: World Autism Awareness Day was observed with the theme "Autism and Humanity: Every Life Has Value
- April 2: International Fact-Checking Day was observed with the theme "Safeguarding Information Integrity in the Face of Evolving AI and Information Manipulation".
- April 2: International Children's Book Day was observed to mark the birth anniversary of Danish author Hans Christian Andersen, with the 2026 theme "Plant stories and the world will bloom" / "Plant Stories and World Will Do".
- April 3: The 260th (or 262nd) Raising Day of the Army Medical Corps was observed (the corps was established in 1764 to honor military medical personnel).
- April 4: International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action was observed to highlight the deadly threat of landmines, with the 2026 theme "Invest in peace, invest in mine action".
- April 4: Observed as International Carrot Day.
- April 5: The 63rd National Maritime Day was observed with the theme "Maritime India: Empowering Progress", commemorating the historic maiden voyage of the Indian merchant ship SS Loyalty from Mumbai to London on April 5, 1919.,
- April 5: International Day of Conscience, proclaimed by the UNGA in 2019, was observed with themes noted as "Acting with ethics, empathy, and integrity" / "Acting with Ethics, Faith and Integrity" / "Reinventing Peace with Youth".
- April 5: Easter Sunday was observed.
- April 6: International Day of Sport for Development and Peace, first declared by the UNGA in 2013, was observed with the theme "Sport Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers".
- April 7: World Health Day was observed to mark the foundation day of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1948, with the theme "Together for Health, Stand with Science" / "To get a for health and stunt with the sites".
- April 7: The 32nd anniversary of the International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda was observed.,
- World Autism Awareness Day was established by the UN General Assembly on December 8, 2007, proposed by Qatar, and first observed in 2008.
- The International Day for Mine Awareness was established by the UN in 2005.

3. Important Days in Mid-April (April 8 to April 15)

- April 8: International Romani Day was observed globally to celebrate Romani (Roma) culture, heritage, rights, and dignity, tracing back to the first World Romani Congress held in London on April 8, 1971.

- April 9: CRPF Day (Shaurya Diwas / Valour Day) marked the 61st Valor Day to honor the bravery of CRPF personnel who defended the Sardar Post in the Rann of Kutch against a massive Pakistani attack during the 1965 battle.
- April 10: World Homeopathy Day honored the founder of homeopathy, Dr. Samuel Hahnemann, with the theme "Harmony through Homeopathy: Healing Beyond Borders" / "Homeopathy for Sustainable Health".
- April 11: World Parkinson's Day raised awareness about the neurological disorder with the theme "Bridge the Care Gap" (observed since 1997 with WHO support).
- April 11: National Safe Motherhood Day was celebrated on Kasturba Gandhi's birth anniversary to promote institutional deliveries, reduce maternal mortality, and ensure safe pregnancies.
- April 12: International Day of Human Space Flight was observed to commemorate Yuri Gagarin's historic first human space flight aboard Vostok 1 on April 12, 1961.
- April 14: World Quantum Day was observed, with 2026 marking the 5th event, under the theme "Quantum for All: Bridging Theory to Everyday Impact".
- April 14: World Chagas Disease Day was observed with the theme "Women at the heart: protecting the next generation from the Chagas disease" (noting Chagas is a "silent and silenced disease").
- April 15: International Wellness Day was celebrated globally to promote holistic well-being

4. India's First "Port of Refuge"

- Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ), which handles 27% of India's port cargo volume, established a new maritime safety protocol.
- Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ) operationalized India's first "Port of Refuge" to assist ships in distress, stabilize conditions, protect lives, and limit environmental damage.
- Two ports were identified for this: Dighi Port on the West Coast (for Arabian Sea and Persian Gulf routes) and Gopalpur Port on the East Coast (for Bay of Bengal and Malacca Strait routes).

5. Unique State Firsts and Events

- Alwar, Rajasthan: Became India's first district to achieve 100% insurance coverage.
- Goa: Became the second state in India to publish a bird atlas. Additionally, WWF India developed Goa's first biodiversity and cultural feature map for school students.
- Mumbai, Maharashtra: The coastal road in Mumbai became India's first musical path, uniquely designed to play the song "Jai Ho".
- Dehradun, Uttarakhand: Introduced the "Grace Smart Toilet," a facility specifically dedicated to Senior Citizens and Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).
- Expedition Flag-Off: Defense Minister Rajnath Singh flagged off an expedition to Mount Aconcagua in Argentina.

6. New TV Rating Policy 2026

- The minimum net worth requirement to register as a TV rating agency was significantly reduced from ₹20 crores to ₹5 crores.
- To ensure neutrality, 50% of the board of directors must be independent and have no ties to broadcasters or ad agencies.
- Agencies must comply with the Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023 and implement a mandatory dual audit system.
- Agencies are required to scale their operations to 80,000 meter homes within 18 months, with a long-term goal of reaching 120,000 to 200,000 homes.,
- A nodal officer must be appointed by the agencies to resolve grievances within 10 days.

7. Corporate Mergers, Approvals & Marketing Strategies

- PFC and REC Merger: The Power Finance Corporation (PFC) cleared a merger with REC to boost scale efficiency.
- Power Grid Subsidiaries: The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) approved the merger of 17 Power Grid subsidiaries.
- Surrogate Advertising Note: Virat Kohli's appointment by United Spirits for their Johnnie Walker Lux blended water campaign was noted as "surrogate advertising," a tactic where companies advertise water or CDs to build brand recall for their restricted alcohol products.,

8. PM's 'Mann Ki Baat' and Official Inaugurations

- Mann Ki Baat (13th Episode): Broadcasted on March 29th, PM Modi praised the Naga community in Nagaland for preserving traditional knowledge through the "Morung" system (an indigenous community-based education model where elders share history and life skills). • He also praised a women-led seed bank in Chizami, Nagaland, for preserving over 150 traditional seed varieties.
- PMO Plaques: PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the Seat Thirat and Kartav Bhavan complexes, notably using the Devanagari script on the plaques for the PMO, NSC Secretariat, and Cabinet Secretary buildings.

9. MICE Tourism and Social Security Pacts

- MICE Tourism: The Union Tourism Minister announced the creation of a city-level convention promotion bureau to boost MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) tourism starting from 2026.
- Social Security Agreement: India and the UK signed a social security agreement designed specifically for temporary employees.

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11. MoUs

1. Ayurveda Translation MoU

• The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) signed an MoU with the AI voice-to-voice platform Anuvadini (developed by AICTE).

2. Aviation Skill Development MoU

• The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV) signed an MoU for youth skill development in aviation engineering and management. • GSV is located in Vadodara, Gujarat, and its Chancellor is Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.

3. India-EU Aviation Partnership

• India's DGCA and the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) signed a working agreement to boost aviation manufacturing and safety standards.

4. Microsoft AI Skill Center in Punjab

• Microsoft signed an MoU with Chandigarh University to establish an "AI for Everyone" Skill Center at the Mohali campus in Punjab.

5. GeM Sahay Credit for MSMEs

• Punjab National Bank (PNB) signed an MoU with the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) to become a lending partner on the GeM Sahay portal.

6. Broadcasting Indian Culture Globally

• Doordarshan (Prasar Bharati) and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) signed a 3-year MoU.

7. Axis Bank on NBBL Banking Connect

• NPCI Bharat Bill Payment Limited (NBBL) successfully onboarded and integrated Axis Bank into its interoperable Net Banking platform, "Banking Connect".

8. Co-Branded Credit Cards

• PhonePe and the State Bank of India (SBI) partnered to jointly launch a co-branded credit card. • The card is available on both the RuPay and Visa networks and offers a zero joining fee for the first year.

9. Job Matching on NCS Portal

• The government is expanding digital job opportunities through the National Career Service (NCS) portal. • The Ministry of Labour and Employment signed an MoU with logistics platform Porter and Gigin Technologies (Leegion).

10. UIDAI and MapmyIndia Partnership

• The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) partnered with MapmyIndia. • The partnership integrates and displays verified/authorized Aadhaar Seva Kendras directly onto the Mappls Map application (effective April 1, 2026).

11. True Cyber Sakhi Initiative

• The National Commission for Women (NCW) partnered with Truecaller to launch "True Cyber Sakhi".

12. National

1. Amaravati Declared Sole Capital of Andhra Pradesh

- The Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha passed the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Amendment Bill 2026 to grant statutory status to Amaravati.
- The bill has a retrospective effect starting from June 2, 2024.
- The state's CM is N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy CM is Pawan Kalyan, and Governor is S. Abdul Nazeer.

2. Jan Vishwas Bill 2026 Passed

- Parliament passed the Jan Vishwas Bill to promote the "Ease of Doing Business" and "Ease of Living".
- The bill amends 784 provisions across 80 Central Acts by decriminalizing minor offenses and replacing them with civil and monetary penalties.
- Specifically, it decriminalizes 717 minor offenses across 79 central acts.

3. Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) Act 2026

- The Act empowers the Central Government to formulate rules for recruitment and service conditions, overriding prior court judgments and executive orders.

4. Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) Districts Recategorized

- The "most affected" category has been replaced by "LWE Affected Districts of Concern" and "Legacy and Thrust Districts".
- The 'Red Corridor' has significantly shrunk from 200 districts in 2005 to just 2 districts today.
- Overall, only 38 districts remain in the LWE category, and Home Minister Amit Shah recently declared the country effectively free of Naxalism.

5. Launch of Census 2027

- The Government of India launched Phase 1 of Census 2027 on April 1st, marking the longest gap since independence (16 years).
- It is India's first fully digital census, utilizing smartphones, mobile applications, and online portals.
- For the first time since 1931, it will include caste enumeration across all communities.
- The survey consists of 33 questions, offers a self-enumeration portal in 16 languages, and assigns citizens a 16-digit Self Enumeration ID.
- Phase 1 (House-listing and housing census) runs from April to September, and Phase 2 (Population enumeration) begins in February 2027.
- It has an allocated budget of ₹1,178.24 crore, covering 36 states/UTs, 792 sub-districts, and 6,392 villages.
- It is governed by the Census Act of 1948, conducted by the Office of the Registrar General of India, and falls under the Union List (Article 246, Entry 69).

6. Karmayogi Sadhana Saptah 2026

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually launched the week-long "Karmayogi Sadhana Saptah" for civil servants to celebrate the 5-year milestone of Mission Karmayogi.
- Organized by the Capacity Building Commission from April 2 to 8, it was launched at the Dr. Ambedkar International Center in New Delhi.
- SADHANA stands for Strengthening Adaptive Development and Humane Aptitude for National Advancement.
- It is built on three pillars/sutras: technology, tradition, and tangible outcomes.

7. ECI Launches net-KYC Feature

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) launched an e-KYC (Know Your Candidate) feature on its ECI-net digital platform.
- This was launched ahead of upcoming elections in Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and Puducherry.
- In a separate election initiative, CEC Gyanesh Kumar launched the "GenZ Vote Song" in Malayalam in Kochi, Kerala, to encourage youth participation.,

8. New National Economic and Sectoral Surveys

- ASISSE Survey: The National Statistical Office (NSO) and MoSPI launched the inaugural Annual Survey of Incorporated Service Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) tracking FY 2024-25.
- It will assess around 1.21 lakh registered companies using GSTN data, as the service sector contributes over 50% to India's GDP.
- Textiles Market Report: The "Market for Textiles and Clothing: National Household Survey 2024" revealed the domestic textile market size grew to ₹14.95 lakh crore, with women consumers contributing 55.5% of purchases.
- Construction Study: MoSPI conducted a pilot study on India's unincorporated construction sector, revealing 98.54 lakh households built homes via self-construction, supported by 10.27 lakh unincorporated establishments.
- FADA Auto Sales: FADA reported record-high retail auto sales of 3 crore vehicles in FY26, reflecting a 13.30% year-on-year growth (including 2.14 crore two-wheelers),.

9. Prominent State Government Welfare Schemes

- Odisha - Mukhyamantri Annapurna Yojana: CM Mohan Charan Majhi launched this scheme to provide an additional 5 kg of free rice per person per month to NFSA beneficiaries (totaling 10 kg), costing the state ₹8,813 crore annually.
- Delhi - Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana: President Droupadi Murmu launched this scheme to replace the Ladli Scheme. It provides ₹61,000 in installments (maturing to ₹1.20 lakh) for girls from families earning under ₹1,20,000 annually.
- Madhya Pradesh - School Chale Hum: CM Mohan Yadav launched this campaign to boost student enrollment (targeting 1.45 crore admissions) and ensure a zero drop-out rate by providing free textbooks, bicycles, and uniforms.
- Uttar Pradesh - Safe Mobility Program: CM Yogi Adityanath launched an initiative to train 1,000 women from SHGs as e-rickshaw drivers across 5 districts (including Ayodhya, Gorakhpur, Varanasi) for safe female transport

10. State Technology, Digital & AI Integrations

- Telangana - Bhoo Bharati Portal: Launched to digitize land registration and replace the old Dharani portal, solving issues of hidden records and 18 lakh acres locked under "Part B" status.
- Gujarat - Narath AI: Gujarat Police launched India's first AI-based investigation tool for state police to analyze drug cases under the NDPS Act 1985.
- Odisha - Puri Police Sahayak: A 24/7 WhatsApp chatbot supported by PNB to provide quick police services to citizens and tourists.
- Madhya Pradesh - Braille Passport Office: Bhopal's Regional Passport Office became the first in India to introduce Braille scripts and sign language videos for visually and hearing-impaired applicants.
- Puducherry - Robot 'Neela': A saree-clad humanoid robot was deployed at a polling station to welcome and assist elderly and first-time voters in English and Tamil.

11. NCERT Granted 'Deemed to be University' Status

- The Ministry of Education, on the recommendation of the UGC, granted "Deemed-to-be-University" status to the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).
- The status was granted under the 'De Novo' category.
- It allows NCERT and its six constituent institutions (in Ajmer, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Mysore, Northeast Shillong) to offer their own UG, PG, and PhD degrees, and design innovative curriculum.

12. New Universities and Educational Institutions

- Vantara University: Founded by Anant Ambani, Vantara announced the launch of the world's first integrated global university for wildlife and veterinary science in Jamnagar, Gujarat.
- Metro University in UP: The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved the setup of Metro University (proposed by Sunhill Healthcare) in Greater Noida on 26.1 acres, focusing on job-oriented courses and AI.
- Sainik School in Karnataka: The Sri Krishna Devaraya Sainik School was inaugurated in Sindhanur, Raichur district, to promote defense-oriented education.

13. Introduction of AI and Coding in School Curriculum

- The curriculum is aimed at classes 3 to 8, effective from the 2026-27 academic session (April 1, 2026).
- Classes 3 to 5 will feature activity-based logic building, while classes 6 to 8 will focus on AI concepts, coding, and real-world applications.

14. Telangana Declares Cancer a Notifiable Disease

- All government and private healthcare facilities must legally report diagnosed cases within a month to create a centralized and uniform cancer registry.
- The Mehdi Nawaz Jung Institute of Oncology and the Regional Cancer Centre in Hyderabad have been designated as Centres of Excellence to coordinate with the National Cancer Registry.

15. National Healthcare and Safety Campaigns

- MoHFW Health App: The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched a mobile app (developed by ICMR) for Community Health Officers (CHOs) at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs. It features a color-coded assessment system: Red (emergencies), Orange (specialist), Yellow (manageable), Green (healthy).
- 8th Poshan Pakhwada: The Ministry of Women and Child Development launched this campaign (April 9 to 23) with the theme "Maximizing Brain Development in the First Six Years of Life."
- Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan: The Ministry of Education and Ministry of Home Affairs launched a 3-year mission-mode project to create drug-free zones within a 500-meter radius of all schools.

16. Solid Waste Management Rules 2026

- The government notified the Solid Waste Management Rules 2026, replacing the older 2016 framework.
- The new rules introduce a mandatory 4-stream waste segregation at the source: Wet (Green bin), Dry (Blue bin), Sanitary (Red bin), and Special care (Black bin).
- Entities generating over 100 kg of waste daily are classified as bulk waste generators.

17. NHAI's 'Aarogya Van' Initiative

- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is developing "Aarogya Van" projects along national highways to boost biodiversity and promote medicinal plants.
- Phase 1 involves 17 land parcels covering 62.8 hectares, where 67,462 trees of 36 medicinal species (like Neem, Amla, Jamun) will be planted across 11 states near toll plazas.

18. E20 Fuel Mandate

- The government mandated the use of E20 fuel (a blend of 20% ethanol derived from crops and 80% petrol) at all petrol pumps starting April 1, 2026.
- This fuel requires a minimum Research Octane Number (RON) of 95 for better engine performance.

19. Biodiversity Repositories and Wildlife Moves

- Deep-Sea Repositories: The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) and MoEFCC designated the Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology (CMLRE) Bhaavsagar referral centre in Kochi, and the Agharkar Research Institute (ARI) in Pune (MACS Collection of Microorganisms) as National Repositories under the Biological Diversity Act.
- Blackbucks in Chhattisgarh: Blackbucks are being reintroduced in a 250-square-kilometer area of the Rampur grassland within the Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary, Mahasamund district.
- There are now 18 such biological repository institutions in India housing over 3,500 taxonomic specimens to preserve deep-sea heritage.

20. New Transport and Infrastructure Milestones

- India-Nepal Highway: The Centre approved a four-lane Barabanki-Bahraich highway (NH-927) in Uttar Pradesh connecting to the Rupaidiha land port, cutting travel time from 150 to 75 minutes.
- New Airports in Telangana: The Ministry of Civil Aviation approved the Warangal and Adilabad airports (the latter to be developed with the Ministry of Defence).
- First Hydrogen-Powered Train Trial: India successfully conducted trials of its first hydrogen-powered train on the 20 km Jind-Sonipat route in Haryana, reaching 70 km/hr (developed by ICF Chennai, trialed by RDSO).
- Railway Zones Reorganized: Seven railway stations covering the Khurda division were shifted from the East Coast Railway Zone (Bhubaneswar) to the South Coast Railway Zone (Visakhapatnam).
- PTC Saharanpur: Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia released a ₹5 commemorative stamp to mark the 75th anniversary of the Postal Training Center (PTC) Saharanpur.

21. Unique State and Institutional Milestones

- Namo Drone Didi Scheme: Karnataka trained the highest number of women drone pilots (145) from SHGs, followed by UP (128) and AP (108). Koppal district topped in Karnataka, while Prayagraj topped in UP.
- BharatNet: Punjab became the first state to implement the amended BharatNet scheme across the entire state.
- Tribal Genome Project: Gujarat became the first state to launch a large-scale genome sequencing project in tribal communities.
- SAMPANN Platform Expansion: The central government extended its digital pension platform SAMPANN to the Goa State Government and Cochin Port Authority.
- Tea Mark Scheme: The Tea Board of India introduced the voluntary "Tea Mark" Quality Certification Scheme to prevent adulteration and track supply chains.
- Aviation Theme Terminal: PM Modi inaugurated India's first nature-based theme airport terminal at Guwahati's LGBI airport.
- Bihar 'Sat Nishri': The Bihar cabinet approved the "Sat Nishri" program (2025-2030) to transform into a developed economy.
- Indore 'Shuna Shatak': The "Shuna Shatak" (0 to 100) program was held in Indore, MP, to commemorate Atal Bihari Vajpayee's 100th birth anniversary.

13. Persons in News

1. Passing of Legendary Singer Asha Bhosle

- Legendary Indian playback singer Asha Bhosle (real name Asha Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar) passed away on April 12 at the age of 92 in Mumbai.
- Over her incredible seven-decade career, she recorded over 12,000 songs, marking the end of an iconic era in Indian music.
- She had a monumental career, winning prestigious honors like the Dadasaheb Phalke Award (2000) and the Padma Vibhushan (2008).
She recorded her first song at age 10, was the first Indian artist nominated for a Grammy (with nominations in 1977, 1991, and 2005), and was featured in the Guinness World Records (2011).

2. Passing of Chandrikapersad Santokhi

- Former Suriname President Chandrikapersad Santokhi passed away at the age of 67.
- He served as the President of Suriname from 2020 to 2025.
- He was a previous recipient of the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman, awarded by the Indian Government in 2021.

3. Passing of Political Veterans Mohsina Kidwai & Abu Hasem Khan Choudhury

- Mohsina Kidwai: Passed away at age 94 in Noida, UP. She held several key ministerial portfolios during the tenures of PM Indira Gandhi and PM Rajiv Gandhi. She served three terms in the Lok Sabha representing Meerut, and two terms in the Rajya Sabha representing Chhattisgarh.
- Abu Hasem Khan Choudhury: Former Union Health and Family Welfare Minister (affectionately known as Dalu Babu) passed away at the age of 88 in Kolkata.
- Mohsina Kidwai authored the memoir "My Life in Indian Politics".

4. Passing of Cricket Legend C.D. Gopinath

- C.D. Gopinath, India's oldest living test cricketer, passed away at age 96 in Chennai.
- He was the last surviving member of the Indian cricket team that secured the country's first-ever Test match victory against England in 1952.
- Following his death, Chandu Patankar, at 95 years and 136 days, is now the oldest living Indian test cricketer.

5. Passing of War Hero Sonam Wangchuk & Mountaineer Jim Whittaker

- Colonel Sonam Wangchuk: Famously known as the "Lion of Ladakh", he passed away at the age of 61. He was a Maha Vir Chakra awardee recognized for his immense bravery in the Batalik sector during the Kargil War.
- Jim Whittaker: The first American to climb/summit Mount Everest (in 1963) passed away at the age of 97 in Washington, USA.

6. Passing of T.A. Rajendran

- T.A. Rajendran, a veteran Malayalam actor and director, recently passed away.

7. Historic Cycling Expedition to Everest Base Camp

- Divya Singh, a 28-year-old from Uttar Pradesh, successfully completed a cycling expedition to the Everest Base Camp (5,364 meters above sea level).
- Starting from Kathmandu, Nepal, she completed this grueling journey in just 14 days, cycling 10 to 12 hours daily.
- She became the first Indian woman and the second globally to achieve this feat.

8. Indian-Origin Chess Prodigy Bodhana Sivanandan

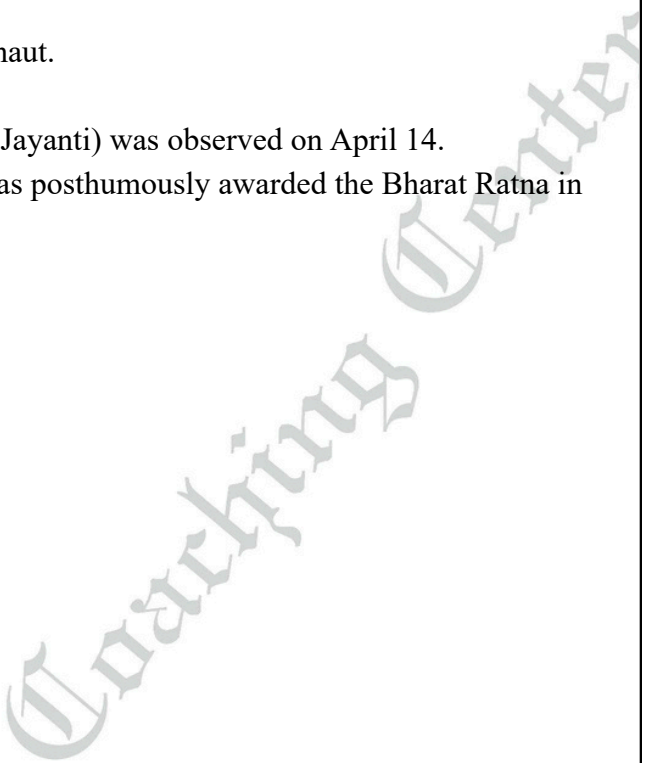
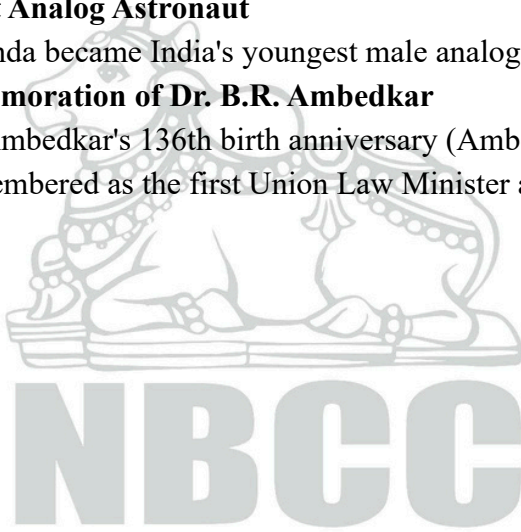
- An 11-year-old Indian-origin prodigy is making waves in international chess.
- Bodhana Sivanandan became Britain's top-rated female chess player with a FIDE rating of 2366.
- Her rating places her 72nd globally among women

9. Youngest Analog Astronaut

- Aditya Panda became India's youngest male analog astronaut.

10. Commemoration of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's 136th birth anniversary (Ambedkar Jayanti) was observed on April 14.
- He is remembered as the first Union Law Minister and was posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1990.



14. Ranks and Reports

1. Energy Statistics of India 2026

- The National Statistical Office (NSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the 33rd edition of this publication.
- The Total Primary Energy Supply (TPES) registered a growth of 2.95% compared to the past year.
- India's renewable energy capacity reached 47,43,000 MW (Solar: 33,43,000 MW; Wind: 11,00,063 MW; Large Hydro: 1,33,000 MW).
- Total potential solar energy saw a massive jump, currently holding the highest share of around 71% of renewable energy.
- Over 70% of the total renewable energy generation potential is concentrated in six states: Rajasthan (23.70%), Maharashtra (14.26%), Gujarat (9.10%), Andhra Pradesh (9.1%), Karnataka (8.59%), and Madhya Pradesh (8.09%).

2. NITI Aayog Report on Women Borrowers

- NITI Aayog released the second edition of a report titled "From Borrowers to Builders: Women and India's Evolving Credit Market."
- The report was released in collaboration with the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP), TransUnion CIBIL, and MSC.
- Women now hold 26% of India's total credit (worth ₹76 lakh crore), representing a 4.8-fold rise since 2017.
- Credit penetration among women increased significantly from 19% in 2017 to 36% in 2025.
- Business credit to women is growing at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 31%.

3. IRENA Renewable Energy Market Report

- A report by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA, formed in 2009 with HQ in Abu Dhabi) confirmed India's global standing in green energy.
- India ranks 3rd globally in renewable energy installed capacity, surpassing Brazil and trailing only China and the USA.
- India's total non-fossil fuel capacity reached 283.46 GW (or 250.5 GW after adding 45 GW recently) by March 31, with renewables contributing 274.68 GW.
- Solar capacity has reached 150.26 GW and wind energy is at 56.09 GW.
- Renewable energy currently fulfills 51.5% of India's electricity demand.
- India has achieved its target of 50% cumulative installed power from non-fossil sources five years ahead of its 2030 Paris Agreement deadline.
- Total global renewable capacity stands at 5,149 GW.

4. PLFS(Periodic Labour Force Survey) Annual Report 2025

- The Overall Unemployment Rate stood at 3.1% (Rural UR: 2.4% for males, 2.6% for females).
- The Overall Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) was recorded at 59.3%.
- Youth unemployment (15-29 years) decreased to 9.9%.
- The employment profile revealed: Self-employed (56.2%), Agriculture (43%), Regular wage/salaried (23.6%), and Manufacturing (12.1%).

5. CREA(Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air) Air Pollution Report

- Gurugram was named the most polluted city in India for March 2026.
- Ghaziabad recorded the highest pollution levels overall for the entire financial year 2025-26.
- Haryana is home to four of India's top 10 most polluted cities, with the most cities exceeding National Ambient Air Quality Standards.
- Dehradun showed the highest reduction (75%) in PM10 levels across the surveyed cities.

6. UNESCO 2026 Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report

- UNESCO released the 2026 Global Education Monitoring (GEM) report titled "Access and Equity: Countdown to 2030".
- The report highlighted that 273 million children, adolescents, and youth were out of school globally in 2024.
- 1 in 6 school-age children is entirely excluded from education.

7. UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) Report on West Asia Conflict

- The ongoing conflict could push 2.5 million Indians into poverty, raising India's poverty rate from 23.9% to 24.2%.
- This rise is largely due to increased costs of crude oil, LNG, and fertilizers, which heavily impacts the unorganized MSME sectors and food security.
- The report also noted that India's Human Development Index (HDI) ranking generally hovers around 130.

8. FAO Global Food Price Index

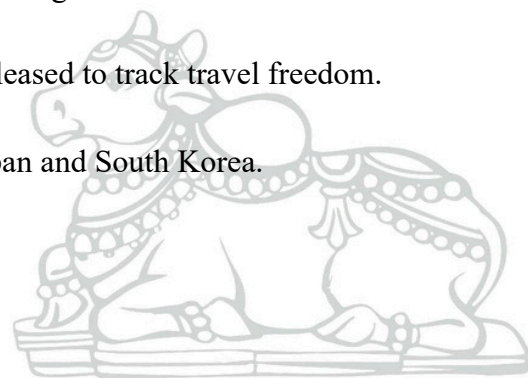
- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO, headquartered in Rome) reported on global food price trends.
- The FAO reported a 2.4% rise in its Food Price Index in March, reaching 128.5 (base year 2014-2016).

9. RBI OBICUS Survey

- The Reserve Bank of India released the 73rd round of its OBICUS (Order Books, Inventories and Capacity Utilisation Survey) report.
- The survey noted that capacity utilization in the manufacturing sector has increased to 75.6%.

11. Global Passport Index

- The latest rankings for the Global Passport Index were released to track travel freedom.
- India climbed to the 80th position globally in the index.
- Top Ranks: Singapore holds the top spot, followed by Japan and South Korea.

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15. Schemes & Initiatives

1. Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) 11th Anniversary

- The scheme completed 11 years since it was launched on April 8, 2015, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- It provides collateral-free loans to non-farm, non-corporate, small, and micro-entrepreneurs.
- Loan disbursements under PMMY reached an all-time high of ₹5.64 lakh crore in the financial year 2025-26, surpassing the previous year's ₹5.4 lakh crore.
- The total sanctioned amount was ₹5.74 lakh crore for the year.
- Since its launch, over 57.79 crore loans totaling more than ₹40.7 lakh crore have been disbursed.
- The maximum loan limit was recently increased from ₹10 lakh to ₹20 lakh.
- The loans are categorized as Shishu (up to ₹50,000, no processing fee), Kishor (₹50,000 to ₹5 lakh), Tarun (₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh), and the newly added Tarun Plus (₹10 lakh to ₹20 lakh, exclusively for those with a good repayment history).
- Women account for two-thirds (67%) of the loans, and 20% are first-time entrepreneurs.
- Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Maharashtra are the top contributing states.
- MUDRA (Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency) operates under SIDBI as the nodal agency.

2. Extensions of PM E-DRIVE and PM KUSUM Schemes

- The central government extended timelines for major schemes promoting electric mobility and solar energy in the agriculture sector.
- PM E-DRIVE: The subsidy deadline for electric two-wheelers under the Prime Minister's Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement scheme was extended from March to July 31, 2026. The deadline for E-rickshaws and E-cars was extended until March 31, 2028.
- PM KUSUM: The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy extended the commissioning timeline for certain projects under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan to March 31, 2027 (applying to projects with PPAs/LoIs signed before December 31, 2025).
- PM E-DRIVE (launched in October 2024 to replace older FAME programs) has seen around 1 million electric two-wheelers sold, utilizing ₹1,772 crores under the scheme.
- PM KUSUM (launched in 2019 for off-grid solar pumps) aims to add 34,800 MW of solar capacity by March 2026 with central financial support of ₹34,422 crore.

3. Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 & Atal Bhujal Yojana

- The government is accelerating nationwide missions focused on rural water supply and sustainable groundwater management.
- Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0: Meghalaya became the 12th state to sign a reform-linked MoU to ensure rural water supply. The mission received an additional outlay of ₹1.5 lakh crore, with ₹67,300 crore allocated in the FY26 budget.
- Atal Bhujal Yojana: This flagship scheme was extended to March 2026, with awareness initiatives continuing until 2027.
- Atal Bhujal Yojana is implemented in 7 water-stressed states (Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh) covering 8,203 gram panchayats.
- Atal Bhujal Yojana has a total allocation of ₹6,000 crore, funded 50:50 by the Government of India (₹3,000 crore) and the World Bank (₹3,000 crore).

4. Sagarmala Project & Sagarmala 2.0

- Launched in March 2015, the Sagarmala Project aims to develop India's ports, improve logistic efficiency, reduce costs, and enhance multi-modal transportation.
- The first phase included 845 projects worth ₹6.06 lakh crore (out of which 315 projects have been completed).
- Sagarmala 2.0 has been allocated ₹85,482 crore.
- Sagarmala 2.0 focuses on five pillars: port modernization, connectivity, industrialization, coastal community development, and coastal shipping/inland waterways. Additional
- Cargo handling capacity has reached an impressive 915 million tonnes, and currently, 9 Indian ports rank among the world's top 100.

5. Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 & ECMS Tranche 4

- Fund of Funds 2.0: Officially notified with a massive corpus of ₹10,000 crore to boost the startup ecosystem (focusing on deep tech, early-growth stage, and technology-driven manufacturing).
- ECMS: The Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) approved 29 proposals with a projected investment of ₹7.4 crore / ₹714 crore under the fourth tranche of the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme.
- Under the Startup Fund, funds will not be given directly to startups but routed through SEBI-registered Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs). SIDBI acts as the implementing agency, monitored by a committee chaired by the DPIIT Secretary.

6. Womaniya, Swayatt, and RoSCTL Export Schemes

- Womaniya & Swayatt: Launched in 2019 on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM). The Womaniya initiative aims to promote women-led MSMEs/SHGs, setting a target that 3% of total government procurement should come from women. Swayatt promotes startups, youth, and MSMEs for products like handicrafts and handlooms.
- RoSCTL & RoDTEP: The Ministry of Textiles extended the Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) and the RoDTEP schemes until September 30, 2026 (or until approved by the 16th Finance Commission).
- RoSCTL is an export incentive scheme to refund embedded taxes via e-scrips, keeping Indian textile exporters competitive. It has a budget allocation of ₹5,000 crore for 2026-27.

7. Skill Outcome Fund & Aluminium Bharat Initiative

- Skill Outcome Fund: Union Minister Jayant Chaudhary launched a ₹30 crore outcome-based financing (OBF) initiative in New Delhi to provide aspirational livelihoods to 2 lakh youth from low-income backgrounds, focusing on sectors like IT, banking, healthcare, and green jobs.
- Aluminium Bharat: The Aluminium Extrusion Manufacturers Association of India (AEMAI/ALMI) launched this initiative to revitalize the sector and make India a global manufacturing hub.

8. Namu Drone Didi Yojana & Biotech-KISAN

- Namu Drone Didi Yojana: A central sector initiative with a ₹1,261 crore budget to provide 15,000 agricultural drones to women SHGs between 2023-24 and 2025-26, including a 15-day training program.
- Biotech-KISAN (Krishi Innovation Science Application Network): Launched in 2017 by the Department of Biotechnology to bridge lab research and on-field applications. It currently operates 50 hubs across 25 states/UTs.
- Under Namu Drone Didi, Karnataka trained the highest number of women drone pilots (145), followed by UP (128) and AP (108). Koppal district (Karnataka) and Prayagraj (UP) topped at the district level.
- Biotech-KISAN promotes sustainable, residue-free, and precise agriculture, reaching over 1 lakh farmers with an allocated budget of around ₹310 crore.
- India and Australia also launched the "Agri Maitri Initiative" to boost agricultural business cooperation.

9. Mission Karmayogi 'Sadhana Saptah'

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually launched the week-long "Karmayogi Sadhana Saptah" for civil servants to celebrate the 5-year milestone of the capacity-building mission.
- Organized by the Capacity Building Commission from April 2 to 8 at the Dr. Ambedkar International Center in New Delhi.
- It is built on three pillars/sutras: technology, tradition, and tangible outcomes.
- Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh launched the first-ever dedicated administrative capacity-building program specifically for scientists and academicians to enhance governance and AI skills.
- SADHANA stands for Strengthening Adaptive Development and Humane Aptitude for National Advancement.
- Several initiatives were introduced: "Karam Yogi Geet", "Kashmata Connect" (online training in regional languages), a behavioral training program called "Kartava/Karakaram" covering 1.3 crore officials, and a "Peer Assessment Framework".
- A revamped UNNATI (Unified New Age National Training Institution) portal was also launched.

10. 8th Poshan Pakhwada & Nasha Mukta Bharat

- 8th Poshan Pakhwada 2026: The Ministry of Women and Child Development ran this campaign from April 9 to 23 with the theme "Maximizing Brain Development in the First Six Years of Life."
- Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan: The Ministry of Education and Ministry of Home Affairs launched a 3-year mission-mode project to create drug-free zones within a 500-meter radius of all schools.

11. PRARAMBH 2026, Kar Sathi & SEBI SETU

- PRARAMBH 2026 & Kar Sathi: The CBDT launched the "Kar Sathi" 24/7 AI-powered chatbot (in Hindi and English) under the PRARAMBH (Policy Reform and Responsible Action for Miss Vixet Bharat) campaign.
- SEBI SETU: SEBI launched this digital platform to simplify registration and compliance for investment advisors, providing a single-window interface to ease regulatory burdens.
- The PRARAMBH campaign heavily simplified compliances by reducing total tax rules from 510 to 333, and forms from 399 to 190.

12. PM-WANI Scheme & National PNG Drive 2.0

- PM-WANI Scheme: Launched in 2020 by the DoT to expand public Wi-Fi via Public Data Offices (PDOs) without license fees. It currently has 49,403 PDOs benefiting 2.44 crore people.
- National PNG Drive 2.0: Extended to June 30, 2026, under the theme "Har PNG Har CNG".
- The PNG drive aims to increase natural gas to 15% of India's energy basket by 2030, successfully gasifying over 3.1 lakh connections by March 2026.

13. Aarogya Van & ATL Sarthi

- Aarogya Van: NHAI is developing projects to plant 67,462 trees of 36 medicinal species (like Neem, Amla, Jamun) across 17 land parcels (62.8 hectares) along national highways near toll plazas.
- ATL Sarthi: NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission launched 'ATL Sarthi' and 'Mentor India Academy' in Telangana.

14. State-Specific Financial & Education Schemes (Delhi, Punjab, MP, Odisha)

- Delhi - Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana: Launched by President Droupadi Murmu, replacing the Ladli Scheme. It provides ₹61,000 in installments (maturing to ₹1.20 lakh) for girl child education in families earning under ₹1,20,000 annually.
- Punjab - Mukhyamantri Mawan Dhiyan Satkar Yojana (Mukimantri Man Dhan Satgar Yojana): Provides financial assistance of ₹1,000 to eligible women and ₹1,500 to SC women, backed by a ₹9,300 crore budget.
- Odisha - Mukhyamantri Annapurna Yojana: Launched by CM Mohan Charan Majhi, providing an additional 5 kg of free rice (totaling 10 kg) to NFSA beneficiaries, costing the state ₹8,813 crore annually.
- Madhya Pradesh - School Chale Hum: A campaign (April 1-4) launched by CM Mohan Yadav covering 50,000 villages. It targets 1.45 crore admissions with a zero drop-out rate, providing free textbooks, uniforms, and bicycles.
- PM Modi also doubled the national Lakhpati Didi target from 3 crore to 6 crore by 2029.

15. State-Specific Livelihood & Industrial Schemes (AP, UP, WB, Rajasthan, Assam)

- Uttar Pradesh - Safe Mobility Program: Trains 1,000 women from SHGs as e-rickshaw drivers across 5 districts for safe female transport.
- Andhra Pradesh - Free Electricity for Weavers: A ₹150 crore scheme offering 200 units of free power to handloom weavers and 500 units to power loom units.
- West Bengal - Bhaangbandhu Scheme: Provides ₹1,500 per month for unemployed youth (21-40 years) starting April 2026.
- Rajasthan - Industrial Park Promotion Policy 2026: Launched by CM Bhajan Lal Sharma to boost investments and jobs under the Make in India initiative.
- Assam - Atal Bhujal Agrani Asam Scheme: Launched for agriculture innovation with AI.
- The "Vibrant Villages Program 2" was launched in Nathanur village, Assam.
- Bihar approved the "Sat Nishri" program (2025-2030) to transform into a developed economy.
- The PM Rahat Scheme was launched to provide cashless treatment up to ₹1.5 lakh for 7 days via the 112 helpline.

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16. Science & Technology

1. Meta's New AI Model 'Muse'

- The new model is named 'Muse' (or 'Muse Spark') and succeeds the Llama 4 model.
- It was built by Meta's Super Intelligence Lab / superintelligence team under the "Avocado" series.,

2. Smart Policing and AI Investigation Tools

- Gujarat Police: Launched India's first AI-based investigation tool for state police named "Narath AI" or "Narit AI" (Narcotics Analysis Retrieval Augmented Generation based Investigation Tool) in Gandhinagar.
- Delhi Police & C-DOT: Implemented nine indigenous solutions including a Facial Recognition System, "Fraud PRO" (to identify suspects/missing persons), a secure messaging platform ("Samvad"), a video conferencing tool ("C-DOT Meet"), and a Cell Broadcast Solution for emergency warnings.
- Delhi Police: Launched 'Operation Shastra' against online threats. S

3. ISRO's Gaganyaan Mission Preparations

- ISRO is actively testing crew module recovery and astronaut endurance for the upcoming Gaganyaan human spaceflight mission targeted for 2027.
- Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT) 02: Successfully completed at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota/Chandigarh., An IAF Chinook helicopter dropped a 4.8-ton (or 5.7-ton) simulated crew module into the sea from an altitude of 3 kilometers., The module successfully deployed 10 parachutes to reduce velocity for a safe sea landing.
- Mission MITRA: ISRO conducted "Mission MITRA" (Mapping of Interoperable Traits and Reliability/Response Assessment) in Leh, Ladakh.

4. NASA's Artemis II Mission Success

- Launched from the Kennedy Space Center using the Space Launch System rocket, the Orion spacecraft (named "Integrity") successfully returned to Earth with a Pacific Ocean splashdown.
- The 10-day mission carried four astronauts: Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, Christina Koch, and Jeremy Hansen (a Canadian).

5. India's First 500 MW Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR)

- India achieved a historic milestone in its 3-stage nuclear program conceptualized by Homi Bhabha.
- The indigenously built 500 MW Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at the Kalpakkam Nuclear Complex in Tamil Nadu successfully attained its first criticality (a controlled nuclear chain reaction).
- It was designed by the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR) and is operated by BHAVINI (Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited).
- India's current nuclear energy capacity is 8.78 GW, targeting 22.38 GW by 2030-31 and 100 GW by 2047.

6. Amaravati Reference Quantum Facility

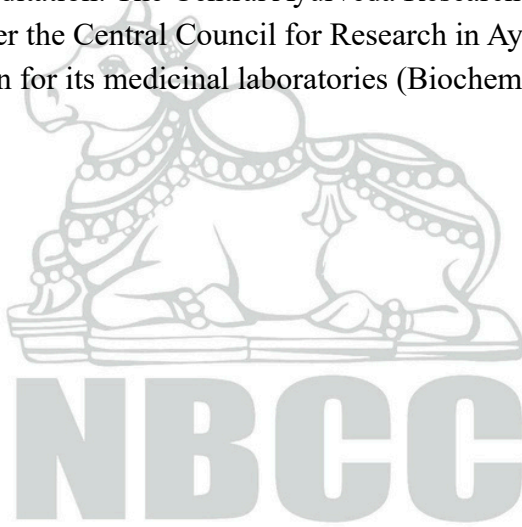
- India's first indigenous quantum computer testing facility was launched at SRM University in Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh, by N. Chandrababu Naidu on World Quantum Day.

7. Anti-Drone and Invasive Plant Tech

- Anti-Drone System: VOC Port in Tamil Nadu deployed India's first anti-drone system.
- Invasive Plant Detection: Kerala launched "Neosight ID" for invasive plant detection.

8. National Biobank & Medical Wellness Centers

- National Biobank: A National Biobank for Lysosomal Storage Disorders was launched in Ahmedabad.
- Lung Diagnostic Center: India's first Lung Diagnostic Wellness Center was established by Cipla in New Delhi.
- ISO Accreditation: The Central Ayurveda Research Institute (CARI) / CRI in Bengaluru became the first facility under the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) to receive ISO 15189:2022 accreditation for its medicinal laboratories (Biochemistry and Hematology).



17. Sports

1. IPL Milestones and Records

- Virat Kohli: Became the first player in IPL history to cross 4,000 runs in run-chases while playing for RCB against SRH at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium. He also surpassed Shoaib Malik to become the 6th highest run-getter in T20 cricket history.
- Shubman Gill: The Gujarat Titans captain became the youngest player to score 4,000 runs in the IPL, achieving this in 118 innings during a match against the Lucknow Super Giants.
- Bhuvneshwar Kumar: Became the first fast bowler (and second player overall behind Yuzvendra Chahal's 223) to take 200 wickets in IPL history. He reached the milestone by dismissing Ayush Mhatre (Note: One source also mentioned he achieved this playing for Royal Challengers Bangalore against the Chennai Super Kings).
- BCCI inked a massive ₹2,70,000 crore (270k crore) Gemini sponsorship deal for IPL 2026.

2. International and Franchise Cricket Updates

- Women's Premier League (WPL): Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) won their second WPL title by defeating the Delhi Capitals.
- U19 Men's World Cup: India won the tournament by defeating England.
- Major League Cricket (MLC): Ravichandran Ashwin became the first Indian international cricketer to sign for the US-based MLC, joining the San Francisco Unicorns for the 2026 season.
- Record T20I Bowling: Brazilian women's cricketer Laura Cardoso made history by becoming the first player to take 9 wickets in a T20I match (giving away just 4 runs in 3 overs) against Lesotho during the Kalahari Women's T20 tournament. Lesotho was bowled out for just 13 runs.
- Women's T20 World Cup: The ICC increased the total prize money for the upcoming Women's T20 World Cup (hosted by England and Wales in 2026) by 10%, bringing the pool to \$8,764,615 (winner receives \$2,340,000).
- Laura Cardoso's 9-wicket haul is the best bowling figure in T20 history across both men's and women's cricket.

3. Wisden Cricket Awards & ICC Players of the Month

- Mitchell Starc was named Leading Men's Cricketer, Deepti Sharma as Leading Women's Cricketer, and Abhishek Sharma as Leading T20 Cricketer by Wisden.
- Four Indians (Shubman Gill, Ravindra Jadeja, Rishabh Pant, and Mohammed Siraj) alongside England's Haseeb Hameed were named the Five Cricketers of the Year.
- Shubman Gill won the Wisden Trophy for an outstanding 430-run performance in a single Test match at Edgbaston.
- ICC Awards: Sanju Samson was awarded the ICC Men's Player of the Month for March following his phenomenal T20 World Cup performance. New Zealand's Amelia Kerr won the ICC Women's Player of the Month.

4. World Para Archery Series and World Archery Awards

- World Para Archery Series (Bangkok): 18-year-old Payal Nag, India's first quadruple amputee (missing both arms and legs), scripted history by defeating world number one Sheetal Devi to win the gold medal in the Compound Women's Final.

- India topped the overall medal table with 16 medals (also cited as 13 medals across sources: 7 Gold, 5/3 Silver, 4/3 Bronze).

- World Archery Awards: Sheetal Devi (19-year-old from J&K) was named the World Para Archer of the Year 2025/2023. Other winners included American Hennie (Archer of the Year), Baptiste Addis (Young Archer of the Year), and Korea's Recurve Men's team (Best Team).

- Sheetal Devi is the first female armless archer to win gold at the World Para Archery Championship in Gwangju, South Korea.

5. ISSF World Cup and Asian Championships (Shooting)

- ISSF World Cup (Granada, Spain): The Indian duo of Palak Gulia and Mukesh Nelavalli won the gold medal in the 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team event. They set a new Junior World Record with 487.7 points (breaking the previous record of 481).

- China secured Silver, and Hungary took Bronze. India finished third in the overall standings. Sonam Uttam Maskar finished 5th in the women's 10m air rifle final.

- Asian Rifle Pistol Championship (New Delhi): India topped the medal tally with 94 medals (including 51 gold), followed by Kazakhstan.

6. Asian Squash Federation (ASF) Awards 2025

- Abhay Singh (India) won Men's Player of the Year.

- Anahat Singh (India) won Girls' Junior / Girls' Player of the Year.

- The Indian Junior Boys Team won the Men's Team Award (following their bronze medal at the 2025 World Junior Team Championship in Egypt).

- Satomi Watanabe (Japan) won the Women's Player Senior award.

- Fahim Gul (Pakistan) and Peter Genever (Hong Kong) won Coach of the Year.

- Squash is set to make its Olympic debut at the LA 2028 Olympics.

7. Badminton Asia Championships and Rule Changes

- Badminton Asia Championships 2026 (Ningbo, China): India's Ayush Shetty won a silver medal in the Men's Singles event (marking India's first silver in this championship). He lost the final match to China's Shi Yu Qi.

- BWF Rule Change: The Badminton World Federation (BWF) approved the trial of synthetic shuttlecocks in select junior and lower-tier tournaments to eliminate the animal cruelty associated with using bird feathers.

- Spanish badminton legend Carolina Marin (32) and India's Saina Nehwal announced their retirements from competitive badminton. Marin was the first woman to win three World Championship titles.

8. Monte Carlo Masters and US Open Pickleball

- Monte Carlo Masters: Italian player Jannik Sinner defeated Carlos Alcaraz on the clay courts of Monaco to win the title, reclaiming the World No. 1 ranking. In Men's Doubles, Germany's Kevin Krawietz and Tim Puetz won the title.

- US Open Pickleball Championship 2026: The Indian duo of Arjun Singh and Aditya Singh made history by winning India's first gold medal, defeating Ryder Brown and Solly Mesari in the Under-18 boys' doubles category in Naples, Florida.

9. National Marathon and Long Jump Records Broken

- Marathon Record: Indian runner Sawan Barwal broke the 48-year-old marathon national record at the NM Marathon in Rotterdam, Netherlands, finishing in 2 hours, 11 minutes, and 58 seconds. (The previous record was held by Shivnath Singh since 1978).

- Indoor Long Jump: Lokesh Sathyanathan became the first Indian to cross the 8-meter mark in the indoor long jump, recording 8.21 meters at the Tucson Invitational 2026 in the US (placing 8th; won by Cordell Tinch at 8.29m).
- Indian Athletics Series 2026 (Bengaluru): Murali Sreeshankar won the men's long jump with 8.13m/8.15m (crossing the 8m qualifying mark for the Asian Games). N.C. Sojan won the women's long jump gold (6.54m). Abdulla Aboobacker won the triple jump (16.82m), Sarvesh Kushare won the high jump (2.23m), and Bibin Antony threw the javelin 77.53m.
- According to the Athletics Integrity Unit, India currently has the highest number of suspended track and field athletes globally (148), including Dutee Chand (4 years) and Parvej Khan (30 years).

10. Asian Wrestling and Boxing Championships

- Asian Wrestling Championship (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan): 30 Indian wrestlers participated and won a total of 17 medals (2 gold, 6 silver, 9 bronze). This included 5 medals by Greco-Roman wrestlers (Nitesh, Prince, Sachin Sahrawat, Sunil Kumar [Bronze], Lalit Sahrawat [Silver]), 5 by women, and 7 by men's freestyle. Iran ranked 1st with 18 medals, while India ranked 5th.
- Asian Boxing Championship (Mongolia): India finished 2nd overall with 16 medals (4 gold, 6 silver, 6 bronze). The Indian women's boxing team topped the medal chart with 4 gold medals won by Minakshi (48 kg), Preeti (54 kg), Priya (60 kg), and Arundhati (70 kg). Kazakhstan ranked 1st.
- The 7th National Sub-Junior (Under-17) Boxing Championship commenced in Nagpur, with 600 young boxers participating.

11. Inaugural Khelo India Tribal Games 2026

- Hosted by Chhattisgarh across Raipur, Jagdalpur, and Surguja from March 25 to April 3.
- The games featured over 3,800 athletes from 30 states and UTs.
- Karnataka emerged as the overall champion, winning 38 medals (including 23 Gold, 8 Silver, and 7 Bronze).
- Odisha secured 2nd place, Jharkhand secured 3rd place, and the host, Chhattisgarh, came in 9th.
- Winners will receive a scholarship of ₹5 lakh per year for 8 years.
- The official mascot of the games was named "Morveer" (meaning "our own brave one")
- Special guests like Mary Kom attended the event. West Bengal defeated Chhattisgarh in the men's football final.

12. Olympics and Winter Paralympics

- Transgender Ban: The International Olympic Committee (IOC), led by President Kirsty Coventry, officially banned transgender women athletes from competing in women's events to ensure "fair competition".
- Winter Paralympics: Norway topped the Milano Cortina Winter Paralympics medal tally with 41 medals.
- (Static Fact): The 5 Olympic rings (Blue, Yellow, Black, Green, Red) represent the 5 inhabited continents. The IOC was established in 1894, is headquartered in Lausanne, and celebrates Olympic Day on June 23.

13. Chess Records and Tournaments

- Youngest IM Norm: Aarit Kapil (or Aarav Kapil), a 10-year and 7-month-old boy from Delhi, became the youngest Indian chess player to secure an International Master (IM) / International Norm at a tournament in Spain.
- Top Female Rating: 11-year-old Indian-origin prodigy Bodhana Sivanandan became Britain's top-rated female chess player with a FIDE rating of 2366 (ranked 7th among all women globally / 72nd globally among women).
- Freestyle Chess World Cup: Won by Magnus Carlsen.

14. Pool, Football, Rugby, and Surfing Championships

- Pool: Pankaj Advani won his first National 9-Ball Pool Championship title in Ludhiana, defeating Nitin Sharma. Karnataka's Chitra Magimairaj won the Women's Nine-Ball Pool National Championship in Ludhiana, defeating MP's Ishika Shah (ending a 9-year drought). Pankaj Advani also won the Liber Win Champions Cup.
- Football: Services won the Santosh Trophy against Kerala. India beat Bangladesh to win the SAFF U19 Women's Championship in Nepal.
- Rugby: Rugby India will organize the 2nd edition of the Rugby Premier League from June 16 to 28, 2026, at the Gachibowli Stadium in Hyderabad. Competing teams include Bengaluru Bravehearts, Chennai Bulls, Delhi Reds, Hyderabad Heroes, Kalinga Black Tigers, and Mumbai Dreamers.
- Surfing: The Surfing Federation of India announced the inaugural "Little Andaman Pro 2026" National Surf & SUP Championship at Butler Bay Beach (April 9 to 12), acting as a preparation for the 2026 Asian Games.

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18. Static News

1. Historical Observances & Constitutional Facts

- **Jallianwala Bagh Massacre:** April 13 marks the remembrance of the 1919 massacre in Amritsar. Peaceful protesters gathered during Baisakhi to protest the draconian Rowlatt Act and the arrest of nationalist leaders Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew and Dr. Satyapal, leading British Brigadier General Reginald Dyer to order troops to open fire.
- **Odisha Day (Utkal Divas):** Formed as a separate province in 1936 on a linguistic basis. The language was renamed from 'Oriya' to 'Odia' in 2011 via the 96th Amendment Act and was granted classical language status in 2014.
- **Census of India:** It is governed by the Census Act of 1948 (Sections 3 and 17A) and Census Rules 1990. It is conducted by the Office of the Registrar General of India under the Ministry of Home Affairs and falls under the Union List (Article 246, Entry 69). The first Indian census was conducted in 1872.
- **Important Constitutional Articles:** Article 324 (Part 15) governs the Election Commission of India. Article 21A dictates the Right to Education, and Article 45 covers Early childhood care. Panchayati Raj institutions are included in the 11th Schedule of the Constitution, and Panchayati Raj Day is on April 24th.

2. Banking, Economy & Financial Concepts

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI):** Established on April 1, 1935, with its headquarters in Mumbai. The 26th Governor is Sanjay Malhotra. The four Deputy Governors are Poonam Gupta, T Rabi Sankar, Swaminathan Janakiraman (or Srichandra Mundu), and Girish Chandra Murmu. Its wholly-owned subsidiaries include DICGC, BRBNMPL, ReBIT, IFTAS, and RBIH.
- **DICGC (Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation):** Founded on July 15, 1978, and headquartered in Mumbai, it charges banks a flat premium of 12 paise per ₹100 of assessable deposits. It covers savings, current, recurring, and fixed deposits up to ₹5 lakh, but excludes deposits from foreign governments, inter-bank deposits, and deposits in foreign branches of Indian banks.
- **Foreign Investment Limits in Banking:** In private banks, foreign direct investment is allowed up to 49% via the automatic route and 74% via the government route. For public sector banks, it is allowed up to 20%.
- **D-SIBs (Systemically Important Banks):** SBI requires an extra 0.80% in Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) ratio, while ICICI and HDFC require an extra 0.20%.
- **IRDAI and LIC:** The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) is headquartered in Hyderabad, and its Chairman is Ajay Seth. The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) is headquartered in Mumbai, its CEO is R. Doraiswami, and it has 4 MDs.
- **CBDT (Central Board of Direct Taxes):** Founded on January 1, 1964 (or 1944), its headquarters is in New Delhi, and its Chairman is Ravi Agarwal.
- **Index of Industrial Production (IIP):** Eight core industries make up 40.27% of total industrial production weightage. The highest weightage is held by Refinery Petroleum Products (28.04%), while the lowest is Fertilizers (2.63%).
- **Economic Terminology:** Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) involves long-term ownership and management control, Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) is short-term asset purchasing without management control, and FII involves institutional funds investing in foreign markets.

3. Government Schemes (Static Boosters)

- **RoSCTL Scheme:** Launched in 2019 to replace the RoSL scheme, it aims to refund embedded taxes (like electricity duty, VAT, mandi tax) via e-scrips to increase the capacity of Indian textile exporters in foreign markets.
- **eNAM (National Agriculture Market):** Launched in 2016 by the Ministry of Agriculture. It integrates 1656 mandis across 23 states and 4 UTs, registering 1.80 crore farmers and 4724 FPOs. It features AI-based quality testing, a 12-language live dashboard, and direct NEFT, RTGS, and UPI payments.
- **Womaniya & Swayatt Initiatives:** Launched in 2019 on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM, established in 2016). Womaniya sets a target that 3% of total government procurement should come from women-led institutions. Swayatt promotes startups, women, youth, and MSMEs for products like handicrafts and handlooms.
- **PM-WANI Scheme:** Launched in 2020 by the Department of Telecommunications. It operates through Public Data Offices (PDOs) that provide Wi-Fi access without paying any license fees, overseen by PDO Aggregators (PDOAs).

4. Global Organizations & Country Profiles

- **World Health Organization (WHO):** Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, and headed by Tedros Adhanom. It currently has 194 member countries.
- **International Olympic Committee (IOC):** Established in 1894, it is headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland, and celebrates Olympic Day on June 23. The 5 Olympic rings (Blue, Yellow, Black, Green, Red) represent the 5 inhabited continents.
- **UNMAS (United Nations Mine Action Service):** Formed in 1997 and headquartered in New York.
- **Mongolia:** An Asian country with its capital in Ulaanbaatar and currency as the Tugrik. Its President is Ukhnaagiin Khürelsükh, and its bilateral military exercise with India is called 'Nomadic Elephant'.
- **Indonesia:** The capital is Jakarta, the currency is the Indonesian Rupiah, and the President is Prabowo Subianto.
- **Israel:** The capital is Jerusalem, the currency is the Shekel, the President is Isaac Herzog, and the Prime Minister is Benjamin Netanyahu.
- **Myanmar:** The capital is Naypyidaw, and the currency is the Kyat.
- **Vietnam:** The capital is Hanoi, the currency is the Dong, and it conducts the "VINBAX" military exercise with India.
- **Microsoft:** Headquartered in Washington, USA, and its Chairman/CEO is Satya Nadella.

5. Geography, Science, and Infrastructure

- **Iron Ore Facts:** Hematite is the most suitable iron ore for steel production (60-70% iron), while Magnetite has the highest iron content (~70%). Odisha is India's largest producing state (holding over 30% of reserves in districts like Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Sundargarh), followed by Chhattisgarh. Globally, Australia is the top producer and exporter (35-40%), while China is the largest importer.
- **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ):** Defined as extending 200 nautical miles from a nation's coast, and governed by the UNCLOS 1982 treaty.
- **Ports & Railways:** India has 14 major ports (12 operational) controlled by the central government. Deendayal, Paradip, and VOC ports are designated National Hydrogen Hub ports. India currently has 18 main railway zones, or 19 if the Kolkata Metro is included.
- **Important Figures:** MS Swaminathan is recognized as the Father of India's Green Revolution, and Verghese Kurien is the Father of the White Revolution.

- State Capitals & National Parks: Andhra Pradesh's capital is Amaravati, its CM is Chandrababu Naidu, and the Governor is S. Abdul Nazeer. Ranthambore National Park is located in Rajasthan, and Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve is located in Madhya Pradesh.

6. Government Bodies & Corporate Profiles

- Indian Army Commands: Headquarters for commands are Western (Chandimandir, Haryana), Eastern (Kolkata, WB), and Southern (Pune, MH). The Chief of Army Staff is Gen. Upendra Dwivedi.
- Indian Navy: Headquarters is in Delhi, and the Chief is Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi.
- NMDC: Based in Hyderabad, and its CMD is Amitava Mukherjee.
- Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL): Headquartered in New Delhi, founded on January 24, 1973.
- Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL): Headquartered in Vasco da Gama, Goa, and its CMD is Brajesh Kumar Upadhyay.
- IndiGo Airlines: Headquartered in Gurugram, Haryana; its Chairman is Vikram Singh Mehta.

7. Arts, Culture & Miscellaneous

- Indian Folk Arts: Recognized traditional arts include Madhubani & Manjusha (Bihar), Pattachitra (Odisha), Kalighat & Patua (West Bengal), Warli (Maharashtra), Paitkar, Sohrai & Kohbar (Jharkhand), Kalamkari (Andhra Pradesh), Phad, Bani Thani & Pichhwai (Rajasthan), Thangka (Sikkim, HP, Ladakh, Arunachal), and Pithora (Gujarat, MP).
- Father of Modern Indian Art: This title belongs to the renowned 19th-century artist Raja Ravi Varma.
- Traditional Festivals: Thrissur Pooram is an annual temple festival held at the Vadakkunnathan Temple in Kerala. The Kartarpur Corridor is a visa-free border corridor opened in 2019 that connects India to Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan.



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