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

1. Revised Dividend Framework for Commercial Banks by Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

- The maximum dividend payout is capped at 75% of Profit After Tax (PAT).
- Dividend declaration is now linked with the bank's Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) Ratio.
- Banks with CET1 ratio $\leq 8\%$ are not allowed to declare dividends.
- Foreign bank branches must report positive Profit After Tax (PAT) before remitting profits.

2. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Base Year Revision by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

- GDP and Index of Industrial Production (IIP) base year revised from 2011–12 to 2022–23.
- Consumer Price Index (CPI) base year changed from 2012 to 2024.
- The CPI basket expanded to 358 items.
- India's real GDP growth estimate for FY26 revised to 7.6%.
- GDP calculations now use the "Double Deflator Method."
- Revision supervised by a 26-member committee chaired by Biswanath Goldar.

3. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Draft Rules for Digital Banking Fraud Compensation

- Rules expected to be implemented from 1 July 2026.
- For fraud up to ₹50,000, banks must refund 85% of amount or ₹25,000 (whichever is lower).
- Compensation funds sourced from the Depositor Education and Awareness Fund (₹85,000 crore).
- RBI observed the 6th Digital Payments Awareness Week with campaign "Thoda Dhyam Se."

4. Bank of Baroda (BoB) Issues First Domestic Green Infrastructure Bonds

- Bank of Baroda (BoB) issued green infrastructure bonds to fund renewable energy and sustainable infrastructure projects.
- Raised ₹10,000 crore against bids worth ₹16,415 crore.
- Structure included:
 - ₹5,000 crore base issue
 - ₹5,000 crore greenshoe option
- Bonds carry 7-year tenure with 7.10% coupon rate.
- First Indian bank to issue domestic green infrastructure bonds.
- Supports Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) investments.
- Bank of Baroda Headquarters – Vadodara.

5. State Bank of India (SBI) Launches \$500 Million Social Loan for Women Empowerment

- On International Women's Day, State Bank of India (SBI) launched a large syndicated social loan facility.
- Loan value: \$500 million (\approx ₹4,597 crore).
- Additional \$100 million greenshoe option included.
- MUFG Bank (Japan) acted as lead arranger and coordinator.
- SBI market capitalization crossed ₹10 lakh crore.
- Q3 FY26 Net Profit – ₹2,128 crore.

6. India–Japan Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA) Extended to \$75 Billion

7. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Launches 'Sudarshan' AI Surveillance Tool

- The AI tool is named "Sudarshan."
- It detects and removes misleading financial posts and advertisements on social media.
- Over 1.2 lakh misleading posts have already been deleted.

- SEBI's technology suite also includes:
 - RADAR – Regulatory AI Driven Advertisement Reviewer
 - SEVA – AI chatbot for investor grievance redressal
 - SEBI Chairman – Tuhin Kanta Pandey

8. Payment Regulatory Board (PRB) Replaces BPSS in India

- Payment Regulatory Board (PRB) replaced the Board for Regulation and Supervision of Payment and Settlement Systems (BPSS).
 - The board consists of 6 members:
 - 3 members from Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
 - 3 representatives from Government of India

9. Viksit Bharat Gramin Act Replaces MGNREGA

- New legislation: Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act 2025.
 - Provides 125 days of wage employment annually to rural households.
 - Increased employment guarantee from 100 days to 125 days.
 - Supports the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

10. Digital Census 2027 with Mascots 'Pragati' and 'Vikas'

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched digital tools for India's first fully digital census.
 - Mascots launched:
 - Pragati (Female)
 - Vikas (Male)
 - Four digital platforms developed by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC):
 - HLBC Web App
 - HLO Mobile App
 - SE Portal
 - CMMS Portal

11. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) 22nd Instalment Released

- ₹18,640 crore transferred to 9.32 crore farmers.
 - Total transfers under scheme crossed ₹4.27 lakh crore.
 - Scheme provides ₹6,000 annually to farmers via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
 - 2.15 crore women farmers benefited in this instalment.

12. Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme Revised Norms

- Collateral-free loan limit increased from ₹1.6 lakh to ₹2 lakh.
 - Marginal farmers eligible for ₹10,000–₹50,000 flexible credit limit.
 - Scheme validity extended to 6 years.
 - Interest benefits:
 - 2% interest subvention
 - 3% prompt repayment incentive on loans up to ₹3 lakh.

13. PM SVANidhi Scheme Extended to 2030

- PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) supports street vendors with micro-credit.
 - Scheme extended until 31 March 2030.
 - Total outlay ₹7,332 crore.
 - Loan limits revised:
 - First loan – ₹15,000
 - Second loan – ₹25,000
 - Third loan – ₹50,000
 - Digital cashback incentive ₹1,600.

14. Jal Jeevan Mission Extended to 2028

- Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) launched in August 2019 to provide tap water connections to rural households.
- Mission extended until December 2028.
- Total budget ₹8.69 lakh crore.
- Ensures 55 litres of drinking water per capita per day in rural areas.
- 15.8 crore households already connected out of 19.36 crore.
- WHO estimates 4 lakh diarrheal deaths prevented due to the mission.

15. Nationwide HPV Vaccination Drive Launched

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a nationwide Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination drive from Ajmer, Rajasthan.
- Targets 1.15 crore girls annually aged 14 years.
- Prevents cervical cancer, the second most common cancer among Indian women.
- Uses U-WIN platform for registration.
- Uses eVIN portal for vaccine logistics.

16. India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) Facility Inaugurated in Gujarat

- Micron Technology ATMP facility inaugurated in Sanand, Gujarat.
- Investment ₹22,500 crore.
- First project completed under India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) 1.0.
- Clean room area 5 lakh sq ft.
- ISM 1.0 outlay ₹76,000 crore.

17. India's First Riverine Lighthouses Project in Assam**18. New Seed Act 2026 and Revised Pesticide Act**

- QR code mandatory on seed packets for traceability.
- Ensures quality seed distribution and farmer protection.
- Penalty for fake seeds up to ₹30 lakh.

19. "Sashakt Nari, Samridh Delhi" Women Empowerment Initiative Launched

- President Droupadi Murmu launched the "Sashakt Nari, Samridh Delhi" initiative to strengthen women empowerment in the national capital.
- The initiative includes four major schemes:
 - Delhi Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana (replacing the Ladli scheme)
 - Saheli Pink National Common Mobility Card for free travel
 - Meri Poonji Mera Adhikar scheme
 - Free LPG Cylinders Scheme
- Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana provides financial assistance maturing to ₹1 lakh for girl child education.
- Free LPG cylinders provided twice annually during Holi and Diwali.
- Scheme limited to two girls per family with income below ₹1.2 lakh annually.

20. India's First Micro-Algae Based Pure Air Tower Installed in Delhi

- India's first micro-algae based pure air tower installed on Aerocity Highway, New Delhi.
- Developed by CP Arora Pvt Ltd.

21. Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2024 Released by NITI Aayog

- NITI Aayog released the 4th edition of the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2024.
- Among large states rankings:
 1. Maharashtra
 2. Tamil Nadu
 3. Gujarat
 4. Uttar Pradesh
 5. Andhra Pradesh
- Index evaluated 70 indicators across four pillars:
 - Business Ecosystem (40%)
 - Export Infrastructure (20%)
 - Policy & Governance (20%)
 - Export Performance (20%)
- Among smaller states/UTs Uttarakhand ranked first.

22. Fiscal Health Index 2026 Released by NITI Aayog

- NITI Aayog released the 2nd Edition of Fiscal Health Index.
- Among 18 major states rankings:
 1. Odisha (Score 73.1)
 2. Goa
 3. Jharkhand
 4. Gujarat
 5. Maharashtra
- Arunachal Pradesh ranked first among Himalayan and North-Eastern states.

23. Brand Finance Banking 500 Report 2026

- 19 Indian banks featured with combined brand value \$47.8 billion.
- State Bank of India (SBI) ranked 16th strongest bank globally.
- SBI is the only Indian bank with AAA+ brand rating.
- HDFC Bank holds the highest brand value among Indian banks globally (Rank 31).
- Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) ranked most valuable bank globally.

24. Hurun Global Rich List 2026 Released

- Elon Musk ranked world's richest person with \$792 billion net worth.
- Jeff Bezos ranked second.
- India ranked third globally with 308 billionaires.
- Mukesh Ambani remains richest person in India and Asia.
- Ritesh Agarwal (OYO founder) named youngest Indian billionaire.

25. World Obesity Atlas 2026 Report

- Released by the World Obesity Federation on World Obesity Day (4 March).
- By 2025, India projected to have 41 million overweight/obese children.
- India became second country globally for childhood obesity.
- China ranked first (62 million obese children).
- Theme of World Obesity Day 2026 – “8 Billion Reasons to Act on Obesity.”

26. SIPRI Global Arms Import Report (2021-2025)

- Released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).
- India ranked second-largest arms importer globally.
- Share 8.2% of global imports.

- Major suppliers to India:
- France (29%)
- Israel (15%)
- USA
- Russia share dropped from 70% to 40%.
- India's defence exports reached ₹24,000 crore (2024-25).

27. Textile Waste Value Chain Report Released

- India generates 70.73 lakh tonnes of textile waste annually.
- 42% pre-consumer waste
- 58% post-consumer waste
- Panipat (Haryana) identified as major recycling hub.

28. Reliance Industries and United States \$300 Billion Energy Partnership

- Major energy collaboration between Reliance Industries and the United States.
- US President Donald Trump announced \$300 billion partnership.

29. India-Canada Uranium Supply Agreement

- Signed during visit of Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney to India.
- 10-year uranium supply agreement (2027-2035).
- Supports India's plan to achieve 100 GW nuclear power capacity by 2047.

30. India-European Union (EU) Mutual Most Favoured Nation Status

- India and EU agreed to grant Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status.
- Reduces tariffs on 96.6% EU exports to India and 99.5% Indian exports to EU.

31. 11th Raisina Dialogue 2026 Held in New Delhi

- Organized by Observer Research Foundation (ORF) and Ministry of External Affairs.
- Held from 4–8 March 2026.
- India's premier global geopolitical conference.
- Chief Guest President Alexander Stubb (Finland).
- Theme: Sanskar, Assertion, Accommodation, Advancement.

32. EFTA \$100 Billion Investment Pact with India

- Signed with European Free Trade Association (EFTA).
- Investment commitment \$100 billion over 15 years.
- Expected to create 1 million jobs in India.
- EFTA members:
 - Iceland
 - Liechtenstein
 - Norway
 - Switzerland

33. Sri Lanka Issues Blue Bond at GIFT City

- Issued through DFCC Bank.
- LKR 3 billion Blue Bond issued for marine conservation.
- Asia's first blue bond listed in IFSC jurisdiction.
- Listed on NSE International Exchange at GIFT City.

34. Nepal General Elections 2026

- Balendra (Balen) Shah won general elections.

Significance / Impact

- Set to become youngest Prime Minister of Nepal.

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- Previously Mayor of Kathmandu.

- Defeated former PM K.P. Sharma Oli.

35. United Arab Emirates Launches World's first Sovereign Financial Cloud**36. Vision 2047: Roadmap for Future-Ready Indian Military**

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveiled a strategic blueprint titled "A Roadmap for Future Ready Indian Military."

- The roadmap aligns with the national vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

- Developed by the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff.

- Focuses on modernization of armed forces using Artificial Intelligence across land, sea, air, cyber, and space domains.

- India's defence production reached ₹1.5 lakh crore in 2024-25.

- 10%–20% government job reservations planned for Agniveers after service.

37. Defence Ministry Contracts Helicopters and Aircraft from HAL

- ₹5,083 crore contract with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for 6 Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH Mk-III) for the Indian Coast Guard.

- ₹2,312 crore contract signed for 8 Dornier-228 aircraft.

- ₹2,182 crore contract signed with Rosoboronexport (Russia) for Shtil Surface-to-Air Missiles.

- Dornier aircraft contain 71% indigenous components.

38. Exercise Vayu Shakti 2026 Conducted by Indian Air Force

- Exercise held at Pokhran Field Firing Range, Rajasthan.

- Theme: "Achook, Abhedya, and Sateek".

- President Droupadi Murmu attended as Chief Guest.

39. India-Seychelles Joint Military Exercise Lamitiye 2026

- India and Seychelles conducted the 11th edition of Exercise Lamitiye.

- Held at Seychelles Defence Academy.

- "Lamitiye" means Friendship in the Creole language.

40. NATO Launches 'Arctic Sentry' Mission

- Launched Arctic Sentry mission led by Joint Force Command Norfolk (USA).

- Conducted Cold Response military exercise with 25,000 troops.

- NATO currently has 32 member states.

- Headquarters located in Brussels, Belgium.

- Established in 1949.

41. President Droupadi Murmu Flies Indigenous LCH Prachand

- Droupadi Murmu became the first Indian President to fly in an attack helicopter.

- Flew the Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) Prachand.

- Flight conducted at Jaisalmer Air Force Station.

- Helicopter built by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

42. ISRO-ESA Earth Observation Collaboration

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) signed cooperation agreement with European Space Agency (ESA).

- Collaboration uses Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning for satellite data analysis.

43. ISRO CE20 Cryogenic Engine Test for Gaganyaan

- ISRO conducted a critical propulsion test for India's human spaceflight program Gaganyaan.

- CE20 cryogenic engine successfully tested for 165 seconds.

- Conducted at ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu.

- Validates engine for LVM3 rocket used in Gaganyaan mission.

44. Large Astronomical Observatories Approved in Ladakh

- Two major telescopes approved:
 - National Large Solar Telescope (NLST) near Pangong Tso
 - National Large Optical Near-Infrared Telescope (NLOT) in Hanle, Ladakh
- Hanle, Ladakh already hosts India's first Dark Sky Reserve.
- Project operated by Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA).

45. Tamil Nadu Establishes First Dark Sky Park

- Tamil Nadu developed an astro-tourism initiative.
- Ariyur Shola Reserve Forest in Kolli Hills declared Dark Sky Park.

46. IBM Launches Sangam Infrastructure Innovation Center

- IBM launched an advanced Artificial Intelligence innovation center.
- Named Sangam Infrastructure Innovation Center.
- Located in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

47. India Wins ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026

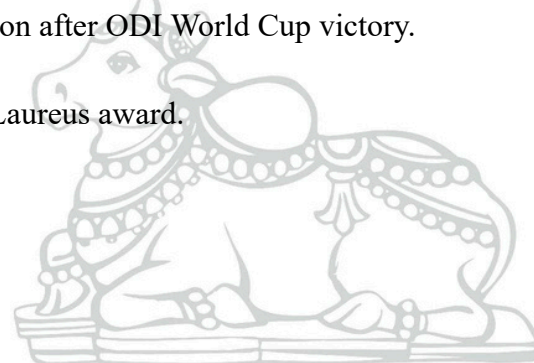
- 10th ICC Men's T20 World Cup hosted by India and Sri Lanka.
- India defeated New Zealand by 96 runs in the final.
- India scored 255/5 in the final.
- India became first team to win the tournament three times.
- Sanju Samson – Player of the Tournament (383 runs).
- Jasprit Bumrah – Player of the Match.
- Captain Suryakumar Yadav, Coach Gautam Gambhir.

48. Jammu & Kashmir Wins First Ranji Trophy

- Jammu & Kashmir defeated Karnataka to win the title.
- First Ranji Trophy title for J&K in 67 years.
- Aqib Nabi took 60 wickets and became Player of the Series.
- Team captain Paras Dogra.

49. Indian Women's Cricket Team Receives Laureus Nomination

- Indian Women's Cricket Team received global recognition after ODI World Cup victory.
- Nominated for Laureus World Team of the Year Award.
- First women's cricket team globally nominated for the Laureus award.
- Team led by Captain Harmanpreet Kaur.
- Laureus ceremony to be held in Madrid, Spain.

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2. Amounts & Agreements

1. Union Budget & Fiscal Indicators of India

- Ministry of Defence received a record allocation of ₹7.85 lakh crore in Union Budget 2026-27. (15.19% increase over the previous year)
- Government estimated gross market borrowing of ₹17.2 lakh crore for the current financial year.
- Nominal GDP estimates
- ₹338.07 lakh crore – FY25
- Fiscal Deficit Data
- FY25: 4.9% of GDP (₹15.74 lakh crore)

2. State Budgets Presented for FY 2026-27

- Karnataka Chief Minister – K. Siddaramaiah
- Presented ₹4.48 lakh crore budget
- ₹47,000 crore – Education
- ₹26,559 crore – Rural Development & Panchayati Raj
- Fiscal deficit: ₹97,449 crore (2.95% of GSDP)
- Maharashtra Chief Minister – Devendra Fadnavis
- ₹7.69 lakh crore state budget
- Punjab Finance Minister – Harpal Singh Cheema
- ₹2.36 lakh crore FY27 budget
- Uttarakhand Chief Minister – Pushkar Singh Dhami
- ₹1.11 lakh crore FY27 budget
- 10.41% increase from FY26
- Goa Chief Minister – Pramod Sawant
- ₹30,195 crore budget
- Revenue surplus projected: ₹1,666 crore

3. RBI and Government Financial Operations & Liquidity Measures

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) manages liquidity and debt through Open Market Operations (OMO) and switch auctions.
- ₹20,000 crore switch auction announced by RBI to replace short-term bonds with long-term securities.
- ₹1 lakh crore OMO purchase auction planned in two tranches.
- RBI conducted ₹6,309 crore switch auction to replace nearing-maturity bonds.
- ₹40,000–₹50,000 crore liquidity injection into banking system through OMOs.
- RBI planned ₹50,000 crore OMO on March 13.

4. Major Infrastructure & Development Projects Inaugurated in India

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated or laid foundation stones for ₹33,500 crore projects in New Delhi:
- Delhi Metro Expansion
- Two new corridors inaugurated:
 - Pink Line – 71.56 km (The Delhi Metro Pink Line (Line 7) is India's longest and first full-ring metro line (approx. 71.5 km as of March 2026)
 - Magenta Line – 49 km
 - Total project cost: ₹18,300 crore

Housing:

- ₹15,200 crore allocation for General Pool Residential Accommodation (GPRA) housing scheme in New Delhi.

Semiconductor Sector

- ₹22,500 crore Semiconductor ATMP facility inaugurated in Sanand, Gujarat.
- Semiconductor Mission 2.0
- 10 projects worth ₹1.6 lakh crore investment
- States involved: Gujarat, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh
- India Semiconductor Mission 1.0 is launched by the Union Cabinet in December 2021. The Mission is supported by an incentive framework of ₹76,000 crore, offering fiscal support of up to 50 per cent for silicon fabs, compound semiconductor facilities, assembly and testing units, and chip design

5. Major Transport, Port and Logistics Infrastructure Projects

- Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal
- Foundation for India's first riverine lighthouse
- Location: Lachit Ghat, Brahmaputra River, Guwahati
- Cost: ₹84

6. Major Banking Loans, Funding and Bond Issuances**International Loans**

- Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) borrowed \$400 million from Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation via External Commercial Borrowing (ECB).

State Bank of India (SBI)

- Launched \$500 million syndicated social term loan
- For women empowerment
- Includes \$100 million greenshoe option

Housing Finance Loans

- IIFL Home Finance
- \$300 million loan
- From Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- For women affordable housing
- Motilal Oswal Home Finance
- \$100 million ADB loan
- For affordable housing

7. Banking Regulations, Limits and Financial Caps**Payment Banks**

- Maximum deposit limit: ₹2 lakh
- Minimum capital: ₹100 crore
- Required capital to convert into Small Finance Bank (SFB): ₹300 crore

Payment Aggregators

- Minimum capital requirement: ₹25 crore

RBI MSME Loan Reform

- Collateral-free loan limit for micro and small units raised to ₹20 lakh
- Effective April 1, 2026

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Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Reforms

- Collateral-free loan limit increased
- From ₹1.6 lakh → ₹2 lakh per borrower
- Marginal farmers credit limit
- ₹10,000 – ₹50,000
- Interest benefits
- 2% interest subvention
- 3% prompt repayment incentive
- On loans up to ₹3 lakh

8. Major Government Schemes and Financial Allocations**Jal Jeevan Mission**

- Extended till December 2028
- Total budget: ₹8.69 lakh crore
- Central share: ₹3.59 lakh crore
- Additional allocation: ₹1.51 lakh crore

PM-KISAN

- 22nd installment released
- ₹18,640 crore transferred
- Beneficiaries: 9.32 crore farmers
- Total cumulative transfer: ₹4.27 lakh crore

PM SVANidhi

- Extended till March 31, 2030
- Total outlay: ₹7,332 crore

Loan tiers:

- ₹10,000
- ₹20,000 → increased to ₹25,000
- ₹50,000

Orunodoi 3.0 (Assam)

- ₹9,000 transfer
- 40 lakh women beneficiaries

Chief Minister Krishi Vistara Scheme (Karnataka)

- Budget: ₹100 crore

Delhi Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana

- Installments ₹56,000–₹61,000
- Matures to ₹1 lakh at age 21

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9. Climate, Innovation and Research Funding Initiatives

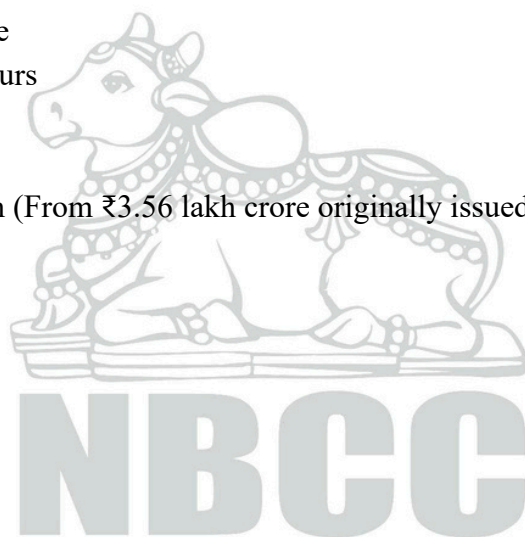
- National Green Hydrogen Mission : Outlay: ₹19,744 crore
- IIT Madras Research Park : ₹600 crore Unicorn Frontier Fund (For deep-tech startups)
- SERP Challenge Fund : ₹12.66 crore (With T-Hub & WE Hub)
- NABARD National Climate Innovation Challenge
- Prizes: ₹15 lakh ; ₹10 lakh ; ₹5 lakh
- Zero Prize (India's first result-based environmental award)
- Total corpus: ₹5 crore
- Tamil Nadu Dark Sky Park – Kolli Hills
- Cost: ₹1 crore
- Gujarat Lake and Air Watch Initiative : Budget: ₹10 crore

12. Banking Penalties, Fraud and Compliance Actions

- Competition Commission of India (CCI) fined Intel Corporation ₹27.38 crore.
- RBI Penalties
- Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services: ₹11.50 lakh
- Five cooperative banks: ₹7.10 lakh total
- Belagavi District Central Cooperative Bank: ₹2 lakh (also reported ₹5 lakh)
- Manappuram Finance: ₹2.70 lakh
- Metacorp Infrastructure Ltd: ₹1,03,320 penalty
- Samruddhi Sahakari Bank (Nashik): ₹10,000
- Foreign Remittance Delay
- Amount involved: ₹110.62 crore
- IDFC First Bank Scam
- ₹590 crore offline accounting fraud
- Reported by Haryana Government

13. Miscellaneous Financial and Economic Developments

- Government e-Marketplace (GeM) SWAYATT initiative
- ₹83,323 crore cumulative orders from women entrepreneurs
- EPFO Interest Rate : 8.25% retained on PF deposits
- Projected deficit: ₹944.06 crore
- ₹2000 Banknotes Status : ₹5,551 crore still in circulation (From ₹3.56 lakh crore originally issued)
- Bank of Baroda Green Infrastructure Bonds
- Raised ₹10,000 crore
- Bids received: ₹16,415 crore
- Base issue: ₹5,000 crore
- Greenshoe option: ₹5,000 crore
- PhonePe RuPay NCMC Card
- ₹500 offline transaction limit
- ₹2,000 maximum balance
- Seed Act 2026
- Fake seeds penalty up to ₹30 lakh



3. Appointments & Resignations

III POLITICAL & GOVERNOR APPOINTMENTS

◆ Chief Minister

· Yumnam Khemchand Singh assumed office as the 13th Chief Minister of Manipur

◆ Deputy Chief Minister

· Sunetra Pawar appointed First Woman Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra

◆ Lieutenant Governors

· Vinai Kumar Saxena appointed Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh (succeeded Kavinder Gupta)

· Taranjit Singh Sandhu appointed Lieutenant Governor of Delhi (replaced Vinai Kumar Saxena)

◆ Governors (States)

· R.N. Ravi appointed Governor of West Bengal (replaced C.V. Ananda Bose)

· Jishnu Dev Varma appointed Governor of Maharashtra (replaced Acharya Devvrat)

· Kavinder Gupta appointed 30th Governor of Himachal Pradesh (succeeded Shiv Pratap Shukla)

· Shiv Pratap Shukla sworn in as 5th Governor of Telangana (replaced Jishnu Dev Varma)

· Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain appointed Governor of Bihar (replaced Arif Mohammed Khan)

· Nand Kishore Yadav appointed Governor of Nagaland (replaced Ajay Kumar Bhalla)

◆ Additional Charge

· Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar (Governor of Kerala) given additional charge as Governor of Tamil Nadu

◆ Important Point:

· Governor is appointed by the President of India (Article 155)

⚖ JUDICIARY

· Justice Sushrut Arvind Dharmadhikari appointed Chief Justice of Madras High Court

🛡 DEFENCE APPOINTMENTS

· Lt Gen Dheeraj Seth appointed Vice Chief of Army Staff

· Assumed office: 1 April 2026

· Succeeded Lt Gen P.P. Singh

· P.P. Singh appointed Director General of Naval Armament (New Delhi)

· Succeeded Diwakar Jain

🏠 BANKING & FINANCIAL SECTOR

· Vinay Murlidhar Tonse appointed MD & CEO of Yes Bank (3 years from 6 April 2026)

· R. Vijay Anand approved as MD & CEO of City Union Bank

· RBI approved Ketan Merchant (also cited as Ashish Merchant) as Interim CEO (3 months)

· Rishi Gupta (Fino Payments Bank CEO) arrested under GST Act

🏢 CORPORATE & PSU APPOINTMENTS

· Parthanil Ghosh appointed MD & CEO of HDFC ERGO General Insurance

· Bauruchi Mishra appointed MD & CEO of Hindustan Oil Exploration Company (HOEC)

· Deepak Gupta appointed CMD of GAIL India Ltd.

· Kota Ravi appointed Director at HAL

· Rahul Bhatia (IndiGo co-founder) became Interim CEO

· Shantanu Narayen stepped down as CEO of Adobe, became Chairman

· Uday Kotak appointed Chairman of GIFT City Corporation Ltd.

· Ton Bael appointed President (International Business), Jio Platforms (London)

GOVERNMENT & REGULATORY APPOINTMENTS

- Nidhi Chhibber given additional charge as CEO of NITI Aayog
- Dr Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi reappointed DCGI (1 year)
- K Raman Murti appointed Whole-time Member of SEBI (3 years)

COMMITTEES & BOARDS

◆ SEZ Committee

- 17-member committee formed to reform SEZ policy
- Head: Rajesh Agarwal
- Task: SEZ Roadmap Version 2.0

◆ IRDAI Committee

- Reinsurance Advisory Committee formed
- Chairperson: A.B. Girija Kumar

◆ Payment Regulatory Board (PRB)

- Replaces BPSS

- Members:

oSanjay Malhotra

oT Rabi Sankar

oVivek Deep

oS Krishnan

oNagaraju Maddirala

oAruna Sundararajan

◆ Other Committees

- Hindi Advisory Committee (Chemicals & Fertilizers Ministry)

oChairperson: J.P. Nadda

oVice Chairperson: Anupriya Patel

- Lok Sabha Committee of Privileges

oHeaded by Ravi Shankar Prasad

INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- Balen Shah became youngest Prime Minister of Nepal
- Mojtaba Khamenei appointed 3rd Supreme Leader of Iran
- Ayatollah Ali Reza Arafai named interim successor (Iran)
- Yoweri Museveni elected President of Uganda
- José Antonio Kast sworn in as President of Chile

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Borge Brende resigned as President of World Economic Forum (WEF)
- Alois Zwinggi appointed Interim President of WEF

BRAND AMBASSADORS

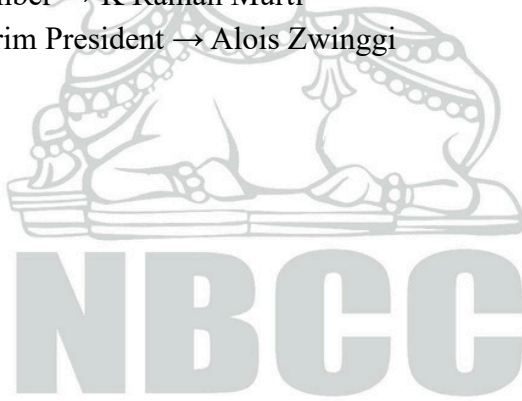
- Pankaj Tripathi → SBI General Insurance
- Sania Mirza → The Derma Co (Sun Care)
- Vidya Balan → Federal Bank
- MS Dhoni → Pune Grand Tour 2026

SPORTS APPOINTMENTS

- Gary Kirsten appointed Head Coach of Sri Lanka Men's Cricket Team (2 years)

★ MISCELLANEOUS APPOINTMENTS

- Soraya Aghaei → First Iranian woman in IOC
- Park Chan-wook → Jury President, Cannes Film Festival
- Andre De Grasse → Ambassador, Tata Mumbai Marathon
- Governor → Appointed by President (Art 155)
- Vice Chief Army → Lt Gen Dheeraj Seth
- Yes Bank CEO → Vinay Tonse
- SEBI Member → K Raman Murti
- WEF Interim President → Alois Zwinggi



Nandyal Banking Coaching Center



4. Arts & Cultural Affairs

1. Union Tribal Affairs Minister – Jual Oram announced three major tribal cultural festivals:

- Tribes Art Fest
- Living Roots Festival
- Bharat Tri-Fest
- Tribes Art Fest 2026 was formally inaugurated in New Delhi.
- The festival was organized jointly by:
 - Ministry of Tribal Affairs
 - Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)
 - National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA).
- New Delhi also hosted the Living Roots Music Festival.

2. Haryana hosted the 39th Surajkund International Crafts Mela. (one of India's largest cultural craft fairs showcasing traditional handicrafts, handlooms, and cultural heritage)

- The theme states were:
 - Uttar Pradesh
 - Meghalaya
- Partner Nation: Egypt
- The mela was launched with the theme “Vocal to Global.”

3. Assam celebrated the Dal Jattras Festival with vibrant colours and devotion.

4. Assam also observed DouL Jatra (Dhol Utsav), a Vaishnavite festival symbolizing the eternal love between Lord Krishna and Radha.

5. Chapchar Kut Festival was celebrated in Mizoram.

6. Hola Mohalla, a Sikh festival, was celebrated in Anandpur Sahib, Punjab.

7. The first Jallikattu event of 2026 was held successfully in Thatchankurichi village, Tamil Nadu.

8. Hatti Rasala Festival in Maharashtra was highlighted as a notable cultural celebration.

9. Indian Orchid Festival 2026 was hosted in Pakyong district, Sikkim.

- Organized by Indian Council of Agricultural Research – National Research Centre for Orchids (ICAR-NRCO).
- The festival theme was “Orchids for Beauty and Prosperity.”

10. A month-long exposition of Lord Buddha's Holy Relics will begin in Leh, Ladakh.

- The exhibition theme is “Peace in Times of Conflict.”

11. Ancient Indian Inscriptions Discovered in Egypt's Valley of the Kings

- Researchers Charlotte Schmid and Ingo Strauch documented 30 historical Indian inscriptions.
- The inscriptions were written in:
 - Tamil-Brahmi
 - Prakrit
 - Sanskrit
- They were found on rock tombs in Egypt's Valley of the Kings.
- The inscriptions date back to the 1st–3rd century CE.
- They were discovered across six tombs in the Theban Necropolis.
- The findings were published in the research paper titled “From the Valley of the Kings to India.”
- The name “Sikai Koran” appeared eight times across five tombs.

• Linguistic meaning:

• “Sikai” = Crown

• “Koran” = Warrior or King

• The name is linguistically linked to the Chera warrior goddess Korravai.

• Another name “Kopan” was also identified.

12. 16th-Century Tirumangai Alvar Idol to be Repatriated to India

• The Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford, is repatriating a 16th-century bronze idol of Saint Tirumangai Alvar.

13. Bhoramdeo Corridor Development Project Launched in Chhattisgarh

14. Goa’s First Biodiversity and Cultural Map Developed for Students

• World Wide Fund for Nature India (WWF India) developed Goa’s first biodiversity and cultural map.

15. Mumbai Coastal Road Becomes India’s First Musical Road

16. Traditional Dances of Lakshadweep

Traditional dances of Lakshadweep include:

• Lava

• Kolkali

• Parichakali (Shield Dance)

• Oppana

17. 9,111 Women Perform Lezim Dance to Set Guinness World Record

• Lezim is a traditional folk dance of Maharashtra.

• 9,111 women performed the Lezim dance.

• The event was held in Dombivli, Maharashtra.

• It was organized to celebrate International Women’s Day.

18. India Post Releases Special Cover for Annapurna Devi Birth Centenary

• Annapurna Devi was a renowned Indian classical musician.

• India Post released a special cover marking the 100th birth centenary of Annapurna Devi.

• She received:

• Padma Bhushan (1977)

• Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (1991).



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5. Awards & Prizes

1. PM Narendra Modi was awarded the “Speaker of the Knesset Medal.”
 - This medal is the highest honour of the Israeli Parliament (Knesset).
 - He became the first foreign leader to receive this honour.
 - PM Narendra Modi had earlier received the Grand Collar of the State of Palestine, making him uniquely recognized globally.
2. India was named “Country of the Year” at Bioact 2026 held in Germany.
 - Bioact is an international event related to biotechnology and innovation.
3. Dr. Krishnamurthy V. Subramanian Receives University of Chicago Alumni Award
 - He became the first Indian economist to receive the University of Chicago Alumni Award for Professional Achievement.
4. Safeena Husain Named Among TIME Women of the Year 2025
 - Safeena Husain is the Founder of the non-profit organization Educate Girls.
 - She is also a Ramon Magsaysay Award winner.
 - TIME Magazine honoured Safeena Husain as one of the Women of the Year 2025.
 - She was selected alongside 16 global leaders.
5. Sunil Bharti Mittal Receives GSMA Lifetime Achievement Award
 - Sunil Bharti Mittal is the Founder and Chairman of Bharti Enterprises.
 - He was conferred the Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA) Lifetime Achievement Award.
 - The award was presented at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, Spain.
6. Padma Vibhushan(posthumously) Conferred on Former Kerala Chief Minister V.S. Achuthanandan
 - Padma Vibhushan is India’s second-highest civilian award.
 - V.S. Achuthanandan, former Chief Minister of Kerala, received the Padma Vibhushan.
7. Sita Ashok Shelke Receives Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar
 - The Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar is awarded for outstanding work in disaster management.
 - Sita Ashok Shelke received the award for her rescue efforts during the Wayanad disaster.
8. Sikkim Police Receives President’s Police Colour Award
 - The President’s Police Colour Award is a prestigious recognition for exceptional service by police forces.
9. Yantra India Limited Granted Miniratna Category-1 Status
 - Yantra India Limited is headquartered in Nagpur.
 - The Ministry of Defence granted Miniratna Category-1 status to Yantra India Limited.
10. Oil India Limited Wins Oil and Gas Production Company of the Year
 - Oil India Limited (OIL) is a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE).
 - Oil India Limited received the “Oil and Gas Production Company of the Year” award.
 - The award was presented at the Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry (FIPI) Awards during India Energy Week in Goa.
11. Indian Railway Finance Corporation Achieves Excellent Performance Rating
 - Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) is the dedicated financing arm of Indian Railways.
 - IRFC received an “Excellent Performance Rating” for Financial Year 2024-25.
12. Amol Palekar Selected for META Lifetime Achievement Award
 - He was selected for the Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards (META) Lifetime Achievement Award.

13. India Launches First Result-Based Environment Award – Zero Prize

- The award includes a ₹5 crore corpus.
- Prize distribution:
 - ₹1 crore each for verified reductions in Air, Water, and Soil pollution.
 - ₹2 crore for scientific monitoring and scaling solutions.

14. Rahul Dravid Receives Col. C.K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) presents annual Naman Awards.
- At the BCCI Naman Awards 2026 in New Delhi, Rahul Dravid received the Col. C.K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award.

15. Shubman Gill Wins Polly Umrigar Award

- Shubman Gill received the Polly Umrigar Award for Best International Cricketer.
- The award was presented at the BCCI Naman Awards 2026 in New Delhi.

16. Indian Women's Cricket Team Nominated for Laureus World Team of the Year

- Recognition came after their maiden ICC World Cup victory.
- They became the first women's cricket team ever shortlisted for this award.

17. Sanju Samson Named Player of the Tournament – ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026

- Sanju Samson was named Player of the Tournament in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026.
- He scored 383 runs during the tournament.

18. Jasprit Bumrah Named Player of the Match in T20 World Cup 2026 Final

- Jasprit Bumrah won the Player of the Match award in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 Final.
- He took four wickets in the final match.

19. Aiden Markram Captains ICC T20 World Cup 2026 Team of the Tournament

- The ICC T20 World Cup 2026 Team of the Tournament was captained by Aiden Markram.

20. Varanasi Municipal Corporation Sets Guinness World Record for Tree Plantation

- The Varanasi Municipal Corporation planted 2,51,446 saplings in under one hour.
- The event took place in the Sujabad Domari area.
- The record broke China's previous record of 1,53,981 saplings.

21. Indian roller skater Srishti Dharmendra Sharma Sets Guinness World Record in Limbo Skating

22. 9,111 Women Perform Lezim Dance to Set Guinness World Record

- 9,111 women performed the traditional Lezim dance.
- The event took place in Dombivli, Maharashtra.

23. Smriti Mandhana Receives Custom Barbie Doll from Mattel

- Smriti Mandhana became the first Indian cricketer to receive a custom Barbie doll.
- The doll was created by Mattel.

24. Finn Allen Sets Multiple Records in ICC T20 World Cup

- Finn Allen, opener from New Zealand, scored the fastest century in T20 World Cup history.
- He reached the century in 33 balls.
- He broke Chris Gayle's 2016 record of 47 balls.
- Became the first player to score a century in a T20 World Cup knockout match.
- Hit 20 sixes, setting the record for most sixes in a single T20 World Cup tournament.
- Also set the highest aggregate partnership record alongside Tim Seifert.

25. LeBron James Breaks NBA All-Time Field Goal Record

- LeBron James broke Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's NBA all-time record.
- He reached 15,838 career field goals.

6. Banking & Finance

1. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Issues New Dividend, Capital Adequacy and Digital Fraud Safeguard Regulations

- New regulatory updates are being implemented beginning Financial Year 2026-27 (FY27).
- Dividend payout limit for commercial banks capped at 75% of Profit After Tax (PAT).
- Dividend declaration linked to Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) ratio.
- Banks with CET1 ratio $\leq 8\%$ cannot declare dividends.
- Foreign bank branches must report positive Profit After Tax (PAT) before remitting profits abroad.
- RBI amended its Capital Adequacy Framework to tighten counterparty credit risk rules.

Capital set-aside requirements

- 6% for 1-year equity contracts
- 8% for 1–5 year contracts
- 10% for contracts exceeding 5 years
- 7% for precious metals contracts (1–5 years)
- 2% risk weight applied to qualifying central counterparties.
- RBI proposed draft directions for electronic banking fraud safeguards to combat rising online and UPI fraud.
- Proposed implementation date: 1 July 2026.
- RBI adopted an Inflation Targeting Framework (2016) with a target $4\% \pm 2\%$.

Current RBI policy rates

- Repo Rate — 5.25%
- Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate — 5.50%
- Bank Rate — 5.50%
- Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) — 5.0%
- Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) — 3%
- Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) — 18%

2. Payment Regulatory Board (PRB) Replaces BPSS; First Meeting Held in Mumbai

- The Payment Regulatory Board (PRB) replaced BPSS (Board for Regulation and Supervision of Payment and Settlement Systems).
- PRB began operations on 9 May 2025.
- The first PRB meeting was held in Mumbai.
- Meeting chaired by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra.
- Board composition:
 - 3 RBI members
 - 3 Government of India representatives

3. RBI Conducts Digital Payments Awareness Week 2026

- 6th edition of Digital Payments Awareness Week conducted 9–13 March 2026.

Theme

- “Har Payment Digital”

Campaigns

- “Thoda Dhyan Se”
- “Be Alert, Be Careful”

4. RBI Clarifies Status of ₹2000 Notes and Forex Market Intervention

- RBI clarified ₹2000 notes remain legal tender.
- Notes were withdrawn from circulation to prevent corruption, not demonetized.
- As of 28 February 2026
- 98.44% of ₹2000 notes returned to banking system.
- Notes can still be exchanged at 19 RBI offices.

5. RBI Launches Rural Consumer Confidence Survey (RCCS)

Background / Introduction

- Measuring rural economic sentiment helps in designing monetary policy and development programmes.
- RBI launched Rural Consumer Confidence Survey (RCCS).
- Survey conducted by Ipsos Research Private Limited (Gurugram).
- Survey coverage:
 - 31 States and Union Territories

6. RBI Expands Oversight of Cooperative Banks and Banking Governance

Background / Introduction

- Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) operate under a dual regulatory framework.
- RBI regulates capital adequacy and risk management.
- Registrar of Cooperative Societies manages administration.
- New rule:
 - Cooperative bank directors completing 10 years continuous service must undergo a 3-year cooling-off period before reappointment.

7. RBI Regulatory Approvals and Cancellations for Financial Institutions

- RBI regulates NBFC licensing, banking ownership and financial market participation.

NBFC Registration

- RBI cancelled Certificates of Registration of 36 NBFCs.
- 9 NBFCs voluntarily surrendered licenses.
- Includes:
 - KKR India Asset Finance Pvt Ltd
 - Upwards Capital Private Ltd

New approvals

- CRED received license as Payment Aggregator (PA).
- Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (Japan) approved to establish Indian subsidiary.
- Punjab & Sind Bank allowed to open branch in GIFT City, Gujarat.
- Blackstone permitted to acquire 9.99% stake in Federal Bank.
- SBI Mutual Fund allowed to raise stake in Bandhan Bank up to 9.99% by Feb 2027.
- ICICI Prudential AMC permitted to raise collective stake in HDFC Bank up to 9.9%.
- RBI waived Non-Operative Financial Holding Company (NOFHC) requirement for AU Small Finance Bank to transition into a Universal Bank.

8. State Bank of India (SBI) Expands Global Trade and Financial Initiatives

- State Bank of India (SBI) is India's largest public sector bank.
- SBI to handle India-Israel bilateral trade settlements in Indian Rupees.
- Partnered with MUFG Bank (Japan) to boost:
 - cross-border capital flows
 - mergers and acquisitions
 - financing in the India-Japan economic corridor

- Opened:
 - Global Capability Centre — Bengaluru
 - Global Trade Finance Centre — Kolkata
 - Partnership with Tamil Nadu Government to improve state employee salary benefits.
 - Launched Chakra Centre for Financing to support emerging sectors.
 - SBI crossed ₹10 lakh crore market capitalization milestone.

9. Major Banking Innovations and Product Launches in India

HDFC Bank

- Integrated Smart Gateway platform with Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC).
- Partnered with Swiggy to launch credit cards:
 - Swiggy BLCK (travel focused)
 - Swiggy Orange (daily spending)

Tagline: “We understand your world.”

IDFC First Bank

- Launched Gaj Credit Card and Zero Forex Credit Card.
- Collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi) under Ignite program for startups.
- Signed MoU with Indian Army for banking services.

Tagline: “Always You First.”

Bank of Baroda

- First Indian bank to issue Domestic Green Infrastructure Bonds.

Features:

- 7-year tenure
- Funds renewable energy and clean transport projects
- AAA rating by CARE and ICRA

Launched Women's Sapphire Savings Account.

Benefits: • Lifestyle privileges

- Online doctor consultations
- Pathology discounts
- BoB Bhumi RuPay Select Debit Card

Axis Bank

- Preferred financing partner for Tesla electric vehicles in India.
- Introduced Rooftop Solar Finance for MSMEs.

ICICI Bank

- Introduced Capital Gain Account Scheme (1 January 2026).

YES Bank

- Introduced YES ESSENCE Women Salary Account.

Benefits: • Free 1-year locker facility

- Health insurance top-ups

Federal Bank

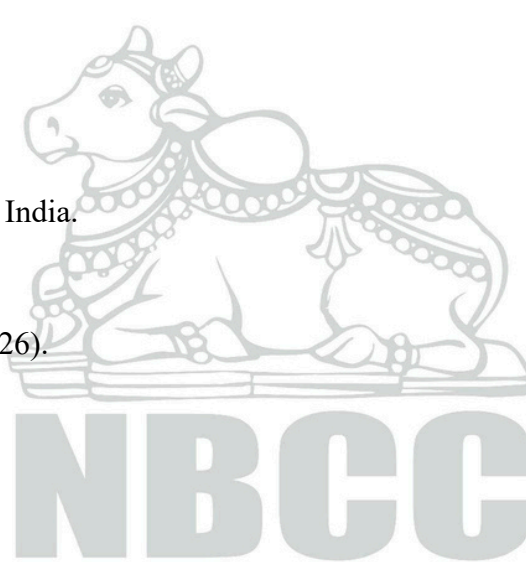
- Launched new digital platform Fortuner Web.
- Opened Global Capability Centre — Bengaluru.

Kotak Mahindra Bank

- First Indian custodian to issue fully digital Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) license.

Tripura Gramin Bank

- First Regional Rural Bank (RRB) to launch solar-powered mobile ATM — “TGB on Wheel”.



10. Brand Finance Banking 500 Report 2026: Indian Banks Performance

- 19 Indian banks listed in Brand Finance Banking 500 (2026).
- Combined brand value: \$47.8 billion.

State Bank of India (SBI)

- 16th strongest bank globally
- Only Indian bank with AAA+ rating
- Brand Strength Index (BSI): 90.3
- 56th most valuable bank globally

HDFC Bank

- Highest brand value among Indian banks
- 31st global rank

ICICI Bank

- Fastest growing among top Indian banks
- 19% brand value increase
- 76th global rank

Global rankings

- Most valuable bank: Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC)
- Strongest bank: Bank of China / BCA

11. UPI Transactions Reach ₹26.84 Trillion in February 2026

- Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is India's largest digital payment system.
- February 2026 UPI transactions
- 20.39 billion transactions
- Total value: ₹26.84 trillion
- Transaction volume declined 6% compared to January 2026.

12. Major Economic Indicators and Growth Projections for India

- Base year for GDP and Index of Industrial Production (IIP) changed from 2011-12 to 2022-23.
- CPI base year changed from 2012 to 2024.
- CPI basket expanded to 358 items including:
 - OTT subscriptions
 - Rural house rent
- CPI calculated using Jevons Index Formula.
- Weight of food and beverages reduced to 36.75%.

GDP Data

- FY26 real GDP growth: 7.6% (MoSPI estimate)
- Q3 FY26 GDP growth: 7.8%
- Real GVA growth: 7.7%

Sector contribution

- Agriculture: 17.7%
- Industry: 29.2%
- Services: 52.6%

Forecasts

- ICRA GDP estimate (Q3 FY26): 7.2%
- CRISIL FY27 forecast: 7.1%
- Nomura FY27 forecast: 7%

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Inflation

- Retail inflation (CPI) 3.21% in February 2026.
- Highest state inflation: Telangana — 5.02%.

Industrial Output

- Index of Industrial Production (IIP) growth: 4.8% (Jan 2026).

13. EPFO Interest Rate and Small Savings Rates Remain Unchanged

- Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) maintained 8.25% interest rate for FY 2025-26.
- Beneficiaries: 7.8 crore EPF members.
- Small savings scheme rates unchanged for 8th consecutive quarter.

Rates:

- Sukanya Samriddhi Scheme — 8.2%
- Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (SCSS) — 8.2%
- National Savings Certificate (NSC) — 7.7%
- Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) — 7.5% (doubling in 115 months)
- Public Provident Fund (PPF) — 7.1%

14. SEBI Deploys AI Surveillance Tool 'Sudarshan' to Combat Market Manipulation

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) regulates India's capital markets.
- SEBI deployed AI surveillance tool "Sudarshan".
- Purpose:
 - Detect and remove misleading financial social media content.
 - 1.2 lakh misleading posts removed.
 - Tool targets unregistered financial influencers.

Other SEBI technology tools:

- RADAR — Regulatory AI Driven Advertisement Reviewer
- SEVA — AI chatbot for investor grievances (launched July 2024)
- SEBI Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey announced formation of expert group on capital market technology upgrades.

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7. Defence Affairs

1. India Unveils “A Roadmap for Future Ready Indian Military – Vision 2047”

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh presented the strategic blueprint “A Roadmap for Future Ready Indian Military (Vision 2047)”.
- The roadmap was developed by the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS).
- The strategy focuses on modernization of the armed forces using Artificial Intelligence (AI) across:
 - Land operations
 - Sea operations
 - Air operations
 - Cyber warfare
 - Space operations
- The Union Budget 2026-27 allocated a record ₹7.85 lakh crore to the Ministry of Defence.
- India’s defence production reached ₹1.5 lakh crore in 2024-25.
- India’s defence exports reached ₹24,000 crore.

2. SIPRI Arms Import Report: India Remains Second-Largest Arms Importer

- The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) releases global reports on arms imports and exports.
- According to the SIPRI Arms Import Report (2021-2025):
 - India is the world’s second-largest arms importer, accounting for 8.2% of global imports.
 - Ukraine ranks first, with 9.7% share of global arms imports.
 - India has reduced its dependency on Russia for defence imports.

Share of major suppliers to India

- Russia — 40% (down from 70% earlier)
- France — 29%
- Israel — 15%
- United States of America (USA)
- India has begun exporting BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missiles.

Global arms export leaders

- USA — 42% (largest exporter)
- France — second position
- Russia — 6.8% share

3. Government Introduces Employment Framework for Agniveers and Ex-Servicemen

- A new employment framework introduced for Agniveers and ex-Army personnel.

Reservation in posts

- Ex-servicemen
 - 10% reservation in Level-2+ posts
 - 20% reservation in Level-1 posts
- Ex-Agniveers
 - 5% reservation in Level-2+ posts
 - 10% reservation in Level-1 posts
- Over 5,000 ex-servicemen will receive immediate contractual employment.
- 14,788 posts earmarked for 2024-25.
- Nine railway divisions signed MoUs under this employment framework.
- Skill-sharing initiatives launched with Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya.

4. Government Boosts Defence Procurement and Indigenous Manufacturing

• Government announced ₹3 lakh crore investment plan to establish world-class shipbuilding clusters in India.

- Contracts worth ₹5,000 crore approved for maritime security projects.
- Ministry of Defence signed contract with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

Value: ₹5,083 crore (or ₹2,901 crore depending on source)

Procurement: Six Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH Mk-III) for Indian Coast Guard.

Dornier Aircraft Procurement

- ₹2,312 crore contract signed with HAL under Buy (Indian) policy.
- Procurement:
 - Eight Dornier-228 utility aircraft
 - Manufactured at Kanpur.
 - Indigenous content: 71%.

Missile Procurement

- ₹2,182 crore contract signed with JSC Rosoboronexport (Russia).
- Procurement:
 - Shtil Surface-to-Air Vertical Launch Short Range Missiles for Indian Navy.
 - Bokaro Steel Plant obtained Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) certification for steel grades:
 - ISC 440 LA
 - 470 LA
 - 510 LA
 - 550 LA
- Yantra India Limited (Nagpur) granted Miniratna Category-1 status.

6. Major International Military Exercises Conducted

Exercise Vayu Shakti 2026

- Conducted by Indian Air Force (IAF).
- Location: Pokhran Field Firing Range, Rajasthan.
- Chief Guest: President Droupadi Murmu.

Theme

- “Achook, Abhedya, Sateek”
- Participation:
 - 130+ aircraft
 - Day-night live firing demonstrations

Exercise Lamitiye 2026

- 11th biennial exercise between India and Seychelles.
- Conducted at Seychelles Defence Academy.
- Meaning of Lamitiye:
 - “Friendship” in Creole language
- Indian contingent included:
 - INS Trikand (Talwar-class frigate)
 - IAF C-130 aircraft
 - Assam Regiment

Exercise Kalaari Leap

- Conducted by Indian Air Force Southern Air Command.
- Location: Lakshadweep and Minicoy archipelago



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- Activities:
 - Anti-ship strikes
 - Maritime search and rescue operations
 - Participation:
 - Indian Coast Guard
- NATO Cold Response / Arctic Sentry
- NATO now has 32 member countries after Sweden joined.
 - Cold Response
 - Biennial Arctic exercise
 - Location: Norway and Finland
 - Participation:
 - 25,000 troops
 - 14 nations
 - 4,000 US troops
 - Arctic Sentry mission
 - Led by Joint Force Command Norfolk
 - Strengthens NATO presence in High North Arctic region
- Freedom Shield Exercise
- Joint military exercise between United States and South Korea.
 - North Korea reaction
 - Fired 10 ballistic missiles near Japan.
- Other Important Military Exercises
- Ekuverin — Maldives
 - Varuna / Shakti — France
 - Sea Dragon — Australia, India, Japan, South Korea, USA
 - Indra — Russia
 - Tiger Triumph — USA
 - Yudh Abhyas — USA
 - Vajra Prahar — USA
 - PASSEX — United Kingdom (UK)
 - Bold Kurukshetra / SIMBEX — Singapore
 - Maitree — Thailand
 - Bongosagar — Bangladesh
 - Desert Cyclone — UAE
 - Cyclone — Egypt
 - Khanjar — Kyrgyzstan (held in Misamari, Assam)
 - Samudra Laksamana — Malaysia
 - Surya Kiran — Nepal
 - Dharma Guardian — Japan (held in Uttarakhand)
 - Avia Indra — India-Russia
 - Sanjha Shakti — Pune
 - Dosti — India, Sri Lanka, Maldives
 - Operation Brahma
 - India's earthquake relief mission to Myanmar.

7. Indian Navy Commissions New Ships and Conducts Maritime Operations

INS Anjadip

- Third Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC).
- Commissioned at: Chennai Port
- Built by: Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE).
- Nickname: “Dolphin Hunter”
- Uses indigenous specialty steel supplied by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL).

INS Tarangini

- India's first sail training ship.
- Docked at: Trincomalee , Colombo (Sri Lanka).
- Initiative: “Bridge of Friendship” maritime training program

INS Sudarshini : Arrived at Alexandria Port, Egypt.

- Mission: Lokayan-26 expedition
- Voyage:

- 22,000 nautical miles
- 13 countries

INSV Kondiya

- Returned to Mumbai harbour.
- Voyage route: Porbandar → Muscat
- Received by: Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth

INS Trikand / INS Tarkash

- Docked at Port Louis, Mauritius.
- Occasion: 58th National Day celebrations (12 March).

8. Historic Defence Events and Security Collaborations

Historic Presidential Flight

- President Droupadi Murmu became the first Indian President to fly in an attack helicopter.
- Aircraft:
 - Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) “Prachand”
- Location:
 - Jaisalmer Air Force Station
- Duration:
 - 25-minute sortie
- Built by:
 - Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

Wildlife Conservation MoU

- Indian Army Fire and Fury Corps (14 Corps) signed MoU with Ladakh Government Forest Department.
- Objective:
 - Protect high-altitude species including
 - Snow Leopard
 - Himalayan Wolf
 - Blue Sheep
 - Ibex
 - Black-necked Crane

Operation Sagar Bandhu

- Indian Army launched bridge construction project connecting:
 - Colombo – Puttalam (Sri Lanka)
- Part of India's Neighbourhood First policy.

Mount Aconcagua Expedition

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flagged off Indian expedition to Mount Aconcagua (Argentina).

10. CISF Celebrates 57th Raising Day

- 57th CISF Raising Day celebrated.
- CISF established on:
 - 10 March 1969
- Under:
 - Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- CISF acts as nodal agency for
 - Drone security
 - Airport security
 - Port security
- Early Raising Day celebration held in Mundali.
- Event attended by Home Minister Amit Shah.

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8. International Affairs

1. President Alexander Stubb of Finland visited India from March 4–8.
 - He attended the 11th Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi as Chief Guest and Keynote Speaker.
2. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney visited New Delhi.
3. Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh represented India at the presidential inauguration of José Antonio Kast in Chile.
4. Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who had been in power since 1989, was reportedly killed in a joint United States–Israel airstrike.
5. The Freedom Shield joint military exercise between the United States and South Korea triggered a reaction from North Korea.
 - In response, North Korea fired 10 ballistic missiles near Japan.
6. India and European Union Agree on MFN Status Under New Free Trade Agreement
 - India and the European Union (EU) agreed to grant each other Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status.
 - This arrangement will remain valid for five years.
 - The provision is part of a newly established Free Trade Agreement (FTA).
7. US Announces Maritime Reinsurance Support and Oil Waiver Amid Hormuz Crisis
 - The United States announced a \$20 billion maritime reinsurance programme.
 - Purpose:
 - Protect global commercial shipping
 - Insure vessels moving through the Strait of Hormuz
 - Insure vessels moving through the Persian Gulf
 - The US Treasury granted a 30-day waiver from March 5 to April 4.
 - This waiver allows Indian refineries to purchase Russian crude oil stranded at sea.
8. FATF Expands Grey List; Black List Remains Unchanged
 - Background / Introduction
 - The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) monitors countries for weaknesses in systems against money laundering and terror financing.
 - FATF added to its Grey List.
 - Kuwait
 - Papua New Guinea
 - The Grey List includes jurisdictions under increased monitoring for strategic deficiencies in anti-money laundering and terror financing systems.
 - Total number of countries on the Grey List reached 22.
 - The FATF Black List continues to include only:
 - Iran
 - North Korea
9. Romania Becomes 118th Member of International Solar Alliance
 - Romania formally submitted ratification of the framework agreement to become the 118th member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
 - the United States of America (USA) recently exited the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
10. Nirmala Sitharaman Meets **New Development Bank Chief Dilma Rousseff**
 - Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman met Dilma Rousseff, Chief of the New Development Bank (NDB).

11. NATO Membership Reaches 32 After Sweden's Inclusion

- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is a major military alliance.
- The source confirms that NATO has 32 member states.
- This total was reached after the inclusion of Sweden.

12. IEA Releases Emergency Oil Reserves as Brent Crude Reaches \$100 Per Barrel

- As Brent crude reached \$100 per barrel, the International Energy Agency (IEA) agreed to release 400 million barrels of emergency oil reserves.
- Country-wise release mentioned in the source:
 - United States — 172 million barrels
 - Japan — 80 million barrels

13. GAIL India Secures LNG Cargo from Oman Amid Supply Disruptions

- GAIL India purchased an LNG cargo from Oman.
- Arrival time:
 - Mid-March
- Reason:
 - Meet domestic demand after Qatar Energy declared force majeure
 - Due to Iran's threat to the Strait of Hormuz

14. UAE Launches World's First Sovereign Financial Cloud Service Infrastructure

15. India Sends 1,000 Metric Tons of Rice to Malawi as Humanitarian Aid

- India dispatched 1,000 metric tons of rice to Malawi.
- Port of dispatch:
 - Nhava Sheva Port

16. Denmark and Chile Achieve Major Public Health Elimination Milestones

Denmark

- The World Health Organization (WHO) validated Denmark as the first European Union (EU) country to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV and Syphilis.
- Denmark joined 22 countries globally with this achievement.

Chile

- According to the World Health Organization (WHO), Chile became:
 - the first country in the Americas
 - the second country globally after Jordan

to eliminate leprosy.

17. Scotland Legalizes Water Cremation; Spain Bans Social Media for Children Under 16

Scotland

- Scotland became the first country in the United Kingdom (UK) to legalize water cremation (hydrolysis).

Spain

- Spain became the first European nation to ban social media for children under 16.

9. Meetings & Summits

1. 11th Raisina Dialogue 2026 Held in New Delhi

- The dialogue was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- President Alexander Stubb of Finland attended as:
 - Chief Guest
 - Keynote Speaker

2. World Economic Forum Annual Meeting Held in Davos, Switzerland,

- The World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting was held in Davos, Switzerland.
- Core theme of the meeting:
 - “A Spirit of Dialogue.”

3. BRICS Summit 2026 Hosted by India

- BRICS is a grouping of major emerging economies including Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- India hosted the BRICS Summit 2026 for the fourth time.
- Theme of the summit:
 - “BRICS: Building Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation, Sustainability.”

4. Upcoming G7 and Commonwealth Summits Announced

- Upcoming G7 Summits scheduled:
 - Canada – 2025
 - France – 52nd edition in 2026
 - United States – 2027
- The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) will be held in Antigua and Barbuda.

5. India Hosts India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management (IICDEM)

- The India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management (IICDEM) was held in New Delhi.
- Organized by the Election Commission of India (ECI).
- Theme:
 - “Democracy for an Inclusive, Peaceful and Resilient Sustainable World.”
- The event was conducted under the leadership of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

6. National Textile Ministers' Conference Held in Guwahati

- The National Textile Ministers' Conference was held in Guwahati, Assam.
- The city is located on the banks of the Brahmaputra River.

7. Madhya Pradesh Launches First Agricultural Cabinet

- Madhya Pradesh held its first Agricultural Cabinet in Barwani district's tribal region.
- The cabinet was headed by Chief Minister Mohan Yadav.
- The state government declared 2026 as “Farmer Welfare Year.”

8. Major Industry Exhibitions and Trade Fairs Organized in India

Bharat Tex 2026

- Launched by Union Minister Giriraj Singh.
- Venue: Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
- Dates: July 14–17
- Described as India's flagship global textile event.

Bharat Steel Summit 2026

- To be hosted in New Delhi in April.
- Focus:
 - Future of the steel industry.

Aahar International Food and Hospitality Fair

- 40th edition held in New Delhi.
- Organized by:
 - Ministry of Food Processing Industries
 - India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO)
- Inaugurated by Minister Piyush Goyal.
- Italy participated as partner country.

PlastIndia 2026

- 12th edition held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- Theme:
 - “Bharat Next.”
- Supported by the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

Indus Food 2026

- 9th edition held in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
- Organized by Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI).
- Inaugurated by Union Minister Chirag Paswan.

National Arogya Fair 2026

- Organized by the Ministry of Ayush.
- Venue:
 - Shegaon, Maharashtra
- Inaugurated by President Droupadi Murmu.

India Energy Week

- Hosted in Goa.
- Awards presented included:
 - FIPI Award.

International Tourismus-Börse (ITB)

- Held in Berlin, Germany.
- It is the world's leading tourism trade fair, running since 1966.
- Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat held bilateral meetings with Germany and Indonesia to enhance flight connectivity.

9. Mobile World Congress 2026 Held in Barcelona

- Mobile World Congress 2026 was held in Barcelona, Spain from March 2–5.
- Theme: “The IQ Era.”

10. Major Technology, Energy and Health Summits Organized in India

Black Swan Summit India

- Held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- Focus:
 - Artificial Intelligence
 - Digital finance ecosystem.

AI Summit

- Another Artificial Intelligence summit took place at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

GCC 4.0 Summit

- Held in Hyderabad.
- Introduced scalable architectures for Global Capability Centers (GCCs).
- Based on an MoU between IIT Kanpur and HCLTech.

Cyber Peace Summit 2026

- Held in New Delhi.

Bharat Electricity Summit

- Hosted in New Delhi.
- Theme:
 - “Electrifying Growth, Empowering Sustainability, Connecting Globally.”

International Malaria Conference 2026

- Held in New Delhi.
- Organized by:
 - Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
 - National Institute of Malaria Research (NIMR).
- Goal:
 - Eliminate malaria in India by 2030.



10. Miscellaneous

MARCH 1

- Zero Discrimination Day (12th)
 - Theme: “People First”
- World Civil Defence Day (37th)
- World Compliment Day
- UN World Seagrass Day (4th)
- Civil Accounts Day (15th)
 - Marks establishment of Indian Civil Accounts Service (1976)

MARCH 1–7

- Jan Aushadhi Diwas Week
 - Organized by: Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
 - Promotes: Affordable generic medicines under PMBJP

MARCH 2

- 77th Death Anniversary of Sarojini Naidu
 - Known as: Nightingale of India / Bharat Kokila
 - Author: The Golden Threshold
 - Participated in: 1930 Salt Satyagraha

MARCH 3

- World Wildlife Day
 - Marks: Signing of CITES (1973)
 - Theme 2026: “Medicinal and Aromatic Plants: Conserving Health Heritage and Livelihoods”
- World Hearing Day
 - Theme: “From communities to classrooms: Hearing care for all children”

MARCH 4

- National Safety Day (India) – 55th
 - First celebrated: 1972
 - National Safety Week: March 4–10
 - Theme: “Engage, Educate and Empower People to Enhance Safety”
- World Obesity Day (12th)
 - Theme: “8 Billion Reasons to Act on Obesity”
- World Day of Fight Against Sexual Exploitation (18th, since 2009)
- National Grammar Day
- World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development (7th)
 - Observed by: UNESCO
 - Theme: “Smart engineering for sustainable future through innovation and digitalization”
- 176th Foundation Day of Geological Survey of India (GSI)
 - Established: March 4, 1851
 - Celebrated in: Hyderabad

MARCH 5

- UN International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness (4th)

MARCH 7

- Jan Aushadhi Diwas (8th)
 - Themes:
 - “Jan Aushadhi – Affordable and trustworthy, Good health with savings”
 - “Jan Aushadhi is Valuable, Reliable; It is about Health and Savings”

MARCH 8

- International Women’s Day
 - 51st UN observance
 - Theme: “Rights, justice, action for all women and girls”

MARCH 9

- Commonwealth Day (Second Monday of March)
 - Theme: “Unlocking Opportunities, Together for a Prosperous Commonwealth”
 - Origin: Empire Day → renamed in 1958

MARCH 9–15

- World Rotaract Week 2026

MARCH 10

- CISF Raising Day (57th)
 - Established: 1969
- International Day of Women Judges (5th)
 - Theme: “Women judges on the bench and beyond protecting access to justice”

MARCH 11

- No Smoking Day (Second Wednesday of March)
 - Origin: UK (2003)
 - Theme: “A smoke-free life starts with a smoke-free day”

MARCH 12

- World Kidney Day (Second Thursday of March)
 - 20th anniversary
 - Theme: “Kidney Health for All – Caring for People, Protecting the Planet”

MARCH 13

- World Rotaract Day
 - Marks: 50th anniversary (1968, North Carolina)
- World Sleep Day
 - Observed: Friday before Spring Vernal Equinox
 - Started by: World Sleep Society (2008)

MARCH 14

- International Day of Action for Rivers
 - Theme: “Protect Rivers, Protect People”
 - Origin: 1997, Curitiba (Brazil)

OTHER IMPORTANT DAY

- May 31 – World No Tobacco Day

IMPORTANT INSTITUTIONS & EVENTS

- Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)
 - Celebrated: 25th Foundation Day (New Delhi)
 - Established: 2002
- Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)
 - Celebrated: 75th Foundation Year
 - Highlights:
 - Commemorative coin introduced
 - "Swast" initiative launched

BOOKS RELEASED (2026)

- "Vishwa Guru Shrila Prabhupada"
 - Author: Dr. Usha Upadhyay
- "Mahatma: A Great Communicator"
 - Author: Dr. Dhiraj Kakadia
 - Released by: Mansukh Mandaviya
- "Quantum Physics: 100 Magical Years"
 - Author: V.P.N. Nampoori
 - Launched by: Union Minister Jitendra Singh



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11. MoUs

1. SIDBI and Department of Posts Sign Agreement to Verify Informal Micro-Enterprises
2. Agriculture Ministry and Department of Posts Collaborate for Traceable Agri-Input Logistics
 - The Ministry of Agriculture signed an MoU with the Department of Posts.
 - Purpose:
 - Ensure traceable logistics for agricultural input samples.
3. Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) Partners with Google Maps and MS COMHolo IT
 - UIDAI partnered with Google Maps.
 - Objective:
 - Enable residents to locate over 60,000 Aadhaar centers nationwide.
 - UIDAI also partnered with MS COMHolo IT Private Limited (Com Olo IT).
4. NITI Aayog Signs Multiple Partnerships to Promote Digital Literacy, Nutrition and Semiconductor Manufacturing
 - NITI Aayog signed a Statement of Intent (MoU) with UNICEF India.
 - Purpose:
 - Utilize the Impact4Nutrition platform.
 - Focus areas:
 - Child health
 - Maternal nutrition
 - Target regions:
 - Aspirational Blocks and Districts.
 - NITI Aayog partnered with the NIIT Foundation.
 - Objective:
 - Promote digital literacy in aspirational blocks.
 - NITI Aayog partnered with Tata Electronics Private Limited.
 - Representatives:
 - NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Suman Bery
 - Tata Electronics CEO Randhir Thakur
 - Goal:
 - Advance domestic semiconductor and electronics manufacturing.
 - Initiative linked to:
 - Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.
 - NITI Aayog also signed a second-phase development cooperation agreement with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).
 - Objective:
 - Strengthen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) implementation.
 - Coverage:
 - Aspirational districts and blocks.



5. Major Banking and Corporate Partnerships Announced

- HDFC Bank partnered with Swiggy to launch two co-branded credit cards:
 - Swiggy Black Card – travel-focused benefits.
 - Swiggy Orange Card – daily spending benefits.
 - Jammu & Kashmir Bank (J&K Bank) partnered with:
 - Home First Finance Company India – for home loans.
 - IIFL Finance – for gold loans.
 - Axis Max Life Insurance partnered with Sarathi Finance (NBFC).
 - Purpose:
 - Bridge ₹44 lakh crore credit gap for Indian MSMEs.
 - Product integrated:
 - Group Credit Life Secure Insurance.
 - Sarvam AI partnered with SBI Life Insurance.
 - Technology used:
 - Samvaad AI
 - Arya AI tools
 - Objective:
 - Strengthen insurance distribution networks.
 - State Bank of India (SBI) partnered with MUFG Bank (Japan).
 - Purpose:
 - Promote cross-border capital flows and financing synergies.
 - PayU partnered with GoKwik.
 - Launch:
 - India's first Conversion-to-Completion (C2C) stack for Direct-to-Consumer brands.
 - Gani.ai partnered with Razorpay.
 - Platform:
 - Agentic AI payment collection platform.
 - Razorpay launched "Agent Studio".
 - Partner:
 - Anthropic.
 - Central Bank of India partnered with Canara Robeco Asset Management Company (CRAMC) to distribute mutual fund products.
 - Equitas Small Finance Bank partnered with Bharti AXA Life through a bancassurance agreement.
 - IDFC First Bank partnered with IIT Delhi for the Ignite startup program.
 - Axis Bank designated as the preferred financing partner for Tesla electric vehicles in India.
 - HDFC Bank and the Indian Army signed a 3-year MoU.
 - Validity:
 - Until 2029.
 - Purpose:
 - Improve direct banking services for army personnel.
6. International Solar Alliance (ISA) partnered with Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi).
7. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) signed agreement with European Space Agency (ESA).
- Objective: Conduct Earth Observation Mission using Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning.

8. ISRO and All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) signed an MoU.
 - Focus: Space medicine research for the Gaganyaan mission.
9. ASSOCHAM and Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce (ICCC) signed an MoU in New Delhi.
 - Target:
 - Increase India–Canada bilateral trade to \$50 billion by 2030.
10. India signed Environmental Cooperation MoU with Nepal.
11. India and United Kingdom (UK) signed Social Security Agreement for temporary employees.
12. India and Canada signed agreement focusing on:
 - Uranium supply
 - Critical minerals cooperation.
13. Kempegowda International Airport (Karnataka) signed air cargo MoU with Frankfurt Airport.
 - WHO Foundation partnered with Novo Nordisk.
 - Objective:
 - Combat childhood obesity in India.
14. 22 Northeast Indian institutions led by IIT Guwahati signed a Letter of Intent with Gifu University (Japan).
 - Purpose:
 - Form academic and research consortium.
15. Central Bank of UAE partnered with Core42.

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12. National

1. Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025 Replaces MGNREGA
 - The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005 previously guaranteed 100 days of wage employment to rural households.
 - The Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025 replaced MGNREGA, 2005.
 - The scheme now guarantees 125 days of wage employment per financial year.
 - Beneficiaries:
 - Rural households whose adult members volunteer for unskilled manual work.
 - Expands rural employment guarantee from 100 days to 125 days.
2. New Seed Act 2026 Introduced to Improve Traceability of Seeds
 - Union Minister of Agriculture Shivraj Singh Chouhan introduced the New Seed Act 2026.
 - Major provisions:
 - Mandatory QR codes on seed packets.
 - Farmers can: Trace origin and production details of seeds.
 - Requirement: All seed-selling companies must be registered.
3. Revised Pesticide Act Replaces Insecticide Act 1968
 - The Insecticide Act, 1968 regulated the manufacture and sale of pesticides in India.
 - The Revised Pesticide Act has been introduced.
 - It replaces the Insecticide Act, 1968.
4. Nationwide Sale of E20 Petrol Mandated from April 1, 2026
 - The Ministry of Petroleum mandated nationwide sale of E20 petrol.
 - Composition:
 - Petrol blended with 20% ethanol.
 - Implementation date:
 - April 1, 2026.
 - Technical specification:
 - Minimum Research Octane Number (RON) of 95.
5. Department of Telecommunications Introduces New SIM Binding Rules for Messaging Apps
 - The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) introduced new SIM binding rules.
 - Implementation date:
 - March 1, 2026.
 - Apps affected:
 - WhatsApp
 - Telegram
 - New rules:
 - Messaging apps will work only if the registered KYC-verified SIM is present in the primary device.
 - Security feature:
 - Web versions automatically log out every 6 hours, requiring re-authentication.

6. National Small Industries Corporation Upgraded to Schedule A CPSE

- The National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC) supports Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
- The Ministry of MSME upgraded NSIC.
- Status change:
 - From Schedule B Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)
 - To Schedule A CPSE.

7. Unique Identification Authority of India Launches Bug Bounty Program and Aadhaar Locator Integration

- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) manages the Aadhaar digital identity system.
- UIDAI launched its first structured Bug Bounty Program.
- Participants:
 - 20 researchers and ethical hackers.
- Systems monitored:
 - UIDAI official website
 - myAadhaar portal
 - Secure QR apps
- UIDAI partnered with Google Maps.
- Purpose:
 - Help residents locate more than 60,000 Aadhaar centres across India.

8. Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs Launches Swift 2.0 and Digital Passenger Services

- The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) launched Swift 2.0.
- Swift 2.0:
 - Single-window digital platform for export and import clearance.
- Other launches:
 - Digital travel guide for international passengers.
 - Revamped Atithi App.

9. Nationwide HPV Vaccination Drive Launched to Prevent Cervical Cancer

- Human Papillomavirus (HPV) infection is a major cause of cervical cancer.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a nationwide voluntary HPV vaccination drive.
- Launch location:
 - Ajmer, Rajasthan.
- Beneficiaries:
 - 1.15 crore girls annually aged 14 years.
- Vaccine used:
 - Gardasil vaccine.
- Platforms used:
 - U-WIN platform for registration.
 - Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN) portal for logistics.

10. Digital Census 2027 to be Conducted Using Four Digital Platforms

- India is preparing to conduct a fully digital Census 2027.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched four digital tools developed by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).
- Mascots:
 - Pragati (female)
 - Vikas (male).
- Census features:
 - Caste-based counting.
 - Online self-enumeration in 16 languages.
- Two phases:
 - House listing
 - Population enumeration
- Digital platforms launched:
 - House Listing Block Creator (HLBC Web App)
 - HLO Mobile App
 - Self Enumeration Portal (SE Portal)
 - CMMS / SMMS Portal

11. Major Railway and Transportation Developments Announced

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated development projects worth ₹33,500 crore in New Delhi.
- Projects included:
 - Delhi Metro Pink Line (71.56 km)
 - Magenta Line (49 km).
- Total cost:
 - ₹18,300 crore.
- GPRA Housing Scheme:
 - ₹15,200 crore.
- India's first fully operational ring metro completed.
- Section completed:
 - 12.3 km Majlis Park – Maujpur stretch.
- Infrastructure feature:
 - Double-decker viaduct across Yamuna river.
- Kota Bundi Greenfield Airport foundation laid.
- India's first hydrogen-powered train prepared for pilot operations.
- Route:
 - Jind – Sonipat (Haryana).
- Manufacturer:
 - Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai.
- First Vande Bharat Sleeper Train flagged off.
- Route:
 - Guwahati – Howrah.
- Bullet train project:
 - Operations expected by August 15, 2027.
 - Corridor length: 508 km.

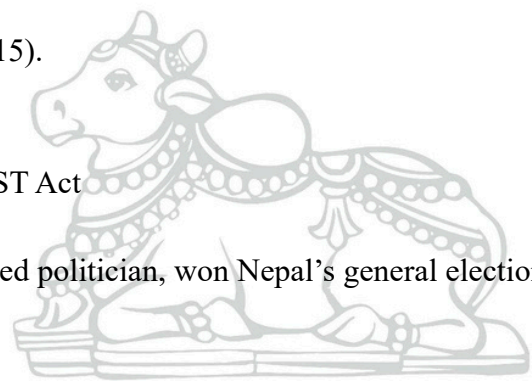
12. Major State-Level Policy and Governance Developments

- Assam
 - Became first state to constitute the 8th State Pay Commission.
- Chandigarh
 - Achieved 99.93% literacy rate under ULLAS initiative.
- Delhi
 - President Droupadi Murmu launched Sashakt Nari Samridhdh Delhi initiative.
- Schemes included:
 - Saheli Pink National Common Mobility Card
 - Delhi Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana
 - Meri Poonji Mera Adhikar
 - Two free LPG cylinders annually
- Kerala
 - Nirbhaya Nisha initiative launched.
- Mizoram
 - Declared fully literate state.
- Rajasthan
 - Nagori Ashwagandha granted GI tag.
- Tamil Nadu
 - VOC Port became first port in India to deploy anti-drone system.
- Tripura
 - India's first State Innovation Mission launched under AIM 2.0.

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13. Persons in News

1. Jyotindra Mehra, associated with the Steel Industry, passed away.
2. Lance Havildar K.G. George (retd) passed away at the age of 95.
 - He was a 1964/1965 India–Pakistan War hero.
 - Awarded the Vir Chakra, India's third-highest wartime gallantry award.
3. K.N. Panikkar, a renowned Indian historian and former professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) from Kerala, passed away.
4. Syed Habibullah Hasan (Hamid), a former Indian Olympian footballer, passed away.
 - Represented India at the 1960 Rome Olympics.
5. Thakkali Srinivasan, a veteran Tamil filmmaker, producer, actor, and composer, passed away.
6. Professor Hermann Kulke, a German Indologist and historian, passed away.
 - Awarded Padma Shri in 2010.
 - Known for research on Odisha's history, culture, and Jagannath traditions.
7. Birender Singh, a veteran Congress leader and former Minister of State, passed away.
8. Kushal Das, the former General Secretary of the All India Football Federation (AIFF), passed away.
9. R. Nallakannu, a veteran Communist Party of India (CPI) leader, passed away.
 - Noted for his imprisonment during the Emergency period.
10. Utsav Charan Das, an Odia folk artist, passed away at 80.
 - Awarded Padma Shri in 2020.
 - Known for pioneering the “Chaiti Ghoda Nach” (Ghodanach) dance tradition.
11. K.P. Unnikrishnan, a former Union Minister and Congress leader, passed away.
 - Known for negotiating directly with Saddam Hussein to ensure the safe evacuation of Indians from Kuwait during the Iraqi invasion.
12. H.K. Dua, an eminent journalist, passed away at 88.
 - Served as Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament (2009–2015).
 - Awarded the Padma Bhushan.
 - Formerly served as India's Ambassador to Denmark.
13. Rishi Gupta of Fino Payments Bank Arrested Under GST Act
14. Balendra (Balen) Shah Wins Nepal General Election
 - Balendra (Balen) Shah, a 35-year-old hip-hop rapper turned politician, won Nepal's general election.
 - Political affiliation:
 - Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP).
 - Election results:
 - Balen Shah – 68,000 votes
 - K.P. Sharma Oli – 18,000 votes
 - Balen Shah defeated four-time Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli.
 - He is expected to become Nepal's first Maithili-speaking/Madheshi Prime Minister.
15. Safeena Husain Named Among TIME Women of the Year 2025
 - Safeena Husain, founder of Educate Girls (established in 2007), was honored.
 - Recognition: Included in TIME Magazine's Women of the Year 2025 list.
 - She is also a Ramon Magsaysay Award winner.



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16. Elon Musk Tops Hurun Global Rich List 2026

- Elon Musk secured the top global position in the 15th Hurun Global Rich List (2026).
- Net worth: \$792 billion.
- Second position: Jeff Bezos.

17. Mukesh Ambani Retains Title of Richest Person in India and Asia

- Mukesh Ambani retained his position as the richest person in India and Asia.
- Ritesh Agarwal, founder of OYO, was named the youngest billionaire in India.

18. Indian Athlete Anant Rana Completes Ironman Triathlon

- Anant Rana, a 33-year-old athlete from Jharkhand, completed the Ironman Triathlon.
- Event location: Taupo, New Zealand.
- Completion time: 11 hours and 50 minutes.
- He also participated in the Full Ironman competition in South Africa.

19. Important Founders

- Kunal Shah was noted as the Founder of CRED.
- Sanjay Agarwal was identified as the Founder and Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer (MD/CEO) of AU Small Finance Bank.

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14. Ranks and Reports

1. Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2024 Released by NITI Aayog

- The 4th edition of EPI 2024 was released by National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog).
- The index evaluates 70 indicators across four pillars:
- Business Ecosystem – 40% weight
- Export Infrastructure – 20% weight
- Policy and Governance – 20% weight
- Export Performance – 20% weight
- Top Large States Rankings
 1. Maharashtra – 1st
 2. Tamil Nadu – 2nd
 3. Gujarat – 3rd
 4. Uttar Pradesh – 4th
 5. Andhra Pradesh – 5th
- Top Small States / Union Territories Rankings
 1. Uttarakhand – 1st
 2. Jammu and Kashmir – 2nd
 3. Nagaland – 3rd

2. Fiscal Health Index 2026 (2nd Edition) Released by NITI Aayog

- The index measures five fiscal parameters:
- Quality of Expenditure
- Revenue Mobilization
- Fiscal Prudence
- Debt Index
- Debt Sustainability
- Top Major States Rankings (18 States)
 1. Odisha – 1st (Score: 73.1)
 2. Goa – 2nd
 3. Jharkhand – 3rd
 4. Gujarat – 4th
 5. Maharashtra – 5th
- Other front runner states
 - Chhattisgarh
 - Telangana
 - Uttar Pradesh
 - Karnataka
- Another evaluation categorized states as:
 - Gujarat – Front Runner
 - Madhya Pradesh – Performer
 - Punjab – Bottom Performer

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- Top Himalayan and North-Eastern States Rankings

1. Arunachal Pradesh – 1st
2. Uttarakhand – 2nd
3. Tripura – 3rd
4. Meghalaya – 4th
5. Assam – 5th

- 3. Brand Finance Banking 500 Report 2026

- 19 Indian banks featured in the global ranking.
- Combined brand value: \$47.8 billion
- State Bank of India (SBI):
 - Ranked 16th strongest bank globally.
 - Only Indian bank with AAA+ rating.
- Brand Strength Index (BSI): 90.3
- Global brand value rank: 56th
- Brand value: \$8.1 billion
- HDFC Bank
 - Highest brand value among Indian banks.
 - Ranked 31st globally.
- ICICI Bank
 - Fastest growing among top three Indian banks.
 - 19% brand value growth.
 - Ranked 76th globally.
- Global rankings
 - Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) – Most valuable bank globally.
 - Bank of China / BCA – Strongest bank globally.

- 4. Hurun Global Rich List 2026 Released

- 15th Hurun Global Rich List (2026) released.
- Top Global Rankings
 1. Elon Musk – \$792 billion
 2. Jeff Bezos – 2nd
- India's Global Position
 - India ranked 3rd globally with 308 billionaires
 - Richest in India and Asia
 - Mukesh Ambani
 - Youngest billionaire in India
 - Ritesh Agarwal (Founder of OYO)

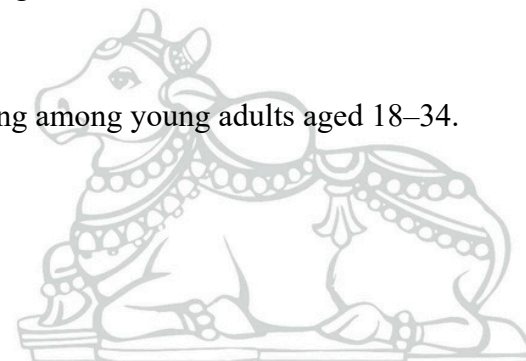
- 5. Brand Trust Report 2026 (15th Edition)

- The 15th edition was authored by TRA Research.
- Top Trusted Brands in India
 1. Amazon – 1st
 2. Dell – 2nd
 3. Honda – 3rd
 4. LG – 4th
 5. Titan – 5th



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- Brands showing decline in trust
 - Apple iPhone
 - Maruti Suzuki
 - Mumbai was declared India's "Trust Capital."
6. ICA World Cooperative Monitor 2025
- The International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) publishes the World Cooperative Monitor ranking cooperative organizations globally.
 - Amul topped the ICA World Cooperative Monitor 2025 ranking.
7. Network Readiness Index
- The Network Readiness Index measures a country's digital technology readiness and infrastructure.
 - India improved to rank 45 globally.
8. Trend and Progress of Banking in India Report
- The Trend and Progress of Banking in India Report is published by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
 - The report estimates total ATMs in India will reach 2,51,057 by March 31, 2025.
 - ATM distribution:
 - Private banks – 71,117 ATMs
 - Public Sector Banks – over 1,34,445 ATMs
9. World Obesity Atlas 2026 Released
- Released on World Obesity Day – March 4.
 - By 2025, more than 41 million children in India will be overweight or obese.
 - Global ranking
 - China – 1st (62 million obese children)
 - India – 2nd
 - India surpassed the United States of America (USA).
10. Global Mind Health Report by Sapiens Lab
- The Global Mind Health Report assesses mental well-being across countries.
 - Conducted by Sapiens Lab.
 - Survey covered 78,000 internet-enabled Indians.
 - India ranked 60th out of 84 countries for mental well-being among young adults aged 18–34.
 - Mind Health Quotient (MHQ) Scores
 - Young adults – 33 (distressed or struggling)
 - Older adults (55+) – 96
 - Factors contributing to decline:
 - Early smartphone exposure
 - Highly processed foods
 - Weak family bonds
 - Reduced spirituality
11. UN Women Access to Justice Report
- The United Nations (UN) Women Report titled "Ensuring and Strengthening Access to Justice for All Women and Girls" examines gender equality in law.
 - No country has achieved full legal equality between men and women.
 - Globally:
 - Women have 64% of the legal rights of men.



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- Major findings:
- Digital violence rising in 54% of countries.
- 54% of countries do not define rape based on consent.
- Child marriage
- Nearly 3 out of 4 countries still permit forced child marriage.
- Equal pay
- 44% of countries lack laws ensuring equal pay.
- Job restrictions
- 51% of countries restrict women from certain jobs.
- World Bank estimate
- Closing gender gaps could increase global GDP by 20%.

12. Global Milk Production Statistics

- India is the world's largest milk producer.
- Share in global production: 25%
- Production growth:
- 69% growth over the last decade
- Total production:
- 247 million tonnes
- Per capita milk availability
- India – 485 grams/day
- Global average – 328 grams/day
- Top milk producing state in India
- Uttar Pradesh

13. SIPRI Arms Import Report 2021–2025

- India is the world's second-largest arms importer.
- Share of global imports: 8.2%
- Ukraine – 1st (9.7%)
- India reduced dependence on Russia:
- From 70% to 40%.
- New suppliers:
- France – 29%
- Israel – 15%
- USA
- Top global exporters
- 1. United States – 42%
- 2. France
- 3. Russia – 6.8% share

14. Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS 2.0) Rankings

- The Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS 2.0) integrates data from courts, police, prisons and forensic systems.
- Uttarakhand ranked 1st nationally for implementation.
- Score on National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) dashboard: 93.46
- Other top states: Haryana ; Assam ; Sikkim ; Madhya Pradesh



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15. Schemes & Initiatives

1. Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025 Replaces MGNREGA
 - The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005 earlier guaranteed 100 days of wage employment to rural households.
 - The Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025 replaced MGNREGA, 2005.
 - The new act guarantees 125 days of wage employment per financial year.
 - Beneficiaries: Rural households whose adult members volunteer for unskilled manual work.
 - Expands employment guarantee from 100 days to 125 days.
2. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) 22nd Instalment Released
 - The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme provides income support to farmers through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
 - Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the 22nd instalment.
 - Location: Guwahati, Assam.
 - Amount transferred: ₹18,640 crore.
 - Beneficiaries: More than 9.32 crore farmer families.
 - Each farmer receives: ₹6,000 per year in three equal instalments.
 - Total cumulative transfers: ₹4.27 lakh crore.
 - Beneficiaries included: Over 2.15 crore women farmers in this instalment.
3. PM SVANidhi Scheme Extended Till 2030
 - The Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme provides micro-credit support to street vendors.
 - The scheme was extended until March 31, 2030.
 - Total outlay: ₹7,332 crore.
 - Revised loan structure:
 - First tranche : Up to ₹15,000 (earlier ₹10,000).
 - Second tranche : ₹25,000 (earlier ₹20,000).
 - Third tranche : ₹50,000.
 - Additional incentive: ₹1,600 cashback incentive.
4. Revised Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Norms Announced
 - The Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme provides short-term credit to farmers.
 - Reserve Bank of India (RBI) extended the KCC scheme validity to six years.
 - Effective date: January 1, 2025.
 - Collateral-free loan limit increased
 - From ₹1.6 lakh
 - To ₹2 lakh per borrower.
 - For marginal farmers (up to 1 hectare land):
 - Credit limit between ₹10,000 – ₹50,000.
 - Crop tenure:
 - 12 months for short-duration crops
 - 18 months for long-duration crops.

- Additional provision:
- 20% credit provision for modern farming needs such as:
- Soil testing
- Weather forecasts
- Machinery.
- Interest benefits:
- 2% interest subvention
- 3% prompt repayment incentive.

5. Jal Jeevan Mission Extended Until December 2028

- The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) was launched in August 2019 to provide safe tap water to rural households.
- The Union Cabinet extended the mission until December 2028.
- Budget allocation: ₹8.69 lakh crore.
- Objective: Provide 55 litres of safe drinking water per person per day.
- Current coverage: 15.8 crore households connected out of 19.36 crore identified households.
- New digital framework introduced: Sujalam Bharat.
- The system provides: Unique “Sujal Gaon ID” for water system mapping.

6. Jal Mahotsav Campaign Launched to Promote Drinking Water Awareness

- Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil inaugurated the Jal Mahotsav campaign.
- Launch location: Rahe village, Gujarat.
- Campaign period: March 8 – March 22.
- Taglines:
- “Gaon ka Utsav, Desh ka Mahotsav”
- “Ganga Utsav Desh ka Utsav”.

7. Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY Integrated with ESIC Scheme

- The Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) provides health insurance coverage for economically weaker sections.
- The National Health Authority (NHA) signed an agreement to integrate Employees’ State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) with PM-JAY.
- Result: ESIC-covered workers can receive treatment at empanelled hospitals.

8. Atal Pension Yojana Extended and Sukanya Samridhi Yojana Completes 11 Years

- Atal Pension Yojana extended until 2030–31.
- Sukanya Samridhi Yojana
- Launched January 2015.
- Completed 11 years.

9. Insurance for All by 2047 Initiative Achieves First Fully Insured District

- Alwar district in Rajasthan became India’s first district with 100% insurance coverage.

10. New Central Government Schemes Announced (2025–26)

- Green India Digital Mission : AI-based initiative for forest conservation monitoring.
- Bharat Skill Connect Portal : Uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) to match job seekers with employers.
- PM Surakshit Mahila Yojana : Provides safety guidance and legal aid for women.
- National Digital Nagrik Mission : Provides unified digital identity and services.
- National Green Credit Program : Introduces tradable carbon credits.
- National Research Foundation : Provides funding support for research.
- Prime Minister Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana : Enhances agricultural productivity in 100 underperforming districts.

11. Skill Development and Digital Literacy Initiatives

- Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society (ULLAS) literacy program targets non-literate adults aged 15+.
- Mission Karmayogi
 - Partnered with Coursera.
- Platform used: Integrated Government Online Training (iGOT).
- Sampoonata Abhiyan 2
 - Campaign covering 112 aspirational districts and 513 aspirational blocks.
- Government e-Marketplace (GeM) SWAYATT
 - Completed 7th anniversary.
- Skill the Nation AI Challenge
 - Introduced by President Droupadi Murmu.
- Saksham Skill Census
 - India's first AI-powered skill census.
- Location: RD National College, Mumbai.
- Technology used: Aark AI tool.

12. Environmental and Social Campaigns Launched

- Say No to Proxy Sarpanch
 - Campaign launched by Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
 - Objective: End the "Sarpanch Pati" practice.
- Green India Mission (2021–2030)
 - Target: Restore 25 million hectares of forests.
- Carbon sink target: 2.5–3 billion tonnes CO₂ equivalent.
- National Green Hydrogen Mission
 - Emissions standards:
 - 0.38 kg CO₂e per kg green ammonia
 - 0.44 kg CO₂e per kg green methanol.



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16. Science & Technology

1. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and European Space Agency (ESA) Sign Earth Observation Mission Agreement

2. Chandrayaan-4 Mission Planned to Land Near Moon's South Pole

3. PSLV-C62 Mission Failure Results in Loss of 16 Satellites

- The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) is one of India's primary satellite launch vehicles.
- The PSLV-C62 mission failed.
- Consequence: Loss of 16 satellites.

4. Cryogenic Engine CE20 Successfully Tested for Gaganyaan Mission

- ISRO successfully tested the cryogenic engine CE20.
- Test location: ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu.
- The engine qualifies for:
 - Gaganyaan mission
 - Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3) payload enhancements.

5. Major Astronomical Observatories Approved in Ladakh

- The Union Budget sanctioned two major observatories in Ladakh.
- Operator:
 - Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA).

National Large Solar Telescope (NLST)

- Aperture: 2-meter telescope.
- Location: Near Pangong Tso, Ladakh.
- Purpose: High-resolution solar observation.
- Status: India's third ground-based solar observatory.
- Supports: Aditya-L1 mission.

National Large Optical Near-Infrared Telescope (NLOT)

- Mirror size: 13.7-meter segmented mirror.
- Location: Hanle, Ladakh.
- Purpose: Study exoplanets and origin of the universe.

Himalayan Chandra Telescope Upgrade

- Existing telescope: 2-meter Himalayan Chandra Telescope (HCT).
- Upgrade: 3.7-meter mirror.

6. Tamil Nadu Establishes First Dark Sky Park

- Tamil Nadu inaugurated its first Dark Sky Park.
- Location: Ariyur Shola Reserve Forest, Kolli Hills, Namakkal district.
- Facilities:
 - Three advanced telescopes.
- India's first Dark Sky Reserve
 - Hanle, Ladakh.
- India's first Dark Sky Park
 - Pench Tiger Reserve.

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17. Sports

🏏 CRICKET

🏆 Ranji Trophy 2026

- Winner: Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) – Maiden title (after 67 years)
- Defeated: Karnataka
- Venue: Hubballi, Karnataka
- Captain: Paras Dogra
- Became: 10th team to win on maiden final appearance
- ◆ Records
 - o Aqib Nabi: 60 wickets
 - o Highest wicket-taker
 - o Player of the Series
- ◆ Key Facts
 - Started: 1934–35
 - Organized by: BCCI
 - Most titles: Mumbai (32)
 - Records:
 - o Most runs: Wasim Jaffer
 - o Most wickets: Rajinder Goel

🌐 ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026

- Edition: 10th
- Hosts: India & Sri Lanka
- Winner: India
- Runner-up: New Zealand
- Final Venue: Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad
- India Score: 255/5
- Margin: Won by 96 runs
- ◆ Leadership
 - Captain: Suryakumar Yadav
 - Coach: Gautam Gambhir
- ◆ Historic Records
 - First team to win 3 titles (2007, 2024, 2026)
 - First team to defend title
 - First host nation to win at home

🏆 Individual Awards

Sanju Samson:

- Player of the Tournament
- 383 runs
- Best performance: 89 runs

Jasprit Bumrah:

- Player of the Match (Final)
- 4 wickets

Highest wicket-takers:

- Jasprit Bumrah – 14 wickets
- Varun Chakravarthy – 14 wickets

🔥 Finn Allen Records (New Zealand)

- Fastest century in T20 WC history: 33 balls
- Opponent: South Africa
- Venue: Eden Gardens, Kolkata
- Broke: Chris Gayle (47 balls, 2016)
- First century in knockout match
- Most sixes: 20
- Highest partnership aggregate with Tim Seifert

★ ICC Team of the Tournament

- Captain: Aiden Markram

◆ Indian Players

- Jasprit Bumrah
- Sanju Samson (WK)

- Ishan Kishan
- Hardik Pandya

◆ ICC Details

- Headquarters: Dubai
- Chairman: Jay Shah
- CEO: Sanjog Gupta

👩 Women's Cricket

◆ ICC Rankings

- Smriti Mandhana – World No.1 (790 points)
- Laura Wolvaardt – 2nd (782 points)
- Harmanpreet Kaur – 8th
- Jemimah Rodrigues – 12th

◆ Additional Facts

- India lost ODI series 0–3 vs Australia
- Mandhana received custom Barbie doll (Mattel)

🏆 BCCI Naman Awards 2026

- Date: March 15, 2026
- Location: New Delhi

◆ Winners

- Rahul Dravid: Col. C.K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award
- Shubman Gill: Polly Umrigar Award

International Recognition

· Indian Women's Cricket Team:

- Nominated for Laureus World Team of the Year
- Achievement: Won ICC Women's ODI World Cup
- Final: Beat South Africa (52 runs)
- Date: Nov 2, 2025
- Captain: Harmanpreet Kaur
- Key performance: Chased 341 vs Australia

◆ Laureus Awards

·Venue: Madrid, Spain

·Past Indian winners:

oSachin Tendulkar (2020)

·Past nominees:

oNeeraj Chopra

oVinesh Phogat

oRishabh Pant

🔪 Coaching

·Gary Kirsten appointed Head Coach of Sri Lanka Men's Team

·Preparing for: 2027 ICC ODI World Cup

♟️ CHESS

·Aarav Dengla (17, Mumbai):

- India's 93rd Grandmaster
- Achieved 3 GM norms
- Crossed 2500 FIDE rating

❄️ KHELO INDIA GAMES

🏔️ Winter Games 2026

·Locations:

- Leh (Ladakh)
- Gulmarg (J&K)

◆ Winner

·Indian Army (Team Champion)

◆ Medal Tally

·Total: 23 medals

Gold: 9 ; Silver: 6 ; Bronze: 8

·2nd: Himachal Pradesh

·Followed by: Haryana; Maharashtra ; Ladakh

🚩 Khelo India Tribal Games 2026

·Host: Chhattisgarh

·Start: March 25, 2026

·Venues:

- Jagdalpur
- Surguja
- Raipur

·Announced by: Mansukh Mandaviya

◆ Events

·7 medal sports (Football, Athletics, Wrestling etc.)

·2 demo sports:

- Kabaddi
- Malkhamb



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ATHLETICS & ENDURANCE

· Anant Rana (Jharkhand):

- Completed Ironman Triathlon
- Venue: Taupo, New Zealand
- Time: 11 hrs 50 mins

◆ Race Components

- 3.8 km swimming
- 180 km cycling
- 42.2 km marathon

MAJOR INTERNATIONAL EVENTS & SPORTS

Asian Games

· 20th Asian Games 2026 → Host: Japan

Archery

· Asia Cup Archery 2027 (2nd Leg) → Delhi
· First international archery event in India after 22 years

◆ Upcoming Events

· Asian Para Archery Championship 2026 → Ahmedabad
· South Asian Archery Championship 2026 → Kolkata
· National Archery Championship 2026 → Shillong

Badminton

· All England Open 2026 → Birmingham (UK)

◆ Winners

· Men's Singles: Lin Chun-yi (Taiwan) defeated Lakshya Sen
· Women's Singles: Wang Zhiyi (China) defeated An Se-young

Basketball

· LeBron James broke Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's record
· Record: 15,838 field goals

Football

· Iran withdrew from FIFA WC 2026
· Hosts: USA, Canada, Mexico
· Expanded to: 48 teams

Formula One

· Australian GP 2026 Winner: George Russell (Mercedes)

Wrestling

· Sujeet Kalkal (India):
Gold at Mohamed Malo Tournament
Defeated Rashid Babazade

Table Tennis

· Ultimate Table Tennis (7th Season)
Venue: Goa (Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium)



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Cycling

- India's first franchise-based road cycling league announced
- Logo unveiled by: Mansukh Mandaviya

Tennis

- Tomas Martin Etcheverry (Argentina) won Rio Open ATP

 **Roller Skating** : Srishti Dharmendra Sharma: Guinness World Record (limbo skating)

SPORTS GOVERNANCE

- Soraya Aghaei: First Iranian woman in IOC
- Asmita League Initiative: Announced by Raksha Nikhil Khadse

Full form (Asmita) : Achieving Sports Milestone by Inspiring Women through Action

Occasion: International Women's Day



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18. Static News

◆ Andhra Pradesh

- Capital: Amaravati
- Chief Minister: N. Chandrababu Naidu
- Governor: S. Abdul Nazeer
- Major Wildlife Reserve:
Nagarjunasagar–Srisailem Tiger Reserve

◆ Andhra Pradesh

- Capital: Amaravati
- Chief Minister: N. Chandrababu Naidu
- Governor: S. Abdul Nazeer
- Major Wildlife Reserve:
Nagarjunasagar–Srisailem Tiger Reserve

◆ Delhi

- Chief Minister: Rekha Gupta
- Lieutenant Governor: Vinai Kumar Saxena

◆ Sikkim

- Pawan Kumar Chamling → Longest-serving CM in India

◆ Tripura

- Formed: 1972
- Capital: Agartala
- Chief Minister: Manik Saha
- National Parks:
 - Clouded Leopard NP
 - Bison (Rajbari) NP

◆ Uttar Pradesh

- Capital: Lucknow (on Gomti River)
- Chief Minister: Yogi Adityanath
- Tiger Reserves:
 - Dudhwa
 - Pilibhit
 - Amargarh
 - Ranipur

◆ Assam

- Capital: Dispur
- Chief Minister: Himanta Biswa Sarma
- Governor: Lakshman Prasad Acharya
- National Parks & Tiger Reserves:
 - Dibru-Saikhowa
 - Kaziranga
 - Manas
 - Nameri
 - Orang
 - Dehing Patkai Raimona

◆ Karnataka

- Capital: Bengaluru
- Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot
- National Parks & Tiger Reserves:
 - Anshi
 - Bandipur
 - Bannerghatta
 - Kudremukh
 - Nagarhole
 - Bhadra
 - Kali
 - Biligiri Ranganatha Swamy Temple
- Wildlife Sanctuaries:
 - Kappatagudda Wildlife Sanctuary
 - Sharavathi Valley Lion-Tailed Macaque Sanctuary

◆ West Bengal

- Capital: Kolkata (on Hooghly River)
- Formed: August 15, 1947
- National Parks:
 - Sundarban
 - Gorumara
 - Jaldapara
 - Neora Valley
 - Buxa
 - Singalila

◆ Lakshadweep (UT)

General Facts:

- Formed: November 1, 1956
- Capital: Kavaratti
- Largest City: Andrott
- Administrator: Praful Khoda Patel
- Governed by: President (through Administrator)

Languages:

- Malayalam
- English
- Mahl (Minicoy)

Society:

- Matrilineal

Geography:

- Total Islands: 36
- Inhabited: 10
- India's only coral atoll region
- First 100% organic UT

Channels:

- 9° Channel → Minicoy & Lakshadweep
- 8° Channel → Lakshadweep & Maldives

State Symbols:

- Animal: Butterfly Fish
- Bird: Sooty Tern
- Tree: Breadfruit
- Flower: Neelakurinji

Protected Areas:

- Pitti Bird Sanctuary
- Marine National Park

Tourism:

- Bangaram Island
- Kadmat Island

Landmarks:

- Ujra Mosque
- Minicoy Lighthouse (1885)
- Agatti Island Airstrip

GI Products:

- Lakshadweep coconut oil
- Virgin coconut oil
- Minicoy Masmin (smoked tuna)
- Coir products

Special Economic Zones (SEZ)

- Asia's first Export Processing Zone (EPZ):
- Kandla, Gujarat (1965)
- SEZ Policy introduced in 2000
- SEZ Act enacted in 2005

PAYMENT & SMALL FINANCE BANKS

Payment Banks:

- First: Airtel Payment Bank
- Deposit Limit: ₹2 lakh
- Cannot give loans
- Minimum capital: ₹100 crore

Conversion to SFB:

- ₹300 crore capital
- 5 years experience

Small Finance Bank:

- First: Capital SFB (Punjab)

Capitals & Currencies

- Nepal → Kathmandu / Rupee
- Sri Lanka → Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte / Rupee
- Bangladesh → Dhaka / Taka
- Bhutan → Thimphu / Ngultrum

Dams (INDIA)

- India ranks 3rd globally in number of dams
- Total: 5,334
- Largest: Tehri
- Longest: Hirakud
- Largest Reservoir: Indira Sagar

PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS

- HDFC Bank → CEO: Sashidhar Jagdishan
- ICICI Bank → CEO: Sandeep Bakhshi
- Axis Bank → CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry
- Kotak Bank → CEO: Ashok Vaswani
- IndusInd Bank → Chief: Rajiv Anand
- Yes Bank → CEO: Prashant Kumar
- Federal Bank → HQ: Kochi
- IDFC First Bank → Launched: 2015
- Bandhan Bank → HQ: Kolkata
- City Union Bank → Established: 1904

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- NITI Aayog → 2015, New Delhi
- CBIC → 1944, Chairman: Vivek Chaturvedi
- CPCB → 1974
- DRDO → 1958, Director: Samir Kamat
- PGCIL → 1989, HQ: Gurugram
- GAIL → 1984, HQ: New Delhi

Geographical Indications (GI Tags)

- Validity: 10 years (renewable)
- India's first GI tag: Darjeeling Tea

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

·UN

Established: 1945

HQ: New York

Members: 193

·UNESCO

HQ: Paris

Members: 194

·WHO

Established: 1948

HQ: Geneva

·IMF & World Bank

Established: 1944

HQ: Washington DC

·NATO

Established: 1949

HQ: Brussels

·African Union

Established: 2002

HQ: Addis Ababa

·ISA

Established: 2015

HQ: Gurugram

Founded by: India & France

·IEA

HQ: Paris

Executive Director: Fatih Birol

Members: 30

·FATF

Established: 1989

India joined: 2010

·NDB

Established: 2014

HQ: Shanghai

·ICC

HQ: Dubai

Chairman: Jay Shah

CEO: Sanjog Gupta

◆ Other HQs

·ICAO, IATA → Montreal

GSMA, World Gold Council,

Commonwealth, IMO → London

Ports and Environmental Sites

- Nhava Sheva Port
- Also called Jawaharlal Nehru Port
- Located in Navi Mumbai
- India's first Dark Sky Park
- Pench Tiger Reserve
- India's first Dark Sky Reserve
- Hanle, Ladakh

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & REGULATORS

◆ RBI

·Established: 1935

·Headquarters: Mumbai

·Governor: Sanjay Malhotra

Deputy Governors:

·Swaminathan Janakiraman

·T. Rabi Sankar

·Chandra Murmu

·Poonam Gupta

Functions:

·Regulates banking system

·Issues currency

◆ SEBI

·Established: 1988

·SEBI Act: 1992

·Headquarters: Mumbai

·Chairperson: Tokant Pandey

◆ NABARD

·Established: July 12, 1982

·Headquarters: Mumbai

·Chairman: Shaji K V

·Works under: Ministry of Finance

·Regulated by: RBI

◆ SIDBI

·Established: 1990

·Headquarters: Lucknow

◆ EXIM Bank

·Established: 1982

·Headquarters: Mumbai

◆ IRDAI

·Established: 1999

·Headquarters: Hyderabad

·Chairperson: Ajay Seth

Historical and Constitutional Facts

- Hyderabad House
- Designed by Edward Lutyens
- Year: 1928
- 7th Constitutional Amendment Act
- Allows one governor to serve multiple states
- Commonwealth of Nations
- 56 countries
- Formerly under British rule