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

1. Approval of Bhavya Scheme (Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana)

- The Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana (Bhavya Scheme) was launched with a total financial budget of ₹33,660 crore.
- The core objective is to develop 100 plug-and-play industrial parks ranging in size from 100 to 1000 acres.
- The project is implemented by the National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC) in collaboration with state governments and private players.

2. Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro Finance Institutions 2.0 (CGS MFI 2.0)

- The Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro Finance Institutions 2.0 (CGS MFI 2.0) offers a massive ₹20,000 crore loan guarantee.
- Guarantee coverage is tiered via the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC): 80% for small, 75% for medium, and 70% for large NBFC-MFIs.
- The guarantee fee is capped at 0.50% per annum.

3. Extension of Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0

- Originally launched in 2019 to ensure tap water connectivity to rural households, the mission has undergone a major extension and budget upgrade.
- The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0 timeline has been officially extended to December 2028.
- The mission targets providing drinkable tap water to 19.36 crore households.
- A newly approved budget allocation of ₹8.69 lakh crore (also cited with a specific recent approval of ₹1.51 lakh crore) will support the extension.

4. Revamped RCS UDAN Aviation Scheme 2027-2036

- The Union Cabinet approved an extension of the Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) scheme for the 2027-2036 period.
- The revamped phase is backed by a massive ₹28,000 crore financial allocation.
- Targets include covering 120 new destinations, developing 100 new airports (costing ₹100 crore each), and constructing 200 helipads.
- The scheme offers 80-90% Viability Gap Funding for airlines and provides 3-year operations and maintenance (O&M) support.

5. Launch of RELIEF Scheme for Exporters

- The Government of India launched the Resilience and Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation (RELIEF) scheme.
- It was introduced with a ₹497 crore budget and is managed by ECGC Ltd. as the nodal agency.
- The scheme waives port/storage charges and provides up to 100% additional risk cover for eligible already-insured shipments.

6. PRARAMBH 2026 Income Tax Awareness Campaign

- The central government is replacing the 1961 Income Tax Act with a newly modernized tax framework effective April 1, 2026.
- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the PRARAMBH (Policy Reform and Responsible Action for Mission Viksit Bharat) campaign in New Delhi.
- An Artificial Intelligence (AI) chatbot named "Kar Saathi" was launched alongside the Income Tax Website 2.0 to assist taxpayers.
- New Tax Slabs (2026-27): Rs 0 to 4 lakh (0%), Rs 4 to 8 lakh (5%), Rs 8 to 12 lakh (10%), and above Rs 24 lakh (30%).

7. Lok Sabha Passes Finance Bill 2026

- The Finance Bill 2026 officially reduced the Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) from 15% to 14%.
- The fiscal deficit is targeted to drop to 4.3% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for FY 26-27.
- Total government expenditure is projected at ₹53.47 lakh crore, with capital expenditure set at ₹12.2 lakh crore.
- The "Startup Tax Holiday" eligibility was expanded to companies with turnovers up to ₹500 crore (previously ₹100 crore).

8. Supreme Court Ruling on Scheduled Caste (SC) Status

- A Supreme Court bench comprising Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and Manmohan ruled that individuals converting to Christianity or Islam lose their Scheduled Caste (SC) status immediately.
- Only individuals professing Hinduism, Buddhism, or Sikhism can be considered members of the SC community.
- However, Scheduled Tribes (ST) are exempt from this restriction; an ST individual retains their tribal status upon conversion if they maintain tribal customs.

9. Supreme Court Rules 12-Week Maternity Leave for Adoptive Mothers

- A Supreme Court bench comprising Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan struck down the restrictive provision as unconstitutional.
- The court ruled that all adoptive mothers are entitled to 12 weeks of paid maternity leave, regardless of the adopted child's age.

10. Gujarat Passes Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill 2026

- The Uniform Civil Code (UCC) establishes a common legal framework across all religions for marriage, divorce, and succession under Article 44.
- Gujarat officially became the second Indian state to pass the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill 2026, following Uttarakhand.
- The law strictly prohibits bigamy, invalidates out-of-court divorces, and explicitly excludes Scheduled Tribes from its purview.
- The legislation mandates the legal registration of marriages within 60 days and enforces mandatory registration of live-in relationships (failure results in 3 months imprisonment or a ₹10,000 fine).

11. PM Modi Becomes India's Longest-Serving Elected Head of Government

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi completed 8,931 days in office, setting a new national record as the longest-serving elected head of government in India.
- He surpassed the previous historical record of 8,930 days held by former Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling.
- The total duration aggregates his tenure as Chief Minister of Gujarat (2001-2014) and Prime Minister of India (since 2014).
- PM Modi also crossed digital milestones of 30 million YouTube subscribers and 100 million Instagram followers during this period.

12. RBI Mandates Two-Factor Authentication (2FA) for Digital Payments

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) mandated mandatory Two-Factor Authentication (2FA) for all digital payments, regardless of the transaction amount.
- The mandate takes effect on April 1, 2026, for all domestic transactions.
- It becomes effective on October 1, 2026, for all cross-border transactions.

13. RBI 59th Monetary Policy and WMA Limits

- The 6-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) kept the Repo Rate unchanged at 5.25%.
- For the first half of FY 2026-27, the RBI set the central government's Ways and Means Advances (WMA) limit at ₹2.50 lakh crore (a substantial increase from the historical ₹1.5 lakh crore).
- The WMA limit for states/UTs was revised to ₹60,118 crore.
- Other rates maintained: Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) at 5.0%, Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) and Bank Rate at 5.50%, Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) at 3%, and Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) at 18%.

14. Government Retains 4% Retail Inflation Target

- The Government of India formally mandated the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to retain the retail inflation target at 4%.
- This target is locked in for a five-year period from April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2031.
- The tolerance band remains strictly at +/- 2%, keeping the permissible inflation band between 2% and 6%.
- The inflation targeting framework was originally introduced in 2016 under Section 45ZA of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. Retail inflation hit 3.21% in February 2026.

15. SEBI Revises MPS Norms and Regulates Social Impact Funds

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) revised Minimum Public Shareholding (MPS) norms for mega Initial Public Offerings (IPOs), decreasing the initial listing requirement from 5% to 2.5%.
- Social Impact Funds (SIF) were regulated as a subcategory of Category 1 Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs).
- The minimum individual investment value for Social Impact Funds was drastically reduced from ₹2 lakh to ₹1,000.
- SEBI also made it mandatory by default to add a nominee for single-holder Demat accounts and Mutual Fund folios (allowing up to 4 nominees).

16. CCI Clears MUFG Bank's 20% Stake Acquisition in Shriram Finance

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) officially cleared a massive investment deal for Japan's MUFG Bank to acquire a 20% stake in Shriram Finance.
- The total acquisition deal is valued at \$4.4 billion (approximately ₹39,618 crore).

17. RBI Wins Global "Initiative of the Year" Cybersecurity Award

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) won the prestigious "Initiative of the Year" award at the 13th Central Banking Awards in London.
- The award recognized the launch of the highly secure, exclusive ".bank.in" and ".fin.in" internet domains for authorized banks.
- India became the first country globally to introduce such a secure web domain exclusively for its banking ecosystem.
- The initiative was jointly executed with the Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT) and the National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI). Punjab National Bank (PNB) was the first to migrate.

18. World Happiness Report 2026

- In the World Happiness Report 2026, India improved its rank to 116th out of 147 countries (up from 118th in 2025) with a score of 4.536.
- Finland ranked as the world's happiest country for the 9th consecutive year, followed by Iceland and Denmark.
- Afghanistan was officially ranked as the unhappiest country globally.

19. Global Terrorism Index 2026

- The Global Terrorism Index 2026 was published by the Sydney-based Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP).
- Pakistan ranked 1st as the worst-affected country globally (with 1,239 deaths), followed by Burkina Faso and Niger.
- India improved its standing, ranking 13th (up from 14th).

20. Forbes Billionaires List 2026

- Elon Musk topped the Forbes Billionaires List with a net worth of \$839 billion, followed by Larry Page and Sergey Brin.
- Mukesh Ambani emerged as India's wealthiest individual with a net worth of \$99.7 billion.
- 22-year-old Surya Midha (co-founder of AI platform Mercor) was specifically recognized as the youngest self-made billionaire globally.

21. OECD and S&P Global Revise India's GDP Forecasts

- The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) projected India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to grow at 7.6% for FY 2025-26 and 6.1% for FY 2026-27.
- S&P Global revised India's FY 2026-27 GDP growth forecast downwards to 7.1%, while projecting FY 2025-26 at 7.6%.
- Fitch Ratings also recently upgraded India's GDP growth estimate for FY 2025-26 to 7.5%.

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

- The Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) successfully completed technical and oscillation trials for India's very first hydrogen-powered train.
- The trial was conducted on the Jind-Sonipat route in Haryana, covering 20 km at a maximum speed of 70 km/h.
- The train was developed indigenously by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai.

23. Agnikul Cosmos Successfully Tests 3D-Printed Rocket Engine "Agnite"

- Private aerospace firm Agnikul Cosmos successfully test-fired "Agnite", the world's first and largest fully 3D-printed, single-piece rocket booster engine.
- The successful hot test was conducted at their dedicated launchpad located in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

24. ISRO Successfully Tests CE20 Cryogenic Engine

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully conducted a 165-second sea-level hot test of the CE20 cryogenic engine.
- The test demonstrated a massive 22-ton thrust and was executed using a nozzle protection system at the Mahendragiri complex.

25. Indian Air Force Unveils Project Vayu Baan

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

26. Indian Navy Launches Operation Urja Suraksha

- The Indian Navy launched Operation Urja Suraksha to safely escort India-bound energy vessels navigating the critical Strait of Hormuz.
- The operation successfully protected vessels carrying Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), and crude oil.

27. Major Global Defense Exercises: Kakadu and Lamitiye

- Exercise Kakadu 2026: Hosted by the Royal Australian Navy featuring 19 nations. The Indian Navy stealth frigate INS Nilgiri won the prestigious Kakadu Shield trophy.
- Exercise Lamitiye: The 11th iteration took place between the armed forces of India and Seychelles at the Seychelles Defence Academy, uniquely featuring tri-service participation (Army, Navy, Air Force) for the first time.
- Other notable exercises included Exercise Amogh Jwala conducted by the Indian Army in Babina, UP.

28. Kalinjar Fort Declared National Geoheritage Site

- The Geological Survey of India (GSI) officially declared Kalinjar Fort Hill, located in the Banda district of Uttar Pradesh, as a National Geoheritage Site.
- This new addition increases India's total number of National Geoheritage Sites to 35.

29. Government Approves National Quantum Mission Facilities

- The Government of India approved the establishment of quantum teaching facilities and labs across 23 academic institutions.
- The broader National Quantum Mission operates with a massive approved budget of ₹6,003.65 crore for the period of 2023-2031.

30. Launch of Biopharma SHAKTI Scheme

- The Biopharma SHAKTI Scheme (Strategy for Healthcare Advancement through Knowledge, Technology, and Innovation) was launched with a ₹10,000 crore outlay over five years.
- It features the establishment of a Discovery Grant Fund, an Equity Fund, and the setup of 1,000 clinical trial sites across India.

31. Ministry of Culture Launches Gyan Bharatam Mission

- The Union Ministry of Culture launched the Gyan Bharatam Mission, fundamentally restructuring the earlier 2003 National Mission for Manuscripts.
- A budget of ₹491.66 crore was sanctioned for the 2025-2031 period to survey, document, conserve, and digitize India's manuscript heritage.

32. FSSAI Abolishes Annual License Renewals

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) officially abolished the mandatory annual license renewal process.
- It replaced the old system entirely with a lifetime validity license tiered by annual turnover. • The new tiers: Basic Registration (Under ₹1.5 crore), State License (₹1.5 crore to ₹50 crore), and Central License (Over ₹50 crore).

33. New PAN Card Application Rules and 10-Character Structure

- Starting April 1, 2026, applying for a Permanent Account Number (PAN) card using only an Aadhaar card will be invalid; explicit Date of Birth (DOB) proof is now mandatory.
- The newly detailed 10-Character PAN Structure assigns the 4th character as the holder's status: 'P' (Individual), 'C' (Company), 'H' (HUF), 'F' (Firm), 'T' (Trust), or 'G' (Government Agency).

34. 60th Jnanpith Award 2025

- Renowned Tamil poet, lyricist, and author R. Vairamuthu was honored with the prestigious 60th Jnanpith Award for the year 2025.
- He is only the third Tamil literary figure to receive this honor, following Akilan and D. Jayakanthan.
- The award features a ₹11 lakh cash prize, a citation, and a bronze statue of Goddess Saraswati (Vagdevi).

35. 98th Academy Awards (Oscars 2026)

- The film "One Battle After Another" dominated the 98th Academy Awards, winning 6 Oscars including Best Picture and Best Director (Paul Thomas Anderson).
- The film "Sinners" set a historic benchmark with 16 nominations. Michael B. Jordan won Best Actor for "Sinners".
- Jessie Buckley was awarded Best Actress for the film "Hamnet".
- Autumn Durald Arkapaw won Cinematography for "Sinners", making history as the first woman of color to win the category.

36. 35th Saraswati Samman 2025

- Bengali writer and novelist Dr. Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay won the 35th Saraswati Samman 2025.
- He was awarded for his 2020 literary novel "Harabati Katha" (Hara Parvati Katha).
- The prize comprises a ₹15 lakh cash prize and is awarded by the KK Birla Foundation.

37. Stockholm Water Prize 2026

- 44-year-old Iranian scientist Professor Kaveh Madani (Director of the UN University Institute for Water) won the prestigious Stockholm Water Prize 2026 at UNESCO in Paris. • He was awarded for his innovative "water bankruptcy" concept.
- The award includes a massive 1 million Swedish Krona prize.

38. Mark Lynton History Prize

- Renowned historian William Dalrymple won the Mark Lynton History Prize for 2026.
- He was awarded for his critically acclaimed book, "The Golden Road: How Ancient India Transformed the World".
- The award is accompanied by a \$10,000 cash prize.

39. India Dominates World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026

- The World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026 was hosted in New Delhi, India.
- India dominantly topped the global medal tally, securing first place with a record 208 total medals (75 Gold, 69 Silver, 64 Bronze).
- Russia secured a distant second place with 35 medals.
- Prominent Indian gold medalists included Sumit Antil (Javelin, 69.25m) and Preeti Pal (200m).

40. BCCI Naman Awards 2026

- Shubman Gill won the Polly Umrigar Award for Best International Cricketer (Men).
- Smriti Mandhana won the Best International Cricketer (Women) award for an impressive 5th time.
- The Col. C.K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award went to legends Roger Binny and Rahul Dravid.
- Mithali Raj won the BCCI Lifetime Achievement Award for Women.

41. India to Host World Indoor Athletics Championship 2028

- The World Athletics Council in Poland granted hosting rights for the World Indoor Athletics Championship 2028 to India.
- The mega event will be hosted at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- India becomes only the 4th Asian nation to host this specific championship.

42. IOC Gene Eligibility Policy for Los Angeles Olympics 2028

- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced a strict "protection of the female/women's category" policy taking effect at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.
- Eligibility for the female category will actively require a once-in-a-lifetime test specifically detecting the mandatory presence of the SRY gene.
- Athletes who do not qualify can alternatively compete in designated male, mixed, or open categories.
- The 2028 Los Angeles Olympics official design was also unveiled, inspired by the "Bird of Paradise" flower.

43. Massive IPL Franchise Acquisitions (Rajasthan Royals & RCB)

- A US-based consortium commanded by tech-entrepreneur Kal Somani acquired 100% ownership of the Rajasthan Royals for \$1.63 billion (approx. ₹15,286 crore).
- Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) was fully acquired from United Spirits Ltd. for over ₹16,000 crore (\$1.78 billion) by a massive consortium led by the Aditya Birla Group (including Blackstone and Times India Group).
- In related IPL news, Virat Kohli became the first batter in history to cross 4,000 runs during chases.

44. India Post and Bhutan Post Sign Historic Digital Remittance MoU

- India Post signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bhutan Post for Postal Cooperation.
- The landmark agreement seamlessly integrates the global Universal Postal Union (UPU) network directly with India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) system.
- The Universal Postal Union (UPU) is a UN agency established in 1874, headquartered in Bern, Switzerland.

45. Argentina Withdraws from the World Health Organization (WHO)

- Argentina formally announced its total withdrawal from the World Health Organization (WHO).
- The major policy shift was directly announced by Argentine President Javier Milei.
- The withdrawal is executed under the Vienna Convention's standard one-year notice period.

46. Inaugural Bharat Electricity Summit 2026

- The 1st Bharat Electricity Summit (BES) 2026 was held at YashoBhoomi in New Delhi from March 19-22.
- The summit was officially organized by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).
- The overarching theme was "Electrifying growth empowering sustainability connecting globally".
- Authorities officially launched the "India Energy Stack", an AI/machine learning-based power grid.
- The summit reinforced India's target of reaching 500 GW of non-fossil capacity by 2030 and achieving net-zero emissions by 2070.

47. Prime Minister Releases 22nd Instalment of PM-KISAN

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the 22nd instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme directly from Guwahati, Assam.
- The massive release transferred over ₹18,640 crore to 9.32 crore land-holding farmer families.
- The fully central-sector-funded scheme provides eligible farmers with an annual financial benefit of ₹6,000 in three equal instalments.
- The PM-KISAN scheme was officially launched on February 24, 2019, with retroactive implementation starting from December 2018.

48. Government Launches Lakhpati Didi 2.0 & SheMarts

- The government introduced the Lakhpati Didi 2.0 scheme targeting Self Help Groups (SHGs), aiming to empower 3 crore women by 2027.
- The scheme provides digital/financial literacy training alongside interest-free loans of up to ₹5 lakh to upgrade small businesses.
- Concurrently, SheMarts was launched to eliminate middlemen, enabling SHG women to directly sell handcrafted products.
- The initiative aims for beneficiaries to achieve an annual household income of at least ₹1 lakh.

49. Cabinet Approves Small Hydro Power Development Scheme

- The Union Cabinet approved the Small Hydro Power Development Scheme for a 5-year period covering FY 2026-27 to 2030-31.
- The scheme was approved with a massive ₹2,584.60 crore financial outlay.
- It targets the installation of 1,500 MW of capacity via smaller, localized projects ranging from 1 to 25 MW.

50. Progress of SVAMITVA Scheme for Rural Land Mapping

- The SVAMITVA scheme (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas) successfully surveyed 3.29 lakh out of targeted 3.44 lakh villages.
- By March 2026, 3.10 crore Property Cards were generated, utilizing drone technology to resolve land disputes.
- The scheme assigns a 14-digit Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN), also known as a "Bhu-ID".
- The scheme operates under the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. Uttar Pradesh alone accounted for 1.15 crore of the generated property cards.

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2. Amounts & Agreements

1: RBI Penalties on Financial Institutions

- A penalty of ₹2.70 lakh was imposed on Manappuram Finance for non-compliance with Key Managerial Personnel (KMP) compensation guidelines.
- A penalty of ₹18.76 lakh was imposed on One97 Communications (Paytm) for Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) violations.
- Imposed a ₹3.10 lakh penalty on Cashfree Payments India Pvt Ltd for withdrawing impermissible amounts from an escrow account.
- Penalized HSBC Bank with ₹31.80 lakh for failing to host a searchable database for unclaimed deposits with an Unclaimed Deposit Reference Number (UDRN).
- Imposed combined penalties exceeding Rs 2 crore across various institutions: Union Bank of India (Rs 95.40 lakh), Bank of India (Rs 58.50 lakh), Central Bank of India (Rs 63.6 lakh), Pine Labs (Rs 3.1 lakh), and Airtel Payments Bank (₹31.8 lakh).
- Pine Labs was fined for issuing Full KYC Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) without proper verification.
- Airtel Payments Bank was fined for failing to disclose certain customer complaints in annual financial statements.

2. Major International and Domestic Loan Agreements

- The World Bank approved a \$299.66 million loan for the UP Clean Air Management Program.
- The World Bank approved a \$286 million health loan for West Bengal.
- Punjab initiated Phase 2 of the Sikhya Kranti Education Reform with a ₹3,500 crore investment, comprising a ₹2,500 crore World Bank loan and ₹1,000 crore from state funds.
- DCM Shriram secured \$90 million from the World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC) via sustainability-linked non-convertible debentures.
- The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) sealed four ODA loan agreements with India totaling ₹16,420 crore for healthcare in Maharashtra, horticulture in Punjab, and metro infrastructure in Bengaluru and Mumbai.

3. Massive Corporate Acquisitions and FDI Deals

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) cleared a \$4.4 billion (₹39,618 crore) deal for Japan's MUFG Bank to acquire a 20% stake in Shriram Finance.,,
- The RBI approved Avenir Investments to acquire a 41.23% stake in Samman Finserv for ₹8850 crore.
- RBI and SEBI approved Bain Capital's ₹4,385 crore indirect investment into Manappuram Finance and its subsidiaries.,
- A US-based consortium acquired 100% ownership of the IPL franchise Rajasthan Royals for \$1.63 billion (approx. ₹15,286 crores).
- Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) was fully acquired from United Spirits Ltd. for over ₹16,000 crore (\$1.78 billion) by a consortium led by the Aditya Birla Group.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank divested a 30.99% stake in Infina Finance for ₹1,293.91 crore.
- Axis Bank cleared a ₹1500 crore investment into its subsidiary, Axis Finance.
- The US consortium acquiring Rajasthan Royals is led by tech-entrepreneur Kal Somani.

4. Government Funds, Borrowings, and Disaster Relief Allocations

- The Central Government approved disaster relief funds totaling ₹1,912.99 crore for Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Nagaland, and Chhattisgarh,.
- The RBI approved ₹45,960 crore in State Government Securities (SGS) bonds for state borrowings, with Karnataka being the highest borrower at ₹10,000 crores,.
- The Government of India aims to borrow a total of ₹16.09 lakh crore through RBI-auctioned Government Dated Securities in FY 2026-27.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved ₹6,969 crore for a four-lane National Highway 927 project running from Barabanki to Bahraich in UP,.
- The Central Government approved a ₹1,250 crore IT SEZ project and cleared a ₹2,500 crore Multi-Modal SEZ in Puducherry,.,

5. Bilateral International Agreements and Treaties

- India and France amended the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) and agreed on reciprocal defense personnel deployment,.
- India and Nepal signed a Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) agreement focusing on criminal matters.
- India and the UK signed a reciprocal Social Security Agreement.
- India and the European Union signed an aviation working arrangement for safety standards, resulting in an Airbus H125 Final Assembly Line in Karnataka,.,
- Ukraine and Saudi Arabia formalized an air defense deal, while Ukraine and Qatar signed a bilateral defense cooperation pact heavily targeted against drone threats,.
- Food Corporation of India (FCI) signed a 5-year agreement to supply 2 lakh metric tons of rice to the World Food Programme (WFP).
- The Airbus Final Assembly Line is a direct partnership between Airbus Helicopters and Tata Advanced Systems Limited.

6. Defense and Aviation Fines & Procurement Contracts

- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) fined Indigo Airlines a heavy sum of ₹22.2 crore for flight disruptions,.
- The Ministry of Defense signed a ₹445 crore contract with Russia's JSC Rosoboronexport for 2S6 Tunguska Air Defense Missile Systems,.,
- A ₹413 crore contract was signed with Boeing India Defense Private Ltd for the maintenance of P-8I Poseidon aircraft,.
- The Indian Army executed a ₹25.9 crore contract via the GeM portal with JCB India Limited for 93 telescopic handlers,.

7. SEBI Market Manipulation Penalties

- SEBI penalized 18 entities with a 5-year ban and fines ranging from ₹5 lakh to ₹50 lakh for manipulating 'Retro Green Revolution Ltd' shares via social media and Telegram,.
- Total penalties levied across the entities amounted to ₹2.8 crore.
- Key accused Sanjay Arunkumar Choksi must return ₹2.94 crore plus 12% interest directly to the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF).

8. Mega State-Level Corporate Partnerships

- Dubai-based tech firm Solstice Data signed a ₹52,600 crore agreement with the Kerala government for a 100-acre AI data center project located at KINFRA Industrial Park.
- India Post and Bhutan Post signed an MoU for cross-border digital remittances, seamlessly integrating the UPU and UPI networks.

3. Appointments & Resignations

1. Banking & Finance Leadership Changes

- Yes Bank: Vinay Muralidhar Tonse was appointed as MD & CEO (designate/charge on April 6, 2026) for a 3-year term, replacing Prashant Kumar.
- HDFC Bank: Atanu Chakraborty resigned as Chairman (having served since May 2020); the RBI approved Keki Mistry as the interim part-time Chairman for a period of 3 months.
- HDFC ERGO General Insurance: Parthanil Ghosh was appointed as MD & CEO, effective April 16, 2026.
- SEBI: Former Defense Accounts Official Kompella Venkata Ramana Murthy (also referred to as Kompella Venkat Ramana Murthy / K.V. Ramana Murthy) was appointed as a Whole-Time Member for a 3-year term, replacing Ashwani Bhatia.
- City Union Bank: R. Vijay Anand was appointed MD & CEO for a 3-year term, replacing N. Kamakodi.
- South Indian Bank: Jose Joseph Kattoor (former RBI Executive Director) was appointed as Non-Executive Part-Time Chairman for 3 years starting March 23, replacing V.J. Kurian. Thomson Thomas was also named Non-Executive Independent Director for a 3-year term.
- IndusInd Bank: Former SBI Managing Director Arijit Basu was appointed as Part-time Chairman, officially replacing Sunil Mehta.
- ICAI: CA PV Narayanan Rao was inducted as a co-opted member of the Sustainability Reporting Standards Board (SRSB) for the 2026-27 term.
- South Indian Bank was established in 1929 and holds the distinction of being Kerala's first private sector scheduled bank.

2. Corporate, Institutional, and Commission Appointments

- ATMA: Arun Mammen was re-elected Chairman of the Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association, replacing Rajiv Budhraj.
- HAL: Kota Ravi replaced D.K. Sunil as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the Bengaluru-headquartered Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.
- NMDC: Krishna Kumar Thakur (former BHEL HR Director) was appointed as Director (Personnel) on the Board, replacing Priyadarshini Gadam.
- NCBC: Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti assumed charge as the Chairperson of the National Commission for Backward Classes, succeeding Hansraj Gangaram Ahir.
- NDC (National Dental Commission): Appointees include Chairman Dr. Sanjay Tiwari, Education Board President Dr. Chandrashekar Janakiram, and Assessment & Rating Board President Lt Gen Retd. Nanda Kishore Sahoo.
- DNPA: Puneet Gupta was officially assigned as the Chairperson of the Digital News Publishers Association, succeeding Mariam Mammen Mathew.

3. State & National Political Appointments

- Bihar: Lt. Gen. Syed Ata Hasnain was appointed as the New Governor.
- Manipur: Yumnam Khemchand Singh became the 13th Chief Minister of Manipur, replacing N. Biren Singh.
- Maharashtra: Sunetra Pawar became the first woman Deputy CM of the state.

4. International Leadership and Diplomatic Appointments

- Indian Envoys: Vikram K. Doraiswami was appointed India's Ambassador to China, succeeding Pradeep Kumar Rawat. P. Kumaran was appointed as India's next High Commissioner to the UK, taking over Vikram Doraiswami's former position.
- Nepal: 35-year-old Balendra (Balen) Shah of the Rastriya Swatantra Party became the 47th Prime Minister, succeeding interim PM Sushila Karki.
- Chile: José Antonio Kast defeated Jeannette Jara to become the New President, succeeding Gabriel Boric.
- Thailand: Anutin Charnvirakul (representing the Bhumjaithai Party) was re-elected as the 32nd Prime Minister.
- Guinea: Mamady Doumbouya was appointed President.
- Yemen: Shaya Mohsen Zindani was appointed Prime Minister.
- Uganda: Yoweri Museveni was appointed President.

5. Sports Administration and Coaching Appointments

- BCCI: The Board of Control for Cricket in India appointed Mithun Manhas as the new President following the passing of Inderjit Singh Bindra.
- AIFF: Amalia Valverde was appointed head coach of the Senior Indian Women's Football team by the All India Football Federation.
- IOC: Soraya Aghaei became the first Iranian woman appointed to the Switzerland-based International Olympic Committee.
- Olympic Council of Asia: Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani was named President of the Kuwait City-headquartered council.

6. Brand Ambassador Appointments

- Jasprit Bumrah was appointed as the brand ambassador for global Japanese apparel retailer UNIQLO.
- MS Dhoni was named brand ambassador for the BHIM payments app (appointed by NPCI BHIM Services Limited) and the Pune Grand Tour 2026.
- Ravindra Jadeja was selected as the brand ambassador for City Union Bank on a 2-year contract.
- Virat Kohli was appointed by United Spirits Limited as the official brand ambassador strictly for its prominent Johnnie Walker blended water campaign.
- AR Rahman was appointed as brand ambassador for Yamaha Music India and DSC Developer.
- Vidya Balan became the brand ambassador for Federal Bank.
- Andre De Grasse was named the ambassador for the 21st Tata Mumbai Marathon.
- Sania Mirza was appointed for Derma Co.
- The appointment of MS Dhoni for the BHIM app aligns with the government's aggressive target to achieve a 5% UPI market share by 2028.

4. Arts & Cultural Affairs

1. Traditional Festivals & Regional Celebrations

- Mizoram: Observed Chapchar Kut, its traditional spring festival, in the capital city of Aizawl.
- Rajasthan: Celebrated the Gangaur Festival, which is prominently dedicated to worshipping Goddess Gauri.
- Sikkim: Hosted the Indian Rocket Festival in Pakyong, with the official theme "Orchids for Beauty and Prosperity".
- New Delhi: Hosted the Bharat Tribe Fest 2026 (or Bharat Tribes Fest), which officially began on March 18,.
- Uttarakhand: The Chief Minister officially celebrated the Phool Dei Festival, a traditional harvest and spring festival primarily observed in the Garhwal and Kumaon regions.
- Jammu & Kashmir: Celebrated the vibrant Tawi Festival of Arts.
- Arunachal Pradesh: The Apatani tribe celebrated the Myoko Festival in Ziro Valley.
- Kerala: Hosted the Parippally Gajamela, a traditional elephant pageant.
- Goa: Celebrated Shigmotsov (Shigmo), a vibrant 14-day spring festival.
- Andhra Pradesh: Ratha Saptami was officially noted and recognized as a state festival.
- Telangana: The World Buddhist Peace Conference 2026 was held from March 27 to 29 in Hyderabad and Buddhavanam.
- The World Buddhist Peace Conference was formally organized by the Telangana Tourism Development Corporation in conjunction with the Vietnam Buddhist Sangha.

2. Heritage, Monuments, and Preservation Initiatives

- Kalinjar Fort: The Geological Survey of India (GSI) officially declared Kalinjar Fort Hill, located in Banda district, Uttar Pradesh, as a National Geoheritage Site,.,.
- Gyan Bharatam Mission: The Union Ministry of Culture, under Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, launched this mission (restructuring the earlier 2003 National Mission for Manuscripts) to survey, document, conserve, and digitize India's manuscript heritage found in academic institutions, museums, and private collections,.
- Prambanan Temple Restoration: India partnered with Indonesia to restore the historic Prambanan Temple Complex located in Sleman, near Yogyakarta, Java,.,.
- Uttar Pradesh: Announced Mathura as the location for the first National Cow Culture Museum.
- Andhra Pradesh: Under the PRASHAD scheme, Srikakulam's Arasavalli Sri Suryanarayana Swamy Temple will undergo modernization,.
- Kalinjar Fort features cultural evidence from the Gupta and Chandela dynasties, along with the famous Neelkanth Mahadev temple.
- The Prambanan Temple complex (popularly known as Roro Jonggrang) is a 9th-century UNESCO site built by the Sanjaya Dynasty, featuring 240 temples dedicated to the Hindu deities Shiva, Vishnu, and Brahma,.
- The Standing Finance Committee sanctioned ₹491.66 crore (2025-2031) for the Gyan Bharatam Mission. To qualify for digitization, manuscripts must be handwritten on paper, bark, metal, or palm leaf, and must be at least 75 years old.

3. Cinema, Art Exhibitions, and Literary Releases

- Film Festivals: New Delhi hosted the 21st Asian Women's Film Festival. Imphal's Thangapat Cinema (Manipur) successfully hosted the 3rd Northeast India Film Festival, screening nine regional films.
- Film Policies: Uttarakhand announced a regional cinema film policy offering a ₹2 crore subsidy for films in Garhwali, Kumaoni, Jaunsari, or 8th Schedule languages,.
- Tribes Art Festival 2026: Organized by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and the National Gallery of Modern Art in New Delhi, showcasing 75 tribal artists and 30 tribal forms.
- Book Release: Nobel Peace Prize laureate Kailash Satyarthi released a newly authored book titled "Karuna: The Power of Compassion",,,,,.
- Media Hub Agreement: The Delhi Government (via the Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation) signed a landmark agreement with Prasar Bharati to transform Delhi into a Global Media and Entertainment Hub.
- Folk Music Promotion: The Ministry of Culture signed an MoU with YouTube to globally promote Indian traditional folk and tribal music.
- Ponduru Khadi, hailing from Andhra Pradesh, was formally awarded a prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- India Post released a localized special cover to celebrate the birth centenary of the legendary Surbahar artist Annapurna Devi.
- Prasar Bharati is a public service broadcaster established in 1997 under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, headquartered in New Delhi.



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5. Awards & Prizes

1. International Film & Arts Awards

- The 98th Academy Awards (Oscars 2026) were hosted by comedian Conan O'Brien at the Dolby Theater in Los Angeles.
- The film "One Battle After Another" won a total of 6 Oscars, including Best Picture, Best Director (Paul Thomas Anderson), Best Supporting Actor (Sean Penn), Best Adaptive Screenplay, Best Film Editing, and Best Casting.
- Lead actor Michael B. Jordan won Best Actor for "Sinners".
- Jessie Buckley was awarded Best Actress for "Hamnet".
- Amy Madigan won Best Supporting Actress for "Weapon".
- Autumn Durald Arkapaw won Cinematography for "Sinners", making history as the first woman and first woman of color to win.
- Other Oscar Winners included: Original Song: "Golden" (K-pop Demon Hunters); Animated Feature: K-pop Demon Hunters; Documentary: Mr. Nobody Against Putin; Original Screenplay: Ryan Coogler ("Sinners"); International Feature: Sentimental Value (Norway); Visual Effects: Avatar: Fire and Ash; Best Sound: F1.
- At the Music Academy in Madras, Veena exponent Jayanthi Kumaresh was designated the Sangita Kalanidhi Award.
- Sugandha Kalamegham and Trichur C. Narendran won Sangita Kala Acharya; Trichur C. Narendran (Narendra) was also awarded Nritya Kalanidhi; A. Janardhanan won Nritya Kala Acharya.

2. National Civilian and Gallantry Awards

- A total of 131 Padma Awards 2026 were distributed, including 5 Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan, and 113 Padma Shri.
- The prestigious Padma Vibhushan went to Dharmendra Singh Deol (Art), N. Rajam (Art - Violinist), K.T. Thomas (Public Affairs), V.S. Achuthanandan (Public Affairs, posthumous), and P. Narayanan (Literature & Education).
- 70 personnel were awarded Republic Day Gallantry Awards 2026 (6 posthumously).
- Ashok Chakra: Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla (for Axiom Mission 4 to International Space Station (ISS)).
- Kirti Chakra: Major Arshdeep Singh, Naib Subedar Doleshwar Subba, and Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair.
- Shaurya Chakra: 13 awarded, including female officers Dilna K and Roopa.

3. Literary Awards

- Renowned Tamil poet, lyricist, and author R. Vairamuthu (R van Mutu) was honored with the 60th Jnanpith (Ganpit) Award for the year 2025.
- The Sahitya Akademi Awards 2025 were announced across 24 languages (22 Scheduled + English & Rajasthani). Notable winners include Navtej Sarna (for the English novel "Crimson Spring"), Mamta Kalia (for the Hindi memoir "Jeete Ji Allahabad"), Navesh Sharma (English), Prasun Bandyopadhyay (Bengali), Sa Tamil S (Tamil), and Sadhu Bandraas (Sanskrit).
- Bengali writer and novelist Dr. Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay won the 35th Saraswati Samman 2025 for his 2020 novel "Harabati Katha" (Hara Parvati Katha).

- Historian William Dalrymple won the \$10,000 Mark Lynton History Prize for his Bloomsbury India-published book "The Golden Road: How Ancient India Transformed the World".
- The 2025 Sahitya Akademi awards category distribution included 8 poetry books, 4 novels, 6 short story collections, 2 essays, 1 literary criticism, 1 autobiography, and 2 memoirs.
- The Saraswati Samman is awarded by the KK Birla Foundation (₹15 lakh prize, panel headed by Justice Arjan Kumar Sikri).
- Siddharth Kara was a finalist for the Mark Lynton History Prize.

4. Sports Awards & Record Recognitions

- BCCI Naman Awards 2026: Shubman Gill won the Polly Umrigar Award for Best International Cricketer (Men); Smriti Mandhana won Best International Cricketer (Women) for the 5th time.
- Col. C.K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award went to Roger Binny and Rahul Dravid; Mithali Raj won the BCCI Lifetime Achievement Award for Women.
- 8th Hockey India Annual Awards: Hardik Singh (his 3rd win) and Navneet Kaur (her 1st win) won the prestigious Balbir Singh Sr. Player of the Year awards, accompanied by ₹20 lakh prizes.
- Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award: Awarded to Zafar Iqbal, a 1980 Moscow Olympics gold medalist (prize ₹25 lakh).
- Upcoming U-21 Players: Prinedeep Singh and Sakshi Rana received ₹10 lakh each; Hockey Punjab was officially crowned the Best Member Unit.
- Sportstar Aces Awards 2026: Sports Star of the Year awarded to Mohammed Siraj (Male) and Smriti Mandhana (Female); National Team of the Year secured by the Indian Women's Cricket Team; Harmanpreet Kaur was officially awarded the title of Captain & Moment of the Year.
- Awards of Excellence: Won by Tania Sachdev (Chess), Manika Batra (Table Tennis), and Rani Rampal (Hockey).
- World Archery Awards 2025: India's Sheetal Devi was proudly named the World Archery Para Archer of the Year 2025; France's Baptiste Addis took home the title of Young Archer of the Year.
- ICC Player of the Month (February 2026): Indian pacer Arundhati Reddy won the Women's T20 award, and Pakistani opener Sahibzada Farhan (Shahzaib Farhan) won the Men's award.
- Guinness World Record: Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh adventurer/mountaineer Bhupathi Raju Anmesh Varma (Anmish Varma) set a record in the male category for the fastest climb of the seven volcanic summits (from Mount Elbrus to Mount Sidley) in just 92 days, 4 hours, and 45 minutes.
- Indian hockey veteran Gurjant Singh notably received the respected Arjuna Award in 2021 before his recent retirement at the ceremony.

5. International Honours, Diplomatic, & Environmental Recognition

- Tata Group Chairman N. Chandrasekaran received an Honorary Knighthood (KBE - Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) from King Charles III / the UK government for his contributions to India-UK business ties.
- Former Indian Ambassador to France (2020-2024), Jawed Ashraf, received France's highest award, the "Commandeur de la Légion d'Honneur" (French Legion of Honor of the Commander rank), for strengthening strategic partnerships.
- 44-year-old Iranian scientist Professor Kaveh Madani (also referred to as Kavya Mani, Director of the UN University Institute for Water / UNU-INWEH) won the Stockholm Water Prize 2026 at UNESCO in Paris for his "water bankruptcy" concept (includes a 1 million Swedish Krona prize).

- Adani Group received the "Net Zero Leadership Honor" at India Climate Week 2026 (organized by the Carbon Market Association of India), accepted by Dr. Arun Kumar Sharma.
- Srinivash Dempo received the prestigious "Knight of the Order of the Star of Italy".

6. Women Empowerment & Journalism Awards

- BRICS CCI WE Annual Women Summit (6th Edition, Delhi) honored: Kalpana Soren (Jharkhand MLA) with the Women Empowerment Trailblazer Award; Shabana Azmi (Trailblazer Living Legend); and Debjani Ghosh (Trailblazer Global Women Icon Lifetime Achievement).
- Actress Rituparna Sengupta won the Women Empowerment Award for Art and Culture at the UK House of Commons from Globe Women CIC on International Women's Day.
- Nita Ambani was conferred an Honorary Doctorate by KIIT and awarded the KISS Humanitarian Award 2025 in Bhubaneswar by Mohan Munasinghe for her Reliance Foundation social development work.
- The 20th Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards Ceremony was held in New Delhi, presented by Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan.

7. Corporate, Banking & Innovation Awards

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), under 26th Governor Sanjay Malhotra, won the "Initiative of the Year" award at the 13th Central Banking Awards in London for launching the exclusive ".bank.in" and ".fin.in" internet domains (executed with IDRBT and NIXI).
- Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (or Karnataka Gramin Bank) won the National Award for its 2024-25 Self Help Group (SHG) Bank Linkage performance from the Ministry of Rural Development.
- Former Bandhan Bank MD/CEO Chandra Shekhar Ghosh won the West Bengal Governor Award of Excellence (Vande Mataram Puraskar 2026).
- Azim Premji, Founder Chairman of Wipro, received the ISB Research Catalyst Award from the Indian School of Business (ISB) at its Mohali campus.
- EaseMyTrip successfully won the ICC Tourism Excellence Award in the crucial Tour and Travel Operations category.



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6. Banking & Finance

1. RBI Monetary Policy & Regulatory Guidelines

- The 6-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) kept the Repo Rate unchanged at 5.25%.
- Other standard rates maintained: Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) at 5.0%, Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) and Bank Rate at 5.50%, Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) at 3%, and Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) at 18%.
- For the first half of FY 2026-27, the RBI set the central government's Ways and Means Advances (WMA) limit at ₹2.50 lakh crore (increased from ₹1.5 lakh crore). If 75% is utilized, the RBI may initiate fresh market borrowings.
- The WMA limit for states/UTs was revised to ₹60,118 crore.
- Effective April 10, 2026, the RBI directed Authorized Dealer banks to strictly limit their Net Open Position (NOP) for foreign exchange to \$100 million.
- The RBI mandated full implementation of a single framework for Legal Entity Identifiers (LEI, a 20-character code for companies) and Unique Transaction Identifiers (UTI) by January 2027.
- Under the Integrated Ombudsman Scheme, maximum compensation was increased from ₹10 lakh to ₹30 lakh, and mental harassment compensation from ₹1 lakh to ₹3 lakh (effective July 1, 2026).
- A one-time compensation of ₹25,000 from the Depositor Education and Awareness (DEA) Fund was formally created for digital fraud victims.
- The RBI held its 622nd Central Board Meeting in Patna, where it approved the FY 2026-27 budget, approved the amalgamation of Lalbaug and Akhand Anand Cooperative Banks, and launched "Utkarsh 3.0" (a 2026-2029 medium-term strategy framework).
- The RBI injected ₹48,014 crore into the banking system via a Variable Rate Repo (VRR) auction at a 5.26% rate.
- Combined Penalties: The RBI imposed penalties exceeding ₹2 crore across institutions: Union Bank of India (₹95.40 lakh), Bank of India (₹58.50 lakh), Central Bank of India (₹63.6 lakh), HSBC Bank (₹31.80 lakh), Airtel Payments Bank (₹31.8 lakh), Paytm (₹18.76 lakh), Cashfree Payments (₹3.10 lakh), Pine Labs (₹3.10 lakh), and Manappuram Finance (₹2.70 lakh).
- Ensures banking discipline and manages temporary cash mismatches (overdrafts exceeding 90 days incur a penalty of Repo Rate + 2%).
- The RBI notably won the "Initiative of the Year" award at the 13th Central Banking Awards in London for launching the exclusive ".bank.in" and ".fin.in" internet domains to prevent cyber fraud.
- Financial Literacy Week (Feb 9-13, 2026) featured the theme "KYC - Your first step to safe banking," while Digital Payment Awareness Week featured a pilot with CSC e-Governance and the "Thoda Dhyan Se" campaign.

2. Macroeconomic Indicators, GDP Forecasts & Trade Data

- The Government of India and the RBI formally retained the retail inflation target at 4% for a five-year period (April 2026 to March 2031), keeping the tolerance band between 2% and 6%. Retail inflation for February was 3.21%.
- India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation rate for February 2026 stood at an 11-month high of 2.13% (base year 2011-12).

- NSO data revealed India's overall unemployment declined to 4.9% in February 2026 (Urban 6.6%, Rural 4.2%). The PLFS Annual Report 2025 noted an urban Worker Population Ratio of 57.4% and an unemployment rate of 3.1%.
- India's industrial growth (IIP) actively stood at 5.2% in February, with the Combined Index of Eight Core Industries growing by 2.3%.
- Trade Data (April-February): Total merchandise and service exports rose to \$790.86 billion (Service exports alone hit \$348 billion), while imports stood at \$900.51 billion. The overall merchandise exports slightly contracted by 0.81% year-on-year.
- GDP Forecasts: Fitch (7.5% FY26, 6.7% FY27), S&P Global (7.6% FY26, 7.1% FY27), OECD (7.6% FY26, 6.1% FY27), ICRA (7.6% FY26, 6.5% FY27). Goldman Sachs downgraded its 2026 projection to 5.9%.
- The US Federal Reserve held its benchmark rate steady at 3.5% to 3.75%.
- Tamil Nadu emerged as India's top textile exporter (\$7,997 million, 21.84% share). The US remains India's largest export destination, followed by the UAE, while China surpassed the Netherlands to become the 3rd largest.
- The NITI Aayog's Fiscal Health Index categorized Odisha, Goa, and Jharkhand in the "Achiever" category.

3. Taxation, Budgets & Economic Surveys

- The Lok Sabha successfully passed the Finance Bill 2026, aiming to reduce the fiscal deficit to 4.3% of the GDP for FY 26-27, projecting a total government expenditure of ₹53.47 lakh crore.
- The Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) was officially reduced from 15% to 14%.
- The "Startup Tax Holiday" eligibility criteria were expanded to companies with turnovers up to ₹500 crore.
- New Tax Slabs (2026-27): Rs 0 to 4 lakh (0%), Rs 4 to 8 lakh (5%), Rs 8 to 12 lakh (10%), and Income above Rs 24 lakh (30%).
- The Government of India aims to borrow a total of ₹16.09 lakh crore through RBI-auctioned Government Dated Securities in FY 2026-27.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the "PRARAMBH 2026" campaign and the "Kar Saathi" AI chatbot to educate citizens on the New Income Tax Act 2025 (effective April 1).
- The Union Budget 2026-27 announced safe harbor regimes and tax holidays extending until 2047 for foreign cloud service companies utilizing Indian infrastructure.
- Delhi Economic Survey (FY 2025-26): Projected a 7.92% growth in per capita income (₹5,31,610) and GSDP growth of 9.42%. Delhi's FY27 budget allocated ₹1.03 lakh crore.
- Tripura presented its FY27 state budget totaling ₹34,212.31 crore (+5.52% increase).
- Premature redemption for the 2019-20 Series IV SGBs was fixed at ₹15,814 per unit.

4. Financial Markets & SEBI Regulations

- SEBI revised Minimum Public Shareholding (MPS) norms for mega IPOs, expanding categories from three to six, and decreasing the initial listing requirement from 5% to 2.5%.
- Social Impact Funds (SIF) were regulated as a subcategory of Category 1 AIFs, with the minimum individual investment drastically reduced from ₹2 lakh to ₹1,000.
- Mutual funds are now officially authorized to invest in Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), and the "Netting of Funds" mechanism was approved for Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs).
- SEBI made it mandatory by default to add a nominee for single-holder Demat accounts and Mutual Fund folios (up to 4 nominees allowed).

- SEBI eased the "fit and proper" criteria (criminal FIRs no longer trigger automatic disqualification) and reduced the registration non-consideration period to 6 months.
- SEBI set minimum capital requirements at ₹5 lakh (individuals) and ₹50 lakh (companies) for investment advisors.
- SEBI launched the "SEBI Setu" digital regulatory guidance platform and a 'Verified App Label' on the Google Play Store.
- SEBI penalized 18 entities with a 5-year ban and ₹2.8 crore in total fines for manipulating 'Retro Green Revolution Ltd' shares.
- Interest rates for 12 specific small savings schemes officially remain unchanged for the April-June quarter.
- This stabilization actively marks the 9th consecutive quarter where these specific central rates remain fully unmodified.
- Key maintained rates include the **Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (8.2%)**, Sukanya Samriddhi Account (8.2%), National Savings Certificate (7.7%), **Kisan Vikas Patra (7.5%, 115 months maturity)**, and **Public Provident Fund (7.1%)**.

5. Digital Payments & Banking Innovations

- The RBI explicitly mandated Two-Factor Authentication (2FA) for all digital payments regardless of amount, effective April 1, 2026 (domestic) and October 1, 2026 (cross-border).
- The CBIC expanded its ICEGATE payment aggregator to enable customs duty payments via UPI, Credit Cards, and Debit Cards.
- NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) expanded UPI merchant acceptance in Sri Lanka via the Lanka QR code.
- Jio Payments Bank partnered with RNFI Services ('RallyPay') to launch a cardless UPI-based cash withdrawal facility at Business Correspondent points via QR code.
- Bank of Baroda became India's first public sector bank to launch an Overdraft facility (UPI-linked credit line) of up to ₹5,000 exclusively for eligible women SHG members with PMJDY accounts.
- Cred received final approval from the RBI to operate as a Payment Aggregator.
- Razorpay launched the world's first AI-powered "Agent Studio".
- The RBI released a Payment Vision 2028 document titled "Shaping India's Payment Frontier".
- Ensures rapid digital financial inclusion while enforcing rigid data privacy. The government aims for the BHIM app (with new ambassador MS Dhoni) to secure a 5% UPI market share by 2028.
- India's banking system faced a severe ₹65,900 crore liquidity deficit for the first time in 2026, compounded by the RBI selling \$20 billion to defend the Rupee.

6. Credit Guarantee Schemes & MSME Support

- The Government introduced the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Microfinance Institutions 2.0 (CGS MFI 2.0) to provide up to ₹20,000 crore in credit guarantee support via NCGTC.
- CGS MFI 2.0 guarantee covers are tiered at 80% for small, 75% for medium, and 70% for large NBFC-MFIs, with a guarantee fee of 0.50% per annum.
- The Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme (MCGS) was modified to expand to service sector MSMEs and reduced the minimum machinery investment condition from 75% to 60% of the project cost.
- Under MCGS, Member Lending Institutions may extend loans up to ₹100 crore, with NCGTC providing 60% guarantee coverage for a 10-year tenure.
- Collateral-free loan limits for MSMEs were raised from ₹10 lakh to ₹20 lakh.
- The CCEA officially approved a ₹1718.56 crore allocation toward the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for cotton farmers.

- CGS MFI 2.0 is estimated to heavily benefit about 36 lakh small borrowers through on-lending. The RELIEF Scheme (₹497 crore) was also launched to specifically reimburse and protect exporters impacted by West Asia maritime disruptions.

7. Major Corporate Financial Investments & FDI Deals

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) cleared a \$4.4 billion (₹39,618 crore) deal for Japan's MUFG Bank to acquire a 20% stake in Shriram Finance.
- The RBI approved Avenir Investments to acquire a 41.23% stake in Samman Finserv for ₹8850 crore.
- RBI and SEBI approved Bain Capital's ₹4,385 crore indirect investment into Manappuram Finance and its subsidiaries.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank divested a 30.99% stake in Infina Finance for ₹1,293.91 crore.
- Axis Bank cleared a ₹1500 crore investment into its 100% owned subsidiary, Axis Finance.
- Swatantra Microfin officially became India's second-largest NBFC microfinance institution after amalgamating with CIFCPL and Swatantra Holdings.

8. Insurance & Pension Sector Updates

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) proposed a consent-driven digital Public Insurance Registry to act as the backend for the Bima Sugam e-marketplace.
- IRDAI formally authorized Allianz Jio Reinsurance Ltd (a 50:50 joint venture between Jio Financial Services and the Allianz Group) to underwrite reinsurance business in India.
- Shriram General Insurance launched a product titled 'Shri Health Suraksha 2.0'.
- The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) officially extended the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) to 2030-31.
- PFRDA set up an expert panel under Narayan Ramachandran to systematically modernize the National Pension System (NPS) investment framework.
- PFRDA partnered with the Digital India Bhashini Division to launch the "Bhashini Sahayogi Program", providing multilingual voice/AI capabilities to pension services across 22 scheduled languages.

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7. Defence Affairs

1. Major Procurement and Indigenization Contracts

- The MoD signed a massive ₹858 crore contract with Russia's JSC Rosoboronexport for advanced air defense system procurement and maintenance, which explicitly includes a ₹445 crore deal for the 2S6 Tunguska Air Defense Missile System.
- The MoD formalized a contract with Boeing India Defence Pvt Ltd (valued between ₹43 crore and ₹413 crore) for the depot-level inspection and maintenance of the Navy's P-8I long-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft.
- The Indian Army signed its very first capital procurement contract strictly via the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal—an impressive ₹25.9 crore deal with JCB India Limited for 93 telescopic handlers.
- Adani Defence and Aerospace officially delivered the first colossal batch of 2,000 'Prahaar' 7.62mm Light Machine Guns directly to the Indian Army. Manufactured in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, this forms part of a monumental 4,000-gun order to be completed over 3 years.
- Saga Defense laid the foundation stone for India's first Autonomous Maritime Ship Building and Systems Centre at Juvvaladinne Fishing Harbour, Nellore, Andhra Pradesh, occupying 29.58 acres.
- The Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) successfully test-fired the Pinaka long-range guided rocket and the Agni-3 missile from Chandipur, Odisha.
- It is noted that India is currently the 2nd largest arms importer globally, behind Ukraine.
- Ordnance Factories Day was celebrated on March 18 by the MoD with the theme "Atmanirbhar Bharat", marking the historic 1801 establishment of India's first ordnance factory in Cossipore, Kolkata.

2. Bilateral and Multilateral Military Exercises

- IMEX-26: The Indian Navy successfully hosted the 3rd edition of the IONS Maritime and Tabletop Exercise at the Maritime Warfare Centre in Kochi, Kerala.
- Exercise Kakadu 2026: Hosted by the Royal Australian Navy featuring 19 nations and 6,000 personnel. The Indian Navy stealth frigate INS Nilgiri won the prestigious Kakadu Shield trophy.
- Exercise Sea Dragon: The Indian Navy (deploying a Boeing P8I) participated in the USA-led anti-submarine exercise at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam, alongside the USA, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and South Korea.
- Exercise Amogh Jwala (or Amogh Jala): The Indian Army's Southern Command validated technology-driven mechanized warfare capabilities over 13 days at Babina Field Firing Ranges, UP, utilizing Apache helicopters, drones, and fighters.
- Exercise LAMITIYE: The 11th iteration took place between the armed forces of India and Seychelles at the Seychelles Defence Academy, featuring tri-service participation (Army, Navy, Air Force) for the very first time.
- IOS Sagar: The 2nd iteration of this Indian Ocean naval exercise was launched on March 16th. Personnel from 16 friendly foreign countries will receive joint operations training and maritime security education at the Kochi naval establishment.
- Other Domestic Exercises: Milan (13th Edition) was inaugurated by Rajnath Singh in Visakhapatnam, AP; Vajra Ghat & Vayu Shakti were held in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan; Khanjar (13th Edition) between India and Kyrgyzstan was held in Masimari, Assam; and Agni Pariksha was conducted jointly by the Army and ITBP in East Siang, Arunachal Pradesh.

- Numerous static bilateral exercises were noted, including: Ekuverin (Maldives), Bongo Sagar (Bangladesh), Varuna/Garuda (France), Yudh Abhyas (US), SIMBEX (Singapore), SLINEX (Sri Lanka), JIMEX (Japan), Harimau Shakti (Malaysia), Garuda Shakti (Indonesia), Al Najah (Oman), Cyclone-I (Egypt), Sada Tanseeq (Saudi Arabia), Indra (Russia), Surya Kiran (Nepal), and Nomadic Elephant (Mongolia).

3. Commissioning, Operations, and Ship Deployments

- **Operation Urja Suraksha:** Launched by the Indian Navy to secure and escort India-bound energy vessels (LNG, LPG, and crude oil) traversing the critical Strait of Hormuz amid West Asia tensions. Escorted vessels include the LPG carriers Pine Gas, Jag Vasant, Shivalik, Nanda Devi, and the crude oil tanker Jag Ladki.
- **Project Vayu Baan:** The Indian Air Force (IAF) unveiled India's first helicopter-dropped small drone project. The drone features autonomous navigation, a 50 km range, 30 minutes of endurance, and electro-optical/infrared sensors.
- **INS Taragiri:** The fourth stealth frigate built under Project 17A (constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited) boasting 75% indigenous content is scheduled for commissioning into the Indian Navy on April 3, 2026, in Visakhapatnam.
- **Samudra Pratap:** Defense Minister Rajnath Singh successfully commissioned the Indian Coast Guard ship in Goa.
- **Global Deployments:**
 - INS Sudarshini reached Sète, France for the "Escale à Sète" tall ships festival as part of the 22,000-nautical-mile "Lokayan 26" global expedition (also arrived at Valletta, Malta).
 - INS Trikand was actively deployed to Maputo, Mozambique, and Port Victoria, Seychelles.
 - Indian Coast Guard ships Varaha and Atulya arrived at Colombo Port, Sri Lanka.
 - The Indian Navy's First Training Squadron (Tir, Shardul, Sujata, and Coast Guard ship Sarathi) called at Phuket Deep Sea Port, Thailand.
- The Indian Navy is headquartered in Delhi. The Chief of Naval Staff is Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, and the Vice Chief is Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan.

4. Strategic MoUs and International Defence Pacts

- **India-France:** The nations agreed on reciprocal defense personnel deployment during Emmanuel Macron's visit.
- **Technology & Indigenization:** The Indian Army's Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (EME) signed an MoU with the IIT Madras Pravartak Technologies Foundation to accelerate indigenous arms manufacturing.
- **Border Security:** The Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) signed an MoU with the SSB Academy in New Delhi to accredit specialized border-guarding training programs.
- **Space & Communication:** The Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) HQ partnered with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for critical satellite-based communication support.
- **Diplomatic Meetings:** Indian Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi met the UK's First Sea Lord, Sir Har Smith, discussing maritime/aerospace security, energy challenges, and interoperability.
- **CAPF Leadership:** The central government introduced an "umbrella law" for Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) to officially retain Indian Police Service (IPS) officers on deputation for top leadership roles.
- **Global Pacts:** Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Qatar's Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani signed a bilateral defense cooperation agreement explicitly targeted against "Shahed" drones. Ukraine and Saudi Arabia also formalized a separate air defense cooperation agreement.

8. International Affairs

1. Geopolitical Tensions & West Asia Crisis Management

- India acted as a co-sponsor, alongside 134 other nations, for a United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolution demanding that the Islamic Republic of Iran immediately cease attacks against Jordan and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.
- The resolution successfully passed with thirteen UNSC members voting in favor, while China and Russia officially abstained.
- The United Nations aggressively launched a multinational task force to safeguard maritime trade navigating the strategic Strait of Hormuz.
- The task force is explicitly led by Jorge Moreira da Silva, the Executive Director of the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), with political engagement led by Jean Arnault.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi formed seven specific empowered committees to systematically handle the West Asia crisis.
- Group 1 (Strategic/Defense/External Affairs/Public Order) is led by Vikram Misri.
- Group 2 (Economic/Finance/Trade/Supply Chain) is led by Anuradha Thakur.
- Group 3 (Energy/Oil/LNG/LPG) is led by Neeraj Mittal.
- Group 4 (Agriculture/Fertilizers) is led by Rajat Kumar Mishra.
- Group 5 (Price Stability/Essential Commodities) is led by Nidhi Khare, critically tasked with anticipating high inflation and preparing for crude oil prices potentially spiking to \$200.
- Group 6 (Transport & Logistics Systems) is led by Vijay Kumar.
- Group 7 (Communication & Public Outreach) is led by Sanjay Jaju.

2. Diplomatic Relief Efforts and Border Trade Resumptions

- Trade through the Lipulekh Pass between India and China will officially resume in 2026 after being completely suspended since 2020.
- Indian envoy Santosh Jha met Sri Lankan official K.D. Lal Kantha to actively discuss modern technology integration to boost agricultural yields.
- The Indian Army successfully constructed a 240-foot Bailey Bridge on the Chilodua road in Sri Lanka strictly as part of Cyclone Diva relief efforts.
- The Lipulekh Pass connects Uttarakhand's Kumaon region to Tibet at an altitude of 5,334 meters and will be operational exclusively from June to September.

3. Global Governance, Mandates, and Institutional Withdrawals

- Argentina officially withdrew from the World Health Organization (WHO) and a related treaty under the Vienna Convention's one-year notice period.
- This major policy shift was directly announced by President Javier Milei and officially confirmed by government official Pablo Quirno.
- It is noted that the USA previously exited the WHO and also recently exited the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
- Indonesia officially banned all social media usage for children under the age of 16.
- Indonesia is concurrently undertaking the massive task of relocating its national capital from Jakarta to Nusantara.
- Sri Lanka transitioned public sector jobs to a four-day week (making Wednesdays a public holiday) specifically to conserve fuel, effective March 18.

- Sri Lanka also reintroduced the National Fuel Pass QR system, officially setting caps at 15 liters per week for private cars and 5 liters per week for motorcycles.
- US President Donald Trump announced that signatures of himself and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent will replace the US Treasurer's signature on currency starting in June.
- The US currency update marks 250 years of independence, though the phrase "In God We Trust" remains mandatory.
- Global tech giant Meta permanently shut down its Metaverse project after sinking a massive \$80 billion into its development.
- The United Nations (UN) was established in 1945, has 193 member countries, and is headquartered in New York.
- Cyprus currently holds the European Union (EU) presidency.



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9. Meetings & Summits

1. Major Energy & Power Sector Summits

- The inaugural 1st Bharat Electricity Summit (BES) 2026 was held at YashoBhoomi, New Delhi from March 19-22.
- The summit was organized by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE),.
- The overarching theme of the summit was "Electrifying growth empowering sustainability connecting globally",.
- The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) officially launched the midterm review of the 20th Electric Power Survey at the Bharat Electricity Summit.
- Concurrently, the Prakriti 2026 Conference (also organized by the BEE) was inaugurated by Union Power Minister Manohar Lal in New Delhi.
- The state of Goa successfully hosted the India Energy Week.
- The BES (Bharat Electricity Summit) reinforced India's crucial environmental targets: reaching 500 GW of non-fossil capacity by 2030 and achieving net-zero emissions by 2070.
- It was formally announced that the 2nd edition of the Bharat Electricity Summit will be held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, in 2028.

2. International Diplomatic Consultations & Summits

- The 7th India-Russia UN Consultations were held in New Delhi, led by India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Secretary (West) Shri Sibi George and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Alimov,.
- The 9th Foreign Office Consultations took place in Belgrade, Serbia, led by Sibi George and Damjan Jovic, focusing on trade, defense, science, and tech.
- The 14th World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference was held in Yaoundé, Cameroon, chaired by Luc Magloire.
- External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar attended the G7 Foreign Ministers' meeting in France, where he met his German and Canadian counterparts and advocated for UNSC reforms,.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to travel to France for the G7 Summit from June 15-17.
- Shruti Pradhan (also referred to as Sudipti Pradhan) from Sikkim was selected to represent India at the World Youth Parliament 2026 to discuss global challenges like climate change,.
- The upcoming G7 Summit will be hosted in Evian, France. Current members include France, US, Japan, Italy, UK, Germany, and Canada. Guests include India, South Korea, Brazil, and Kenya, while China is explicitly excluded.

3. Women's Empowerment & Social Development Summits

- The Global Conference on Women in Agri-Food Systems was held in New Delhi, where the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) announced the development of a National Gender Platform,.
- The 6th Edition of the BRICS CCI WE (Chamber of Commerce and Industry Women Empowerment) Annual Women Summit 2026 was hosted in New Delhi from March 21-23,,,
- The formal theme for the BRICS summit was "Women in Innovation, Science, Leadership, Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Inspiring Change, Shaping Tomorrow".

4. Regulatory Board Meetings & Financial Conclaves

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) held its 622nd Central Board Meeting in Patna, Bihar, chaired by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra,.,
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) held its 213th Board Meeting in Mumbai to address conflicts of interest, social impact investments, and alternative investment regulations.
- The India Mines and Minerals Conclave 2026 was held, featuring a joint report presented by ASSOCHAM and ICRA.
- The India Mines and Minerals Conclave 2026 explicitly identified Odisha as the top contributor to India's mining economy.

5. Regional, Cultural, & Healthcare Conferences

- The World Buddhist Peace Conference 2026 was held from March 27 to 29 in Hyderabad and Buddhavanam in Telangana,.,
- The first National Conference on Cold Water Fisheries was hosted in Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir,.
- The 9th edition of the Pharma Med event will take place in New Delhi on March 27, hosted by the Department of Pharmaceuticals and the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
- President Droupadi Murmu formally addressed the Black Swan Summit held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- The 14th edition of AAHAR (International Food and Hospitality Fair) opened in New Delhi on March 15.
- The World Buddhist Peace Conference was formally organized by the Telangana Tourism Development Corporation in conjunction with the Vietnam Buddhist Sangha,.
- The specific theme for the Pharma Med event is "Healthcare Equity: Reaching of Every Citizen of Viksit Bharat".

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10. Miscellaneous

Portals, Apps, and Digital Platforms

- The "My Waves Platform" was introduced as a citizen-centric creator Over-The-Top (OTT) platform, explicitly described as an "Instagram for India" allowing users to freely create, upload, and share digital content.
- The travel fintech platform Scapia launched an in-app "Scapia Pay" service, allowing users to actively earn rewards using RuPay credit cards.
- The National Housing Bank (NHB) successfully launched the "Griha Sugam Portal".
- The "Real-Time Internal Audit Portal" (ruralaudit.gov.in) was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development (under Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan) and was developed directly by the National Informatics Centre (NIC).
- Citizens can report financial fraud directly via the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal or by calling the 1930 helpline.
- The BHIM app was originally launched in 2016; its current updated version (BHIM 3.0) natively supports over 15 languages.
- The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) network now allows access to international mobile numbers in over 12 countries.

Industry, Agriculture, and Economic Data

- The domestic pharmaceutical sector is anticipated to rapidly scale from \$60 billion to \$130 billion by the year 2030.
- The Indian pharmaceutical industry generates ₹4.72 lakh crore annually and currently consists of over 3,000 companies and 10,500 manufacturing units.
- India accounts for 20% of global generic medicines, cementing its structural role as the 'pharmacy of the world', and currently provides 40-70% of global DPT and BCG vaccines.
- Globally, India ranks 3rd in production volume and 11th in production value within the pharmaceutical sector.
- National power demand is currently growing at 6% annually, and is heavily expected to reach 459 Gigawatts (GW).
- The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) projected that India's power capacity will more than double from 520 GW to 1,121 GW by Financial Year 2036 (FY36).
- By FY36, solar energy will provide 509 GW, coal 315 GW, and wind 155 GW.
- Currently, non-fossil fuels account for 786 GW, which represents 70% of installed capacity but only 49% of the generation share.
- The rare earth permanent magnet plant produces the world's strongest magnets (featuring a tetragonal crystal pattern) to bolster domestic Electric Vehicle (EV), renewable energy, and advanced electronics capabilities.
- The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare released horticulture crop estimates: the 2024-25 horticulture production is around 370.74 million tonnes, and the 2025-26 first advance estimate is about 370.85 million tonnes.
- As per official definitions, "Marginal farmers" are those holding up to 1 hectare of land, while "Small farmers" hold 1 to 2 hectares.

- The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution increased the commission rates for government wheat and paddy procurement, effective starting from the Rabi Marketing Season 2026-27.
- For Arthiyas (commission agents): The wheat commission was raised to ₹50.75 per quintal in Punjab and Haryana, and ₹45.67 per quintal in Rajasthan.
- For Cooperative Societies: The wheat commission was raised to ₹29.79 per quintal, and the paddy commission was raised to ₹35.30 per quintal.
- Himachal Pradesh (HP) holds the record of being the first state nationally to offer the highest milk Minimum Support Price (MSP), officially guaranteeing Cow milk at ₹32–₹51/liter and Buffalo milk at ₹47–₹61/liter.
- The central government formally initiated the 6th phase of the mandatory Hallmarking of Gold Jewellery and Gold Artefacts Order 2026, increasing the total number of mandatory hallmarking districts nationwide to 380.
- Seven new districts were added to the mandatory hallmarking list: Rupnagar, Banda, Beed, Gomati, Katihar, Beawar, and Neemuch.
- Mandatory hallmarking requires a unique 6-digit alphanumeric Hallmark Unique Identification (HUID) code for 14, 18, 20, 22, 23, and 24-carat gold items (verifiable by consumers on the BIS Care app), while hallmarking for 9-carat gold remains strictly voluntary.

Legislative Frameworks, Governance, and Social Initiatives

- A newly introduced bill proposes sweeping amendments to the Transgender Persons Act 2019.
- The bill proposes strict definitions and rights for transgender persons encompassing socio-cultural identities like Kinner and Hijra, but explicitly excludes those with different sexual orientations.
- It proposes punishments ranging from 10 years to life imprisonment and minimum fines of up to ₹5 lakh for forcing an individual into a transgender identity via mutilation or surgical procedures.
- Medical guidelines for the "Right to Die with Dignity" were originally formulated under the 2018 Common Cause Judgment and are legally considered a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution.
- Under Article 324(5) of the Constitution, a Chief Election Commissioner's (CEC) removal is conducted similarly to a Supreme Court Judge (for proven misbehavior or incapacity).
- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change successfully amended Rule 9(12) of the Van Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan Rules 2023.
- Historically, Madhya Pradesh was the first state to successfully implement the Right to Service Act.
- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs (via Union Minister Jual Oram) introduced "Risa - a timeless tribal", a premium signature brand inspired by traditional Tripura handwoven shawls and formulated by the National Institute of Design, Haryana.
- The "Risa" brand is built upon four pillars (design intervention, capacity building, infrastructure development, and premium packaging), with the first phase focusing heavily on 10 distinct clusters across various states.
- Rashtrapati Bhavan hosted the "Purple Fest", an event organized by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to formally celebrate the achievements and talents of Divyangjan (persons with disabilities).
- The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) held its first Young Professionals Exchange Program (March 9-15) in Mumbai/Pune, organized by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the state of Maharashtra.
- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) extended its "clean toilet picture challenge" to June 30.

Infrastructure, Energy Projects, and Logistics Breakdown

- The disaster relief assistance totaling ₹1,912.99 crore approved by the central high-level committee included specific state allocations: Gujarat (₹778.67 crore), Andhra Pradesh (₹341.48 crore), Jammu & Kashmir (₹330.34 crore), Himachal Pradesh (₹288.39 crore), Nagaland (₹158.41 crore), and Chhattisgarh (₹15.70 crore).
- In Assam, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Asom Mala 3.0 with a ₹3,200 crore allocation to lay down a 900 km road network, launched the Silchar-Shillong corridor (valued at ₹22,860 crore / ₹2,864 crore), inaugurated the New Jalpaiguri-Guwahati Express, and launched a Vishwakarma Vatika in Jorhat.
- The 120 MW Lower Kopili Hydroelectric Project was developed by the Assam Power Generation Corporation with direct assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- In West Bengal, PM Modi dedicated Haldia port mechanization projects and launched a Vishwakarma Vatika in Kolkata; the Haldia Bulk Terminal was developed by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (SEZ Ltd).
- Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated a pharmaceutical manufacturing facility in Ghatti village, Kathua (J&K), built with a ₹600-700 crore investment by Orchid Pharma and the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).
- Chief Minister Omar Abdullah officially inaugurated the Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden (spanning 74 acres), geographically situated in the Zabarwan range near Dal Lake in Srinagar, Kashmir, which is formally recognized as the largest tulip garden in Asia.
- A ₹100 crore barracks for the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) was inaugurated at Khajuraho Airport.
- Sri Lanka approved a joint venture between India's Jyoti Structures Ltd. and a Sri Lankan company to construct a 28 km transmission line connecting the Mannar and Mullikulam grid substations for wind energy, valued at 2.27 billion Sri Lankan Rupees.
- The Department of Posts expanded faster OTP-based delivery services—Speed Post 24, Speed Post 24 Parcel, and Speed Post 48—to ensure delivery in 24 or 48 hours. Phase 1 of this rollout covers six major cities: New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad.
- Under the Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 framework, "Jal Arpan" was introduced as the formal process of handing over completed piped water supply schemes to Gram Panchayats and communities.
- Concurrently, "Jal Utsav" was instituted as a three-tier annual campaign operating at the national, state, and Gram Panchayat levels.
- NITI Aayog sanctioned ₹1.55 crore in funding to the Rural Innovation Incubation Skilling and Entrepreneurship (RISE) center located in Ibrahimpatnam, NTR district, Anantapur district, Andhra Pradesh.
- Note: The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is headquartered in Gurugram, was founded by India and France in 2015, and the United States of America (USA) recently exited the alliance.

Static Dictionary of Bilateral & Multilateral Military Exercises

- India-Maldives: Ekuverin.
- India-Bangladesh: Bongo Sagar, Sampriti, CORPAT.
- India-France: Shakti, Varuna, Garuda.
- India-US: Tiger Triumph, Yudh Abhyas, Vajra Prahar.
- India-UK: PASSEX.
- India-Singapore: Bold Kurukshetra, SIMBEX.
- India-Sri Lanka: SLINEX, Mitra Shakti.
- India-Japan: Dharma Guardian, JIMEX.
- India-Malaysia: Samudra Lakshmana, Harimau Shakti.
- India-Indonesia: Garuda Shakti.
- India-Oman: Al Najah, Eastern Bridge, Naseem Al Bahr.
- India-Kyrgyzstan: Khanjar.
- India-Egypt: Cyclone-I.
- India-Saudi Arabia: Sada Tanseeq.
- India-Russia: Indra.
- India-Nepal: Surya Kiran.
- India-Thailand: Maitree, Ayutthaya, CORPAT, SITMEX.
- India-Mongolia: Nomadic Elephant.
- Multilateral Exercises: Sea Dragon (Australia, India, Japan, South Korea, US), ZAPAD (Russia, India, and others), and AIME (African nations).

Minor Sporting Events and Broadcast Notes

- Malta will formally host the 8th Commonwealth Youth Games (Oct 29 - Nov 4, 2027) for 1,200 athletes, featuring the largest para-sport program ever.
- Pro Wrestling League 2026 Auction: Japan's Yui Susaki (Haryana Thunders, ₹60 lakh) and Poland's Robert Baran (Maharashtra Kesari, ₹55 lakh) were officially the most expensive female and male players, respectively.
- 72nd National Volleyball Tournament: Inaugurated by PM Modi in Varanasi, UP. The Men's winner was Indian Railway (defeated Kerala), and the Women's winner was Kerala (defeated Indian Railway).
- Minor Cricket Updates: Scotland replaced Bangladesh in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup; Australian player Usman Khawaja officially retired; Deepti Sharma became the highest wicket-taker in Women's T20 cricket.
- During a digital segment broadcast regarding SBI Securities launching a "Women's Mode" under the "Infinity 8" initiative, a disruptive chat troll was addressed on-air and reported to cyber police.

11. MoUs

1. Digital Governance, AI Skilling, and Cybersecurity Partnerships

- The Central Government, in partnership with Google and YouTube, launched the National AI Skilling Initiative.
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) partnered with Google to issue a verified badge for genuine financial apps on the Play Store under the principle "first verify, then invest".
- The National Commission for Women (NCW) partnered with Truecaller to launch the "Women's Digital Safety Awareness Initiative" and the "True Cyber Sakhi" toolkit.
- The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) signed an MoU with the Digital India Bhashini Division (DIBD) for the "Bhashini for Seva Sanchalan (Bhashini Sahayogi Program)".
- The Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) partnered with SEBI to officially launch the "Niveshak Shiksha Pilot Project".
- The Department of Post (Ministry of Communication) partnered with TRIFED (Ministry of Tribal Affairs) to systematically develop a reliable logistics network and Tribal E-Commerce Network.
- The NCW and Truecaller initiative was directly driven by Rishi Jhunjunwala (CEO of Truecaller) and Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar (Chairperson of NCW).

2. International MoUs, Trade Agreements, and Global Pacts

- India Post signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bhutan Post for Postal Cooperation to share digital and technological ecosystem best practices.
- India and Kenya partnered for a pilot project specifically for DigiLocker.
- India's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) signed a working arrangement to implement proper safety standards in the aviation sector.
- Russia's Rosatom signed an agreement to construct the "Ninh Thuan 1" nuclear power plant in Vietnam.
- Tata Steel signed an MoU with the University of Science and Technology Beijing (USTB) China for Low-Carbon Steelmaking.
- FIFA officially designated YouTube as the preferred platform for the 2026 World Cup.
- The Universal Postal Union (UPU) is a UN agency established in 1874, headquartered in Bern, Switzerland, and is currently led by Masahiko Metoki.

3. State-Level Health, Agriculture, and Infrastructure Collaborations

- Himachal Pradesh signed three MoUs and collaborated with the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) for the Dagwar Dairy Project, milk processing, and infrastructure, launching two processing plants.
- Maharashtra partnered with Wadhvani AI to deploy artificial intelligence in public health.
- Oil India Limited (OIL) partnered with the National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) to upgrade tribal health infrastructure in Rajgarh district.
- Chandigarh University launched a Centre of Excellence in Smart Healthcare in Uttar Pradesh (UP).
- Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh signed an MoU comprising 11 structural reforms regarding governance and sustainability.
- Meghalaya became the 12th state to sign a reform-linked Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Union Government.

- The Ministry of Agriculture signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to convert the 10,000 FPOs into Common Service Centers (CSCs).

4. Corporate, Startup, and Industry-Specific Collaborations

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Blue Star Limited for startup promotion.
- The DPIIT effectively signed an MoU with Krafton India to vigorously strengthen the digital and creative "Orange Economy".
- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the GATI Foundation.
- The National Council for Cement and Building Materials (NCCBM) collaborated with Indian startup TraceXro Press Technology.
- The Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation (GMDC) partnered with NMDC to explore the Rare Earth Elements sector together.
- Razorpay and Servi AI partnered to build voice-led, multilingual digital commerce solutions in India.
- The Ministry of Ayush signed a 5-year MoU with the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) to integrate Yoga and Ayurveda into the lives of personnel and their families.
- Ayush Excel partnered with rapid delivery app Zepto for online product availability.
- The All India Institute of Ayurveda partnered with CAYEIT for advancements in digital Ayurveda.

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12. National

Supreme Court Judgments & Legal Affairs

- **Euthanasia Ruling:** The Supreme Court permitted the withdrawal of life support for 32-year-old Harish Rana (suffering from 100% quadriplegia for 13 years), reinforcing the "Right to Die with Dignity" under Article 21 and the 2018 Common Cause Judgment.
- **Maternity Leave:** The Supreme Court (Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan) struck down a restrictive provision under the Code on Social Security, ruling that all adoptive mothers are entitled to 12 weeks of paid maternity leave regardless of the adopted child's age.
- **Scheduled Caste Status:** The Supreme Court (Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and Manmohan) ruled that individuals professing religions other than Hinduism, Buddhism, or Sikhism (such as converting to Christianity or Islam) immediately lose Scheduled Caste (SC) status; however, Scheduled Tribes (ST) converting may retain their status if tribal customs are maintained.
- **Transgender Persons Act 2019:** A newly introduced bill proposes amendments explicitly defining socio-cultural identities like Kinner and Hijra (excluding sexual orientations) and imposes punishments from 10 years to life imprisonment (plus up to a ₹5 lakh fine) for forcing individuals into transgender identities via mutilation.
- **Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill 2026:** The Gujarat Assembly passed the UCC (drafted by retired Justice Ranjana Desai), becoming the second state after Uttarakhand.
- **The opposition INDIA bloc** submitted a formal parliamentary notice under Article 324(5) seeking the removal of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar.

National Governance, Infrastructure & Transport

- **PM Tenure Record:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi officially became India's longest-serving elected head of government, completing 8,931 days in office (surpassing Pawan Kumar Chamling), combining his tenures as Gujarat Chief Minister and Prime Minister.
- **PAN Card Rules:** Starting April 1, 2026, PAN card applications using only an Aadhaar card will be invalid (Date of Birth proof required). A new 10-Character PAN Structure was detailed where the 4th character indicates status (e.g., 'P'=Individual, 'C'=Company, 'H'=HUF).
- **FSSAI Licensing:** The FSSAI abolished mandatory annual license renewals, replacing them with lifetime validity tiered by turnover: Basic (under ₹1.5 crore), State (₹1.5 crore to ₹50 crore), and Central (over ₹50 crore).
- **Railway Reform Express:** The Ministry of Railways unveiled five initiatives altering ticket cancellations (no refunds under 8 hours prior, flat fees at 72 hours, 25% for 72-24 hours, 50% for 24-8 hours) and allowing boarding station changes up to 30 minutes before departure.
- **Amrit Bharat Station Scheme:** A total of 172 stations (including Ayodhya Dham and Alnavar) have been successfully redeveloped, utilizing ₹7,253 crore of the budget.
- **Vande Bharat Sleeper:** Prime Minister Modi flagged off India's inaugural overnight sleeper Vande Bharat train on the Howrah-Guwahati/Kamakhya route (built by BEML Bengaluru, designed by ICF Chennai).
- **LPG Infrastructure:** Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) launched India's first "Bharatgas Insta LPG" ATM at Central Park Flower Valley in Gurugram to dispense 15kg lightweight composite cylinders. Concurrently, India's second LPG carrier, "Nanda Devi," arrived at Vadinar Port.

- Port of Refuge: Adani Ports (APSEZ) operationalized India's first "port of refuge" across Dighi Port (Maharashtra) and Gopalpur Port (Odisha) to support distressed vessels.
- Dam Safety: The National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) inaugurated its New Delhi office along with an AI-driven tool named NETRA, an interactive GIS map of 6,600 dams, and a visual tool named Rashtriya Bandh Suraksha Darpan.
- Dental Commission: The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare formally constituted the National Dental Commission (NDC), effectively repealing the historical Dentists Act of 1948.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs allocated ₹450 crores for the Modernization of State Police Force (MPF) for FY 2026-27.
- The NHAI increased the annual FASTag pass fee for non-commercial vehicles by 2.5% to ₹3,075.
- Safdarjung Hospital in New Delhi launched India's first online critical care follow-up clinic.

State Affairs

- Delhi: The Economic Survey (FY 2025-26) projected a 7.92% growth in per capita income (₹5,31,610) and GSDP growth of 9.42% (₹13,27,055 crore). The state budget for FY27 allocated ₹1.03 lakh crore. Delhi also signed an agreement with Prasar Bharati to become a Global Media and Entertainment Hub.
- Uttar Pradesh: Prime Minister Modi inaugurated Phase 1 of the ₹11,200 crore Noida International Airport in Jewar. The state launched the Nivesh Mitra 3.0 portal, a Private Business Park Policy, and Project GANGA. The CCEA approved ₹6,969 crore for a four-lane National Highway 927 project from Barabanki to Bahraich.
- Madhya Pradesh: Formally declared 2026 as the "Year of Agriculture", expanded the Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana to cover mustard, and will introduce "Garbh Sanskar" education in universities. A ₹4,445 crore PM MITRA textile park is developing in Dhar.
- Chhattisgarh: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai launched the Godam/Gaudhan Yojana to establish 1,460 to 14,460 cattle shelters ("Surabhi Gaudham") with specific feed and maintenance subsidies.
- Uttarakhand & Himachal Pradesh: Both states increased petrol prices by ₹5. HP Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu presented a ₹54,928 crore state budget for FY27.
- Ladakh: Lieutenant Governor Vinay Kumar Saxena inaugurated the Indus River Green Corridor ecological project near Leh.
- Tripura: Officially agreed to adopt Haryana's digital Auto Appeal System for public services.
- Uttar Pradesh announced Mathura as the location for the first National Cow Culture Museum.
- Gujarat: Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel launched the Sugam Digital Gujarat initiative. Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the Kaynes Semicon OSAT plant in Sanand under the India Semiconductor Mission. The state also launched a Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccination campaign.
- Maharashtra: The government formally enacted RTO permits for passenger Electric Vehicles (EVs), and the Navi Mumbai International Airport was officially announced to be named after DB Patil.
- Goa: Added a third district named Kushavati, became the 2nd Indian state to publish a World Atlas, and ranked 5th in the Export Preparedness Index for small states/UTs.
- Odisha: Kusumpur (Rajnagar block, Kendrapara) was inaugurated as Odisha's first smart village. President Droupadi Murmu launched the "Skill the Nation AI Challenge" (SOAR initiative) and inaugurated an IGNOU center in Rairangpur.
- Puducherry: The Central Government approved a ₹1,250 crore IT SEZ project (across 21.3 acres at Thattanchavady) and a ₹2,500 crore Multi-Modal SEZ (750 acres at Sedarapet-Karasur) focusing on pharma and textiles.

- Tamil Nadu: The Central Government officially granted approval to rename Tuticorin Airport to Thoothukudi Airport.
- Karnataka: The University of New South Wales (UNSW) is slated to launch a Bengaluru campus in August 2026.
- Assam: Prime Minister Modi inaugurated infrastructure projects worth ₹47,600 crore, including the 120 MW Lower Kopili Hydroelectric Project, Asom Mala 3.0 (₹3,200 crore), the Silchar-Shillong corridor expressway (₹2,864 crore), and Vishwakarma Vatika. The state announced a ₹122 crore Agriculture College for Karimganj and constituted the 8th State Pay Commission.
- West Bengal: Prime Minister Modi inaugurated projects worth ₹18,680 crore, highlighted by the fully automated Haldia Bulk Terminal at the Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port.
- Manipur: Launched the 'Ningol Van' (or 'Ningol Won') Initiative on the International Day of Forests to empower women in preventing deforestation (the state successfully maintains a 74% forest cover).
- Meghalaya: Became the 12th state to sign a reform-linked MoU with the Union Government under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0, achieving an 83.59% rural tap water coverage rate.
- Bihar: Observed Bihar Foundation Day (commemorating its 1912 separation from Bengal) with the 2026 theme "Unnat Bihar, Ujjwal Bihar".
- Rajasthan: Bmanas Khankar successfully achieved the status of Rajasthan's first fully organic certified Gram Panchayat.



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13. Persons in News

1. Obituaries & Tributes

- Vijaypat Singhanian: The veteran industrialist and highly influential former Chairman of the Raymond Group passed away at the age of 87. He was a distinguished recipient of the Padma Bhushan in 2006.
- Datta Meghe: The veteran Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader, former Member of Parliament (serving in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha), and MLC in Maharashtra passed away at the age of 89.
- Begum Khaleda Zia: The first female Prime Minister of Bangladesh passed away. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar attended her funeral.
- Chuck Norris (USA): The legendary Hollywood actor and 6-time undefeated World Professional Middleweight Karate Champion passed away at age 86. He was heavily recognized for classic movies such as Missing in Action, Delta Force, and Walker, Texas Ranger.
- Lionel Robert Jospin: The former Prime Minister of France (who served from 1997 to 2002) passed away. He is historically recognized globally as the main architect of reducing France's workweek to 35 hours.
- Robert S. Mueller III: The former FBI Director, who served for 12 years, passed away at age 81.
- Kushal Das: The prominent sports administrator and former General Secretary of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) passed away at the age of 66 in New Delhi.
- Madhu Malhotra: The veteran Bollywood/Hindi film supporting actress, famously known for her performance in the song "Lambi Judai" in the film Hero, passed away at the age of 71.
- William Mark Tully: The veteran journalist and former BBC Delhi Bureau Chief passed away.
- Kabindra Purkayastha: The former Union Minister and MP from Silchar, Assam, passed away.
- E.A. Rajendran: The veteran Malayalam actor and director passed away.
- Rahul Arunoday: A highly respected and talented Bengali Actor passed away.

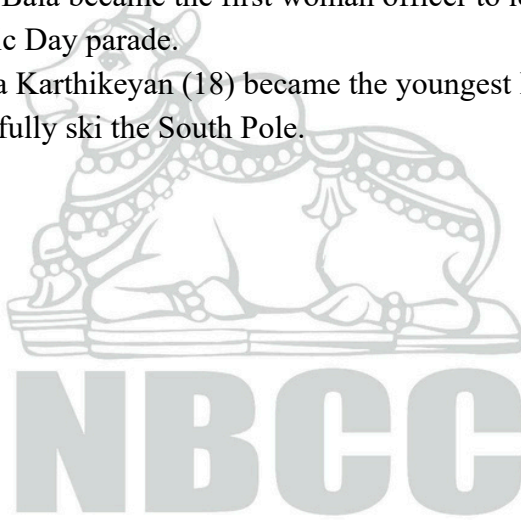
2. Global Billionaires & Wealth Rankings

- Elon Musk topped the Forbes Billionaires List with an incredible \$839 billion net worth, followed by Larry Page, Sergey Brin, Jeff Bezos, and Mark Zuckerberg.
- Mukesh Ambani emerged as India's wealthiest individual with a net worth of \$99.7 billion.
- Forbes (founded in 1917) released a list of 35 youngest billionaires under the age of 30, possessing a combined wealth of \$92.4 billion.
- Notable youngest billionaires globally include ML White Treasures (20), Johannes Von Bauman (20), Clemente Del Vecchio (21), and Kim Jung-youn (22).
- 22-year-old friends Branden Fody, Adarsh Hiremath, and Surya Midha became the youngest billionaires by co-founding the AI hiring platform Mercor. They successfully raised \$350 million at a \$10 billion valuation, holding ~22% equity for a \$2B+ net worth.
- Surya Midha (Co founder of Mercor) was specifically recognized as the youngest self-made billionaire in the world.

3. Personal Milestones & Trailblazers

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi officially became India's longest-serving elected head of government by completing 8,931 days in office, setting a new national record.
- He successfully surpassed the previous historical record of 8,930 days held by former Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling.

- The total duration aggregates his 12+ years as Chief Minister of Gujarat (elected in 2001, 2002, 2007, 2012) and his ongoing tenure as Prime Minister of India (since 2014).
- PM Modi also simultaneously crossed the digital milestones of 30 million YouTube subscribers and 100 million Instagram followers.
- Simran Bala became the first woman officer to lead an all-women CRPF contingent during the 77th Republic Day parade.
- Kaamya Karthikeyan (18) became the youngest Indian and the 2nd youngest global woman to successfully ski the South Pole.



14. Ranks and Reports

1. Global Socio-Economic and Environmental Indices

- World Happiness Report 2026: India improved its rank to 116th out of 147 countries (up from 118th in 2025) with a recorded life evaluation score of 4.536. Finland ranked as the world's happiest country for the 9th consecutive year, followed by Iceland, Denmark, Costa Rica, and Sweden, while Afghanistan was officially ranked the unhappiest country globally.
- Global Terrorism Index 2026: Published by the Sydney-based Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), the index noted that global deaths from terrorism declined by 28%, and attacks dropped by 22% across the 163 evaluated countries. Pakistan ranked 1st as the worst-affected country globally (with 1,239 deaths in 2025), followed by Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, and Mali. India improved its standing, ranking 13th (up from 14th).
- IQAir Pollution Report 2025: Ranked Pakistan as the most polluted country globally, followed by Bangladesh and Tajikistan. India ranked as the 6th most polluted nation.
- A Morning Consult survey ranked Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the most popular global democratic leader with a 68% approval rating.

2. Financial, Wealth, and Trade Reports

- Forbes Billionaires List: Elon Musk topped the list with an \$839 billion net worth, followed by Larry Page, Sergey Brin, Jeff Bezos, and Mark Zuckerberg. Mukesh Ambani emerged as India's wealthiest individual with a net worth of \$99.7 billion.
- Forbes Youngest Billionaires: Forbes (founded in 1917) listed 35 billionaires under the age of 30 possessing a combined wealth of \$92.4 billion. Notable youngest billionaires include ML White Treasures (20), Johannes Von Bauman (20), Clemente Del Vecchio (21), and Kim Jung-youn (22). Surya Midha (co-founder of Mercor) was specifically recognized as the youngest self-made billionaire globally.
- WTO Global Trade Report: The World Trade Organization (WTO) indicated that global merchandise trade growth for 2026 will sharply slow down to 1.9% (down from 4.6% the previous year).
- Morgan Stanley Report: Stated that the Indian economy is highly resilient due to strong domestic demand, high GST collections, and a positive Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), though it warned of major threats from global conflicts, particularly the Middle East crisis.
- WEF AI Report: In the World Economic Forum's (WEF) "Rethinking AI Sovereignty" white paper, India ranked 8th globally for AI investment.
- Tamil Nadu emerged as India's top textile exporter (\$7,997.17 million, 21.84% share), outpacing Gujarat and Maharashtra. The US remained India's largest export destination (despite a 13% decline), while China surpassed the Netherlands to become the 3rd largest (shipments up 32.4%).

3. Domestic Economic, Mining, and Employment Surveys

- PLFS Employment Data: The National Statistical Office (NSO) reported that overall unemployment declined to 4.9% in February 2026 (Urban 6.6%, Rural 4.2%), recording a Labor Force Participation Rate of 55.9% and a Worker Population Ratio of 53.2% based on a sample of 3,74,897. The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) Annual Report 2025 noted an urban Labor Force Participation Rate of 59.3%, a Worker Population Ratio of 57.4%, and an unemployment rate of 3.1%.

- India Mines and Minerals Conclave 2026 Report: A joint report by ASSOCHAM and ICRA declared Odisha as the top contributor to India's mining economy (accounting for about 14% of the country's mining gross value added), followed by Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh.
- Fiscal Health Index: Launched by NITI Aayog, this index officially categorized the states of Odisha, Goa, and Jharkhand in the "Achiever" category.
- Sports Equipment Export Report: NITI Aayog released a report titled "Realizing the Export Potential of India's Sports Equipment Manufacturing Sector". It highlighted that India's current sports exports sit at approximately \$275 million annually (a 0.5% global share) and are heavily concentrated in Jalandhar and Meerut.

4. Education, Justice, and Social Inclusion Rankings

- UNESCO GEM Report: Titled "Access and equity: countdown to 2030", the report notes that 1 in 6 school-age children (amounting to 273 million globally) remain totally out of school. It highlights that only 2 in 3 students actively complete secondary education in 2024. Top-performing nations displaying a 50% reduction in out-of-school populations include Madagascar, Togo, Morocco, Vietnam, Georgia, and Turkey.
- QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026: In the 16th edition, India ranks 4th globally with 99 institutions. Top performers include IIT ISM Dhanbad (21st globally in engineering/mineral mining), IIM Ahmedabad (21st in business, management, and marketing), IIT Kharagpur (2nd in Mining), IIT Bombay (4th in Engg Tech), and IIT Delhi (36th in Engg Tech). VIT ranked 86th, while ICAR-IARI debuted in Agriculture & Forestry.
- Best Cities for Women Professionals: Bengaluru ranked 1st by the Avtar Group, followed by Chennai, Pune, Hyderabad, and Mumbai.
- ICJS 2.0 Rankings: Uttarakhand Police ranked 1st in implementing the Inter-operable Criminal Justice System, followed by Haryana and Assam.



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15. Schemes & Initiatives

1. Agricultural & Rural Welfare Schemes

- **PM-KISAN Scheme:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the 22nd instalment directly from Guwahati, Assam, transferring over ₹18,640 crore to 9.32 crore land-holding farmer families,. The fully central-sector-funded scheme provides eligible farmers with an annual financial benefit of ₹6,000, distributed in three equal instalments (launched retroactively from December 2018)
- **PM PRANAM Scheme:** Launched for a three-year period (2022-23 to 2025-26) to reduce the usage of chemical fertilizers (such as DAP and NPK) by offering states a 50% fertilizer subsidy saving as an incentive,. A Parliamentary Standing Committee explicitly labeled the scheme a "non-starter" because no incentive amounts have been disbursed to eligible states.
- **10,000 FPOs Scheme:** Originally launched in February 2020 with a budget of ₹6,865 crore, all 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations have been successfully registered as of March 1, 2026. The milestone 10,000th FPO is located in Khagaria, Bihar, and 5,000 FPOs are now registered on the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC). The Ministry of Agriculture signed an MoU to convert the 10,000 FPOs into Common Service Centers (CSCs),.
- **SVAMITVA Scheme:** Launched in 2020 by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to heavily rely on drone mapping to issue official "Property Cards" to rural landowners. It assigns a 14-digit Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN), also known as a "Bhu-ID". By March 11, 2026, 3.29 lakh out of 3.44 lakh targeted villages were surveyed, and 3.10 crore property cards were generated (with Uttar Pradesh alone accounting for 1.15 crore cards),.
- **Krishi Sakhi Initiative:** The Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. (AICIL) launched this year-long program, which aligns with the UN FAO's designation of 2026 as the "International Year of Women Farmer Recognition",,
- **Dirghawadi Krishak Punji Sahkar Yojana:** Launched by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) under the Ministry of Cooperation.

2. Infrastructure, Power & Industrial Schemes

- **Bhavya Scheme (Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana):** The Union Cabinet approved a ₹33,660 crore budget to develop 100 plug-and-play industrial parks ranging from 100 to 1,000 acres across India,,,. The government provides ₹1 crore per acre for core infrastructure (roads/ICT) and funds up to 25% of external project costs (highways, railways, ports),,. It is implemented by the National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC),,
- **Small Hydro Power Development Scheme:** Approved with a ₹2,584.60 crore outlay for the 5-year period covering FY 2026-27 to 2030-31,,,. Targets the installation of 1,500 MW of capacity via smaller projects ranging from 1 to 25 MW,,. Funding is capped at ₹30 crore per project for North-East/hilly states and ₹20 crore for other states.
- **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY):** Originally launched in 2020 under the "Blue Revolution" with a ₹20,000 crore investment, the scheme has been officially extended to the year 2025-26,. Actual fish production successfully reached 197.75 lakh tons, representing a 38% increase from 2019-20.

3. Transportation & Aviation Connectivity Schemes

- Revamped RCS UDAN Scheme: The Union Cabinet approved a revamped Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) UDAN for the 2027-2036 period,. The scheme aims to add 120 new destinations, develop 100 new airports (costing Rs 100 crore each), and establish 200 modern helipads (costing Rs 15 crore each),. Financial outlays include reported figures of ₹28,000 crore, or specifically ₹28,840 crore over 8 years and Rs 2,840 crore over the next 10 years,. It offers 80-90% Viability Gap Funding for airlines.
- FARES Scheme ('Fare Se Fursat'): Launched under the UDAN framework by the Ministry of Civil Aviation to make air travel affordable by fixing airfares across six specific Alliance Air routes,. The inaugural flight successfully connected Rewa (Madhya Pradesh) and Raipur (Chhattisgarh),.
- Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS): Launched in 2022 to comprehensively redevelop 1,338 railway stations to be highly passenger-friendly. As of March 2026, 172 stations (including Ayodhya Dham and Alnavar) have been successfully redeveloped utilizing ₹7,253 crore to date, out of a ₹1,218 crore budget allocation for 2025-26.

4. Women, Child & Social Empowerment Schemes

- Lakhpati Didi 2.0 & SheMarts: Introduced to empower 3 crore SHG women by 2027 by providing digital and financial literacy training alongside interest-free loans of up to ₹5 lakh to upgrade small businesses,. The scheme aims for beneficiaries to achieve an annual household income of at least ₹1 lakh, while SheMarts helps eliminate middlemen for local handcraft sales.
- Bal Vivah Mukta Bharat (Child Marriage Free India): The campaign aggressively advanced, successfully reaching 11.81 crore people by March 2026, with the explicit goal of completely eradicating child marriage across India by the year 2030,. It is legally supported by the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006 and the Child and Adolescent Labour Act 1986.
- Shakti Sadan Scheme: The central government merged the Swadhar Greh and Ujjwala schemes under Mission Shakti on April 1, 2022, to form this scheme. It functions as a relief and rehabilitation home for distressed women, currently operating 419 functional Sadans under the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY): Evolved from the BSBDA and launched in 2014, it offers a zero minimum balance, a RuPay debit card, ₹2 lakh accident insurance, and a ₹10,000 overdraft facility (preferentially for women),.

5. Health, Education, and Tech Skilling Initiatives

- Biopharma SHAKTI Scheme: Launched with a ₹10,000 crore outlay over five years, establishing a Discovery Grant Fund, an Equity Fund, and the setup of 1,000 clinical trial sites.
- SATHEE App Initiative: Introduced by the Ministry of Education in collaboration with IIT Kanpur as a free digital learning platform for competitive exams (JEE, NEET, CUET, SSC, IBPS, CLAT, ICAR). It democratizes education by offering content in English, Hindi, and 12 regional languages,.
- Nasha Mukta Vidyalaya Initiative: Jointly issued by the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Home Affairs, mandating the creation of strict drug-free zones within a 500-meter radius of all government and private schools,.
- LaQshya Program: A quality improvement initiative by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare focused on labor rooms and maternity Operation Theaters (OTs),. Currently, 1,244 labor rooms and 917 maternity OTs have successfully achieved certification.

- **National AI Skilling Initiative:** Launched by the Central Government in partnership with Google and YouTube to explicitly target the growth of the "Orange Economy" (creative industries). The program trains 15,000 content creators in AI, animation, VFX, and gaming at the Indian Institute of Creative Technology (IICT) in Mumbai.
- **Yoga 365 Campaign:** Launched by the Ministry of Ayush to make yoga a daily habit, partnering the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga with the "Habuild" platform to offer free daily online sessions.

6. Trade, Export, and Security Schemes

- **RELIEF Scheme:** The Resilience and Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation scheme was launched with a ₹497 crore budget to specifically support Indian exporters impacted by West Asia maritime disruptions and the Strait of Hormuz blockade. Managed by ECGC Ltd., it waives port/storage charges, provides up to 100% additional risk cover for eligible already-insured shipments, and reimburses MSMEs up to 50% (subject to a ₹50 lakh ceiling).
- **IVFRT Scheme:** The Immigration Visa Foreigners Registration and Tracking scheme, which interlinks immigration processes, was officially extended for five years (from April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2031) with an approved budget outlay of ₹1,800 crore.
- **Prarambh 2026 Campaign:** Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched this nationwide awareness campaign to educate citizens on the New Income Tax Act 2025 (effective April 1, 2026),. It aligns with the "MANAV" framework and features an Artificial Intelligence chatbot named "Kar Saathi",.

7. Environment, Water, and Science Missions

- **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0:** Originally launched in 2019, the mission to provide functional tap water to every rural household was officially extended to December 2028,. Budget allocations are reported at ₹8.69 lakh crore (and separately noted as a newly approved budget of ₹1.51 lakh crore),. It targets 19.36 crore households, mandates 10-year maintenance contracts, and introduced "Jal Arpan" and "Jal Utsav" mechanisms,.
- **National Quantum Mission:** Originally approved on April 19, 2023, with a massive budget allocation of ₹6,003.65 crore for the 2023-2031 period,. The government officially approved quantum teaching facilities and labs in 23 academic institutions, with 100 more facilities planned.

8. State-Specific Welfare and Developmental Schemes

- **Sikhya Kranti Education Reform (Punjab):** The state initiated Phase 2 of its education revolution with a massive ₹3,500 crore investment (comprising a ₹2,500 crore World Bank loan and ₹1,000 crore from state funds) to upgrade state schools over a 6-year period,.,.
- **Gaudhan Yojana (Chhattisgarh):** Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai launched this scheme at Lashar village to establish 1,460 to 14,460 "Surabhi Gaudham" shelters to protect abandoned and stray cattle,. Shelters will hold up to 200 cattle each, with feed support of ₹10 to ₹35 daily, ₹1 lakh annual maintenance, ₹47,000 per acre for fodder, and a ₹19,016 shepherd honorarium.
- **Lakshmir Bhandar Scheme (West Bengal):** A major Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme targeting poor women aged 25 to 60,. Monthly payouts were officially increased: General/OBC categories now receive ₹1,500 (up from ₹1,000), and SC/ST categories now receive ₹1,700.
- **Divyang Shakti Scheme (Andhra Pradesh):** Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu launched the scheme in Amaravati, providing free bus travel for individuals with 40% or more disability.
- **Ningol Van Initiative (Manipur):** Launched on the International Day of Forests to specifically empower women ("Ningols") in preventing deforestation across the state,.

16. Science & Technology

1. Space Exploration & Satellite Technology

- **ISRO CE20 Test:** The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully conducted a 165-second sea-level hot test of the CE20 cryogenic engine at a 22-ton thrust using a nozzle protection system at the Mahendragiri complex.
- **Agnite 3D-Printed Engine:** Private aerospace firm Agnikul Cosmos successfully test-fired "Agnite", the world's first and largest fully 3D-printed, single-piece rocket booster engine, at their dedicated launchpad located in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- **Gujarat Sounding Rocket:** Gujarat's very first single-stage sub-orbital sounding rocket was successfully launched from Bavaliyari near Dholera. It was built and executed by the Ahmedabad-based space startup Om Space Rocket and Exploration Pvt Ltd (OSR) under IN-SPACe and the Gujarat Space Tech Policy 2025-30.
- **ESA Navigation Satellites:** The European Space Agency (ESA) actively launched two advanced 'Celestis' navigation satellites (specifically designated IOD-1 and IOD-2) from operations in New Zealand.

2. Artificial Intelligence & Digital Platforms

- **Razorpay Agent Studio:** Razorpay launched the world's first Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered "Agent Studio", constructed using the Cloud Agent Software Development Kit (SDK), and introduced an AI-native layer termed the Agentic Experience Platform.
- **Khushi AI Chatbot:** The Ministry of Health launched an AI chatbot named "Khushi" and the "TB Mukta Bharat" app on World TB Day to provide Tuberculosis (TB) guidance in 12 regional languages.
- **Kar Saathi AI Chatbot:** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled chatbot named "Kar Saathi" alongside the Income Tax Website 2.0 to assist taxpayers under the PRARAMBH campaign.
- **India Energy Stack:** Authorities officially launched the "India Energy Stack", which is an AI/machine learning-based power grid, at the Bharat Electricity Summit.
- **PRISM-SD Portal:** Union Ministers Nitin Gadkari and Ashwini Vaishnaw jointly launched the Rail Road Inspections and Stages Management Steel Girders (PRISM-SD) portal.
- **NDSA AI Tools:** The National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) introduced an AI-driven tool called NETRA (developed with the Weapons and Electronics Systems Engineering Establishment (WESEE)) and a visual tool named Rashtriya Bandh Suraksha Darpan (developed with C-DAC).

3. Nuclear Energy, Telecom & Advanced Transport

- **BARC Small Modular Reactors (SMRs):** The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) is actively developing new reactors for the Tarapur Atomic Power Station in Maharashtra. This includes a 220 Megawatt (MW) Bharat Small Modular Reactor (BSMR-200) costing ₹5,960 crore, and two 55 MW Small Modular Reactors with a combined cost of ₹7,000 crore.
- **Pragya Tokamak:** Bengaluru-based startup Prano's Fusion (or ProNus Fusion) developed "Pragya," which is India's first privately developed and smallest Tokamak device, boasting a remarkably small radius of just 40 cm.
- **6G & 5G Telecom Initiatives:** The Indian Government formally approved 104 independent research projects, allocating ₹271 crore to develop next-generation 6G telecom technology. Additionally, the Department of Telecommunications launched the 5G Innovation Hackathon (2nd Edition).

- India's First Hydrogen Train: The Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) successfully completed technical and oscillation trials for India's first hydrogen-powered train (developed by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai). The train covered 20 km at a maximum speed of 70 km per hour on the Jind-Sonipat route in Haryana.
- Project Vayu Baan: The Indian Air Force (IAF) unveiled Project Vayu Baan, India's first helicopter-dropped small drone project featuring autonomous navigation, a 50 km range, 30 minutes of endurance, and electro-optical/infrared sensors.

4. Scientific Discoveries (Flora & Fauna)

- Osbakia Zubin Garinia: A brand new plant species was formally discovered within Assam's Manas National Park. It was named in honor of prominent singer Zubeen Garg.
- Drawida Vazhania: A completely new earthworm species formally named Drawida vazhania (also referred to as draida vazinia) was discovered in the Peechi-Vazhani Wildlife Sanctuary, Thrissur, Kerala.
- New Lichen Species: New lichen species (Bhattacharya S Singh and N Singh) were discovered in Sikkim and West Bengal.
- Neogopatra Peninsularis: A new cockroach species was discovered in the Deccan Peninsula (Pune).



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17. Sports

1. Cricket Milestones, Acquisitions, & Awards

- A US-based consortium commanded by tech-entrepreneur Kal Somani bought 100% ownership of the IPL franchise Rajasthan Royals for a total acquisition deal valued at \$1.63 billion (approx. ₹15,286 crores),.
- Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) was fully acquired from United Spirits Ltd. for over ₹16,000 crore (\$1.78 billion) by a consortium led by the Aditya Birla Group (comprising Times India Group, Walt Ventures, and Blackstone).
- RCB successfully won the 4th season of the Women's Premier League (WPL) by defeating Delhi Capitals.
- BCCI Naman Awards 2026: Shubman Gill won the Polly Umrigar Award for Best International Cricketer (Men); Smriti Mandhana won Best International Cricketer (Women) for the 5th time. The Col. C.K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award went to Roger Binny and Rahul Dravid, while Mithali Raj won the BCCI Lifetime Achievement Award for Women.
- The BCCI officially appointed Mithun Manhas as the new President and signed a ₹270 crore deal with Google's AI Gemini for the Indian Premier League (IPL).
- Virat Kohli became the first batter in IPL history to cross 4,000 runs during chases.
- Sunil Narine (Kolkata Knight Riders) surpassed Kieron Pollard to become the most-capped overseas player in IPL history with 190 matches.
- R. Ashwin broke ground as the first Indian international player to officially join the USA's Major League Cricket (MLC), signing with the San Francisco Unicorns.
- 15-year-old Fanny Udasu Minande (also referred to as Feni Utagusimanede / Phiona) from Rwanda became the youngest women's T20 International centurion by scoring 111 runs off 65 balls against Ghana, breaking Prosscovia Alako's previous record.
- ICC Player of the Month (February 2026): Indian pacer Arundhati Reddy won the Women's T20 award, and Pakistani opener Sahibzada Farhan (Shahzaib Farhan) won the Men's award.
- Former Pakistan captain and wicketkeeper Sarfaraz Ahmed (famous for leading the 2017 ICC Champions Trophy win) officially retired from international cricket (100 intl matches, 11 consecutive T20I series wins),.
- New Zealand women's cricket player Lauren Down retired.
- Omaxe India dedicated a specialized "Pink Stand" for women and families at the 30,000-seater Dwarka Stadium in New Delhi, named in honor of Indian Captain Harmanpreet Kaur.
- The Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) is slated to host the historic 150th Anniversary Test match between Australia and England in March 2027.

2. Athletics, Para-Athletics, & Multi-Sport Games

- World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026: Hosted in New Delhi, India dominantly topped the medal tally, securing first place with 208 total medals (75 Gold, 69 Silver, 64 Bronze). Russia secured second place with 35 medals, followed by Bosnia & Herzegovina,.,.
- Indian Gold Medalists included: Sumit Antil (Javelin, 69.25m), Subodh Bhatt (400m T13), Bhavik Kumar (400m T46/T47), Manoj Kumar Sabhapati (Wheelchair 400m T53/T54 & 800m), Tejalben Amaraji Damor (400m T11/T12), Lakshmi (Shot Put), Shailesh Kumar (Long Jump), Rohit Kumar (Shot Put), Preeti Pal (200m T35/T37), Rakesh Bhai Bhatt (200m), and Shubham Julal (Shotput).

- World Indoor Athletics Championship 2028: The World Athletics Council in Poland granted hosting rights to the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. India becomes the 4th Asian host nation. Astana, Kazakhstan will host the 23rd edition,,.
- The Kalinga Stadium will also host the National Para Athletics Championship 2026,.
- Khelo India Tribal Games: Chhattisgarh (across Raipur, Jagdalpur, Surguja) hosted the inaugural games, featuring 2,300 athletes competing in archery, mallakhamb, and athletics.
- Khelo India Beach Games (2nd Edition): Held in Diu (Mascot: "Pearl the Dolphin"). Karnataka topped with 11 medals (3G, 2S, 6B), followed by Tamil Nadu, Manipur, MP, and Haryana.
- Pole Vault Record: Swedish pole vaulter Armand Duplantis shattered his own world record for the 15th time, achieving a massive clearance of 6.31 meters at the Mondo Classic in Uppsala, Sweden.
- The 20th Asian Games 2026 will be hosted in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan (featuring the mascot "Honohon"). Future hosts include Qatar (2030) and Saudi Arabia (2034),.
- NITI Aayog released a report titled "Realizing the Export Potential of India's Sports Equipment Manufacturing Sector", noting India's sports exports sit at approximately \$275 million annually (0.5% global share), heavily concentrated in Jalandhar and Meerut,.
- Kerala athlete Jinson Johnson retired.

3. Tennis, Badminton, & Squash

- Tennis "Sunshine Double": Italy's Jannik Sinner won the 2026 BNP Paribas Open (Indian Wells) and the Miami Open Men's Singles title (defeating Jiri Lehecka and Daniil Medvedev). He became only the 8th man to complete the Sunshine Double and the 3rd player since 1990 to win consecutive ATP Masters 1000 hard-court titles without a defeat,,.
- Belarus's Aryna Sabalenka won the Indian Wells and Miami Open Women's Singles (defeating Coco Gauff), also completing the Sunshine Double. She is the first woman since 2022 to achieve this feat,,.
- Squash: At the India Open Squash Championship (JSW Indian Open) in Mumbai, Anahat Singh defended her women's singles title against Egypt's Hana Moataz, and Abhay Singh won the men's title against Veer Chotrani,.
- Anahat Singh also won Silver at the British Junior Open, losing to France's Lauren Baltayan.
- Para-Badminton: Pramod Bhagat clinched a gold medal at the BWF Para-Badminton World Championships in Bahrain.
- Retirement: Spanish badminton champion Carolina Marin (32) retired after a 3rd knee injury. She is notably remembered for winning the 2016 Rio Olympic Gold against India's PV Sindhu,.
- The 2026 Australian Open prize pool increased 16% to \$1.5 million.
- The 49th Yonex-Sunrise Junior National Badminton Championship was held in Sikkim.

4. Football & Hockey

- Football Records: Lionel Messi became the second male player to score 900 official goals at the CONCACAF Champions Cup, joining Cristiano Ronaldo,.
- Santosh Trophy: Services won the 79th Santosh Trophy by defeating Kerala in Assam.
- Asian Cup: Japan secured its 3rd AFC Women's Asian Cup title by defeating Australia (solitary goal by Maika Hamano).
- Indian Women's Football: Amalia Valverde was appointed head coach of the Senior Indian Women's Football team by the AIFF.
- Hockey World Cup: The India Women's Hockey team (Coach: Sjoerd Marijne, Key Player: Navneet Kaur) officially qualified for the 2026 FIH World Cup (co-hosted by Netherlands/Belgium).

- 8th Hockey India Annual Awards: Hardik Singh (his 3rd win) and Navneet Kaur (her 1st win) won the prestigious Balbir Singh Sr. Player of the Year awards (₹20 lakh prize). Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award went to Zafar Iqbal (1980 Moscow Olympics gold medalist, ₹25 lakh prize). Prinedeep Singh and Sakshi Rana won Upcoming U-21 Players. Hockey Punjab was crowned Best Member Unit,,.
- Hockey Retirement: Indian men's hockey Olympic medalist Gurjant Singh (who won Bronze at Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024, Gold at 2017 Asia Cup and 2023 Asian Games) officially retired during the awards ceremony,,.
- FIFA designated YouTube as the preferred platform for the 2026 World Cup (to be held in Canada, Mexico, and the US).
- FIFA officially fined the Israeli Football Association \$190,700 over racist behavior by Beitar Jerusalem FC.

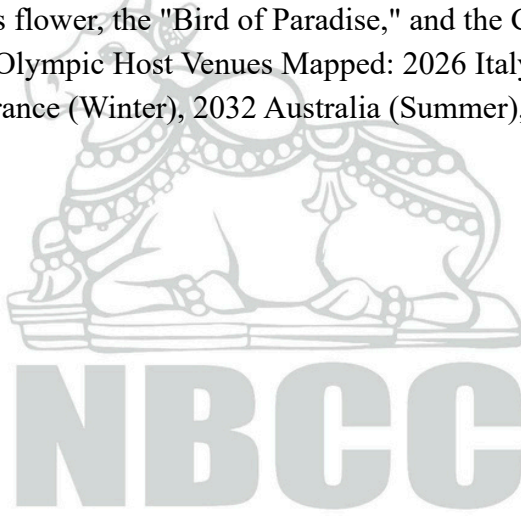
5. Motorsports, Chess, & Archery

- Formula 1: 19-year-old Italian driver Andrea Kimi Antonelli (Mercedes AMG) won his maiden F1 victory at the Chinese Grand Prix in Shanghai. He also successfully won the 40th Japanese Grand Prix at Suzuka, making history as the youngest driver to lead the World Championship standings,,.
- Chess Grandmaster: 16-year-old Mayank Chakraborty (from Guwahati, Assam) became India's 94th Chess Grandmaster at the 8th GM tournament in Stockholm, Sweden, becoming the first GM from Assam and the broader North-East region,,.
- Chess Championships: Magnus Carlsen won the 2026 FIDE Freestyle World Championship in Weissenhaus, Germany. Nihal Sarin won the open rapid section of Tata Steel Chess India 2026 in Kolkata,,.
- World Archery Awards 2025: India's Sheetal Devi was officially named the World Archery Para Archer of the Year. France's Baptiste Addis took home the title of Young Archer of the Year.
- Boxing: Chandrika Pujari won Gold in the Women's 51 kg category at the World Boxing Futures Cup in Bangkok, Thailand (India won a total of 5 medals: 1 Gold, 3 Silver, 1 Bronze).
- Los Angeles Lakers star LeBron James formally broke the historical record for most National Basketball Association (NBA) games played, appearing in his 1612th game (usurping Robert Parish's long-standing record).
- Goa is scheduled to host the 7th season of Ultimate Table Tennis in July 2026.

6. Mountaineering Records & Olympic Policies

- Volcanic Summits Record: Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh mountaineer Bhupathi Raju Anmesh Varma (Anmish Varma) set a Guinness World Record in the male category for the fastest climb of the seven volcanic summits (from Mount Elbrus to Mount Sidley) in just 92 days, 4 hours, and 45 minutes,,.
- Ojos del Salado Summit: Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Professor Arpita Patra successfully ascended Nevado Ojos del Salado (Chile-Argentina border, 6,893 meters), becoming the second Indian woman to scale the world's highest volcano (following Arunima Sinha),,.
- South Pole Skiing: 18-year-old Kaamya Karthikeyan became the youngest Indian and the 2nd youngest global woman to successfully ski the South Pole.
- Mount Aconcagua: Indian mountaineer Aritra Roy successfully conquered Mount Aconcagua, located in Argentina.

- IOC Gene Eligibility Policy: The International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced a "protection of the female/women's category" policy taking effect at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. Eligibility for the female category will actively require a once-in-a-lifetime test specifically detecting the mandatory presence of the SRY gene.
- The official design for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics was unveiled, inspired by the official Los Angeles flower, the "Bird of Paradise," and the California "Super Bloom".
- Future Olympic Host Venues Mapped: 2026 Italy (Winter - Milano Cortina), 2028 USA (Summer), 2030 France (Winter), 2032 Australia (Summer), and 2034 USA (Winter).



18. Static News

1. Important Days, Dates, and Themes (January & March)

- January Observances: 1st (DRDO Day), 4th (World Braille), 9th (NRI), 12th (National Youth), 15th (Army Day), 25th (National Voters'), 26th (Republic Day & Int. Day of Clean Energy).
- Army Day: The 78th parade was held on January 15 in Jaipur, honoring K.M. Cariappa.
- March 13: Observed as World Rotaract Day (celebrating the 58th anniversary of the first club in North Carolina) and World Sleep Day (Theme: "Sleep Well and Live Better" / "Sleep well, live better").
- March 14: Observed as the International Day of Mathematics / Pi Day (7th edition; Theme: "Mathematics and Hope") alongside the International Day of Action for Rivers (29th edition; Theme: "Protect rivers, protect people").
- March 15: Observed as World Consumer Rights Day (Theme: "Safe Products, Confident Consumer" / "Safe products, confident customers"). Specifically honors President John F. Kennedy's formal 1962 speech on consumer rights. Also observed as International Day to Combat Islamophobia (Theme: "Respect every person's dignity").
- March 16: National Vaccination Day / National Immunization Day (Theme: "Vaccines for All: Building a Resilient Future" / "Immunization for All is Humanly Possible"). Established to commemorate the foundational launch of the Pulse Polio program (when the first oral polio vaccine dose was given in India) back in 1995.
- March 17: The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) celebrated its 41st Raising Day (founded March 17, 1986).
- March 18: Observed as Ordnance Factory Day (Marks the historic 1801 establishment of India's first ordnance factory at Cossipore, West Bengal/Kolkata). Also observed as Global Recycling Day (9th edition; Theme: "Don't think waste, think opportunity").
- March 19: Observed as National Poultry Day (A US-focused event tracing back to 1951 in Versailles, Ohio, natively aligned with the historic 1944 US National Poultry Improvement Plan).
- March 20: Observed as the International Day of Happiness (Supported by the UN and its 2030 SDGs, Theme: "Caring and Sharing", focusing on kindness and community building). Also marked the 17th World Sparrow Day (launched in 2010; Theme: "Creating bird-friendly cities and communities" / "Creating world-friendly cities and communities"). Also UN French Language Day (French is the UN Secretariat working language, spoken by 321 million people in 29 countries). World Oral Health Day (Theme: "A happy mouth is a happy mind"). Nowruz (Persian New Year, first observed in 2010). Gudi Padwa. World Day of Theater for Children and Young People (26th observance; Theme: "Staging the Rights of the Child to Arts and Culture").
- March 21: Observed as World Forestry Day / International Day of Forests (14th observance; Theme: "Forests and Economies"). International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (61st anniversary; Commemorates the tragic 1960 Sharpeville massacre in South Africa where 69 peaceful protesters were executed). World Poetry Day (27th observance, declared by UNESCO in 1999; Theme: "Poetry as a Bridge for Peace and Inclusion"). World Puppetry Day. World Down Syndrome Day (15th observance; Theme: "Together against loneliness"). UN World Day of Glaciers (2nd observance).

- March 22: Bihar Foundation Day (Marked the 114th anniversary of separation from Bengal in 1912 with the theme "Unnat Bihar, Ujjwal Bihar"). World Water Day (Theme: "Where Water Flows, Equality Grows" / "Water and Gender").
- March 23: Observed as World Meteorological Day (Commemorates the founding of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) on March 23, 1950, first celebrated in 1961; Theme: "Observing Today, Protecting Tomorrow"). Martyrs' Day / Shaheed Diwas (Pays homage to Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru, and Sukhdev Thapar, executed for the 1928 Lahore conspiracy case / 1931 execution).
- March 24: World Tuberculosis Day (Commemorating Dr. Robert Koch's 1882 discovery of the TB bacterium, officially launched in 1982; Theme is "Yes! We can end TB: Led by countries, powered by people"). International Day for the Right to the Truth (Focuses on Gross Human Rights Violations and Dignity of Victims).
- March 25: International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade (Theme: "Justice in Action: Confronting History, Advancing Dignity, Empowering Futures" / "Justice and action: Confronting history, advancing dignity, empowering future"). International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members. International Day of the Unborn Child (Established in 1999 by Pope John Paul II, coinciding with the Christian Feast of the Annunciation).
- March 26: Purple Day of Epilepsy (Theme: "Epilepsy Awareness: You are not alone"). Aims to dismantle myths about epilepsy (a neurological disorder resulting in unprovoked seizures) and was originally instituted in 2008 by a 9-year-old Canadian girl, Cassidy Megan.
- March 27: World Theatre Day (64th edition; Theme: "Theatre and a Culture of Peace" / "celebrating the global impact of the performing arts"). Initiated in 1961 by the International Theatre Institute, which was established March 27, 1948.
- March 28: Earth Hour (8:30–9:30 PM, 20th edition). National Triglycerides Day (Theme: "Action through Awareness", highlights that levels <150 mg/dL are considered healthy).
- March 29: World Piano Day (Observed globally on the 88th day of the year, which symbolically represents the piano's 88 keys; Theme: "Celebrating the 88 keys").
- March 30: Rajasthan Day 2026 (Commemorates the historic 1949 merger of four princely states: Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner, and Jaisalmer; Theme: "Heritage and Harmony"). International Day of Zero Waste (Theme heavily centers strictly around combating "Food waste").
- March 31: Eiffel Tower Day (Marks the historic 1889 inauguration of the massive ~330-meter structure; Theme: "Timeless Innovation").
- India separately celebrates National Math Day on December 22 honoring Ramanujan.

2. Static GK - Global Organizations & Countries

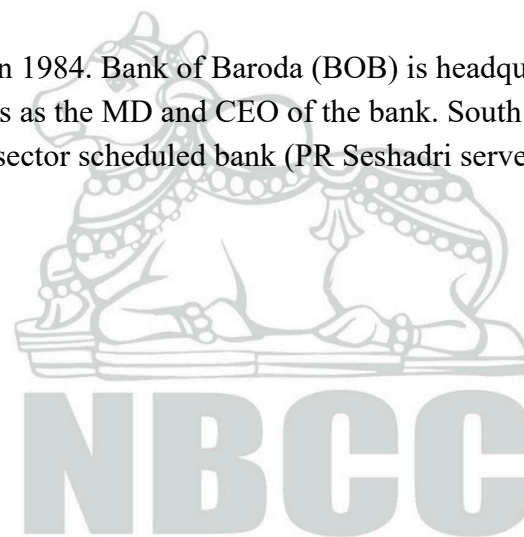
- UN & UPU: The United Nations (UN) was established in 1945, has 193 member countries, and is headquartered in New York. The Universal Postal Union (UPU) is a UN agency established in 1874, headquartered in Bern, Switzerland, and is currently led by Masahiko Metoki.
- WTO & WMO: The World Trade Organization (WTO) was established on January 1, 1995, and is headquartered in Geneva. The organization is currently led by Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala. It has 166 members, with Timor-Leste as the 166th member (and 11th ASEAN member). The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is based in Geneva, with President Abdulla Al Mandous (UAE) and Secretary-General Celeste Saulo.

- EU & OECD: The European Union (EU) was established in 1993 via the Maastricht Treaty, consists of 27 members, and is headquartered in Brussels. Cyprus currently holds the EU presidency. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) was founded in 1961, is based in Paris, consists of 38 members, and is headed by Mathias Cormann.
- Other Global Bodies: The World Food Programme (WFP) is a Rome-based Nobel Peace Prize laureate organization. The International Cricket Council (ICC) is headquartered in Dubai, with Jay Shah as Chairman and Sanjog Gupta as CEO.
- Country Capitals & Currencies: Kenya's capital is Nairobi and its currency is the Shilling. Argentina's Capital is Buenos Aires and its Currency is the Peso. Ukraine's capital is Kyiv (currency: Hryvnia), and Qatar's capital is Doha (currency: Riyal).
- Chile: Chile holds the distinct economic status of being the world's largest copper producer.
- BIMSTEC: The BIMSTEC Secretariat is located in Dhaka.
- US Federal Reserve: The United States (US) Federal Reserve was founded in 1913 and is headed by Jerome Powell.

3. Static GK - National Organizations & Financial Frameworks

- SEBI: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) was established in 1988 (also noted as 1992) and functions as India's premier capital market regulator. It is headquartered in Mumbai, with the Chairman listed as Tuhin Kanta Pandey. SEBI's Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) was established in 2016.
- RBI Mechanisms: Ways and Means Advances (WMA) was introduced on April 1, 1997, under Section 17(5) of the Reserve Bank of India Act (RBI Act). The inflation targeting framework was originally introduced in 2016 under Section 45ZA of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934. Historically, New Zealand was the first country to successfully implement inflation targeting in 1990.
- Banking Formats: Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) require a minimum ₹10 crore capital to open, and RBI approval is needed for acquiring 26% or more equity. Housing Finance Companies require a minimum capital of ₹20 crores, are regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), and are supervised by the NHB. A Payments Bank accepts demand deposits up to ₹2 lakh, must invest 75% of balances in short-term government securities, requires minimum capital of ₹300 crore to convert to a Small Finance Bank after 5 years, and cannot lend, accept term deposits, or act as business correspondents.
- Digital Payments: Unified Payments Interface (UPI) was developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) in 2016. Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) has a minimum ₹2 lakh limit and instant transfers; National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) has no limits and settles in 48 half-hour batches daily. Both function 24x7.

- Other National Bodies:
 - NITI Aayog replaced the Planning Commission on January 1, 2015, functioning as an advisory think tank (neither constitutional nor statutory) using a bottom-up approach. It is led by the Prime Minister (Chairperson), Vice-Chairperson Suman K. Bery, and CEO B.V.R. Subrahmanyam.
 - The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) was established in 2003, headquartered in New Delhi.
 - The National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) is a Navratna government company established in 1958 under the Ministry of Steel.
 - The Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. (AIC) is a government company founded on December 20, 2002, with its HQ in New Delhi, and is headed by Girija Subramanian.
 - The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) was established on July 31, 1970, under the Ministry of Textiles.
 - The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) was founded in 1964 and is currently headed by Ravi Agarwal.
 - The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) was established in 1940 with its headquarters in New Delhi. The current Drug Controller General is Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi.
 - The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) strictly operates under the Ministry of Home Affairs, was originally founded on March 17, 1986, and maintains its headquarters in New Delhi.
 - Prasar Bharati is a public service broadcaster established in 1997 under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, headquartered in New Delhi.
 - The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) was originally formed as a statutory body in 1993, and officially gained constitutional status in 2018 through the historic 102nd Constitutional Amendment under Article 338B.
 - The prestigious Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) was originally founded in 1925 in Kolkata by the industrialist G.D. Birla.
 - The National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) currently operates via 19 regional offices and 9 sub-offices across the country.
- Corporate Data: US-based Bain Capital was founded in 1984. Bank of Baroda (BOB) is headquartered in Vadodara, Gujarat. Dr. Dadat Chand currently serves as the MD and CEO of the bank. South Indian Bank was established in 1929 as Kerala's first private sector scheduled bank (PR Seshadri serves as MD and CEO).

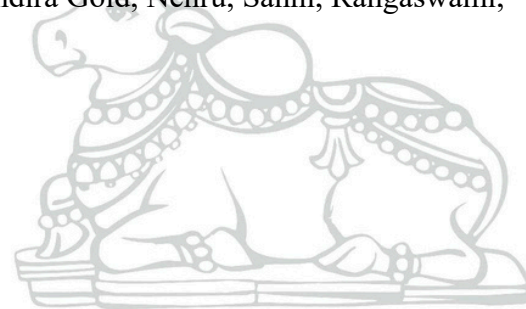


4. State Governance, Geography, and Socio-Economic Data

- State Leadership: Pondicherry is governed by Chief Minister N. Rangasamy and Lieutenant Governor K. Kailashnathan. Odisha is currently led by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and Governor Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati. Rajasthan's current Chief Minister is Bhajan Lal Sharma, and the Governor is Haribhau Bagde.
- Odisha Data: Utkal Divas is celebrated on April 1st. State National Parks include Bhitarkanika and Simlipal; hosts the Satkosia Tiger Reserve and the Nandankanan Zoological Park.
- Uttar Pradesh Data: Sarojini Naidu (the United Provinces' first Governor) has her birthday (February 13) celebrated as National Women's Day.
- Special Economic Zones (SEZ): Historically, India's first SEZ was established in Kandla, Gujarat in 1965. The modern SEZ Act of 2005 was modelled on the Chinese system, and the Baba Kalyani Committee currently advises on SEZ matters.
- Economic Metrics & Base Years: The respective base years utilized for economic measurements are 2011-12 for WPI, 2024 for the Consumer Price Index (CPI), and 2022-23 for GDP.
- Employment Sectors: Major employment sectors structurally identified include agriculture (43%), services (13.1%), manufacturing (12.1%), and construction (12%).
- Production Data: India produces 325.22 lakh bales of cotton (25% global output).
- Tourism: Recent data highlights that the states of Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra consistently see the absolute highest tourist footfalls in India.
- Heritage Sites: The Prambanan Temple complex (also known as Roro Jonggrang) is a 9th-century UNESCO site located in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. College Park Airport holds the record as the world's oldest operational airport (Situated in College Park, Maryland, near Washington D.C, USA).
- Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY: Launched on September 23, 2018. It holds the distinction of being recognized by the World Bank as the world's largest government-sponsored health insurance scheme, guaranteeing a health insurance cover of ₹5 lakh per family per year for all eligible citizens.

5. Sports Static GK & Miscellaneous Quotes

- Sports Terminology: The Davis Cup is known as the 'World Cup' of Tennis.
- Hockey Cups :Agha Khan, Beighton, Dhyan Chand, Indira Gold, Nehru, Sahni, Rangaswami, Murugappa, Modi Gold, Zendre Champions.



NBCC