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

1. Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 Approved

- The Union Cabinet approved the Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 on February 14, 2026.
- The initiative has been assigned a massive corpus of ₹10,000 crore.
- The fund will be officially managed by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- The previous Fund of Funds 1.0 supported 145 Alternative Investment Funds, injecting over ₹25,000 Crore into 1,370+ startups.

2. Launch of the Urban Challenge Fund (UCF)

- The Cabinet approved ₹1 lakh crore central assistance for the UCF to drive urban transformation.
- The funding structure involves 25% Central Assistance, a minimum of 50% from market sources, and 25% from States/Urban Local Bodies.
- It aims to mobilize ₹4 lakh crore in total investments between FY 2025-26 and FY 2030-31.
- The fund includes a ₹5,000 crore credit guarantee support component specifically for smaller urban bodies.

3. National Monetization Pipeline (NMP) 2.0 Launched

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched Phase 2 of the NMP, establishing a 5-year roadmap from FY 2026 to FY 2030.
- The initiative targets a total monetization potential of ₹16.72 Lakh Crore, which includes ₹5.8 Lakh Crore in direct private sector investments.
- The Highways sector is expected to yield the highest monetization share at 26%, translating to ₹4,42,000 crore.
- The preceding NMP 1.0 successfully achieved nearly 90% of its ₹6 lakh crore target over four years.

4. Launch of White Revolution 2.0

- The Ministry of Cooperation launched White Revolution 2.0 on 19 September 2024 under the National Dairy Development Program (NDDP) 2.0.
- The initiative targets the creation of 1.2 lakh new or existing dairy cooperative societies over five years.
- It aims to achieve a milk procurement target of 1,007 lakh kg/day by 2028-29.
- The scheme significantly acknowledges that women currently make up nearly 70% of the workforce in the dairy sector.

5. Revamped Export Promotion Mission (EPM) Introduced

- The central government introduced the EPM for the period 2025-26 to 2030-31 to accelerate MSME exports.
- The mission holds a total outlay of ₹25,060 crore and is implemented by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).
- The outlay is split into two sub-schemes: Niryat Protsahan (₹10,401 crores) and Niryat Disha (₹14,659 crores).
- Alongside the mission, the permissible credit period for export credit was extended to 450 days for credit disbursed up to March 31, 2026.

6. MHA Introduces 'PRAHAAR' National Counter-Terrorism Policy

- The Ministry of Home Affairs introduced India's premier National Counter-Terrorism Policy named 'PRAHAAR'.
- PRAHAAR stands for Prevention, Responses, Aggregating internal capacities, Human rights, Attenuating enabling conditions, Aligning international efforts, and Recovery.

- The execution relies on the Multi-Agency Centre (MAC) and the Intelligence Bureau (IB) operating as the primary central nodes.
 - Local police act as first responders, while the National Investigation Agency (NIA) handles major investigations.
7. Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) Public Distribution System
- A CBDC-based Public Distribution System was officially launched using highly programmable 'e-RUPI' tokens.
 - Initial pilots were rolled out in Gujarat and Puducherry to ensure leak-proof food subsidies under the PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana.
 - In Gujarat (Ahmedabad, Surat, Anand, Valsad), digital coupons are redeemed via QR codes or "Annapurthi Grain ATMs".
 - The "Annapurthi Grain ATMs" can dispense 25 kilograms of grain in exactly 35 seconds.
8. RBI Updates Ways and Means Advances (WMA) Limits
- The Reserve Bank of India updated the WMA limits applicable to State Governments and Union Territories.
 - The expanded ceiling has been set to ₹61,008 crore.
 - WMA is a temporary loan facility provided by the RBI to help governments manage temporary mismatches in cash flows.
9. Revised Lead Bank Scheme and MUDRA Yojana Limits
- Under the revised Lead Bank Scheme, all banks are now strictly mandated to maintain a minimum 60% Credit-Deposit (CD) ratio in their rural and semi-urban branches.
 - The MUDRA Yojana, overseen by SIDBI, raised its collateral-free loans for MSMEs to ₹20 lakh (under Tarun Plus).
 - The Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme was revised to formally permit an automatic 15% annual increase in the credit limit, up from 10%.
10. RBI Increases Integrated Ombudsman Compensation Limits
- Effective July 1, 2026, the RBI increased the ombudsman compensation limit under the Integrated Ombudsman Scheme 2021.
 - The primary compensation limit was raised significantly from ₹20 Lakh to ₹30 Lakh.
 - The additional compensation awarded for distress or loss of time was raised from ₹1 Lakh to ₹3 Lakh.
11. RBI Authorizes \$1 Billion External Commercial Borrowing (ECB)
- The RBI relaxed prevailing ECB rules for domestic companies.
 - Eligible Indian firms are now formally permitted to borrow up to \$1 billion (increased from the earlier \$750 million cap).
 - Alternatively, they can borrow up to 300% of their net worth from foreign entities under market-related conditions.
12. RBI Levies Monetary Penalties on Multiple Financial Institutions
- The RBI levied a combined ₹1.35 crore in penalties distributed across five institutions.
 - The fines included CSB Bank (₹63.6 lakh), Bank of Maharashtra (₹32.5 lakh), DCB Bank (₹29.6 lakh), IIFL (₹5.3 lakh), and Navi Finserv (₹3.8 lakh).
 - In a separate enforcement action, a monetary penalty of ₹38.60 Lakh was levied on UCO Bank strictly for non-compliance.
13. Bain Capital Acquires 41.7% Stake in Manappuram Finance
- The Reserve Bank of India authorized US-based private equity firm Bain Capital to acquire a major stake in the NBFC Manappuram Finance.
 - Bain Capital will acquire a 41.7% stake in the company.

- The acquisition deal was authorized at a valuation of ₹236 per share.
14. India's GDP Growth Projection Revised to 7.6%
- The National Statistical Office (NSO) revised the projected GDP growth rate for the financial year 2025-26 upward to 7.6%.
 - This was an increase from the earlier estimate of 7.4%, driven by a Q3 (Oct-Dec) growth of 7.8%.
 - In parallel, Wholesale Inflation (WPI) climbed to 1.81% in January 2026, driven by a 2.21% increase in Primary Articles.
15. UPI Dominates Socioeconomic Transactions
- A Department of Financial Services report analyzed the RuPay and BHIM UPI incentive scheme.
 - UPI remains India's most preferred transaction mode at 57%, massively surpassing cash transactions which stand at 38%.
 - The report revealed that 65% of UPI users conduct multiple transactions a day, and QR code deployments expanded from 9.3 crore to 65.8 crore.
16. E20 Petrol Mandated by April 2026
- The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas decreed that the use of E20 petrol will be mandatory starting April 1, 2026.
 - E20 petrol refers to conventional petrol blended with 20% ethanol.
 - This mandate will be strictly enforced across all states and Union Territories.
 - The mandated E20 petrol must possess a minimum Research Octane Number (RON) of 95.
17. Vibrant Villages Program Phase 2 Inaugurated
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah officially inaugurated the second phase from Nathanpur village in Cachar district, Assam.
 - The revamped phase carries a substantial budget of ₹6,839 crore, extending up to Financial Year 2028-29.
 - It strictly targets the development of 1,954 border villages situated along the borders of Pakistan and Bangladesh.
18. Complete Highway Toll Digitalization by 2026
- Starting April 1, 2026, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will completely discontinue cash payments at toll plazas.
 - Tolls will exclusively accept digital transactions via FASTag (using RFID technology) and the Unified Payments Interface (UPI).
 - Utilizing UPI without a valid FASTag will incur a strict 1.25x penalty charge at the toll plazas.
19. NHAI Launches Ecological Bee Corridors Initiative
- The NHAI will create continuous "pollinator or bee corridors" populated with bee-friendly vegetation along National Highways.
 - The overall project involves planting a total of 40 lakh trees, utilizing species like Neem, Karanj, and Palash.
 - NHAI plans to establish three such major corridors across the country by 2026-27.
20. PM Modi Launches National HPV Vaccination Drive
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi officially launched a nationwide free vaccination drive from Ajmer, Rajasthan.
 - The drive supplies free Human Papillomavirus (HPV) "Gardasil" vaccinations.
 - The health initiative strictly targets 14-year-old girls.
 - Serves as a critical preventative healthcare measure to eliminate the risk of cervical cancer.

21. Rare Earth Permanent Magnets (REPMs) Production Targets

- Union Minister of Mines G. Kishan Reddy announced domestic production targets to reduce India's 95% import dependency on rare earth minerals.
- A scheme with a ₹7,280 crore outlay was approved to promote domestic manufacturing of Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnets.
- The initiative aims for a target manufacturing capacity of 6,000 Metric Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA).

22. India-UK Free Trade Agreement and Energy Dialogue

- The India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is anticipated to take effect in April 2026, making 99% of Indian exports to the UK tax-free.
- India will slash tariffs on UK Whiskey (scaling down to 40%) and Cars (down to 10%).
- During the 4th India-UK Energy Dialogue in New Delhi, the nations launched an Offshore Wind Task Force under 'Vision 2035'.

23. India and Brazil Elevate Bilateral Trade to \$30 Billion

- Brazilian President Lula da Silva made an official visit to India.
- Both nations formally agreed to elevate bilateral trade to \$30 Billion strictly by 2030 (up from \$15.2 billion in 2025).
- India and Brazil signed agreements to boost green finance cooperation, focusing heavily on the MSME sector's transition.

24. India Joins US-Led PACT Silica Coalition

- India officially signed an agreement with the United States to become the 10th full member of the US-led Pax Silica coalition.
- The agreement was signed by India's IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and US representative Jacob Helberg.

25. India and Israel Link Domestic Payment Systems

- India and Israel signed an agreement directly linking India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) system with Israel's domestic payment infrastructure.
- The nations also agreed to elevate relations focusing on Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Technologies, and critical minerals.

26. FCI and WFP Sign 5-Year Global Hunger Relief Agreement

- The Food Corporation of India (FCI) and the World Food Programme (WFP) finalized a 5-year humanitarian partnership.
- India will reliably supply 2 lakh metric tons of rice (up to 25% broken).
- The rice will be supplied at a fixed price of ₹2,800 per quintal, remaining valid until March 31, 2026.

27. United States to Host 21st G20 Leaders' Summit in 2026

- The United States will host the 21st G20 Leaders' Summit in Miami.
- The summit is officially scheduled for December 14-15, 2026.
- The current G20 "Troika" is composed of South Africa (2025), the USA (2026), and the United Kingdom (2027).

28. India Joins Board of Peace for Gaza as an Observer

- India joined the inaugural Board of Peace for Gaza meeting in Washington, D.C..
- India explicitly holds an observer status alongside 21 other nations, successfully avoiding the \$1 billion full-membership fee.
- India was represented by Deputy Chief of Mission Namgya C. Khampa and supported the Gaza Peace Plan aligning with UNSC Resolution 2803.

29. TV Somanathan Appointed as Cabinet Secretary
 - TV Somanathan became the new Cabinet Secretary, succeeding Rajiv Gauba.
 - Additionally, TV Somanathan now chairs the national asset monetization committee.
30. Gyanesh Kumar Assumes Role of Chief Election Commissioner
 - Gyanesh Kumar assumed duties as the 26th Chief Election Commissioner of India, succeeding Rajiv Kumar.
 - He recently chaired the Election Commission of India's first National Round Table Conference with State Election Commissions in 27 years.
31. Tarique Rahman Sworn in as Prime Minister of Bangladesh
 - Following the exit of Sheikh Hasina (who is in exile in Delhi) and Muhammad Yunus's interim government, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) secured a landslide election victory, winning 72% of seats.
 - BNP Chairman Tarique Rahman was sworn in as the 11th Prime Minister of Bangladesh.
 - Bangladesh subsequently committed to shifting raw cotton imports from India to the US and buying \$3.5 billion in US agricultural products.
32. Rob Jetten Sworn in as Prime Minister of the Netherlands
 - 38-year-old Rob Jetten of the D66/D6 party was sworn in by King Willem-Alexander as the Prime Minister of the Netherlands.
 - He secured the position after defeating the far-right Freedom Party.
 - He made history as the youngest and first openly gay Prime Minister in the history of the Netherlands.
33. Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi Assumes IONS Chairmanship
 - India regained the chairmanship of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) for the 2026-2028 term after a 16-year hiatus.
 - Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi assumed leadership during the 9th Conclave of Chiefs in Visakhapatnam.
 - He officially took over from Admiral Pharoah Pachan of the Royal Thai Navy.
34. India Ranks 3rd in Global AI Vibrancy Index
 - The Stanford Institute released its Global AI Vibrancy Index.
 - India ranked 3rd globally in AI competitiveness, trailing only the United States and China.
 - Furthermore, India secured the 2nd position globally in AI Research & Development, placing directly behind Singapore.
35. India Ranks 75th in Henley Passport Index 2026
 - India achieved a ranking of 75th on the Henley Passport Index 2026.
 - The Indian passport grants visa-free access to exactly 56 countries.
 - India shares the 75th position alongside Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Madagascar, and Mauritania.
 - Singapore currently holds the most powerful passport globally, while Afghanistan possesses the least powerful.
36. World Bank Introduces B-Ready Framework
 - The World Bank officially discontinued its long-standing Ease of Doing Business index.
 - The discontinued index has been completely replaced by the new B-Ready Framework.
 - The framework relies on a 3-year rollout plan; while India was not in the inaugural set, it is slated for the third report in 2026.

37. 13th Naval Exercise MILAN 2026 Concludes

- The 13th edition of the multinational naval exercise MILAN 2026 was hosted by the Indian Navy in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- The exercise witnessed participation from 74 friendly foreign countries and was conducted under the theme "Camaraderie, Cooperation, Collaboration".
- It concluded off the coast aboard the aircraft carrier INS Vikrant.
- The Navy also inaugurated the "Milan Village" as a cultural interaction hub for delegates.

38. 16th Joint Military Exercise Vajra Prahar

- Exercise Vajra Prahar is a joint special forces exercise between India and the United States.
- The 16th iteration took place from February 24 to March 16, 2026, at the Special Forces Training School in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh.
- The United States contingent was prominently represented by the "Green Berets".

39. 7th Joint Military Exercise Dharma Guardian

- Exercise Dharma Guardian is an annual joint military drill connecting the Indian Army and the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force.
- The 7th edition commenced at the Foreign Training Node in Chaubatia, Uttarakhand.
- The Ladakh Scouts formally represented the Indian forces during this drill.

40. "MANAV" Framework & New Delhi Declaration on AI Launched

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the "MANAV" global guiding framework for ethical AI governance.
- The New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact was officially embraced at the summit and received endorsements from 92 countries and organizations.
- MANAV stands for: Moral and ethical system, Accountable governance, National sovereignty, Accessible and inclusive, and Valid and legitimate.

41. India Adopts '7 SUTRAS' Principles for AI Risk Management

- India adopted a principle-based AI governance framework anchored in seven Sutras to enable safe and inclusive AI innovation.
- The seven principles are: Trust is the Foundation, People First, Innovation over Restraint, Fairness and Equity, Accountability, Understandable by Design, and Safety, Resilience and Sustainability.

42. "Param Shakti" Supercomputer Inaugurated

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) inaugurated the new "Param Shakti" supercomputer.
- The state-of-the-art facility is hosted at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras).
- Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan also launched a Center of Excellence in AI named the Bhodhan AI Center at the same institute, backed by ₹500 crore.

43. Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla Awarded Ashok Chakra

- President Droupadi Murmu conferred the prestigious Ashok Chakra on Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla.
- The award was presented on 26 January 2026 during the 77th Republic Day celebrations.
- Group Captain Shukla hails from Uttar Pradesh.
- The Ashok Chakra is legally recognized as India's highest peacetime gallantry award.

44. The Dalai Lama Wins First Grammy Award

- The Dalai Lama captured his first-ever Grammy Award at the 68th Grammy Awards.
- He won the award for his audiobook titled "Meditation" (Meditations: The Reflections of His Holiness the Dalai Lama).
- He secured the win in the "Best Audio Book, Narration, and Storytelling Recording" category.

45. Delhi's 'Raahveer' Road Accident Assistance Scheme

- The Delhi Government introduced the 'Raahveer' (or 'Raahgeer') scheme aligned with Good Samaritan rules.
- It rewards citizens who help victims reach a hospital during the critical "golden hour" with a ₹25,000 cash reward per incident.
- The 10 most outstanding 'Raahveers' chosen annually will earn a special ₹1 lakh national award for their efforts.

46. Major Infrastructure Developed in Assam

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated infrastructure projects worth ₹5,450 Crore in Assam.
- The Northeast's first Emergency Landing Facility (ELF) was built on NH-37 in Dibrugarh for ₹100 Crore.
- The State Cabinet approved India's first underwater twin-tube road-cum-rail tunnel project on the Brahmaputra River (spanning 33.7 km and costing ₹1,662 to ₹1,862 crores).
- PM Modi also inaugurated the ₹3,030 Crore Kumar Bhaskar Varma Setu, Northeast India's first "Extradosed" bridge.

47. Kerala Launches First Comprehensive Graphene Policy

- The Kerala Cabinet officially approved India's first comprehensive Graphene Policy.
- As part of the policy, a ₹200 crore Graphene Industrial Park will be established in Palakkad.
- The policy also features the creation of the India Innovation Centre for Graphene in Kochi.
- The initiative aims to rapidly establish Kerala as a powerful global hub for graphene research and industrial production.

48. PM Modi Honored with Israel's Speaker of the Knesset Medal

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was bestowed the "Speaker of the Knesset Medal".
- The prestigious medal was presented by Amir Ohana, the speaker of Israel's parliament.
- Prime Minister Modi made history by becoming the first world leader to be honored with this specific medal.

49. Torrent Power Acquires Nabha Power Limited

- Torrent Power executed a massive 100% acquisition of Nabha Power Limited.
- The entity was acquired from Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Power Development.
- The finalized total financial valuation of the acquisition was ₹6,889 Crore.

50. Cost of Rebuilding Ukraine Rises to \$588 Billion

- The ongoing conflict severely damaged Ukraine's economy, shrinking its GDP by 21% since 2021.
- The World Bank, United Nations (UN), and European Union (EU) collectively released new financial estimates.
- The projected cost of rebuilding Ukraine over the next decade has risen by 12%, hitting an astronomical \$588 billion.
-

2. Amounts & Agreements

1. Cabinet Approves Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0

- Startup India Fund of Funds 1.0 was launched in 2016 with a corpus of ₹10,000 crore.
- The earlier fund supported 145 Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs), which successfully injected over ₹25,000 Crore into more than 1,370 startups.
- The Union Cabinet approved Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 with a corpus of ₹10,000 crore on 14 February 2026.

2. Government Launches Urban Challenge Fund (UCF) for Urban Transformation

- The Cabinet approved the Urban Challenge Fund with ₹1 lakh crore of central assistance.
- It also includes a ₹5,000 crore credit guarantee support component for smaller urban bodies.

3. Major Infrastructure and Connectivity Projects Inaugurated in North East India

- Prime Minister (PM) Modi successfully inaugurated multiple development projects worth ₹5,450 Crore in the state of Assam.
- The construction of the Kumar Bhaskar Varma Setu bridge was completed at a total cost of ₹330 Crore.
- The Brahmaputra Rail-Road Twin Tunnel is being developed with an estimated cost of ₹1,862 Crore (also reported as costing ₹1,662 crores).
- The North East's First Emergency Landing Facility (ELF) was successfully built for ₹100 Crore.

4. Defense Acquisition Council Approves Major Procurement for HAPS Systems

- The Defense Acquisition Council (DAC) officially approved ₹15,000 Crore for the procurement of High Altitude Pseudo Satellite (HAPS) systems.

5. Major Corporate Acquisitions and Stake Sales in Power Sector

- Torrent Power executed a 100% acquisition of Nabha Power Limited from Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Power Development for a total of ₹6,889 Crore.

6. Record Funding Registered in Indian AI and Semiconductor Ecosystems

- The Bhodhan AI Center situated at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras is heavily backed by ₹500 crore from the Union Budget.
- The India Semiconductor Mission is further supported by a ₹1,000 crore budget specifically allocated for 2026-27.

7. Global Tech Giants Announce Massive Mega-Investments in India

- Microsoft officially announced a massive investment blueprint totaling \$17.5 Billion in India spanning between 2025 and 2029.
- Google committed to a \$15 billion investment spread over five years strictly to enhance AI and digital connectivity.
- The Adani Group pledged a monumental \$400 billion investment to construct AI-ready data centers in India.
- The Adani Group specifically designated a \$100 billion investment by 2035 to develop renewable energy-powered hyper-scale AI data centers.
- The Gujarat government signed an MoU with Larsen & Toubro (L&T) (Vyuha) to construct a "Green AI-ready Data Center" requiring a ₹25,000 crore investment.

8. Kerala Launches First Comprehensive Graphene Policy and Finalizes PSU MoUs

- Kerala's Cabinet formally approved India's very first comprehensive Graphene Policy.
- As part of this policy, the state will establish a ₹200 crore Graphene Industrial Park located in Palakkad.
- Additionally, Kerala finalized MoUs worth a combined ₹2,000 crore with three major Public Sector Undertakings. • The PSU breakdown includes ₹700 crore by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), ₹600 crore by Container Corporation of India (CONCOR), and ₹700 crore by Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC).

9. Reserve Bank of India Issues Strict Monetary Penalties on Multiple Financial Institutions

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) levied a combined ₹1.35 crore in monetary penalties distributed across five distinct institutions.
- The specific penalties included: CSB Bank (₹63.6 lakh), Bank of Maharashtra (₹32.5 lakh), DCB Bank (₹29.6 lakh), IIFL (₹5.3 lakh), and Navi Finserv (₹3.8 lakh).
- In a separate enforcement action, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) levied a monetary penalty of ₹38.60 Lakh on UCO Bank strictly for non-compliance.

10. RBI Approves Massive Foreign Acquisitions in Manappuram Finance

- Subsequently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) authorized US-based Bain Capital to acquire a 41.7% stake in the NBFC Manappuram Finance at a valuation of ₹236 per share.

12. Government Introduces Major Funds for Innovation, Villages, and Connectivity

- Dr. Jitendra Singh announced the first national call for the ₹2,000 crore BIRAC–RDI Fund
- It is part of the broader ₹1 lakh crore Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) initiative.
- BIRAC stands for Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council.
- The government formally allocated a budget of ₹150 crore for the 'Bharat Vistar' project applicable for the financial year 2026-27.
- The Gyan Bharatam Mission operates with a committed functional outlay of ₹482.85 crore.
- Phase 2 of the Vibrant Village Program features an extended budget of Rs 6800 crore (also officially cited as ₹6,839 crore) remaining active until 2028-29.
- The Amended BharatNet program currently executing in Andhra Pradesh (AP) is heavily supported by ₹2,432 crore in direct government funding.
- The sheer scale of the ₹1 Lakh Crore RDI Fund represents a historic milestone for national research commercialization frameworks.

13. RBI Regulatory Relaxations and Market Operations Adjustments

- Between April and February, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) strictly utilized Open Market Operations (OMO) to effectively purchase 47% (₹6.39 lakh crore) of the total government bonds sold (₹13.65 lakh crore).
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) explicitly updated the Ways and Means Advances (WMA) limits applicable for State Governments and Union Territories to an expanded ceiling of ₹61,008 crore.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) significantly increased the primary ombudsman compensation limit from ₹20 Lakh to ₹30 Lakh, alongside raising the additional compensation from ₹1 Lakh to ₹3 Lakh.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) relaxed prevailing rules, officially allowing Indian firms to borrow up to \$1 billion (or 300% of their net worth) from foreign entities under market-related conditions.
- Additionally, domestic manufacturers are now formally permitted to raise up to \$150 million featuring a shorter 1 to 3-year maturity period.

14. Major Policy Updates: MUDRA Limits, Digital Payments, and Gender Budget

- Government support for digital payment incentives amounted to ₹8,276 crore.
- The Gender Budget Statement (GBS) broad allocation was officially increased from 8.86% up to 9.37%.
- The revised gender budget represents a total of ₹5.01 lakh crore strictly designated for women's welfare initiatives.
- Under Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY), the enhanced loan ceiling is ₹20 lakh under Tarun Plus for eligible repeat borrowers.

15. Significant State Budget Allocations for Welfare and Infrastructure

- Gujarat's Finance Minister Kanu Bhai Desai formally presented a massive state budget of ₹4.08 lakh crore.
- The Gujarat budget notably features a specific ₹500 crore allocation strictly for a long-term development fund.
- The Bihar Cabinet officially allocated ₹1,302 crore explicitly for land acquisition needed to establish the Sonpur International Airport.
- The Bangla Yuva Sathi Scheme features a newly proposed budget allocation of ₹5,000 Crore.

16. Global Partnerships Drive Food Security and Clean Energy Transition

- The Food Corporation of India (FCI) and the World Food Programme (WFP) finalized a partnership to supply 2 lakh metric tons of rice.
- This rice will be supplied at a strictly fixed price of ₹2,800 per quintal, remaining valid until March 31, 2026.
- The World Bank's Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) officially approved a \$197.67 million guarantee.
- This guarantee is structured to protect Citibank as it refinances the State Bank of India (SBI) for nationwide rooftop solar expansion.

17. Government Launches Revamped Export Promotion Mission

- Union Minister Piyush Goyal officially launched a fully revamped Export Promotion Mission.
- The mission is backed by a specific budget allocation of Rs 560 crore scheduled from 2025-26 to 2030-31.
- Export Promotion Mission overall outlay : ₹25,060 crore
- This total is explicitly segmented into Niryat Protsahan allocated ₹10,401 crores, and Niryat Disha allocated ₹14,659 crores.

18. Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme Drives Massive Domestic Manufacturing

- By December 2025, the flagship Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme had successfully surpassed ₹2.16 lakh crore in direct investments.

19. Cochin Shipyard Secures Massive Global Order Book Expansion

- Cochin Shipyard successfully won a highly lucrative \$360 million international contract.
- The contract mandates the manufacture of six sophisticated LNG-powered container vessels for France's renowned CMA CGM Group.

20. International Trade Targets, Deficits, and Agricultural Pricing

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) officially raised the Minimum Support Price (MSP) specifically for Raw Jute for the upcoming 2026-27 season.
- The rate was hiked by ₹275, solidly establishing the final rate at ₹5,925 per quintal.
- Both India and Brazil formally agreed to aggressively elevate bilateral trade to hit \$30 Billion strictly by 2030.
- For context, bilateral trade between the two countries was exactly \$15.2 billion in 2025.

- India continuously experiences a highly significant trade deficit with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

- Trade data shows India exporting \$56.87 billion to the GCC while heavily importing \$121.68 billion.

- A ₹265 crore food storage project was also successfully launched.

21. Government Sets Aggressive Targets Under National Monetization Pipeline (NMP) 2.0

- National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) 2.0 estimates monetisation potential of ₹16.72 lakh crore over FY 2026 to FY 2030.

- The Highways sector is officially allocated the absolute largest share of this pipeline at 26%, translating to ₹4,42,000 crore.

- NMP 1.0 achieved nearly 90% of the ₹6 lakh crore target over four years.

- For historical context, NMP 1.0 successfully hit an impressive 90% of its original ₹6 lakh crore objective spread over a span of 4 years.

22. Major Nationwide Port, Transit, and Green Infrastructure Projects Announced

- Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal laid the official foundation for massive maritime projects worth ₹1500 crore strictly at Tamil Nadu's V.O. Chidambaranar Port.

- The Indian Government formally allocated ₹7,453 crore functioning via a Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme strictly for advanced offshore wind zones.

- The iconic Bharat Mandapam was successfully constructed by Shapoorji Pallonji at a total finalized cost of ₹2700 crore.

- Heritage conservation also received focus, as the 475-year-old Our Lady of Grace Cathedral successfully underwent a targeted ₹4.75 Crore restoration.

23. Global and Domestic Citizen Welfare and Rebuilding Estimates

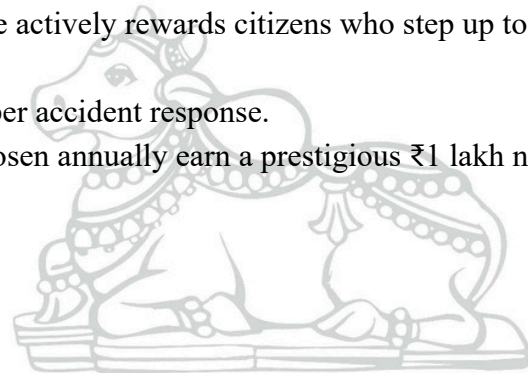
- The World Bank, United Nations (UN), and European Union (EU) collectively estimate the total cost of rebuilding Ukraine has risen by 12%.

- The rebuilding cost is currently evaluated at an astronomical \$588 billion projected over the next decade.

- Domestically, the uniquely structured 'Raahveer' Scheme actively rewards citizens who step up to help victims.

- The scheme offers a strict ₹25,000 cash reward strictly per accident response.

- Under the Raahveer initiative, the top 10 'Raahveers' chosen annually earn a prestigious ₹1 lakh national award.



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3. Appointments & Resignations

1 Major National and Government Administrative Appointments

- Rajiv Gauba was replaced as the Cabinet Secretary.
- Rajiv Kumar was succeeded as the Chief Election Commissioner.
- Sanjay Kumar Agarwal was succeeded as the chief of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).
- B.V.R. Subrahmanyam completed his 3-year term as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NITI Aayog.
- TV Somanathan became the new Cabinet Secretary.
- Gyanesh Kumar assumed duties as the 26th Chief Election Commissioner.
- Vivek Chaturvedi overtook as the new chief of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).
- Praveen Vashisth was appointed as a Vigilance Commissioner.
- Nidhi Chhibber was appointed with the additional charge as the interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NITI Aayog.
- TV Somanathan now chairs the asset monetization committee.

2. Leadership Transitions in Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and Insurance

- Sandeep Kumar Gupta retires on February 28 from his position as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) at GAIL (India) Ltd.
- Ramaswamy Narayanan was succeeded as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re).
- Deepak Gupta has been appointed as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of GAIL (India) Ltd.
- Hitesh R. Joshi was recommended by the Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) to serve as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re).
- The tenure of Deepak Gupta at GAIL (India) Ltd will last from March 1, 2026, to 2029.

3. Regulatory, Export, and Advisory Board Appointments

- A.K. Balasubramanian was named Chairman of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB).
- Abhishek Dev took over as Chairman of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).
- Gyaneshwar Kumar Singh, the Director General (DG) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), was appointed as the Chairperson of the High-Level Advisory Group on Ease of Doing Business.
- The High-Level Advisory Group on Ease of Doing Business was instituted by the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) to guide policy and governance frameworks.

4. Government Committees and Legal Panels Reshuffle

- J.P. Nadda was appointed as the Chairman of the newly reconstituted Hindi Advisory Committee for the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
- Minister of State Anupriya Patel will act as Vice-Chairperson for the Hindi Advisory Committee.
- A.M. Sahu was appointed to lead the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) panel concerning the Assured National Pension System (NPS) Payout.
- Narayan Ramachandran heads the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) panel assigned to modernize the National Pension System (NPS) Investment Framework.

- Gita Mittal leads the Supreme Court Manipur Panel (healing committee).
- The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) panel led by Narayan Ramachandran will focus on modernizing the investment framework of the National Pension System (NPS).
- The Supreme Court Manipur Panel (healing committee) received a 6-month tenure extension.

5. Defense and Security Leadership Appointments

- Admiral Pharoah Pachan of the Royal Thai Navy previously held the chairmanship of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS).
- Praveen Kumar was appointed as the Director General (DG) of the Border Security Force (BSF).
- Shatrueet Singh Kapoor was appointed as the Director General (DG) of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).
- Rakesh Aggarwal was appointed as the Director General (DG) of the National Investigation Agency (NIA).
- Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor was appointed as the Vice Chief of Air Staff.
- Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi assumed the chairmanship of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS).
- Capt. Milind M. Mokashi took command of the Combined Task Force 154.

6. Leadership Changes in Banking and Corporate Sectors

- Satish Kumar Kalra was replaced as the Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Slice Small Finance Bank.
- Rajan Bajaj was appointed as the new Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Slice Small Finance Bank.
- Karthikeyan Manickam was named Chairman of ESAF Small Finance Bank.
- Sandeep Bakhshi was reappointed as Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of ICICI Bank.
- Arijit Basu became the Chairman of IndusInd Bank.
- Tarun Garg was appointed as Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Hyundai Motor India.
- Ganesh Lakshminarayanan appointed Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer-Designate of Tata Communications
- Tarun Garg's appointment is highly significant as he is the first Indian to lead Hyundai Motor India's operations.
- Sandeep Bakhshi's reappointment as the head of ICICI Bank is for a two-year term.

7. Political Appointments in States and Union Territories

- Sumitra Pawar ascended as the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra.
- Yumnam Khemchand Singh was sworn in as the 13th Chief Minister of Manipur.
- Sumitra Pawar made history by becoming the first woman Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra.

8. International Political Appointments and Leadership Shifts

- In Peru, Josue Jerry (Jos Jery) was impeached from his presidential role over corruption allegations. Tarique Rahman representing the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) was sworn in as the 11th Prime Minister of Bangladesh.
- Mia Mottley secured her third term as Prime Minister of Barbados.
- Sanae Takaichi of the Liberal Democratic Party was reappointed for her second cabinet as the Prime Minister of Japan.
- Rob Jetten (Arnoldus Adrianus Jetten) was sworn in by King Willem-Alexander as the Prime Minister of the Netherlands.

- Rob Jetten made history as the youngest and first openly gay Prime Minister in the history of the Netherlands.
- Mamady Doumbouya was installed as President of Guinea.
- Shaya Mohsen Zindani was appointed Prime Minister of Yemen.
- Mufti Noor Ahmad Noor was named as the Charge d'Affaires to India by the Taliban administration in Afghanistan.
- Jose Maria Balcazar will serve as the Interim President of Peru until July 28.

9. Global Health and Scientific Panel Appointments

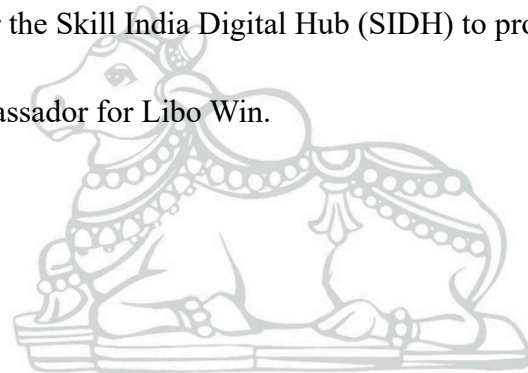
- Dr. Jay Bhattacharya has been appointed as the Acting Director of the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention (US CDC).
- Professor B. Ravindran from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras was appointed to the United Nations Independent International Scientific Panel on Artificial Intelligence.
- Dr. Jay Bhattacharya will concurrently serve as the head of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) alongside his role at the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention (US CDC).

10. Sports Coaching and Governance Appointments

- Amelia Valverde was appointed as the coach of the Indian Women's Football Team.
- Pullela Gopichand is directing a Unified Coaching Framework committee.
- Pau Gasol was elected Chair of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Athletes' Commission.
- Maja Włoszczowska was elected First Vice-Chair of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Athletes' Commission.
- Abhinav Bindra was elected Second Vice-Chair of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Athletes' Commission.
- Oluseyi Smith was elected Third Vice-Chair of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Athletes' Commission.

11. Designations of Cultural and Brand Ambassadors

- Sachin Tendulkar was named the United Nations (UN) Global Road Safety Champion.
- Amitabh Bachchan has been appointed as the brand ambassador for the Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) to promote its new campaign, "Badhna Hai Toh Yahan Judna Hai".
- Pankaj Advani was designated as the Indian Brand Ambassador for Libo Win.

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4. Arts & Cultural Affairs

1. India's First National Cow Cultural Museum Established

- The National Cow Cultural Museum is located within the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Veterinary Science University campus in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh.
- It is officially recognized as India's first museum dedicated to cows.

2. Bronze Bust of C. Rajagopalachari Unveiled at Rashtrapati Bhavan

- The initiative follows an announcement made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the 131st "Mann Ki Baat".
- President Droupadi Murmu unveiled a bronze bust of C. Rajagopalachari at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 23 February 2026. The bust replaced the statue of British architect Edwin Lutyens.
- Chakravarti Rajagopalachari (Rajaji) was a prominent freedom fighter, statesman, and the last Governor-General of India.

3. Delhi International Film Festival 2026 Announced

- The event is hosted by DTDC at the Bharat Mandapam, a venue constructed by Shapoorji Pallonji at a cost of ₹2700 crore.
- The Delhi International Film Festival is scheduled to begin on March 25.
- The festival will screen over 125 movies during the event.

4. National Arogya Fair 2026 Inaugurated in Maharashtra

- President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated National Arogya Fair 2026 in Shegaon, Buldhana district, Maharashtra, on 25 February 2026.

5. Indian Navy Inaugurates "Milan Village" During MILAN 2026

- MILAN is a multinational naval exercise hosted by the Indian Navy.
- The Indian Navy inaugurated MILAN Village on 15 February 2026 at Visakhapatnam as part of MILAN 2026.
- The Indian Navy inaugurated the "Milan Village," which serves as a specialized cultural and social exchange zone.
- It provided a platform for international delegates from over 70 participating nations to engage in cultural diplomacy.

6. Centenary Celebration of the Ol Chiki Script

- The Ol Chiki script was created in 1925 by Pandit Raghunath Murmu for the Santhali language.
- Santhali belongs to the Munda branch of the Austroasiatic language family.
- The script is written from left to right, keeps letters separate without joining them, and consists of 30 basic letters.
- President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the centenary celebration of the Ol Chiki script in New Delhi on 16 February 2026.
- The event was organized by the Ministry of Culture, where commemorative coins and stamps were released.
- The script is crucial for the Santhali language, which belongs to the Munda branch of the Austroasiatic language family and is spoken by tribal populations in Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, and Bihar.
- Santhali was officially added to the 8th Schedule of the Constitution via the 92nd Amendment Act of 2003, joining the 22 official languages.

7. Updated Constitution Translations Unveiled on Mother Language Day

- The event was organized to mark International Mother Language Day on February 21.
- The recently unveiled Santhali language version of the Constitution prompted an academic inquiry into the specific script used for it.

Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan unveiled updated versions of the Indian Constitution in Tamil (noted as the world's oldest classical language) and Gujarati in New Delhi.

- The 8th edition of the Legal Glossary was also unveiled alongside these translations.
- Official translations of the Constitution are now available in Bodo, Dogri, Santhali (for the first time), and Nepali (which was released in 2025).

8. Commemorative Stamps Celebrating "Puppets of India" Released

- Indian traditional puppetry is broadly classified into four major forms: String puppets (Marionettes), Glove puppets, Rod puppets, and Shadow puppets.

• The Department of Posts issued a set of 8 commemorative postage stamps on "Puppets of India" in February 2026

- The stamps have a face value of ₹5 each and were designed by Sankha Samanta.
- The stamps feature traditional styles: Kathputli (Rajasthan), Yakshagana / Gombeyata (Karnataka), Danger Putul & Bener Putul (West Bengal), Kathi Kundhei & Ravanchhaya (Odisha), Pavakathakali (Kerala), and Tholu Bommalata (Andhra Pradesh).

9. Strategic Agreement Announced to Boost India's Orange Economy

- India's creative and cultural sectors are collectively termed the "Orange Economy".
- Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat announced a strategic agreement with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
- It targets the creation of one million creative jobs by the year 2026.

10. Dr. Bhargava Mallappa Receives Royal Honor from Indonesia

- Dr. Bhargava Mallappa, a senior Indian National Congress official and founder of MBRA Groups, received the royal title of "Dato".
- The prestigious honor was awarded by Indonesia's Kerajaan Kutai Mulawarman.

11. Key Developments in Global and National Heritage Sites

- The Grand Egyptian Museum in Giza is recognized as the world's largest archaeological museum.
- The Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh Memorial Museum is situated in Naya Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
- The prominent BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir (Neasden Temple) is located in London.

12. Major National Festivals, Fairs, and Exhibitions

- Delhi's Palash Flower Festival 2026 was inaugurated in New Delhi by Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena.
- The Taj Mahotsav was organized in Agra.
- The 11th India International Dance and Music Festival was held in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- The 39th Surajkund International Crafts Mela was noted in Faridabad, Haryana.
- The Happiness International Film Festival was hosted in Kerala.
- Attukal Pongala (Kerala) is acclaimed as the world's largest women-led religious gathering.
- Nagaur Cattle Fair (Rajasthan) is recognized as India's second-largest livestock fair.
- Khajuraho Dance Festival is a highly esteemed annual cultural festival in Madhya Pradesh.
- Thaipusam is a prominent festival dedicated to Lord Murugan, widely celebrated in Tamil Nadu.
- Losar Festival (Tibetan New Year) is celebrated by the Monpa tribe in Arunachal Pradesh, Ladakh, and Sikkim.
- Lathmar Holi was noted as being celebrated in Barsana.

5. Awards & Prizes

1. National Gallantry and Republic Day Parade Awards

- Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla from Uttar Pradesh (UP) was honored with the prestigious Ashok Chakra.
- President Droupadi Murmu conferred the Ashok Chakra on Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla on 26 January 2026 during the 77th Republic Day celebrations.
- The Assam Regiment won the Best Marching Contingent (Popular Choice) in the Republic Day Parade.
- The Ashok Chakra is India's highest peacetime gallantry award.

2. First Edition of Bhavya Bharat Bhushan Awards Distributed

- The Bhavya Bharat Bhushan Awards were formally instituted by Sadhguru's Isha Foundation.
- The awards were facilitated and distributed by Defense Minister Rajnath Singh to various distinguished individuals.
- Dr. N. Rajam & Smt. Alarmel Valli were awarded in the Art & Culture category.
- Dr. Nambi Narayanan & AS Kiran Kumar won in the Science & Tech category.
- Dr. Vikram Sampath was honored for Literature & Academics.
- Saina Nehwal received the award in the Sports category.
- The Indian Armed Forces were honored for their contributions to National Security.

3. Delhi Government Introduces 'Raahveer' Scheme National Award

- Delhi has initiated the 'Raahveer' Road Accident Assistance Scheme to promote citizen intervention during road emergencies.
- Citizens helping a seriously injured accident victim reach hospital within the golden hour are eligible for ₹25,000 per incident.
- The scheme will annually identify the 10 most outstanding 'Raahveers'.
- Selected individuals will earn a ₹1 lakh national award for their efforts.
- Exactly 10 individuals will be chosen every year for this recognition.

4. PM Narendra Modi Honored with Israel's Speaker of the Knesset Medal

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was bestowed the "Speaker of the Knesset Medal".
- The medal was presented by Amir Ohana, the speaker of Israel's parliament.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi made history by becoming the first world leader to be honored with this specific medal.

5. The Dalai Lama Wins First Grammy at the 68th Grammy Awards

- The Dalai Lama captured his first-ever Grammy Award for his album titled "Meditation".
- He secured the win in the "Best Audio Book, Narration, and Storytelling Recording" category.
- The winning work was "Meditations: The Reflections of His Holiness the Dalai Lama."

6. Rouble Nagi Honored with Global Teacher Prize 2026

- Rouble Nagi, an Indian teacher and social activist from Mumbai, received the Global Teacher Prize 2026.

• The award was announced at the World Governments Summit in Dubai.

7. Indian Doctors Selected for the Chang-Crandall Humanitarian Award

- Dr. Haripriya Aravind from Chennai and Dr. R. Venkatesh from Puducherry were selected for the Chang-Crandall Humanitarian Award.

- Both acclaimed doctors are associated with the Aravind Eye Hospitals.
- The award will be officially presented in Washington on April 11, 2026.
- The award package includes a notable \$100,000 donation.

8. Our Lady of Grace Cathedral Wins UNESCO Heritage Award

- The 475-year-old Our Lady of Grace Cathedral secured the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Asia-Pacific Award of Merit for Cultural Heritage Conservation.
- The historic Catholic church is located in Papdy village, Vasai, Maharashtra.

9. West Bengal Secures UN FAO Recognition for Agriculture

- West Bengal's "Matir Srishti" Program was officially awarded an international certificate by the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO).
- The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) also formally recognized three of West Bengal's aromatic rice varieties: Gobindobhog, Tulaipanji, and Kanakchur.

10. 24th Global Business Leader of the Year Awards Announced

- Subodh Gupta, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of LordsMark Microbiotech, received the CEO of the Year honor.
- Mukesh Agarwal received the Visionary Leader Award.
- Manipal Hospital Vijayawada was lauded for the Best Customer Service in Healthcare.

11. Bengaluru International Airport Wins ACI ASQ Award 2025

- Kempegowda International Airport Bengaluru was ranked Best Airport at Arrivals Globally at the 2025 Airports Council International (ACI) Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Awards.
- It retained the recognition for the fourth consecutive year.

12. NSIC Upgraded to Schedule A CPSE Status

- The National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) was promoted from a Schedule B to a Schedule A Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE).
- The promotion followed an "Excellent" rating acquired by the organization for the financial year 2024-25.
- The National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) supports Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) across India.

13. BBC Indian Sports Awards 2025 Winners Announced

- Cricketer Smriti Mandhana won the prestigious British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Indian Sportswoman of the Year 2025 award.
- Divya Deshmukh won the Emerging Player award.
- Preeti Pal secured the Para Sportswoman of the Year award.
- Anjali Bhagwat received the Lifetime Achievement Award.
- Smriti Mandhana earned her award for scoring 434 runs and playing a crucial role in India's International Cricket Council (ICC) Women's World Cup victory.
- Anjali Bhagwat was recognized for her deeply historic Olympic shooting career.

14. 79th BAFTA Awards Dominated by Indian and International Films

- The Manipuri regional film "Boong" (alternatively referenced as Bong or Heeramandi), directed by Lakshmi Priya Devi and backed by Farhan Akhtar, clinched the award for Best Children and Family Film.
- Paul Thomas Anderson's film "One Battle After Another" ruled the ceremony by winning 6 awards, including Best Film, Best Director, and Best Adapted Screenplay.

- The top acting honors were awarded to Jessie Buckley (Leading Actress) and Robert Aramayo (Leading Actor).
- "Boong" made historic triumph by becoming the first Indian cinematic production to ever win in this distinct category.

15. "Wellness Beyond Walls" Wins Best Film at Ayush Film Festival

- Dr. Arun's movie titled "Wellness Beyond Walls" won the Best Film award.
- The honor was officially bestowed at the conference's Ayush Film Festival.

16. India Achieves Two Guinness World Records in AI Technology

- India achieved a Guinness World Record for the "Most pledges for an Artificial Intelligence (AI) responsibility campaign in 24 hours".
- The AI pledge campaign secured a total of 2,50,946 valid pledges endorsing ethical AI use between Feb 16-17.
- The National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) achieved a second Guinness World Record for peaking at 17,999 concurrent viewers.
- This viewer record was hit during a live-streamed YouTube lesson specifically on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Healthcare.

17. Dr. C. Anandharamakrishnan Wins Tata Transformation Prize

- Dr. C. Anandharamakrishnan was awarded the Tata Transformation Prize.



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6. Banking & Finance

1. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Institutional, Operational, and Currency Updates

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was established on April 1, 1935, and continues to upgrade its operational infrastructure and currency security measures.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) regulates the issue of bank notes and currency under Section 22 of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934.
- Seigniorage refers to the profit the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) makes, defined as the difference between a currency's face value and its actual printing cost.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is establishing a highly secured "greenfield" data center and Enterprise Computing Institute spanning 18.55 acres in Khurda, Bhubaneswar (Odisha).
- The 621st Central Board Meeting of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was held in New Delhi, addressed by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and chaired by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Digital India Bhashini Division signed a pact to launch the 'Banking Bhashini' initiative, which will offer multilingual banking access.
- Under the Integrated Ombudsman Scheme 2021 (effective July 1, 2026), the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased the ombudsman compensation limit from ₹20 Lakh to ₹30 Lakh, and additional compensation from ₹1 Lakh to ₹3 Lakh.
- The Payment Regulatory Board (PRB), which replaced the Board for Regulation and Supervision of Payment and Settlement Systems (BPSS), convened its first meeting in Mumbai and consists of 6 members.
- The new Odisha facility achieved Tier-IV certification for securing cloud storage, core financial operations, and currency management data, serving as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s second data center to complement its primary facility in Kharghar, Navi Mumbai.
- To improve durability and authentication, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is actively upgrading security features such as Advanced Watermarks and security threads for ₹100 and ₹500 notes.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Central Board consists of 21 members, led by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra and four serving Deputy Governors: Shirish Chandra Murmu (Shrish Chandra Murmu), Swaminathan Janakiraman, T. Rabi Sankar, and Poonam Gupta.
- The ₹500 note represents 86% of the total value of currency in circulation, is Stone Grey, measures 66mm x 150mm, and features the Red Fort motif.
- The ₹100 note is Lavender, features the Rani Ki Vav motif, and measures 66x142mm.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) commissioned the Urban Consumer Confidence Survey (UCCS) and the Inflation Expectations Survey of Households (IESH) for March 2026, executed by the Hansa Research Group.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) regarding the recognition of Central Counterparties (CCPs).
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) levied a total of ₹1.35 crore in penalties on five institutions: CSB Bank (₹63.6 lakh), Bank of Maharashtra (₹32.5 lakh), DCB Bank (₹29.6 lakh), IIFL (₹5.3 lakh), and Navi Finserv (₹3.8 lakh), alongside a ₹38.60 Lakh monetary penalty on UCO Bank for non-compliance.

- Airtel Money gained Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approval to operate as a Type 2 Non-Deposit accepting NBFC, Japan's SMBC received approval to establish a subsidiary in India, and New India Cooperative Bank was excluded from the Second Schedule of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934 after merging with Saraswat Cooperative Bank.

2. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Regulatory, Lending, and Market Exposure Guidelines

- Under a revised Lead Bank Scheme overhaul, banks are now mandated to maintain a 60% Credit-Deposit (CD) ratio in rural and semi-urban branches, with non-compliant districts to be monitored by specialized committees.
- Effective July 1, 2026, banks can lend up to 10% of their total capital base to Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)-registered Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), with combined exposure to a single REIT capped at 49% of the REIT's value, while "Balloon" and "Bullet" repayments are strictly prohibited.
- Effective April 1, 2026, the limit for banks to finance Mergers & Acquisitions (M&A) is increased from 10% to 20% of their Tier 1 Capital, allowing banks to finance up to 75% of an acquisition's value.
- New capital market exposure norms (effective 2027) cap total bank exposure to the capital market at 40% of their net worth.
- External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) rules were relaxed, allowing eligible Indian firms to borrow up to \$1 billion (an increase from the earlier cap of \$750 million) or 300% of their net worth from foreign entities.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) updated the Ways and Means Advances (WMA) limits for State Governments and Union Territories, revising the ceiling to ₹61,008 crore.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released a draft circular allowing Authorized Dealer (AD) Category-I banks to borrow up to 100% of their Tier-I capital or \$10 million (whichever is higher) without requiring prior approval to facilitate smoother forex trading.
- To actively inject liquidity into the market, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) utilized Open Market Operations (OMO) between April and February to purchase 47% (₹6.39 lakh crore) of the total government bonds sold (₹13.65 lakh crore).
- Regulatory enhancements for MSMEs and farmers include an automatic 15% annual increase in the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) limit (up from 10%) and raising collateral-free loans to ₹20 lakh under the MUDRA Yojana, overseen by the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).
- To protect customers, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) strictly prohibited recovery agents from calling borrowers from unregistered numbers or intimidating them, and mandated banks to maintain customer consent records for third-party products for a minimum of 3 years.
- Bank financing for acquisitions requires the target unlisted company to have a minimum net worth of ₹500 crore, 3 years of profitability, and a 'BBB-' rating, while the acquirer's post-acquisition consolidated debt-to-equity ratio cannot exceed 3:1.
- The bank lending ceiling against shares was increased to ₹1 crore.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has mandated the adoption of a Unique Transaction Identifier (UTI) for private trades in Over-the-Counter (OTC) Rupee Interest Rate and Foreign Currency derivatives, taking effect January 1, 2027.
- New lending regulations for stock brokers (effective April 1) require bank funding to be 100% backed by collateral (50% bank guarantees, of which 25% must strictly be in cash), a move opposed by the Association of National Exchanges Members of India (ANMI), though the Margin Trading Facility (MTF) will not be immediately altered.

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) instituted a mandatory 3-year cooling-off period for Directors of Cooperative Banks who have continuously served a 10-year tenure.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) initiated early redemption for five Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) tranches issued in October 2018 and October 2019.
- Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) details: Individual maximum subscription is 4kg per financial year, maturing in 8 years with a 2.5% interest rate, and permitting premature withdrawal after 5 years (which now face a 12.5% tax).

3. National Economic Indicators, GDP Growth, and Market Projections

- Government and statistical organizations are revising baseline metrics to accurately calculate inflation and growth figures, including a Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) sub-committee resolving to shift India's National Account Base Year from 2012 to 2022-23 using a "Double Deflation" method.
- The Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S) updated the base year for India's Merchandise Trade Indices and manufacturing deflation to FY 2022-23, while the Consumer Price Index (CPI) base year was updated from 2012 to 2024.
- The National Statistical Office (NSO) revised the projected GDP growth rate for the financial year 2025-26 to 7.6%, an increase from the earlier estimate of 7.4%, citing a Q3 (Oct-Dec) growth of 7.8%.
- Wholesale Inflation (WPI) climbed to 1.81% in January 2026 (up from 0.83% in December), primarily driven by a 2.21% increase in Primary Articles.
- The Currency in Circulation (CiC) reached ₹40 Lakh Crore as of January 31, reflecting an 11.1% year-on-year increase.
- The output of India's eight core industries expanded by 4% in January 2026.
- India's Cash-to-GDP ratio showed an improvement by declining from 14.4% in 2021 to 11%.
- Corporate performance demonstrated major growth, with Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data revealing that 318 listed private, non-financial companies recorded double-digit year-on-year sales growth of 10.1% in Q3 of FY 2025-26, ending an 11-quarter streak of single-digit growth.
- Employment statistics showed mixed signals: National Statistical Office (NSO) data placed India's unemployment rate at 5% in January 2026, while Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) data indicated the Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR) held steady at 55.9% in January as the unemployment rate marginally rose to 5.2%.
- An SBI Research report estimates Q3 (Oct-Dec) GDP growth crossed 8% to 8.1% and projected growth for FY27 at 6.8% to 7.2%, mirroring the Ernst & Young (EY) GDP growth projection for FY26-27.
- A joint report by Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and Retailers Association of India (RAI) estimates India's retail market will double from ₹90-95 trillion to ₹210-215 trillion by 2035.
- A Boston Consulting Group (BCG) report projects India's e-commerce market will nearly double, reaching \$280-\$300 billion by 2030.
- According to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, Nagpur recorded the highest Housing Price Index growth at 138.24% in Q3 FY26.
- The housing sector is overseen by the National Housing Bank (NHB), which strictly requires a minimum capital of ₹20 crore for housing finance companies.
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) projected a 2.4% GDP growth rate for the US in 2026 but warned that its current account deficit could climb to 7-8% of its GDP and national debt could reach 140% of its GDP.

4. Advancements in Digital Payments, UPI Ecosystem, and Banking Innovations

- The government and financial institutions are heavily investing in financial digitization, providing ₹8,276 crore in budgetary support to actively incentivize digital payments.
- Financial Literacy Week 2026 was observed from February 9 to 13, adopting the theme "KYC - Surakshit Banking Ki Aur Pehla Kadam".
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) updated the Digital Payment Index (DPI) for September 2025 to 516.76 (up from 493.22 in March 2025), a growth primarily driven by the "Payment Performance" and "Payment Enablers" parameters.
- A Department of Financial Services (DFS) report confirmed that the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is India's most preferred transaction mode, making up 57% of transactions compared to 38% for cash, and accounts for roughly 70% of monthly transactions.
- A Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) based Public Distribution System (PDS) utilizing programmable 'e-RUPI' tokens was launched in Gujarat and Puducherry to ensure leak-proof food subsidies under the PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana.
- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) collaborated with NVIDIA to scale Sovereign AI capabilities across the Indian payment ecosystem.
- India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) network successfully accommodates 1 billion users and processes 170 billion yearly transactions.
- Unified Payments Interface (UPI) functionality was significantly broadened: the "UPI One World Wallet" allows international visitors from over 40 countries to make local payments, UPI 123Pay allows feature phone usage without the internet (limit ₹10,000), and NFC-enabled UPI Lite permits ₹1,000 per transaction.
- PhonePe introduced biometric UPI payments and an AI-powered natural language search feature built via Microsoft's Foundry for intent-based routing.
- HDFC Bank integrated CBDC functionality into its SmartGateway platform.
- DBS Bank (Singapore) and Visa launched an AI-powered "Intelligence Commerce" payment system.
- Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) launched "IOB Gram Sweekar", dedicated Startup Branches, and an online death claim settlement portal with a strict 15-day timeline.
- LIC Mutual Fund inaugurated India's first dedicated women-centric AMC branch in South Delhi.
- State Bank of India (SBI) opened a Global Capability Centre in Bengaluru and a Global Trade Finance Centre (GTFC) in Kolkata.
- IDFC First Bank introduced the FD-backed "FIRST Hello Cashback Credit Card", the "Gaj" credit card, and the "Zero Forex Diamond Reserve" credit card.
- Axis Bank introduced a 'Safety Center' on its "Open" app, launched the "Vyapar Business Loan", and partnered with IndiGo to release two co-branded credit cards.
- Amazon Pay collaborated with Small Finance Banks to offer fixed deposits, while Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank) raised \$1 billion through US dollar-denominated bonds.
- Tripura Gramin Bank launched "TGB on Wheels," marking India's first solar-powered ATM van.
- ICICI Bank launched the "ICICI Swasthya Pension Scheme" under the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) regulatory sandbox, which merges retirement savings with healthcare and permits premature closure if medical crises exceed 70% of the accumulated corpus.

5. Major Corporate Mergers, Acquisitions, and Asset Management Developments

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) authorized US-based Bain Capital to acquire a 41.7% stake in NBFC Manappuram Finance at ₹236 per share
- Torrent Power executed a 100% acquisition of Nabha Power Limited from L&T Power Development for ₹6,889 Crore.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved SBI Mutual Fund's proposal to obtain up to a 9.99% stake in both Bandhan Bank and RBL Bank.
- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) permitted Dubai-based Emirates NBD to acquire up to a 60% stake in RBL Bank, and separately approved the merger of Hinduja Leyland Finance Limited into NDL Ventures Limited.
- Slice Small Finance Bank announced Rajan Bajaj as MD & CEO following the strategic merger of fintech Slice and North East Small Finance Bank.
- Static facts regarding Small Finance Banks: The Minimum Capital Requirement is ₹300 Crore, and the FDI limit is 74%.
- ASK Asset & Wealth Management secured Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) approval to commence its mutual fund business, officially becoming India's 52nd active fund house.
- Reliance Retail claimed the top position on Hurun India's list of 100 Unlisted Gems.
- The National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) was successfully upgraded from a Schedule B to a Schedule A Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE).
- Punjab National Bank (PNB) announced its 2nd half marathon themed "PNB Solidarathon: Run for Soldiers, Run with Soldiers" to mark its 130th Foundation Day.

6. Government Schemes, Trade Policies, and Global Financial Agreements

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched Phase 2 of the National Monetization Pipeline (NMP) 2.0, setting a 5-year roadmap (FY 2026 to FY 2030) with a total monetization target of ₹16.72 Lakh Crore (including ₹5.8 lakh crore in private sector investments), expecting the highest returns from the Highways sector.
- India and France amended their Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA), lowering the tax rate for capital gains and dividends to 5% for companies holding more than a 10% shareholding.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) raised the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Raw Jute for the 2026-27 season by ₹275 to ₹5,925 per quintal.
- India formalized a joint statement to commence Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).
- In the international tariff sphere, the US enacted a preliminary Countervailing Duty (CVD) of 126% on solar imports from India, while US President Donald Trump instituted a 10% global tariff on all imports for 150 days by invoking Section 122 of the Trade Act.
- Enhancing cross-border fintech integration, India and Israel signed an agreement linking India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) system with Israel's domestic payment infrastructure, and NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) struck an agreement with PayNet Malaysia for cross-border DuitNow QR payments.
- The NSE International Exchange in GIFT City launched the "NSE Global Access" platform, enabling Indian retail investors to invest in global equities under the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)
- The general LRS ceiling remains USD 250,000 per financial year
- Sri Lanka's DFCC Bank issued the nation's first "Blue Bond" worth 3 billion LKR, listed at the NSE International Exchange.

- The Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) finalized a \$400 million loan agreement with Japanese banks (SMBC and MUFG Bank) for railway projects, while IIFL Home Finance signed an agreement to borrow \$300 million from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for affordable housing finance.
- The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) of the World Bank authorized a 5-year, \$197.67 million guarantee to Citibank N.A. to protect its non-shareholder loan to the State Bank of India (SBI) for Grid-Connected Rooftop Solar projects.
- India joined the inaugural Board of Peace for Gaza holding an observer status, successfully avoiding the \$1 billion full-membership fee.



7. Defence Affairs

1. 13th Edition of Naval Exercise MILAN 2026 Concludes in Visakhapatnam

- The exercise was formally inaugurated by Defense Minister Rajnath Singh in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- The mega drill concluded off the Visakhapatnam coast aboard the aircraft carrier INS Vikrant.
- As a cultural focal point, the Indian Navy inaugurated the "Milan Village" at the Eastern Naval Command in Visakhapatnam, an event presided over by Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla.
- The exercise witnessed participation from 74 friendly foreign countries
- It was conducted under the theme " Camaraderie, Cooperation, Collaboration".
- The Indian Navy also created Milan Village in Visakhapatnam as a cultural interaction hub for delegates from 70+ countries.
- INS Vikrant was designed by the Warship Design Bureau, built by Cochin Shipyard, and officially commissioned in 2022.

2. 16th Joint Military Exercise Vajra Prahar Commences in Himachal Pradesh

- Exercise Vajra Prahar is a joint special forces exercise between India and the United States.
- The 16th iteration is taking place from February 24 to March 16, 2026, at the Special Forces Training School in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh.
- The United States (US) contingent prominently features the "Green Berets".

3. 7th Edition of Joint Military Exercise Dharma Guardian Begins in Uttarakhand

- Exercise Dharma Guardian is an annual joint military drill connecting the Indian Army and the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force.
- The 7th edition commenced at the Foreign Training Node in Chaubatia, Uttarakhand and will run from February 24 to March 9.
- The Ladakh Scouts are representing the Indian forces during this drill.

4. Various National and International Military Exercises Conducted

- Exercise Vajraghat: Executed by the Indian Army's Southern Command at the Pokhran Field Firing Range situated in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- Agni Varsha: An integrated fire and maneuver exercise conducted by the Indian Army's Southern Command at the Pokhran Field Firing Range in Rajasthan.
- Kalari Leap: A maritime exercise managed by the Indian Air Force's Southern Air Command across Lakshadweep and Minicoy.
- Agni Pariksha: Executed jointly by the Indian Army and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) in the East Siang district, Arunachal Pradesh.
- Khanjar (13th Edition): Held between India and Kyrgyzstan at Massimari, Assam.
- DOSTI-17: A trilateral coast guard exercise involving India, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives, held in Male, Maldives.
- Simbex: An India-Singapore Joint Military Training (JMT) bilateral exercise held in February.
- India-Thailand Joint Exercise: A Joint Air Combat Exercise took place in the Indian Ocean Region (Feb 9-12), utilizing Indian Sukhoi Mk1s and Thai Gripens.
- The Indian Army hosted the first "International Military Adventure Challenge Cup" (Feb 18-23) in the Eastern Himalayas with participants from Bhutan, Brazil, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Saudi Arabia.

- India regularly conducts exercises Varuna, Shakti, and Garuda with France; Ajeya Warrior with the United Kingdom (UK); Eastern Bridge with Oman; Nomadic Elephant with Mongolia; Mitra Shakti with Sri Lanka; and Surya Kiran with Nepal.

5. Indian Navy Assumes Chairmanship of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) 2026-2028

- India, a founding member of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), regains the chairmanship seat after a 16-year hiatus, having formerly held the position from 2008 to 2010.
- At the 9th Conclave of Chiefs in Visakhapatnam, the Indian Navy assumed the chairmanship of IONS for the 2026-2028 term.
- Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi officially assumed leadership from Admiral Pharoah Pachan of the Royal Thai Navy on February 20, 2026.
- Oman officially joined the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) working group, while the Philippines gained observer status.
- India will host an upcoming IONS Maritime Exercise.

6. Strategic Naval Deployments, Asset Commissions, and International Maritime Conclaves

- INS Sudarshini (Operation Lokayan 26): The Indian Navy's training ship arrived in Safaga Port, Egypt, concluding its 10-month maritime expedition.
- INS Anjadip & INS Androth: The Indian Navy commissioned INS Anjadip (nicknamed the "Dolphin Hunter"), the third among eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts (ASW-SWC). It is slated for induction by Chief Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi at the Chennai Port. INS Androth was also completed.
- Cadet Training Ship 'Krishna': India's first indigenously designed and built cadet training ship (Yard 1883 Krishak) was launched at the Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Kattupalli shipyard in Chennai and inaugurated by Chief of Defence Staff Anil Chauhan.
- Combined Task Force 154 (CTF 154): Capt. Milind M. Mokashi (a Shaurya Chakra awardee) took command of the CTF 154 from Italy on Feb 11 in Manama, Bahrain.
- International Fleet Review 2026: Hosted by the Indian Navy in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, featuring participation from over 74 countries.
- 5th Goa Maritime Conclave: Scheduled to commence on November 21 at the Naval War College in Goa involving senior representatives from 14 Indian Ocean nations.
- INS Sudarshini was constructed by Goa Shipyard Limited and will next join Sail Seten (France) and Sail 250 (New York).

7. India-France Defence Dialogue and Major Aerospace Joint Ventures

- 6th Annual Defence Dialogue: Held in Bengaluru, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and French delegate Catherine renewed their Defense Cooperation Agreement for another 10 years.
- Airbus H125 Final Assembly Line: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron virtually inaugurated the Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL) final assembly line in Kolar, Karnataka.
- BEL & Safran HAMMER Joint Venture: Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) and France's Safran Electronics & Defense finalized a 50-50% joint venture to manufacture the Highly Agile Modular Munition Extended Range (HAMMER) weapon system in India.
- The HAMMER system is an air-to-ground precision-guided smart bomb kit utilized on Rafale jets.
- The HAMMER manufacturing plant is registered and operational in Pune.

8. Government Introduces 'PRAHAAR' National Counter-Terrorism Policy

- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) introduced India's premier National Counter-Terrorism Policy and Strategy to systematically address evolving security challenges.
- The policy is labeled 'PRAHAAR', which officially stands for: Prevention of terror attacks, Responses (swift and proportionate), Aggregating internal capacities, Human rights and rule of law-based processes, Attenuating conditions enabling terrorism, Aligning international efforts, and Recovery and resilience.
- Structurally, the Multi-Agency Centre (MAC) and Intelligence Bureau (IB) will operate as central nodes.
- Local police act as first responders, backed by special counter-terror units, while the National Investigation Agency (NIA) handles major investigations.

9. Advancements in Military Tech, Border Infrastructure, and Diplomatic Engagements

Background / Introduction • The Indian Army and government ministries have accelerated infrastructure building, technological adoption (AI), and international military diplomacy.

- Presidential Flight: President Droupadi Murmu became the first Indian President to fly in the "Prachand" Light Combat Helicopter, manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- The UN Fellowship was organized by the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs and was held at the Military College of Materials Management in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, with delegates from 13 countries.
- The newly unveiled Army AI systems include:

AI Examiner (assessment platform),

SAMBHAAV (Geo-spatial AI awareness system),

E-Kumbh (secure air-gapped AI cloud platform),

PRAKSHEPAN (AI-driven disaster prediction system),

X-Face (facial recognition and deepfake detection system), and

Navdrishti (mobile telemetry platform).



NBCC

8. International Affairs

1. Political Shifts and Trade Realignments in Bangladesh

- Sheikh Hasina and Muhammad Yunus's interim government recently exited power in Bangladesh, with Sheikh Hasina currently in exile in Delhi, India.
- The previously ruling Awami League, led by Sheikh Hasina, did not participate in the latest elections.
- Bangladesh currently sources 90% of its raw cotton from India.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was invited to the February 17 swearing-in ceremony in Dhaka, Bangladesh, but he sent Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to represent India instead.
- The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) secured a landslide victory in the 13th parliamentary elections, winning approximately 72% of the seats (over 200 seats).
- Jamaat-e-Islami was defeated in the elections, securing only 70 seats.
- Tarique Rahman, Chairman of the BNP who was recently living abroad, was sworn in as the 11th Prime Minister of Bangladesh.
- Bangladesh will shift its raw cotton imports from India to the United States (US).
- This shift follows a reciprocal trade agreement offering zero-duty US access for Bangladeshi garments made with US-origin cotton/fibers.
- Bangladesh committed \$3.5 billion to buy US agricultural products.

2. India-UK Free Trade Agreement and Energy Dialogue Partnerships

- The India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is anticipated to take effect in April 2026.
- India's Pralhad Joshi and UK Deputy PM David Lammy launched an Offshore Wind Task Force in New Delhi under 'Vision 2035' during the 4th India-UK Energy Dialogue.
- The FTA will make 99% of Indian exports to the UK tax-free and reduce UK tariffs on Indian goods such as leather and textiles.
- Inversely, India will slash tariffs on UK Whiskey (initially from 150% to 75%, scaling down to 40%) and Cars (from 110% to 10% over a five-year period).

3. India and Brazil Elevate Bilateral Trade and Green Finance Cooperation

- Brazilian President Lula da Silva made an official visit to India to strengthen bilateral and trade relations.
- Both nations agreed to elevate bilateral trade to \$30 Billion by 2030.
- Agreements were signed spanning rare earths, critical minerals, steel, mining, renewable energy, digital partnerships, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) green transition, and the postal sector.
- India and Brazil signed an agreement to boost green finance cooperation, specifically focusing on the MSME sector.
- President Lula da Silva inaugurated ApexBrasil's first overseas trade office in New Delhi.

4. India and France Strengthen Strategic, Tax, and Trade Relations

- India and France amended their 1992 DTAA, lowering the tax rate for capital gains and dividends to 5% for companies holding more than a 10% shareholding, and 15% for others.
- The two nations signed a Joint Declaration of Intent to collaboratively cooperate on extracting, processing, and recycling critical minerals.
- A complementary Letter of Intent regarding critical minerals was signed with CNRS, France's major scientific research organization.
- French President Emmanuel Macron extended a formal invitation to PM Narendra Modi for the 52nd G7 Summit, slated for Evian, France in 2026.

5. India Joins US-Led PACT Silica Coalition

- India officially signed an agreement with the United States (US) to become the 10th full member of the US-led Pax Silica coalition.
- The agreement was signed by India's IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and US representative Jacob Helberg.

6. US Imposes Global Import Tariffs and Duties on Solar Imports

- United States (US) President Donald Trump invoked Section 122 of the Trade Act, citing national security concerns.
- US President Donald Trump instituted a 10% global tariff on all imports for 150 days.
- The United States enacted a preliminary Countervailing Duty (CVD) of 126% on solar imports from India, citing unfair government subsidies.
- Related solar import tariffs were also placed on Indonesia (86-143%) and Laos (81%).

7. India and Israel Elevate Bilateral Relations and Payment Systems

- Focus areas encompass Artificial Intelligence (AI), Quantum Technologies, critical minerals, and integrating the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payment system into Israel.
- An agreement was signed linking India's UPI system with Israel's domestic payment infrastructure.

8. FCI and WFP Sign 5-Year Global Hunger Relief Agreement

- The Food Corporation of India (FCI) and the World Food Programme (WFP) partnered for a 5-year humanitarian agreement.
- India will reliably supply 2 lakh metric tons of rice (up to 25% broken) at a fixed price of ₹2,800 per quintal.
- The supply agreement is valid until March 31, 2026.

9. India Establishes Global Parliamentary Friendship Group

- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla established a Parliamentary Friendship Group.
- The group incorporates over 60 countries.

10. India Joins Board of Peace for Gaza as an Observer

- India joined the inaugural Board of Peace for Gaza meeting in Washington, D.C..
- India exclusively holds an observer status and was represented by Deputy Chief of Mission Namgya C. Khampa alongside 21 other nations.
- India supports the Gaza Peace Plan aligning with United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 2803.

11. Rob Jetten Becomes Youngest Prime Minister of the Netherlands

- Rob Jetten (Arnoldus Adrianus Jetten), aged 38 and associated with the D66/D6 party, defeated the far-right Freedom Party.
- He was sworn in by King Willem-Alexander as the Prime Minister of the Netherlands.
- He is the youngest and first openly gay Prime Minister in the history of the Netherlands.

12. Cost of Rebuilding Ukraine Rises to \$588 Billion

- The ongoing conflict has severely damaged Ukraine's infrastructure and economy, shrinking its GDP by 21% since 2021.
- The World Bank, United Nations (UN), and European Union (EU) released new estimates regarding the cost to rebuild the nation.
- The estimated cost of rebuilding Ukraine over the next decade has risen 12% to \$588 billion.

13. India and Nepal Sign Legal Assistance and Climate Change Agreements

- The two nations signed a pivotal Mutual Legal Assistance Agreement (MLAA) in criminal matters.
- India and Nepal also signed a pact to collaborate on climate change initiatives and biodiversity conservation.

14. Government Approves Export of Wheat and Sugar

- The Center approved the export of 25 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT) of Wheat and 5 Lakh Metric Tonnes (MT) of Sugar.
- The Indian government authorized wheat exports exclusively through the Food Corporation of India (FCI), bypassing the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).

15. US and Iran Conduct Nuclear Negotiations Mediated by Oman

- The United States (US) and Iran are actively conducting high-stakes nuclear negotiations in Geneva.
- The negotiations are being mediated by Oman.
- The paramount goal of these talks is to de-escalate regional tensions, meticulously address concerns over Iran's uranium enrichment, and decisively prevent potential blockades in the Strait of Hormuz.

16. India Initiates FTA Negotiations with the Gulf Cooperation Council

- India initiated Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).
- The negotiations took place in New Delhi.
- Key officials involved included Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and GCC Secretary General Jassem Mohamed Albudaiwi.

17. European Union Opens First Legal Gateway Office in India

- The European Union (EU) opened its first-ever European Legal Gateway Office in a partner country.
- It is strategically located in New Delhi.

18. Israeli Cabinet Approves Land Registration in the West Bank

- The Israeli Cabinet granted approval for land registration in the West Bank (a region situated between Israel and Jordan).
- Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu views an independent Palestinian state as a security threat and supports settlement expansion.

19. India and Kenya Partner for DigiLocker Pilot Project

- India has successfully exported its digital public infrastructure globally, having recently formalized DigiLocker agreements with Cuba, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Laos.
- India and Kenya signed an agreement to initiate a DigiLocker pilot project in Kenya.
- The project will be developed by the National e-Governance Division (NeGD).

20. United States to Host 21st G20 Leaders' Summit in 2026

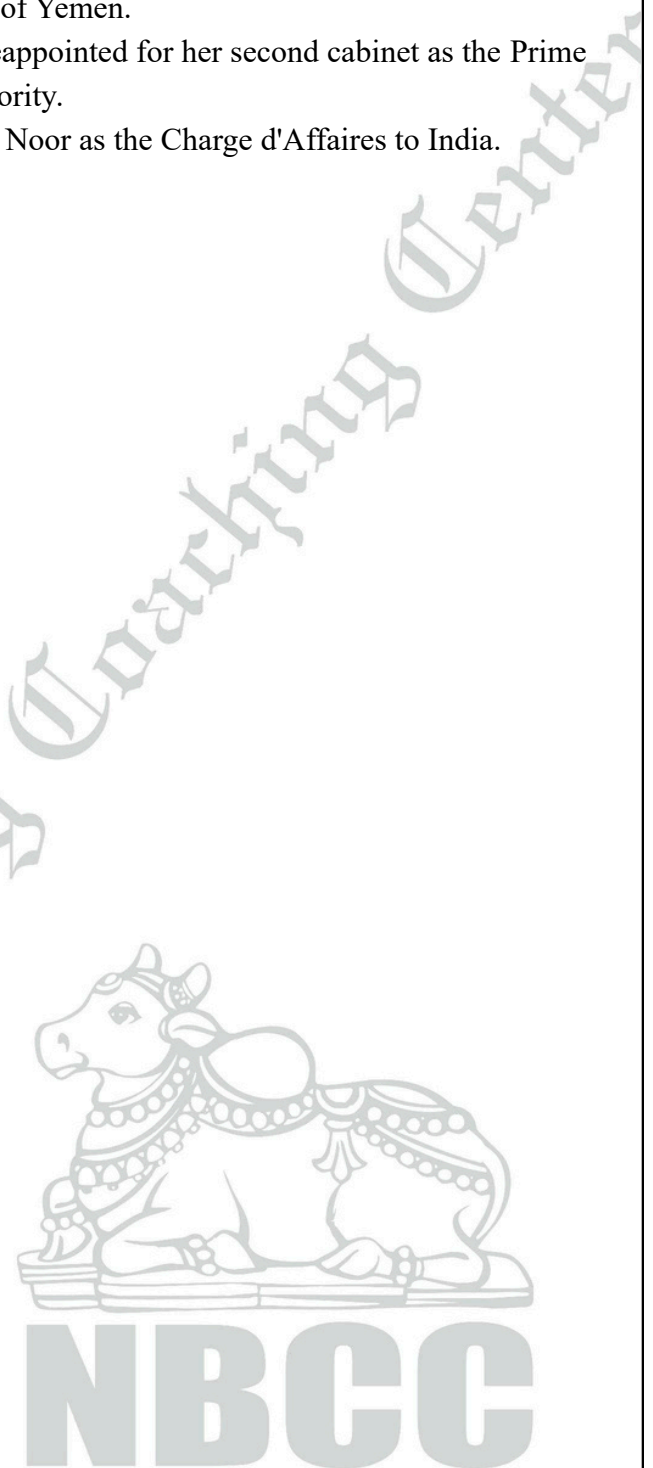
- The G20 rotates its presidency and summit hosting duties annually among a "Troika" of current, past, and future host nations.
- The United States (US) will host the 21st G20 Leaders' Summit in Miami.
- The summit is scheduled for December 14-15, 2026.
- The current G20 "Troika" is composed of South Africa (2025), the USA (2026), and the United Kingdom (UK) (2027).

21. Mia Mottley Re-elected as Prime Minister of Barbados

- Mia Mottley secured her third term as Prime Minister of Barbados.

22. Global Political and Diplomatic Appointments

- Jose Maria Balcazar was named the Interim President of Peru until July 28, succeeding Josue Jerry (Jos Jery), who was impeached over corruption allegations.
- Mamady Doumbouya was installed as President of Guinea.
- Shaya Mohsen Zindani was appointed Prime Minister of Yemen.
- Sanae Takaichi of the Liberal Democratic Party was reappointed for her second cabinet as the Prime Minister of Japan after securing a two-thirds supermajority.
- The Taliban administration named Mufti Noor Ahmad Noor as the Charge d'Affaires to India.



9. Meetings & Summits

1. France to Host 52nd G7 Summit in 2026

- The 52nd G7 Summit will be hosted in Évian-les-Bains, France in the year 2026.
- French President Emmanuel Macron extended a formal invitation for the summit to India's leader.

2. United States to Host 21st G20 Leaders' Summit

- The United States has been confirmed to host the upcoming summit.
- The event is scheduled to take place in Miami from December 14-15, 2026.

3. First BRICS Sherpas Meeting Convened Under India's Chairmanship

- This meeting was conducted in preparation for the upcoming 18th Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS) Summit scheduled for 2026.
- It marks the first meeting held under India's chairmanship.
- The meeting took place in New Delhi.
- It was officially chaired by BRICS Sherpa Secretary (Secy) Sudhakar Dalela and Sous-Sherpa Joint Secretary (JS) Shambhu S. Kumaran.
- Focused discussions around the official theme: "Building Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation, and Sustainability".

4. 39th African Union Summit Convened in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

5. The 56th World Economic Forum (WEF) was held in Davos, Switzerland

- The gathering operated under the official theme "A Spirit of Dialogue".
- The event notably marked the state of Jharkhand's inaugural global appearance.

6 India Hosts Inaugural India AI Impact Expo/Summit 2026

- This landmark technological summit was organized by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- Hosted at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi from February 16-20.
- The event was officially inaugurated by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi.
- Focused on three core pillars: People, Planet, and Progress.

The overarching theme of the summit was "Sarvajan Hitaya, Sarvajan Sukhaya" (Welfare for all, Happiness for all).

- Looking forward, the AI Impact Summit 2027 will be hosted in Geneva, Switzerland, and the 2028 edition will be hosted by the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

7. 23rd BioAsia 2026 Summit Inaugurated in Hyderabad

- Inaugurated by Telangana Chief Minister (CM) A. Revanth Reddy.
- Hosted at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre.
- Official theme: "TechBio Unleashed: AI, Automation & the Biology Revolution"

8. World Ocean Science Congress 2026 Hosted in Panaji, Goa.

- Driven by the central theme: "Ocean Health and Sustainable Future".

9. 3rd International AYUSH Conference Concludes in Dubai

Organized collaboratively by the Science India Forum and the World Ayurveda Foundation.

- Theme: "Evidence Based Ayush Intervention for Mind Body Health".

10. 6th India-South Korea Foreign Policy and Security Dialogue

- The dialogue was held in Seoul and led by the Secretary (East).
- Focused heavily on critical policy areas including supply chains, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and critical minerals.

11. 6th India-France Annual Defence Dialogue Renews Bilateral Agreement

- The dialogue took place in Bengaluru.
- Featured critical discussions between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and French delegate Catherine.
- During this dialogue, the two nations successfully renewed their defense cooperation agreement for another 10 years.

12. India-Israel Joint Working Group Meetings on Technology and Counter-Terrorism

- The 17th India-Israel Joint Working Group meeting was held in Tel Aviv.
- New Delhi hosted the 10th India-Israel Joint Working Group meeting on Counter-Terrorism, which was anchored by India's Vinod Bahade and Israel's Nadav Eshcar.

13. Inaugural Board of Peace for Gaza Meeting Held in Washington

- The inaugural board meeting took place in Washington, District of Columbia (D.C.). • India joined alongside 21 other nations.
- India was officially represented by Deputy Chief of Mission Namgya C. Khampa.
- India participated exclusively holding an observer status.

14. 5th Goa Maritime Conclave to Mitigate Indian Ocean Challenges

- Aligned to bolster India's Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) vision.
- Scheduled to commence on November 21 at the Naval War College in Goa.

15. 9th IONS(Indian Ocean Naval Symposium) Conclave of Chiefs Occurs in Visakhapatnam

- The conclave occurred in Visakhapatnam.
- Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi officially assumed leadership during the event.

16. ECI Holds First National Round Table Conference in 27 Years

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) held the National Round Table Conference with State Election Commissions at Bharat Mandapam.
- The event was chaired by Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.
- Resumes synchronized electoral governance and dialogue after a gap of 27 years.

17. Home Minister Chairs High-Level 'Manthan' Meeting

- Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah chaired the high-level 'Manthan' meeting with states in Gandhinagar.
- The meeting was guided by the official theme "Sahkar Se Samridhhi" (Prosperity through Cooperation).

18. Ministry of Minority Affairs Organizes Chintan Shivir in Bihar

- The Chintan Shivir was held at Nalanda University in Rajgir, Bihar.

19. 4th India-UK Energy Dialogue Launches Offshore Wind Task Force

- The dialogue took place in New Delhi.
- Led by India's Pralhad Joshi and United Kingdom (UK) Deputy Prime Minister (PM) David Lammy.
- The leaders officially launched an Offshore Wind Task Force under 'Vision 2035' to spearhead India's offshore wind ecosystem.

20. The National Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) Samagam was hosted in New Delhi.**21. National Textile Ministers' Conference Convened in Guwahati, Assam.****22. Reserve Bank of India Regulatory and Cyber Security Meetings**

- The newly structured Payment Regulatory Board (PRB) has officially replaced the Board for Regulation and Supervision of Payment and Settlement Systems (BPSS).
- The 621st Central Board Meeting was held in New Delhi, addressed by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and chaired by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra.
- The Payment Regulatory Board (PRB) convened its very first meeting in Mumbai.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) hosted a 60-bank, two-day Cyber Security Workshop in Mumbai.

10. Miscellaneous

Books & Authors

- Biswabhusan Harichandan (former Governor of Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh) authored E Mati Katha Kahe (Odia) and Bakshi Jagabandhu: The Great Commander (English).
- General Manoj Mukund Naravane authored the memoir Four Stars of Destiny.
- Sarbjeet S. Puri and Kunal Awasthi co-authored and released the book Power of Tier 3 and Tier 4 Cities of India: Gateway to a \$10 Trillion Economy.
- The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), operating under NITI Aayog, launched a book titled AI-preneurs of India, highlighting 45 pioneering AI startups actively addressing real-world challenges across 30 different sectors.
- Vice President CP Radhakrishnan unveiled the book The Sage Who Visioned Hinduism: The Life, Lessons, and Legacy of Sree Narayana Guru, penned by Shashi Tharoor.
- Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan released the book Atal Bihari Vajpayee: The Eternal Statesman, written by former Union Minister Vijay Goel.
- Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel officially released a Gujarati biographical work focused on Srila Prabhupada (the founder of ISKCON) titled Vishwaguru Srila Prabhupada, which was authored by Dr. Usha Upadhyay.

Discoveries & Natural Events

- Two new marine worm species were discovered in Digha and Bankiput, West Bengal. One is named Nereis dhati after Dhriti Banerjee, the first female director of the Zoological Survey of India.
- An Annular Solar Eclipse, known as the "Ring of Fire," occurred on February 17.

Important Days & Observances

- February 1: Indian Coast Guard 50th Raising Day.
- February 1-7: World Interfaith Harmony Week.
- February 2: World Wetlands Day.
- February 4: World Cancer Day (Theme: "United by Unique") and International Day of Human Fraternity.
- February 6: International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation.
- February 10: World Pulses Day and International Day of the Arabian Leopard.
- February 11: International Day of Women and Girls in Science.
- February 12: International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as and when conducive to Terrorism.
- February 13: World Radio Day (Theme: "Radio and Artificial Intelligence"); National Women's Day in India (celebrating the 1879 Hyderabad birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu).
- February 15: International Childhood Cancer Day, observed with the theme "Demonstrating Impact from Challenge to Change".
- February 17: Global Tourism Resilience Day.
- February 18: International Asperger's Day (raising awareness for Asperger's, named historically after Hans Asperger).
- February 19: World Anthropology Day; Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti.

- February 20: World Day of Social Justice, observed with the theme "Renewed commitment to social development and social justice"; Statehood Foundation Day for Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram (both granted full statehood in 1987).
- February 21: International Mother Language Day (Theme: "Youth voices on multilingual education"); 15th World Pangolin Day.
- February 22: World Thinking Day (Theme: "Our Friendship").
- February 23: World Peace and Understanding Day (Theme: "Service Above Self," commemorating the 1905 establishment of Rotary International by Paul Harris).
- February 24: Central Excise Day (commemorating the 1944 Central Excise and Salt Act managed by the CBIC); ESIC's 75th Platinum Jubilee commenced at Bharat Mandapam.
- February 25: Kuwait National Day (marks 65 years of independence and the 1950 ascension of Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salim Al-Sabah).
- February 26: 56th death anniversary of Indian freedom fighter, revolutionary poet, and Hindutva concept originator Vinayak Damodar "Veer" Savarkar (1883-1966).
- February 27: World NGO Day (Theme: "Restoring Dignity Through Inclusion"); National Protein Day (elevating awareness surrounding adequate protein intake).
- February 28: National Science Day (Theme: "Women in Science: Catalyzing Viksit Bharat," commemorating Sir C.V. Raman's 1928 discovery of the Raman Effect).
- February 28/29: Rare Disease Day.
- November 10: World Science Day for Peace and Development.

Obituaries

- Joe Simon: Renowned Kannada filmmaker.
- James Van Der Beek: Actor known for the series Dawson's Creek.
- Geeta Patnaik: Legendary Odia Singer, passed away at the age of 73.
- David J. Farber: American computer scientist internationally recognized as the "Grandfather of the Internet," passed away.
- Shyam Bihari Lal: UP BJP MLA, passed away.
- Frederick Wiseman: Highly acclaimed documentary filmmaker, who received an honorary Academy Award in 2016 for his lifetime contribution, passed away.
- Pravina Deshpande: Veteran Bollywood actress recognized for performances in films like Ready, Ek Villain, and Parmanu, passed away.
- Ricky Andrew J. Syngkon: The 54-year-old incumbent Lok Sabha MP from Shillong, Meghalaya, representing the Voice of the People Party (VPP), tragically passed away after experiencing a collapse while actively playing a futsal match.
- M.M. Baig: Veteran Hindi filmmaker passed away.
- Mani Shankar Mukherji: The eminent Bengali author, widely recognized by his pen name "Shankar," passed away at 92 in Kolkata. He was a 2021 Sahitya Akademi Awardee who debuted in 1955 with Kato Ajanare.
- Mukul Roy: Renowned veteran politician, former Union Railway Minister during the UPA-II administration, and a seminal founding member of the Trinamool Congress (TMC), passed away at 71 in Kolkata.
- Vungzagin Valte: The 63-year-old Kuki-Zo MLA who served the Thanlon constituency in Manipur passed away from grave injuries suffered during mob aggression amid the 2023 ethnic riots.

- Robert Carradine: The Hollywood actor died at the age of 71 following a 20-year struggle with bipolar disorder.
- Andre Beteille & T.K. Oommen: Both esteemed sociologists and recipients of the Padma Bhushan award in 2005 passed away.
- R. Nallakannu: The veteran Communist Party of India (CPI) leader, born in 1925, passed away at the age of 101 in Chennai.
- Maroof Raza: Passed away at the age of 67; he was a highly respected defense analyst and former Indian Army officer.
- Jitendra Mehra: Passed away as a highly experienced veteran of the Indian steel industry, holding vast experience with SAIL, RINL, and the Essar Group.



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11. MoUs

1. C-DOT Signs Agreements for Quantum Tech and Cybersecurity
 - C-DOT and the Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to deploy an indigenous AI-powered cybersecurity solution named 'Trinetra'.
2. IIT Madras and FMI (Finnish Meteorological Institute) Establish 'Vayu' Virtual Research Center
3. IIT Bombay and Columbia University Launch AI Center
 - They launched the "Columbia-IIT Bombay Center of Artificial Intelligence".
4. Investments Announced for SING Submarine Cable
 - The United Arab Emirates (UAE)-based telecom operator 'du' partnered with 'Datawave Networks'
 - The entities will invest in the Singapore-India-Gulf (SING) submarine cable.
 - The SING submarine cable will officially connect the UAE, Oman, India, Malaysia, and Singapore.
5. NPCI and NVIDIA Partner for Sovereign AI Infrastructure
6. OpenAI Announces Multiple Strategic Partnerships in India
 - Tata Group, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), and OpenAI established a strategic partnership to construct India's first 100 Megawatt (MW) capacity AI data center, scalable up to 1 Gigawatt (GW).
 - TCS signed a multi-year deal with OpenAI to construct AI infrastructure in India.
 - OpenAI established educational partnerships with top Indian institutions, including the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad, and All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) New Delhi.
 - JioHotstar collaborated with OpenAI.
7. Anthropic's 'Claude' AI Secures Enterprise and E-commerce Deals
 - Infosys signed a strategic agreement with AI company Anthropic to collaborate on enterprise AI initiatives.
 - A Voice Commerce Pilot was launched via a partnership with Razorpay.
 - The Infosys collaboration will utilize the "Claude" model, with an initial dedicated focus on the telecom sector.
 - The Razorpay pilot uses Anthropic's Claude AI assistant to process food and grocery orders.
 - The voice commerce feature is currently being piloted on major platforms including Zepto, Zomato, and Swiggy.
8. L&T Announces Massive AI Factory and Green Data Center
 - Larsen & Toubro (L&T) partnered with NVIDIA to develop India's largest gigawatt-scale AI factory.
 - The Government of Gujarat inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with L&T (Vyuha).
9. Microsoft Launches 'Elevate for Educators'
 - Microsoft officially initiated its "Elevate for Educators" program.
 - Collaborated with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).
10. Foxconn and HCL to Launch Semiconductor Unit
 - The facility will be located in Jewar, Noida, Uttar Pradesh (UP).

11. RBI and Bhashini Division Launch 'Banking Bhashini'

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) signed a pact with the Digital India Bhashini Division. • They officially launched the 'Banking Bhashini' initiative.

12. UIDAI Partners with Google Maps for Aadhaar Center Locator

- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) partnered directly with the Google Maps platform.
- Over 60,000 authorized Aadhaar centers will be directly displayed on the platform.

13. The Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC) executed an MoU with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur for 6G and 5G Research

14. HDFC Bank Renews Specialized MoU with the Indian Army

- The freshly renewed MoU agreement will remain valid until the year 2029.

15. IDFC First Bank Partners with IIT Delhi for Startup Ecosystem

16. Axis Bank Launches Co-Branded Cards and Business Loans

- Axis Bank partnered with IndiGo airline to introduce two co-branded credit cards.
- The bank also launched a new "Vyapar Business Loan" program.

17. Amazon Pay Introduces Digital Fixed Deposit Offerings

- Amazon Pay officially collaborated with a total of seven financial entities.
- Key partner entities include Bajaj Finance, Shriram Finance, and several Small Finance Banks (SFBs).

18. IRFC Secures Massive Loan Agreement with Japanese Banks

- The Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) Secured the capital from major Japanese banks: Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) and MUFG Bank.
- The finalized value of the loan agreement is a massive \$400 million.

19. IIFL Home Finance Secures Multilateral Loan from ADB

- IIFL Home Finance signed a major agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- The total borrowed amount stands at \$300 million.

20. NIPL and PayNet Malaysia Partner for Cross-Border QR Payments

- NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) officially struck a financial agreement with PayNet Malaysia.

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12. National

1. Prime Minister Inaugurates Namu Bharat RRTS and Meerut Metro

- The nation's first Namu Bharat Rapid Regional Transport System (RRTS) aims to reduce travel time along the Delhi-Meerut corridor.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the nation's first Namu Bharat Rapid Regional Transport System (RRTS) and sections of the Meerut Metro at the Shatabdi Nagar Station.
- The 82 km Delhi-Meerut corridor significantly reduces travel time from 2.5 hours to 55 minutes
- The trains for this project are manufactured by Alstom under the "Make in India" initiative.
- The Meerut Metro stands as India's fastest metro system currently in operation.
- It is capable of achieving a maximum operational speed of 120 km/h.
- The project promotes indigenous manufacturing through its reliance on Alstom's "Make in India" production.

2. NHAI Announces Complete Highway Toll Digitalization

- Starting April 1, 2026, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will completely discontinue cash payments at toll plazas.
- Toll plazas will exclusively accept digital transactions such as FASTag (utilizing Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology) and Unified Payments Interface (UPI).
- Utilizing Unified Payments Interface (UPI) without a valid FASTag will incur a 1.25x charge at the toll plazas.

3 NHAI Launches Ecological Bee Corridors Initiative

- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will create continuous "pollinator or bee corridors" populated with bee-friendly vegetation along National Highways.
- The designated vegetation includes tree species like Neem, Karanj, and Palash.
- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) plans to establish three such corridors by 2026-27.
- The overall project involves planting a total of 40 lakh trees.

4. India Achieves Record Power Generation Milestones

- About 52,537 MW was added during April 2025 to January 2026, a record increase for that period.
- Official data shows installed capacity of 513,730 MW on 31 December 2025.
- Central Electricity Authority data reported around 520.51 GW on 31 January 2026.
- Non-fossil fuel capacity was about 266.8 GW on 31 December 2025 and about 271.97 GW on 31 January 2026.
- Supports India's 500 GW non-fossil target by 2030.

5. Foundation Laid for Maritime Infrastructure Projects in Tamil Nadu

- Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal laid the foundation for multiple maritime projects.
- The projects are being developed at Tamil Nadu's V.O. Chidambaranar Port.
- These infrastructural developments command a total financial worth of ₹1500 crore.

6. Government Sets Targets for Rare Earth Permanent Magnets Production

- The government has introduced targets to reduce India's 95% import dependency on rare earth minerals.
- Union Minister of Mines G. Kishan Reddy announced new domestic production targets for Rare Earth Permanent Magnets (REPMs).
- A scheme with ₹7,280 crore outlay was approved to promote domestic manufacturing of Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnets.
- Target manufacturing capacity: 6,000 Metric Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA).

7. DGCA Institutes Strict Aviation Safety Mandates

- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) instituted eight strict safety mandates specifically **targeting Non-Scheduled Operators (NSOPs)**.

8. Government Launches CBDC-Based Public Distribution System

- A Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) based Public Distribution System (PDS) was officially launched.
- The system utilizes programmable 'e-RUPI' tokens for the distribution of subsidies.
- Initial pilots for the system were launched in the regions of Gujarat and Puducherry.
- In Gujarat, the subsidies are redeemed via QR codes or at "Annapurthi Grain ATMs".
- The "Annapurthi Grain ATMs" are capable of dispensing 25 kilograms of grain in just 35 seconds.

9. Ministry Notifies IT Amendment Rules 2026 for AI Content

- The Information Technology (IT) Amendment Rules 2026 explicitly defines synthetically generated content as artificially created or modified audio-visuals that appear real.
- The rules mandate that all Artificial Intelligence (AI) imagery must be prominently labeled as such.
- The maximum allowed time for the takedown of illegal content on social media has been strictly reduced from 24 hours to 3 hours.
- These rules apply specifically to artificially created or modified audio-visuals that appear real to the viewer.

10. DARPG Publishes 27th Secretariat Reforms Report

- The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) continues to evaluate government workplace efficiency.
- The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) published its 27th Secretariat Reforms Report.
- 4.34 lakh sq ft of office space cleared,
- ₹115.85 crore revenue from scrap disposal,
- The report officially highlighted that the adoption rate of the e-Office platform has reached an impressive 93.81%.

11. Ministers and Railways Launch Key National Digital Portals

- Minister Nitin Gadkari launched the upgraded RAJMARG PRAVESH Portal to digitize the No Objection Certificate (NOC) process for highway access and utility laying.

The portal streamlines online NOC approvals for:

- fuel stations,
- wayside amenities,
- private properties,
- rest area complexes,
- connecting roads.
- Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh launched the Artificial Intelligence (AI)-driven SuJeevika Portal.
- The South Central Railway introduced a next-generation Rail Parcel App in Secunderabad.
- The SuJeevika Portal will provide authenticated trade statistics specifically for biotech products.
- The Rail Parcel App ensures the doorstep pickup and delivery of rail freight.

12. Updates to UIDAI Ecosystem and DigiLocker Platform

- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) launched a new official mascot named "Uday".
- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) partnered with Google Maps to display over 60,000 authorized Aadhaar centers directly on the platform.
- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) formed a high-level committee headed by former secretary Ajay Sawhney.
- The high-level committee is tasked to review and modernize the regulatory framework of the DigiLocker platform.

13. Government Oversees Corporate Merger and Inaugurates Central Vista Complex

- The Ministry of Power established a 3-member high-level oversight committee.
- The oversight committee will monitor the strategic merger between the Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and REC Limited.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Seva Teerth Complex in New Delhi.
- The newly inaugurated Seva Teerth Complex is an integral part of the overarching Central Vista project.
- The architecture for the Seva Teerth Complex was designed by HCP Planning.
- The construction of the complex was executed by Tata Projects.

14. Ministry Mandates E20 Petrol by April 2026

- The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas decreed that the use of E20 petrol will be mandatory starting April 1, 2026.
- The E20 petrol refers to conventional petrol blended with 20% ethanol.
- This fuel mandate will be applicable and strictly enforced across all states and Union Territories (UTs).
- The mandated E20 petrol must possess a minimum Research Octane Number (RON) of 95.

15. Major Infrastructure and Governance Initiatives Launched in Assam

Background / Introduction • The state of Assam witnessed significant developments across

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated projects worth ₹5,450 Crore in Assam.
- The Northeast's first Emergency Landing Facility (ELF) was inaugurated on National Highway 37 (NH-37) in Moran, Dibrugarh, built for ₹100 Crore.
- The State Cabinet approved India's first underwater twin-tube road-cum-rail tunnel project on the Brahmaputra River connecting Gohpur and Numaligarh (spanning 33.7 km and costing ₹1,662 to ₹1,862 crores).
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the ₹3,030 Crore Kumar Bhaskar Varma Setu, Northeast India's first "Extradosed" bridge.
- The Kumar Bhaskar Varma Setu was inaugurated across the Brahmaputra River.
- India's first Vande Bharat Sleeper train commenced operations between Guwahati and Howrah.
- Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma launched a digital portal for the Provincialisation Management System.
- Assam became the very first state in the country to form its 8th State Pay Commission.
- The infrastructure projects include a critical Emergency Landing Facility (ELF) and a twin-tube road-cum-rail tunnel.
- The state announced a "Vote on Account" budget to fund the Guru Dakshina Scheme.
- The Guru Dakshina Scheme is specifically meant for staff excluded from provincialization.

16. Andhra Pradesh Advances Energy, Aviation, and Digital Connectivity Projects

- Waaree Energy Storage Solutions is developing India's largest integrated lithium-ion battery gigafactory in Rambilli, Anapalli district.

- A greenfield airport designated "Dagadarthi" is actively advancing in the Nellore district.
- The government signed a Memorandum of Cooperation for the Amended BharatNet program (Phase 3).
- The Amended BharatNet program (Phase 3) is supported by a ₹2,432 crore fund to provide connections to 16,920 Gram Panchayats.

17. Bihar Cabinet Approves Greenfield Sonpur International Airport

- The Bihar Cabinet officially approved the development of the Greenfield Sonpur International Airport.
- The new airport infrastructure will be situated in the Saran district.
- The state government allocated ₹1,302 crores specifically for the purpose of land acquisition.
- The project carries the ambitious goal of becoming South Asia's largest aviation hub by the year 2030.

18. Delhi Government Rolls Out Property ID and Public Grievance Portals

- The government tested a Bhu-Aadhaar Pilot which assigns a 14-digit Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) in Tilangpur Kotla village.
- Chief Minister Rekha Gupta launched the CM Jan Sunwai Portal specifically for online public complaints.
- The Chief Minister (CM) announced the CM Pragati digital portal designed for tracking government asset records.

19. Kerala Initiates Name Change, Adopts Graphene Policy, and Secures Port MoUs

- The Union Cabinet approved a proposal to officially change the state's name from "Kerala" to "Keralam" via the Kerala Alteration of Name Bill 2026.
- The name change to "Keralam" will be executed under Article 3 of the Constitution.
- The state Cabinet approved India's first comprehensive Graphene Policy.
- The Graphene Policy features a ₹200 crore Graphene Industrial Park in Palakkad and the India Innovation Centre for Graphene in Kochi.
- The state finalized Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) worth ₹2,000 crore to construct a logistics master plan at the Vizhinjam International Seaport.
- The logistics investments at the seaport include ₹700 crore by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), ₹600 crore by Container Corporation of India (CONCOR), and ₹700 crore by Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC).

20. Madhya Pradesh Receives New Cheetahs at Kuno National Park

- On 28 February 2026, 9 cheetahs from Botswana reached Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh.
- This batch consisted of 6 females and 3 males.
- Post-arrival reporting placed the total cheetah count at 48.
- The Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary and Nauradehi are actively being readied as additional habitats.

21. Maharashtra Villages Achieve Net Zero and Caste-Free Status

- Bela gram in Bhandara district officially achieved the status of India's first Net Zero Village.
- Soundala in Ahilyanagar district passed a gram sabha resolution declaring itself Maharashtra's first "Caste-Free Village".

22. Uttar Pradesh Unveils New Cuisine, Heritage, and Industrial Initiatives

- Amit Shah launched the "One District One Cuisine" (Ek Zila Ek Vyanjan) scheme on UP Statehood Day.
- The state initiated the Gyan Bharatam Mission to digitize rare handwritten texts and manuscripts older than 75 years.
- Uttar Pradesh became the first state to unveil a 3-year Excise and Export Policy valid until 2028-29.
- A Greenfield PM MITRA textile park is being developed in Lucknow.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation for the HCL-Foxconn semiconductor packaging and fabrication unit in Jewar, Noida.

- The Excise and Export Policy sets an ambitious target for an excise revenue of ₹65,000 crore by Financial Year 2027 (FY27).
- The Gyan Bharatam Mission is supported by a financial outlay of ₹482.85 crore.



13. Persons in News

- Bill Gates: Visited Amravati, Andhra Pradesh, meeting Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. Their talks centered on cooperative efforts in healthcare, agriculture, and education. The itinerary included visits to agricultural farms and the "Governance Center".
- Sheikh Hasina & Muhammad Yunus: Following the exit of Muhammad Yunus's interim government in Bangladesh, it was noted that former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina did not participate in the recent elections and is currently residing in exile in Delhi,.
- John McCarthy: Contextually noted during the India AI Impact Expo as the individual who coined the term "Artificial Intelligence" in 1956, and is widely recognized globally as the "Father of AI",.
- Jean Todt: Launched the UN "Make a Safety Statement" campaign in New Delhi, which features Sachin Tendulkar and aligns with the Marrakesh Declaration aiming to halve global road deaths by 2030,.

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14. Ranks and Reports

1. Stanford Institute Releases Global AI Vibrancy Index

- India ranked 3rd globally in AI competitiveness, trailing only the United States (US) and China.
- India secured the 2nd position in AI R&D, placing directly behind Singapore.

2. India Ranks 75th in Henley Passport Index 2026

- India achieved a ranking of 75th on the index.
- The 75th position is shared alongside Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Madagascar, and Mauritania.
- The Indian passport grants visa-free access to 56 countries.
- Singapore currently holds the most powerful passport globally.
- Afghanistan possesses the least powerful passport on the index.

3. World Bank Publishes "Women, Business and the Law 2026" Report

- The report disclosed a severe global disparity between gender equality laws and their actual enforcement.
- The global legal rights index stands at 67/100, but actual legal enforcement sits at just 53/100.
- The findings clearly demonstrate that no nation provides complete legal equality for women.
- The lowest-performing regions in the report are Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, the Middle East, and North America.

4. World Bank Introduces B-Ready Framework to Replace Ease of Doing Business

- The World Bank officially discontinued its long-standing Ease of Doing Business index.
- The discontinued index has been replaced by the new B-Ready Framework.
- The B-Ready Framework relies on a 3-year rollout plan.
- The inaugural report covered 50 economies.
- India was not part of the inaugural set, but is slated for the third B-READY report in 2026.

5. Denmark Tops Global Corruption Perception Index

- Denmark topped the index by achieving the highest score.
- The ranking highlights Denmark as the leading country in perceived transparency and anti-corruption measures.

6. NITI Aayog Releases Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2024

- Among large states, Maharashtra ranked 1st in export preparedness.
- Uttar Pradesh ranked 4th, trailing behind Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Gujarat.
- Andhra Pradesh secured the 5th position in the rankings.

7. IEEFA and EMBER Publish 3rd State Electricity Transition Report

- The report evaluated 21 states, which collectively compose 95% of India's power demand.
- Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, and Kerala led the states in decarbonization efforts.
- Delhi and Haryana ranked highest in overall readiness and performance.
- Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh (which achieved a 10% EV adoption rate), and Rajasthan were noted as strong market enablers.

8. National Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) Rankings Announced

- Uttarakhand ranked 1st nationally in implementing the Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS).
- Haryana secured the 2nd position.
- The Assam Police ranked 3rd nationally.

9. DARPG Publishes 27th Secretariat Reforms Report

- Cleanliness drives conducted across 5,188 sites cleared 4.34 lakh sq ft of office space.
- These specific drives successfully generated ₹115.85 crore from scrap.
- The department disposed of 5,57,852 public grievances, achieving an impressive 90.41% disposal rate.
- Adoption of the e-Office platform reached 93.81% for total files.
- Due to digitisation, average active file transactions dropped from 7.19 to 4.31.

10. Department of Financial Services Releases UPI Socioeconomic Impact Report

- The Department of Financial Services released a comprehensive socioeconomic impact analysis concerning the RuPay and Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) UPI incentive scheme.
- The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) remains the most preferred transaction mode at 57%, significantly surpassing cash transactions which stand at 38%.
- The report revealed that 65% of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) users conduct multiple transactions a day.
- Quick Response (QR) code deployments massively expanded from 9.3 crore to 65.8 crore.

11. Reliance Retail Tops Hurun India's 100 Unlisted Gems

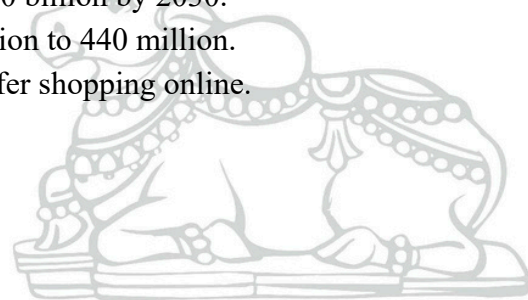
- Hurun India released its list of 100 Unlisted Gems, which represents prominent private companies with a minimum revenue of ₹1,000 crore.
- Reliance Retail claimed the 1st position on the Hurun India's list of 100 Unlisted Gems.
- The combined revenue of the 100 firms featured on the list hit ₹8.95 trillion.
- Tata Electronics was officially noted as the fastest-growing company by revenue on the list.

12. RBI Releases Corporate Sales Data for Q3 FY 2025-26

- Data analyzing 318 listed private, non-financial companies recorded double-digit year-on-year sales growth of 10.1% in Q3 of FY 2025-26 (and during February 2026 for the manufacturing sector).
- Manufacturing sales expanded by 11.4%, IT services by 8.8%, and non-IT services by 10.6%.
- Simultaneously, raw material costs surged significantly by 12.7%.

13. BCG Projects Massive Growth in Indian Retail and E-Commerce Markets

- India's retail market is projected to rise from ₹90–95 trillion to ₹210–215 trillion by 2035.
- India's e-commerce market is projected to reach \$280–300 billion by 2030.
- Online shoppers are projected to rise from about 300 million to 440 million.
- Nearly two-thirds of women shoppers reported feeling safer shopping online.

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15. Schemes & Initiatives

1. Cabinet Approves Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0

- The first Fund of Funds for Startups (FoF 1.0) was launched in 2016 to catalyse venture capital for startups.
- Under FoF 1.0, the corpus was committed to 145 Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs), which invested over ₹25,500 crore in 1,370+ startups.
- The Union Cabinet approved Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 with a corpus of ₹10,000 crore.
- The fund will be officially managed by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

2. Cabinet Approves Urban Challenge Fund (UCF) for Urban Transformation

- The Cabinet approved ₹1 lakh crore central assistance for UCF.
- Funding structure:
 - 25% Central Assistance,
 - minimum 50% from market sources,
 - remaining 25% from States / Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).
- It aims to mobilise ₹4 lakh crore total investment.
- Operational period: FY 2025-26 to FY 2030-31, extendable by 3 years.

3. Ministry of Cooperation Launches White Revolution 2.0

- Launched under the overarching National Dairy Development Program (NDDP) 2.0.
- White Revolution 2.0 was launched by the Ministry of Cooperation on 19 September 2024.
- The initiative acknowledges that women currently make up nearly 70% of the workforce in the dairy sector.
- This is a cooperative-led initiative officially launched by the Ministry of Cooperation.
- The government plans to establish 1.2 lakh new or existing dairy cooperative societies.
- The initiative targets creation of 75,000 new dairy cooperative societies.
- It aims to increase cooperative milk procurement by about 50% over five years.
- milk procurement target: 1,007 lakh kg/day by 2028-29.

4. Government Introduces Revamped Export Promotion Mission (EPM)

- The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) will act as the implementing agency for Export Promotion Mission (EPM)
- The central government introduced the revamped mission for the period 2025-26 to 2030-31 to accelerate Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) exports.
- Total outlay: ₹25,060 crore for FY 2025-26 to FY 2030-31.
- EPM is implemented through two integrated sub-schemes, Niryat Protsahan and Niryat Disha, providing financial and non-financial export support.
- The Mission provides support for trade finance, export compliance, logistics, overseas warehousing and market access.
- In tandem with the Mission, the government approved an expansion of the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Exporters (CGSE), providing up to ₹20,000 crore in additional credit support for eligible exporters, including MSMEs. The scheme is implemented by the Department of Financial Services (DFS) through the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC), which will provide a 100% credit guarantee coverage to Member Lending Institutions (MLIs) for extending additional credit facilities.

- Extension of Export Credit Tenure — The permissible credit period for pre-shipment and post-shipment export credit has been extended to 450 days for credit disbursed up to March 31, 2026.

5. Union Home Minister Inaugurates Vibrant Villages Program Phase 2

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah officially inaugurated the second phase from Nathanpur village located in Cachar district, Assam.
- The revamped phase carries a substantial budget of ₹6,839 crore, extending up to Financial Year (FY) 2028-29.
- Targeting the development of 1,954 border villages situated along the borders of Pakistan and Bangladesh.
- These villages span across 15 to 17 states and 2 Union Territories (UTs).

6. Launch of National Monetization Pipeline (NMP) 2.0

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman officially launched Phase 2 of the initiative.
- Establishes a 5-year roadmap spanning from Financial Year (FY) 2026 to FY 2030.
- Targets a massive total monetization potential of ₹16.72 Lakh Crore, which includes expecting ₹5.8 Lakh Crore in direct private sector investments.
- The highest monetization yield is heavily expected from the Highways sector, contributing 26% (or ₹4,42,000 crore).
- This is followed closely by the Power sector (17%), Railways sector (16%), and Ports sector (16%).

7. Ministry of Home Affairs Introduces PRAHAAR Policy

- The execution relies on the Multi-Agency Centre (MAC) and the Intelligence Bureau (IB) operating as the primary central nodes.
- The strategic acronym PRAHAAR stands for:
 - Prevention
 - Responses (swift and proportionate)
 - Aggregating internal capacities
 - Human rights
 - Attenuating conditions enabling terrorism
 - Aligning international efforts
 - Recovery and resilience

8. Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme Surpasses Major Milestones

- The scheme was previously expanded to encompass a total of 14 sectors to boost domestic manufacturing.
- As of December 2025, the PLI scheme has successfully surpassed ₹2.16 lakh crore in total investments.
- Has generated a massive 14.39 lakh direct and indirect jobs across the country.
- Drove staggering economic output, resulting in ₹20.41 lakh crore in sales.
- Generated international value with ₹8.3 lakh crore in exports.

9. Agreement Signed for Amended BharatNet Program (Phase 3)

- An official agreement was signed between the Digital Bharat Nidhi, the Andhra Pradesh Government, and the Department of Telecommunications (DoT).
- The project represents the amended BharatNet program (Phase 3) and is financially supported by an allocation of ₹2,432 crore

10. Regulatory Changes to MUDRA Yojana, KCC, and Lead Bank Scheme

- Kisan Credit Card (KCC): The revised scheme now formally permits an automatic 15% annual increase in the credit limit. (the previous guideline allowed only a 10% automatic annual credit limit increase)
- MUDRA Yojana: Overseen by the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), collateral-free loans for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) have been substantially raised to ₹20 lakh.
- Lead Bank Scheme: Revised guidelines now explicitly require all banks to maintain a minimum 60% Credit-Deposit (CD) ratio in their rural and semi-urban branches.

11. Launch of CBDC Pilots under PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana

- A Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)-based digital food currency pilot was officially launched.
- The system uses highly programmable 'e-RUPI' tokens.
- In Puducherry, tokens are strictly redeemable only at authorized Fair Price Shops.
- In Gujarat (specifically covering Ahmedabad, Surat, Anand, and Valsad), digital coupons can be redeemed seamlessly via QR codes or specialized "Annapurthi Grain ATMs".

12. Government Pushes Semiconductor Initiatives and Mission Shakti Updates

- The Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme was originally launched in 2022 to establish domestic semiconductor design independence from countries like Taiwan, China, and the United States of America (USA).
- India Semiconductor Mission: The mission is now backed by a robust ₹1,000 crore budget specifically allocated for the year 2026-27.
- Mission Shakti: It was announced that "Gender budgeting" is currently administered under the specific 'Samarth' sub-scheme of Mission Shakti.

13. Prime Minister Launches National HPV Vaccination Drive

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi officially launched a nationwide vaccination drive from Ajmer, Rajasthan.
- The drive supplies free Human Papillomavirus (HPV) "Gardasil" vaccinations to young girls.
- The drive strictly targets 14-year-old girls.
- Serves as a critical preventative healthcare measure to eliminate the risk of cervical cancer.

14. Delhi Government Introduces Raahveer Scheme, CM Shri Schools, and Skill Initiative

- 'Raahveer' (or 'Raahgeer') Scheme: A road accident assistance scheme aligned with Good Samaritan rules. It rewards citizens who help victims during the critical "golden hour" with ₹25,000 and an official certificate. The 10 most outstanding 'Raahveers' annually earn a special ₹1 lakh national award.
- CM Shri Schools: The Delhi Government introduced India's first AI-driven comprehensive education model targeting strictly weaker and lower-middle-income families.
- Delhi Skill Development Scheme: A new program promising a highly specific job placement rate of 65% for successful candidates.

15. Kerala Government Launches Sthree Suraksha Scheme and AI Literacy Drive

- Sthree Suraksha Scheme: Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan launched a ₹1,000 monthly pension for eligible unemployed women and trans women (aged 35-60) who hold Yellow or Pink priority ration cards.
- AI Literacy Drive ("Sarvam AI Mayam"): A massive educational campaign targeting exactly 6 Lakh parents for AI education. The drive is being executed by Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE).

16. Assam Government Rolls Out Housing and Provincialisation Schemes

- Mukhyamantri Awas Yojana (also transcribed as AT Kohli Duti Paat Yojana): Launched specifically to provide permanent housing for Tea Garden workers.
- Provincialisation Management System: Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma launched a digital portal specifically designed to streamline the provincialization of staff in educational institutions.
- Guru Dakshina Scheme: A specialized financial package provided to staff completely excluded from provincialization, which is funded via a "Vote on Account" budget.

17. Uttar Pradesh Unveils Heritage, Cuisine, and Excise Policies

- One District One Cuisine (Ek Zila Ek Vyanjan): Officially launched by Amit Shah on UP Statehood Day.
- Gyan Bharatam Mission: A ₹482.85 crore district-level program intended to identify and thoroughly digitize rare handwritten texts, palm leaf manuscripts, and documents older than 75 years.
- Excise and Export Policy: UP unveiled a comprehensive 3-year policy valid until 2028-29. The policy aggressively reduces export fees for Extra Neutral Alcohol (ENA) and officially permits the export of heritage liquor.
- The Excise Policy is strictly targeted to hit an enormous ₹65,000 crore excise revenue benchmark by Financial Year 2027 (FY27).

18. West Bengal Introduces Bangla Yuva Sathi Scheme and Matir Srishti Program

- The Matir Srishti Program was initially launched in 2020 to transform dry, barren land into cultivable terrain using advanced multi-crop farming.
- Bangla Yuva Sathi Scheme (or Banger Yuva Sathi): Effective April 1st, this new scheme provides a steady ₹1,500 monthly unemployment allowance directly to youth (aged 21-40, who are Class 10 pass) for a period of up to 5 years.
- The scheme operates with a massive proposed budget allocation of ₹5,000 Crore.
- Matir Srishti Program was recently recognized and awarded an international certificate by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

19. Jharkhand and Punjab Launch State Welfare Schemes

- Jharkhand - '1 GB Didi' (Vanjeevi Didi) Initiative: Launched in the critical Palamu Tiger Reserve. Compensates educated village women with a ₹3,000 monthly stipend to serve as highly visible forest ambassadors protecting wildlife and preventing illegal logging.
- Punjab - 'Meri Rasoi' Scheme: Initiated to offer completely free food kits targeting 40 lakh Blue Card holding families belonging to economically weaker sections.
- Punjab - Mukhyamantri Sehat Yojana: A major health scheme officially implemented alongside the Meri Rasoi scheme by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann.

20. National Technology, Health, and Educational Initiatives Announced

- Bharat Vistar: An AI-based farmer platform functioning as Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for agriculture. Features a voice-first 24-hour AI speaking assistant named 'Bharti' (dial 155261). Offers localized info on weather, pest control, and government schemes. Backed by a ₹150 crore budget for Financial Year (FY) 2026-27.
- SAHI (Strategy for Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare for India): A highly specialized national guidance framework for ethical AI use in medicine officially launched at the India AI Summit.
- BODH (Benchmarking Open Data Platform for Health AI): Developed in direct collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur to evaluate AI models under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).

- Biotech Fund (BARAK/BIRAC RDI Fund): Union Minister Jitendra Singh launched a ₹2,000 crore fund to boost India's biotechnology sector over five years, intended to successfully bridge laboratory research to large-scale industrial manufacturing (from Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 4 to TRL 9).
- The Teacher App 2.0: An AI-driven application officially launched by Minister Dharmendra Pradhan offering exactly 45 AI-enabled tools to seamlessly assist school teachers with lesson planning and prep covering the National Education Policy (NEP) curriculum.
- Elevate for Educators: Microsoft initiated its very first Asian rollout of this specific program in India to heavily upskill 2 million educators across 2 lakh schools by 2030, intentionally introducing computational thinking and AI from Grade 3.

21. FEMA Relaxations for Export Realisation : Under the Foreign Exchange Management (Export of Goods and Services) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2025, the period for realisation and repatriation of export proceeds has been extended from nine months to 15 months, and the shipment period against advance payments has been increased from one year to three years.

22. Miscellaneous Central Initiatives: Skills, Values, Health, and Power Infrastructure

- Karmayoga for Empowered Bharat: A massive nationwide campaign officially launched by President Droupadi Murmu heavily promoting the integration of deep spirituality and moral values with material advancement to strictly foster an ethical society.
- Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) Campaign: Minister Jayant Chaudhary aggressively launched the "Badhna Hai To Yahan Judna Hai" campaign to accelerate the digital skill movement, featuring prominent Actor Amitabh Bachchan as the official brand ambassador.
- Nigrani App & Haj Wristband: The Nigrani App monitors active projects precisely under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK), while the digital "Haj Wristband" successfully assists Indian pilgrims.
- Swasthya Pension Scheme: Introduced by ICICI Prudential Pension Fund Management Company inside the strict Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) regulatory sandbox, merging retirement benefits with healthcare.
- Universal Immunization Program (UIP): Will widely distribute a newly launched native Tetanus and Adult Diphtheria (Td) vaccine developed entirely by the Central Research Institute (CRI) in Kasauli.
- India Grids of the Future Accelerator: Initiated by the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP) to aggressively overhaul power distribution, actively seeking \$100 million via blended finance strictly by 2030.
- Graphene Aurora Program: A specifically Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)-supported program to rapidly establish Kerala as a powerful global hub for graphene research and industrial production.

16. Science & Technology

1. Prime Minister Launches "MANAV" Framework and New Delhi Declaration on AI

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the "MANAV" global guiding framework for ethical AI governance.
- The New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact was officially embraced at the summit.
- The declaration received endorsements from 92 countries and organizations
- MANAV stands for: Moral and ethical system, Accountable governance, National sovereignty, Accessible and inclusive, and Valid and legitimate.
- IndiaAI Mission, approved with an outlay exceeding ₹10,300 crore.

2. India adopts 'SUTRAS' Principles for AI Risk Management

- India adopts a principle-based AI governance framework anchored in seven Sutras to enable safe, trusted, and inclusive AI innovation across sectors.
- The principles listed are:
 1. Trust is the Foundation
 2. People First
 3. Innovation over Restraint
 4. Fairness and Equity
 5. Accountability
 6. Understandable by Design
 7. Safety, Resilience and Sustainability is the Foundation

3. Launch of 'VoiceEra' Open-Source Voice AI Stack

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the Digital India Bhashini Division launched 'VoiceEra'.

4. India Achieves Guinness World Record for AI Responsibility Pledges

- India successfully achieved a Guinness World Record for the "Most pledges for an AI responsibility campaign in 24 hours".
- The campaign secured exactly 250,946 valid pledges endorsing ethical AI use.
- The record-setting event took place between Feb 16-17.

5. Inauguration of "Param Shakti" Supercomputer at IIT Madras

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) inaugurated the "Param Shakti" supercomputer.
- The facility is hosted at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras).

6. Launch of Bodhan AI Center at IIT Madras

- Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched a Center of Excellence in AI for Education named the Bhodhan AI Center.
- The center is established at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras).

7. India demonstrates Tele-Robotic Ultrasound connecting AIIMS New Delhi with Maitri Research Station in Antarctica

17. Sports

1. Rashid Khan Achieves Historic 700 T20 Wickets Milestone

- Afghanistan spin bowler Rashid Khan achieved a monumental milestone by taking his 700th T20 wicket during this match.

2. Harmanpreet Kaur and Ellyse Perry Set International Appearance Records

- The previous global record for the most-capped player in women's cricket was held by New Zealand's Suzie Bates with 355 matches.
- Indian women's cricket captain Harmanpreet Kaur played her 356th match.
- Harmanpreet Kaur attained the status of the most-capped player in women's international cricket history by surpassing Suzie Bates.
- Ellyse Perry became the very first Australian woman to reach the 350-match milestone.

3. Paras Dogra Crosses 10,000 Runs in Ranji Trophy History

- Jammu and Kashmir captain Paras Dogra officially surpassed the 10,000 runs mark during his 147th match .
- Paras Dogra became only the second batter in the entire history of the Ranji Trophy to surpass 10,000 runs, following cricket legend Wasim Jaffer.
- Paras Dogra also ranks second globally in the tournament's historical records for scoring the most centuries, having recorded 33 centuries.

4. Mumbai and Vidarbha Win Major Domestic Cricket Trophies

- The Mumbai team successfully clinched the championship title for the Under-16 Vijay Merchant Trophy.
- The Vidarbha team officially secured the championship title for the Vijay Hazare Trophy.
- This victory is historically significant for Vidarbha as it marks their maiden title in the Vijay Hazare Trophy.
- The Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) method is defined as a complex mathematical formula actively used by officials.

5. Major Retirements Announced Across International Sports

- Canadian cricket player Navneet Dhaliwal and Australian player Usman Khawaja formally announced their retirements from international cricket.
- 30-year-old New Zealand batter Lauren Down (who played 35 One Day Internationals (ODIs) and 13 T20 Internationals (T20Is)) announced her retirement.
- Track and field athlete Jinson Johnson formally announced his retirement from Athletics.
- Star player Saina Nehwal officially announced her retirement from Badminton.

6. Magnus Carlsen Wins Inaugural FIDE Freestyle Chess World Championship

- The 2026 Federation Internationale des Echecs (FIDE) Freestyle Chess World Championship (also termed the G.O.A.T. Challenge) was hosted in Weissenhaus, Germany.
- This tournament served as the first official FIDE-recognized Freestyle Chess (Fischer Random Chess) event.
- The championship featured a massive total prize fund of \$3.3 Million.
- Chess grandmaster Magnus Carlsen successfully defeated Fabiano Caruana to win the championship.
- In Indian domestic chess developments, Aaryan Varshney officially achieved the title of India's 92nd Chess Grandmaster.

7. Elena Rybakina and Carlos Alcaraz. Claim 2026 Australian Open Titles Amidst Global ATP Events

- Elena Rybakina (Kazakhstan) secured the women's title and Carlos Alcaraz. grabbed the men's title at the 2026 Australian Open.
- At the Rio Open, Argentina's Tomas Martin Etcheverry succeeded against Chile's Alejandro Tabilo.
- The Men's Doubles championship at the Rio Open was claimed by the Brazilian pair Joao Fonseca and Felipe Meligeni Alves (Melo).
- American athlete Sebastian Korda secured a victory at the 2026 Delray Beach Open.

8. Major Developments in Women's ITF Tennis Tournaments in India

- World No. 124 Hanne Vandewinkel (Belgium) defeated 21-year-old Indian wild card entrant Vaishnavi Adkar at the ITF Women's Open (W10000).
- Vaishnavi Adkar successfully improved her Women's Tennis Association (WTA) ranking to 466.
- Vaishnavi Adkar achieved a highly notable milestone by becoming the first Indian woman since Sania Mirza to reach an ITF W10000 final.

9. India Dominates Asian Rifle and Pistol Championship 2026

- The prestigious Asian Rifle and Pistol Championship 2026 was successfully organized at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range located in New Delhi.
- India topped the overall medal tally in the shooting championship by securing a staggering 94 medals (51 Gold, 23 Silver, 20 Bronze).
- Indian shooter Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar forged a new world record in the men's rifle event.
- Indian shooter Amanpreet Singh clinched a Gold medal in the 25m center-fire pistol event.
- At the Opensters Game 2026, Indian athlete Kishore Kumar Chandran won the Gold medal in the Hammer Throw (30+ category) with a distance of 37.92m, while Mohammed Ansar won Bronze.

10. Developments and Hockey Results for 2026 Milano Cortina Winter Games

- The Winter Olympics 2026 will be hosted in Milan-Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, featuring the official motto "IT's Your Vibe".
- The official mascots are designated as "Tina" for the Olympics and "Milo" for the Paralympics.
- Ice Hockey competition concluded at the Milano Santagulia Arena.
- ski mountaineering is the new Olympic sport
- The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) officially rescinded the ongoing ban on Russia and Belarus for the 2026 Milano Cortina Winter Paralympics.
- Ski mountaineering has been officially introduced as a brand new sport.
- Team USA captured the Men's Ice Hockey Gold by beating Canada with a score of 2-1 (Jack Hughes scored the winner; Connor Hellebuyck earned Player of the Game).
- The US Women's team grabbed the Ice Hockey Gold against Canada, while Finland managed the Bronze medal.

11. Pramod Bhagat Surpasses World Record at BWF Para World Championship

- The Badminton World Federation (BWF) Para World Championship was hosted globally in Bahrain.
- Indian Para-shuttler Pramod Bhagat captured the Gold medal in the Men's SL3 category.
- He secured the championship by successfully defeating opponent Mohammad Ali Imran of Indonesia.

12. Successful Conclusion of Khelo India Games and 79th Santosh Trophy

- Phase 2 of the 6th iteration of the Khelo India Winter Games 2026 commenced in Gulmarg, Jammu & Kashmir (February 23-26), initiated by Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha and engaging over 400 athletes.
- The 2nd edition of the Khelo India Beach Games 2026 was hosted at Ghoghla Beach in Diu, with the official mascot "Pearl the Dolphin".
- The Santosh Trophy was hosted in Assam, where the Services team defeated Kerala to win the championship.
- Karnataka demonstrated top performance and emerged at the very top of the medal tally in the Khelo India Beach Games.
- The Services team claimed their 8th title in the deep history of the Santosh Trophy.
- Historically, the state of West Bengal holds the all-time record for the Santosh Trophy with a massive 33 titles.

13. Indian Athletes Achieve Milestones in Multiple Domestic and International Tournaments

- Prime Minister (PM) Modi officially inaugurated the 72nd National Volleyball Tournament located in Varanasi.
- Billiards: 28-time World Champion and Indian cueist Pankaj Advani conquered Kamal Chawla to claim the inaugural Libo Win / Libera Labour Men's Champion Cup 2026 at the Karnataka State Billiards Association in Bengaluru.
- Wrestling: Under-23 (U23) World Champion Sujeet Kalkal captured a Gold medal in the men's 65kg freestyle category at the United World Wrestling (UWW) Ranking Series held in Albania.
- Hockey: Indian Men's Hockey Team defender Jarmanpreet Singh (also noted as Germanpreet Singh) reached exactly 150 international appearances during an International Hockey Federation (FIH) Hockey Pro League match against Spain.
- Squash: Athlete Anahat Singh officially claimed Silver at the British Junior Open Squash Championship.
- Volleyball: Indian Railway successfully won the Men's title, while the Kerala team won the Women's title in Varanasi.

14. Developments in Sports Expeditions, Infrastructure, and Institutional Marathons

- Mountaineering: A 6-member Indian climbing team (comprising members from the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering (NIM) and Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering and Winter Sports (JIM&WS), including Kabak Yano from Arunachal Pradesh) successfully summited Mount Aconcagua in Argentina. The team was led by Colonel (Col.) Hemchandra Singh and flagged off by Rajnath Singh.
- Infrastructure: Amit Shah inaugurated Assam's largest multi-sports stadium located in Dibrugarh.
- Marathon: Punjab National Bank (PNB) announced its 2nd half marathon themed "PNB Solidarathon: Run for Soldiers, Run with Soldiers".
- Mount Aconcagua is internationally renowned as the absolute highest peak in South America, making the summit a prestigious cross-institutional achievement.

18. Static News

1. Andaman & Nicobar Islands Administrative and Cultural Profile

- Formed as a Union Territory (UT) on November 1, 1956.
- The first Indian tricolor was hoisted here by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose on December 30, 1943.
- The capital is Sri Vijayapuram (officially renamed from Port Blair in 2024).
- The 13th and current Lieutenant Governor is Admiral (Retd) D.K. Joshi.
- The region features Barren Island, recognized as the sole active volcano in the Indian subcontinent.
- Geographically, the 10° Channel separates the Andaman and Nicobar island groups.
- Indigenous tribes include the Sentinelese, Jarawa, Onge, Great Andamanese, and Shompen.
- National Parks include Saddle Peak, Mahatma Gandhi Marine, Campbell Bay, Galathea, Rani Jhansi Marine, and Mount Manipur.
- Mount Manipur (formerly Mount Harriet) was renamed in 2021 to honor Manipuri freedom fighters; its view is showcased on the old ₹20 note.
- The region received 7 Geographical Indication (GI) Tags in 2025, including Nicobari Coconut, Nicobari Virgin Coconut Oil, Andaman Karen Musley Rice, Hodi Canoe, Nicobari Mat, Nicobari Hut, and Padauk Woodcraft.
- Key Landmarks: Cellular Jail (Kala Pani), Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Island (Ross Island), Swaraj Dweep (Havelock Island), Shaheed Dweep (Neil Island), and Sri Vetrimalai Murugan Temple.
- State Symbols: Animal - Dugong (Sea Cow); Bird - Andaman Wood Pigeon; Tree - Andaman Padauk; Flower - Andaman Pyinma.

2. Chandigarh Administration and Heritage Profile

Primarily designed by the Swiss-French architect Le Corbusier, famously known for leaving out "Sector 13" because the number is viewed as unlucky.

- Functions as the shared capital of Haryana and Punjab.
- The Administrator is Gulab Chand Kataria, and the official operational language is English.
- The city houses the Capitol Complex, a designated United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recognized site.
- The formal city emblem is Le Corbusier's "Open Hand Monument".
- Monuments & Sites: The city contains the famous Rock Garden (crafted entirely from home/industrial waste by Nek Chand) and the Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary and City Bird Sanctuary.
- Flora, Fauna & Culture: State tree is the mango, flower is dhak/palash, bird is the grey hornbill, and animal is the grey mongoose.
- The region possesses a Geographical Indication (GI) tag for its traditional Phulkari embroidery.

3. Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu Integration

(• Formed by merging two Union Territories (UTs) on January 26, 2020.

- The official Capital is Daman, and the Largest City is Silvassa.
- The appointed Administrator is Praful Khoda Patel.
- The Damanganga River serves as the lifeline of the region.
- Dudhni Lake is popularly recognized as the "Kashmir of the West".
- Wildlife/Nature: Features the Dadra Nagar Haveli Wildlife Sanctuary, Vasona Lion Safari, and Fudam Bird Sanctuary.

- Culture: Known for Warli painting, Tarpa dance, Bhavada, Tur, Thali, and Portuguese folk dances (Mando, Vira, Verdigao).
- Heritage Sites: Diu Fort (1535), Moti Daman, Nani Daman, Bom Jesus Church, St. Paul's Church, and Gangeshwar Mahadev Temple.

4. Delhi Capital Territory Administrative and Cultural Updates

- Organized as a Union Territory (UT) on November 1, 1956, and elevated to the National Capital Territory in 1991 via the 69th Constitutional Amendment.
- Its diverse population earns it the moniker "Mini India".
- The capital is New Delhi, governed by Lieutenant Governor Vinay Kumar Saxena.
- Chief Minister : Rekha Gupta
- Delhi holds a joint Geographical Indication (GI) tag for premium Basmati Rice.
- The region is culturally renowned for the dish Chhole Bhature.
- Nature and Wildlife: Key ecological zones include the Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary and the Okhla Bird Sanctuary.
- Hydrological features encompass the Yamuna River, Najafgarh Drain/Lake, Sanjay Lake, and Bhalswa Horseshoe Lake.
- State Symbols: Nilgai (animal), Pigeon/House Sparrow (bird), Flamboyant/Gulmohar (tree), and Alfalfa (flower).
- Heritage Sites: Qutub Minar, Humayun's Tomb, Lotus Temple, Akshardham Temple, India Gate (honoring British India soldiers deceased in WWI), and the Red Fort (constructed by Shah Jahan and depicted on the reverse of the ₹500 banknote).

5. Jammu & Kashmir Administrative Restructuring and Heritage

- Officially became a Union Territory (UT) on October 31, 2019, per the J&K Reorganisation Act 2019.
- Srinagar serves as the summer capital, and Jammu as the winter capital.
- The current Lieutenant Governor is Manoj Sinha, and the Chief Minister is Omar Abdullah.
- Major rivers include the Jhelum and Chenab; the Chenab hosts the critical Baglihar Dam and Salal Dam.
- Highly renowned for Kashmir Saffron (cultivated in Pampore).
- National Parks: Dachigam, Kishtwar, and Salim Ali.
- Prominent lakes: Dal, Wular, Mansar, Surinsar, and Anchar Lake (in Srinagar).
- State Symbols: Official UT animal is the Hangul (Kashmir Stag); bird is the Kalij Pheasant; tree is the Chinar; and flower is the Indian Lotus.
- Geographical Indication (GI) Tags & Arts: Pashmina shawls, Kani shawls, Walnut wood carvings, and Basohli paintings originating from Kathua.
- Traditional regional dances include Rouf, Bhand Pather, and Kud.
- Religious and Heritage Sites: Vaishno Devi (Trikuta Hills), Amarnath Cave, Hazratbal Shrine, Martand Sun Temple, and the Mughal Gardens (Shalimar and Nishat Bagh).

6. Kerala Biodiversity and Conservation Areas

- National Parks & Sanctuaries include Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary, Silent Valley National Park, Eravikulam National Park, Anamudi Shola National Park, Periyar (National Park & Tiger Reserve), Idukki Wildlife Sanctuary, and Pampadum Shola National Park.

7. Ladakh Administrative Formation and Ecology

- Formed as a Union Territory (UT) under the J&K Reorganization Act on October 31, 2019.
- Possesses two capitals/districts: Leh (summer) and Kargil (winter).
- The Lieutenant Governor is Kavinder Gupta (serving since July 2025).
- Hosts Hemis National Park, globally renowned as the Snow Leopard Capital of the World.
- Home to Umling La, the world's highest motorable road at 19,000 ft.
- India's first Dark Sky Reserve is located in Hanle, Ladakh.
- National Parks/Sanctuaries: Karakoram Wildlife Sanctuary and Changthang Cold Desert Wildlife Sanctuary.
- State Symbols: Animal - Snow Leopard; Bird - Black-necked crane; Tree - Juniper; Flower - Himalayan Blue Poppy.
- Geographical Indication (GI) Tags: Ladakh Wood Carving, Ladakh Pashmina, Raktsey Karpo Apricot, and Ladakh Sea Buckthorn (highly vitamin-rich plant recognized as the golden bush).
- Geography: Rivers and lakes include the Indus, Zaskar, Nubra, Shyok, Pangong Tso, and Tso Moriri; also home to the Siachen Glacier.
- Culture: Recognized for Thangka paintings and dances like Cham, Shondol, and Jabro.
- Famous monasteries include Hemis, Thiksey, and Diskit.

8. Maharashtra Wildlife Protected Areas

- National Parks include Chandoli, Gugamal, Nawegaon, Tadoba, Pench, and Sanjay Gandhi.
- Tiger Reserves feature Pench, Nawegaon, Melghat, Tadoba, Sahyadri, and Bor.

9. Manipur Cultural and Ecological Profile

- Preserves the distinct cultural traditions of indigenous communities like the Naga tribes.
- Celebrated festivals include Gaan-Ngai, Lui-Ngai-Ni (celebrated by the Naga tribes), Lai Haraoba, and Chavang Kut.
- The state's noted National Parks are Keibul Lamjao and Shirui.

10. Tamil Nadu Geographical and Cultural Highlights

- Formed on November 1, 1956, and officially renamed Tamil Nadu in 1969. • The state language is Tamil, recognized as an ancient classical language.
- The capital is Chennai (referred to as the Detroit of Asia).
- The state is currently governed by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin.
- Features Cape Comorin (Kanyakumari)—the critical geographical meeting point of the Bay of Bengal, Arabian Sea, and Indian Ocean.
- Geography: Features the Cauvery River, Vaigai River, and Pulicat Lake.
- State Symbols: Animal - Nilgiri Tahr; Bird - Emerald Dove; Tree - Palmyra Palm; Flower - Gloriosa Lily; Fruit - Jackfruit.
- National Parks: Guindy, Mudumalai, Mukurthi, Indira Gandhi/Anamalai, and Gulf of Mannar.
- Geographical Indication (GI) Tags: Kancheepuram Silk, Madurai Malli (Jasmine), Thanjavur Paintings, Dindigul Locks, Palani Panchamirtham (Prasadam), and Matti Palam (banana).
- Famous Temples: Brihadeeswarar (Thanjavur), Meenakshi (Madurai), Ramanathaswamy (Rameshwaram), and the Vivekananda Rock Memorial.

11. Telangana State Profile and Economic Milestones

- Functioning as India's youngest state, it separated from Andhra Pradesh on June 2, 2014.
- The sole capital is Hyderabad.
- Governed by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Governor Jishnu Dev Varma.
- Hyderabad is widely celebrated as "Cyberabad" (IT Hub) and "Genome Valley" (Vaccine Capital)

- Hyderabad Haleem holds the unique distinction of being the first non-veg food to receive a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Ecology/Parks: Kasu Brahmananda Reddy National Park, Mahavir Harina Vanasthali National Park, and Mrugavani National Park.
- Tiger Reserves: Amrabad (one of India's largest) and Kawal.
- Rivers & Lakes: Godavari River (enters at Kandakurthi), Krishna River, and Musi River (divides old and new Hyderabad). Lakes include the heart-shaped Hussain Sagar and Pakhal Lake.
- State Symbols: Animal - Spotted Deer; Bird - Palapitta (Indian Roller); Tree - Jammi Chettu; Flower - Tangedu Puvvu; Fruit - Custard Apple (Sitaphal).
- Culture & Heritage: Charminar (built by Quli Qutb Shah), Golconda Fort, Yadadri Narasimha temple, Thousand Pillar Temple (Kakatiya dynasty), and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)-recognized Ramappa Temple.
- Dances: Bathukamma and Perini Sivatanavam.
- Geographical Indication (GI) Tags: Warangal Durries, Silver Filigree of Karimnagar, Nirmal Toys, and Pochampally Ikat (known for geometric patterns, establishing the region as the Silk City of India).

12. Tripura Statehood and Heritage Indicators

- The region successfully attained full statehood in 1972.
- Agartala is the designated capital.
- Led by Chief Minister Dr. Manik Saha and Governor Indra Sena Reddy Nallu.
- The official languages adopted are Bengali, Kokborok, and English.
- It shares strategic borders with Bangladesh on three sides. • Demonstrates a high regional literacy rate of 87%.
- Ranks highly as India's second-largest rubber producer.
- Wildlife: Hosts the Clouded Leopard National Park (inside Sepahijala Wildlife Sanctuary) and the Bison (Rajbari) National Park (inside Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary).
- Geographical Indication (GI) Tags: Tripura Queen Pineapple, Risa Textile, Pachra-Rignai (traditional dress), and Matabari Peda.
- Culture & Heritage: Sundari Temple (a Shaktipeeth), Unakoti (referred to as the Angkor Wat of the North East), Neermahal, and Ujjayanta Palace.
- Festivals: Celebrates Kokborok Day on January 19 and Kharchi Puja (a festival honoring 14 deities).

13. Uttarakhand Administrative Updates and Geography

- Formed on November 9, 2000, as India's 27th state (formerly known as Uttaranchal) after officially separating from Uttar Pradesh.
- Operates with dual capitals: Dehradun for the Winter and Gairsain for the Summer.
- The current Chief Minister is Pushkar Singh Dhami, and the Governor is Gurmit Singh.
- Rishikesh is known globally as the Yoga Capital of the World.
- Houses the Tehri Dam, recorded as the highest dam in India.
- Tungnath, located in the Panch Kedar, is recognized as the world's highest Shiva temple.
- State Symbols: Alpine Musk Deer (Animal), Himalayan Monal (Bird), Burans (Tree), Brahma Kamal (Flower), and the Common Peacock (Butterfly).
- National Parks: Jim Corbett (the oldest), Valley of Flowers (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) site), Nanda Devi (UNESCO site), Rajaji, Gangotri (the largest), and Govind Pashu Vihar.

- Geographical Indication (GI) Tags: Tejpatta (state's first GI tag), Dehradun Basmati Rice, Aipan art, Munsiyari white Rajma, Ringal craft, and Thulma (a woolen blanket).
- Key Heritage Sites: Char Dham (Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, Badrinath) and Hemkund Sahib (the highest Gurudwara).

14. Uttar Pradesh Demographics and Industries

- Formed on January 24, 1950.
- Holds the historical distinction of having produced the maximum number of Prime Ministers.
- Lucknow serves as the capital, with Kanpur and Lucknow functioning as its largest cities. • Led by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Governor Anandiben Patel (author of the book "Dare Dream Do").
- Recognized as India's most populous state and famously dubbed the "Sugar Bowl of India".
- The National Chambal Sanctuary is globally renowned for its critically endangered gharials and Ganges River dolphins.
- Kannauj Perfume is highly celebrated internationally as the "Grace of the East".
- State Symbols: Animal - Barasingha; Bird - Sarus Crane; Tree - Sita Ashok; Flower - Palash; Fish - Chital.
- Hydrology: Major rivers include the Ganga, Yamuna, and Gomti; key lakes are Govind Ballabh Pant Sagar and Keetham Lake.
- Wildlife & Parks: Dudhwa National Park is the solitary National Park. Other reserves include Pilibhit Tiger Reserve, Katarniaghat, Chandra Prabha, and Ranipur Tiger Reserve.
- Economy & Industry: Prominent hubs in Noida (IT), Moradabad (Brass), and Firozabad (Glass).
- Geographical Indication (GI) Tags: Lucknow Chikankari, Banarasi Brocade, Kala Namak Rice, Bhadohi Carpets, and Agra Petha.
- Heritage & Culture: Hosts the massive Kumbh Mela; home to dance forms like Kathak, Nautanki, Raslila, and Charkula. Heritage sites include the Taj Mahal, Kashi Vishwanath Temple, Ram Janmabhoomi (Ayodhya), Sarnath, Fatehpur Sikri, and Bara Imambara.

15. West Bengal Administrative Milestones and Cultural Heritage

- Formally formed on August 15, 1947.
- Historically, Kolkata hosted the Bank of Hindustan (established in 1770, India's first formal bank) and served as the initial headquarters for the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) until its relocation to Mumbai in 1937.
- India's first underground metro system was launched in Kolkata in 1984.
- The state capital is centralized in Kolkata.
- The Chief Minister is Mamata Banerjee, and the Governor is CV Ananda Bose.
- Ranks prominently as India's second-largest tea producer.
- The Damodar River is historically referred to as the "Sorrow of Bengal".
- The state is celebrated as the Cultural Capital of India, and its Durga Puja is recognized as a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) intangible cultural heritage.
- National Parks: Hosts the Sunderbans (a designated UNESCO and Ramsar site), Singalila (highest altitude park in the state), Jaldapara, Gorumara, Neora Valley, and Buxa Tiger Reserve.
- Geographical Indication (GI) Tags: Darjeeling Tea was the very first GI tag awarded in India; others include Bengal Rasgulla, Baluchari Saree, Joynagar Mola, Nakshi Kantha, and Gobindobhog Rice.
- Heritage Sites: Dakshineswar Kali Temple (built 1855), Belur Math, Victoria Memorial, Bishnupur Terracotta Temples, Shantiniketan, and the Kalighat Temple.
- State Symbols: Animal - Fishing Cat; Bird - White-throated Kingfisher; Tree - Chatim; Flower - Night-flowering Jasmine; Fish - Ilish.

- Hydrology: Rivers include the Hooghly River (revered as the lifeline of Kolkata) and Teesta; lakes include Rabindra Sarobar and Mirik Lake.

- Traditional Arts: Chhau dance (Purulia), Baul music, Jatra, Dhunuchi, and Gambhira.

16. International Organizations and Geographic Landmarks

- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) was launched collaboratively by India and France in 2015 during the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) in Paris.

- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is headquartered in India and has expanded to encompass 125 member nations.

• Headquarters of Major Organizations:

- New York, USA: United Nations (UN), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF).

- Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organization (WHO),

- Cologny, near Geneva, Switzerland: World Economic Forum (WEF).

- Paris, France: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

- Nairobi, Kenya: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

- Washington DC, USA: International Monetary Fund (IMF).

- Vienna, Austria: Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

- Gland, Switzerland: World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

- London, UK: Amnesty International.

- Manila, Philippines: Asian Development Bank (ADB).

- Brussels, Belgium: North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

- Jakarta, Indonesia: Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

- Kathmandu, Nepal: South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

- Bern, Switzerland: Universal Postal Union. • Currencies: The Brazilian currency is the Real. •

Geographic Landmarks: Dehing Patkai National Park is located in Assam. Mount Kanlaon is situated in the Philippines. Mount Etna, documented as Europe's tallest and most active volcano, is located in Italy. • Cultural Event: The Khajuraho Dance Festival is a highly esteemed cultural festival celebrated annually in Madhya Pradesh.

17. Statutory Banking Guidelines for Small Finance Banks

- Outlines the foundational regulatory guidelines for new-age localized banking entities.

- The first Small Finance Bank (SFB) established is Capital SFB.

- The largest operating Small Finance Bank (SFB) is AU SFB.

- Small Finance Banks (SFBs) require a strict Minimum Capital Requirement of ₹300 Crore.

- Entities must possess a Required Banking Experience of 10 Years.

- The Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Limit is mandated at 74%, defining the scope of foreign capital influx into these specialized banks.

- The Priority Sector Lending (PSL) Target for Small Finance Banks (SFBs) is cited at 60%.

- SFBs must maintain a minimum Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) of 15%.

19. Question and Answers

- Q1. What is the minimum capital requirement for establishing a Small Finance Bank (SFB)? Ans: ₹300 Crore.
- Q2. What is the revised Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) limit mandated for Small Finance Banks? Ans: 74%.
- Q3. Under the revised Lead Bank Scheme, what minimum Credit-Deposit (CD) ratio must banks maintain in rural and semi-urban branches? Ans: 60%.
- Q4. What is the new ombudsman compensation limit set by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) under the Integrated Ombudsman Scheme? Ans: ₹30 Lakh.
- Q5. What is the enhanced loan ceiling under the Tarun Plus category of the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana? Ans: ₹20 lakh.
- Q6. How much penalty did the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) levy on CSB Bank for regulatory non-compliance? Ans: ₹63.6 lakh.
- Q7. Which US-based entity was authorized by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to acquire a 41.7% stake in Manappuram Finance? Ans: Bain Capital.
- Q8. What is the permissible borrowing limit for Indian firms from foreign entities under the relaxed External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) rules? Ans: \$1 billion or 300% of their net worth.
- Q9. What is the new capital market exposure limit for banks, which will become effective in 2027? Ans: 40% of their net worth.
- Q10. Which bank successfully integrated Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) functionality into its SmartGateway platform? Ans: HDFC Bank.
- Q11. What is the revised Ways and Means Advances (WMA) ceiling limit updated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for State Governments and Union Territories? Ans: ₹61,008 crore.
- Q12. Which bank launched the "ICICI Swasthya Pension Scheme" that merges retirement savings with healthcare? Ans: ICICI Bank.
- Q13. Where is the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) establishing its highly secured "greenfield" data center and Enterprise Computing Institute? Ans: Khurda, Bhubaneswar in Odisha.
- Q14. The limit for banks to finance Mergers & Acquisitions (M&A) has been increased to what percentage of their Tier 1 Capital? Ans: 20%.
- Q15. What is the maximum subscription limit per individual per financial year for Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGB)? Ans: 4kg.
- Q16. Which cooperative bank was excluded from the Second Schedule of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act after merging with Saraswat Cooperative Bank? Ans: New India Cooperative Bank.
- Q17. Which entity claimed the first position on Hurun India's list of 100 Unlisted Gems? Ans: Reliance Retail.
- Q18. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved SBI Mutual Fund to acquire up to a 9.99% stake in Bandhan Bank and which other bank? Ans: RBL Bank.
- Q19. Who has been appointed as the new Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Slice Small Finance Bank? Ans: Rajan Bajaj.
- Q20. Which bank launched "TGB on Wheels," marking India's first solar-powered ATM van? Ans: Tripura Gramin Bank.
- Q21. What is the total corpus of the newly approved Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0? Ans: ₹10,000 crore.

- Q22. How much central assistance was approved by the Cabinet for the Urban Challenge Fund (UCF)?
Ans: ₹1 lakh crore.
- Q23. What is the total monetization target under Phase 2 of the National Monetization Pipeline (NMP) spanning FY 2026 to FY 2030? Ans: ₹16.72 Lakh Crore.
- Q24. What is the target manufacturing capacity set by the government for Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnets? Ans: 6,000 Metric Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA).
- Q25. Under the revamped Export Promotion Mission (EPM), what is the total financial outlay allocated for FY 2025-26 to 2030-31? Ans: ₹25,060 crore.
- Q26. What is the revised Minimum Support Price (MSP) per quintal for Raw Jute for the 2026-27 season? Ans: ₹5,925 per quintal.
- Q27. Which state launched the "Bangla Yuva Sathi Scheme" providing a ₹1,500 monthly unemployment allowance? Ans: West Bengal.
- Q28. What is the budget allocation for Phase 2 of the Vibrant Villages Program extending up to FY 2028-29? Ans: ₹6,839 crore.
- Q29. The Ministry of Cooperation launched White Revolution 2.0 with a milk procurement target of how much by 2028-29? Ans: 1,007 lakh kg/day.
- Q30. What is the financial outlay for the 'Bharat Vistar' AI-based farmer platform project for the financial year 2026-27? Ans: ₹150 crore.
- Q31. What is the financial outlay supported by the government for the amended BharatNet program (Phase 3) in Andhra Pradesh? Ans: ₹2,432 crore.
- Q32. As of December 2025, the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme has successfully surpassed how much in total direct investments? Ans: ₹2.16 lakh crore.
- Q33. Which state's Cabinet approved India's first comprehensive Graphene Policy featuring a ₹200 crore Graphene Industrial Park? Ans: Kerala.
- Q34. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas mandated that conventional petrol must be blended with 20% ethanol starting from which date? Ans: April 1, 2026.
- Q35. What is the name of the AI-driven comprehensive education model introduced strictly for weaker and lower-middle-income families by the Delhi Government? Ans: CM Shri Schools.
- Q36. Which state government launched the "Mukhyamantri Awas Yojana" specifically to provide permanent housing for Tea Garden workers? Ans: Assam.
- Q37. What is the total budget outlay for the Gyan Bharatam Mission designed to digitize rare handwritten texts in Uttar Pradesh? Ans: ₹482.85 crore.
- Q38. What is the name of the new digital portal launched by the Delhi Chief Minister designed for tracking government asset records? Ans: CM Pragati.
- Q39. What is the financial allocation for the Biotech Fund (BARAK/BIRAC RDI Fund) meant to boost India's biotechnology sector over five years? Ans: ₹2,000 crore.
- Q40. Which village passed a gram sabha resolution declaring itself Maharashtra's first "Caste-Free Village"? Ans: Soundala in Ahilyanagar district.
- Q41. Who was sworn in as the 11th Prime Minister of Bangladesh representing the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)? Ans: Tarique Rahman.
- Q42. India and Brazil have formally agreed to aggressively elevate their bilateral trade to what target amount by 2030? Ans: \$30 Billion.
- Q43. Which country is scheduled to host the 21st G20 Leaders' Summit in Miami in 2026? Ans: United States.
- Q44. France will host the 52nd G7 Summit in 2026 at which specific location? Ans: Évian-les-Bains.

- Q45. The World Bank, United Nations (UN), and European Union (EU) estimate the total cost of rebuilding Ukraine over the next decade has risen to what amount? Ans: \$588 billion.
- Q46. Rob Jetten made history as the youngest and first openly gay Prime Minister in the history of which country? Ans: Netherlands.
- Q47. India officially signed an agreement with the United States to become the 10th full member of which coalition? Ans: Pax Silica coalition.
- Q48. Which organization opened its first-ever European Legal Gateway Office in New Delhi, India? Ans: European Union (EU).
- Q49. India formally initiated Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations in New Delhi with which international bloc? Ans: Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).
- Q50. The Food Corporation of India (FCI) partnered to reliably supply 2 lakh metric tons of rice to which international organization? Ans: World Food Programme (WFP).
- Q51. Who succeeded Rajiv Gauba as the new Cabinet Secretary of India? Ans: TV Somanathan.
- Q52. Who assumed duties as the 26th Chief Election Commissioner of India? Ans: Gyanesh Kumar.
- Q53. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of GAIL (India) Ltd? Ans: Deepak Gupta.
- Q54. Who is the first Indian to be appointed as the Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Hyundai Motor India? Ans: Tarun Garg.
- Q55. Who was named the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)? Ans: A.K. Balasubramanian.
- Q56. Who leads the Supreme Court Manipur Panel (healing committee) which received a 6-month tenure extension? Ans: Gita Mittal.
- Q57. Who was appointed as the Director General (DG) of the National Investigation Agency (NIA)? Ans: Rakesh Aggarwal.
- Q58. Who took over as the new chief of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)? Ans: Vivek Chaturvedi.
- Q59. Who was appointed as the Chairman of the newly reconstituted Hindi Advisory Committee for the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers? Ans: J.P. Nadda.
- Q60. Who was appointed as the Director General (DG) of the Border Security Force (BSF)? Ans: Praveen Kumar.
- Q61. What is India's global rank in AI competitiveness according to the Stanford Institute's Global AI Vibrancy Index? Ans: 3rd globally.
- Q62. What ranking did India achieve in the Henley Passport Index 2026? Ans: 75th.
- Q63. Which country currently holds the most powerful passport globally according to the Henley Passport Index 2026? Ans: Singapore.
- Q64. Which framework was introduced by the World Bank to formally replace its discontinued Ease of Doing Business index? Ans: B-Ready Framework.
- Q65. Which country topped the Global Corruption Perception Index for achieving the highest score in perceived transparency? Ans: Denmark.
- Q66. Which state ranked 1st among large states in the NITI Aayog's Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2024? Ans: Maharashtra.
- Q67. Which state ranked 1st nationally in implementing the Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS)? Ans: Uttarakhand.
- Q68. What is the most preferred transaction mode in India, capturing 57% of transactions according to the Department of Financial Services UPI report? Ans: Unified Payments Interface (UPI).

- Q69. According to a Boston Consulting Group (BCG) report, India's e-commerce market is projected to reach what dollar value by 2030? Ans: \$280–300 billion.
- Q70. The global legal rights index for gender equality stands at what score out of 100 according to the World Bank's "Women, Business and the Law 2026" report? Ans: 67/100.
- Q71. The 13th Edition of Naval Exercise MILAN 2026 concluded off the Visakhapatnam coast aboard which aircraft carrier? Ans: INS Vikrant.
- Q72. Which joint special forces exercise takes place between India and the United States? Ans: Exercise Vajra Prahar.
- Q73. The 7th edition of Joint Military Exercise Dharma Guardian connects the Indian Army and the armed forces of which country? Ans: Japan.
- Q74. What is the name of the trilateral coast guard maritime exercise involving India, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives? Ans: DOSTI-17.
- Q75. Which country officially assumed the chairmanship of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) for the 2026-2028 term? Ans: India.
- Q76. What is the name of the newly commissioned Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) nicknamed the "Dolphin Hunter"? Ans: INS Anjadip.
- Q77. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) introduced which national counter-terrorism policy and strategy to address evolving security challenges? Ans: PRAHAAR.
- Q78. Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) and France's Safran finalized a joint venture to manufacture the HAMMER weapon system in which Indian city? Ans: Pune.
- Q79. What is the name of India's first indigenously designed and built cadet training ship launched at the Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Kattupalli shipyard? Ans: Cadet Training Ship 'Krishna'.
- Q80. The Indian Army's new facial recognition and deepfake detection AI system is known by what name? Ans: X-Face.
- Q81. What is the name of the global guiding framework for ethical AI governance launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi? Ans: MANAV.
- Q82. Which supercomputer was inaugurated by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras? Ans: Param Shakti.
- Q83. India achieved a Guinness World Record for securing exactly how many valid pledges for an AI responsibility campaign in 24 hours? Ans: 250,946 pledges.
- Q84. Which open-source Voice AI stack was launched by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the Digital India Bhashini Division? Ans: VoiceEra.
- Q85. What is the name of the Center of Excellence in AI for Education launched by Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan at IIT Madras? Ans: Bodhan AI Center.
- Q86. Who was honored with the prestigious Ashok Chakra, India's highest peacetime gallantry award, during the 77th Republic Day celebrations? Ans: Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla.
- Q87. Which Manipuri regional film became the first Indian cinematic production to win Best Children and Family Film at the 79th BAFTA Awards? Ans: Boong.
- Q88. Prime Minister Narendra Modi became the first world leader to be honored with which medal by Israel's parliament? Ans: Speaker of the Knesset Medal.
- Q89. Which Indian teacher and social activist received the Global Teacher Prize 2026 at the World Governments Summit in Dubai? Ans: Rouble Nagi.
- Q90. Which Indian sportswoman won the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Indian Sportswoman of the Year 2025 award? Ans: Smriti Mandhana.

- Q91. Who became the very first Australian woman to reach the 350-match milestone in women's international cricket? Ans: Ellyse Perry.
- Q92. Which chess grandmaster successfully defeated Fabiano Caruana to win the inaugural 2026 FIDE Freestyle Chess World Championship? Ans: Magnus Carlsen.
- Q93. The Services team claimed their 8th title in the 79th Santosh Trophy by defeating which state's team? Ans: Kerala.
- Q94. Which spin bowler from Afghanistan achieved the historic milestone of taking his 700th T20 wicket? Ans: Rashid Khan.
- Q95. Who officially achieved the title of India's 92nd Chess Grandmaster in domestic chess developments? Ans: Aaryan Varshney.
- Q96. Who is the author of the book "The Sage Who Reimagined Hinduism – The Life, Lessons & Legacy of Sree Narayana Guru"? Ans: Shashi Tharoor.
- Q97. Which new marine worm species discovered in West Bengal was named after the first female director of the Zoological Survey of India? Ans: Nereis dhritiae.
- Q98. Where is India's first museum dedicated to cows, the National Cow Cultural Museum, located? Ans: Mathura, Uttar Pradesh.
- Q99. What is the official theme for National Science Day observed on February 28? Ans: Women in Science: Catalyzing Viksit Bharat.
- Q100. Which port in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands was officially renamed to Sri Vijayapuram in 2024? Ans: Port Blair.

**NBCC**