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June 2026



NATIONAL

SAMADHAN DIDI CHATBOT LAUNCHED

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Dr Jitendra Singh has launched the Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) AI-enabled voice chatbot named “Samadhan Didi” at Kartavya Bhawan in New Delhi.

The chatbot is developed by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) in collaboration with Bhasini. It allows citizens to lodge grievances by speaking in their native language.

NAUSENA SHAURYA VATIKA INAUGURATED

Union Minister Rajnath Singh and Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath have inaugurated the ‘Nausena Shaurya Vatika’ in Lucknow. Built at a cost of ₹19 crore, this Open-Air Display Museum is spread over 2 acres and is dedicated to the spirit, valour, and prowess of the Indian Navy.

The museum showcases artefacts and weapon systems from the INS Gomati, which was decommissioned in 2022 after 34 years of service.

APPROVAL FOR VISAKHAPATNAM ITI CLUSTER

The National Steering Committee (NSC) has approved the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) for the Visakhapatnam Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Cluster in Andhra Pradesh. Andhra Pradesh has become the first state to operationalise an industry partnership under the PM-SETU scheme.

The plan was submitted by ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India in collaboration with its academic partner, New Age Makers Institute of Technology (NAMTECH). It is to be noted that this is the first-ever Strategic Investment Plan cleared under the PM-Skill Education and Training Upgrade (PM-SETU) scheme, which has an outlay of ₹60,000 crore.

AMENDMENT TO LEGAL METROLOGY RULES

The Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA) has amended the Legal Metrology (Government Approved Test Centre (GATC)) Rules, 2013, to strengthen the legal metrology system of India and expand the national infrastructure for the verification of weights and measures.

Under the Legal Metrology Amendment Rules, 2026, GATCs are now authorized to verify 5 additional fuel dispensing systems: Petrol/Diesel, Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), and Hydrogen. This expansion increases the coverage of weights and measures under the Legal Metrology framework from 18 to 23 categories.

NEW APPS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

Union Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar has launched the Joint Elderly Empowerment & Virtual Assistance Network (JEEVAN) mobile application for senior citizens.

He has also launched the Senior Holistic Care Assistance and Training For Your Utility (SHATAYU) Geriatric Caregiver Dashboard. These platforms were unveiled during a virtual national workshop titled ‘Creating a Well-Functioning Care Economy’.

NESDA 2025 PORTAL LAUNCHED

The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (MoPP&P), has launched the portal for the National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) 2025.

NeSDA is a biennial assessment framework developed by the DARPG to measure the depth and effectiveness of existing e-Governance (electronic governance) service delivery mechanisms from the perspective of citizens.

MARITIME REFORM UTSAV LAUNCHED

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has unveiled the nationwide “Maritime Reform Utsav” during a review meeting of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) in New Delhi.

The initiative commemorates 12 years of maritime reforms in India. It focuses on reform gap analysis, inter-ministerial coordination, stakeholder participation, and skill development in maritime technologies and digital governance.

NATIONAL SPORTS GOVERNANCE RULES

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) has notified the ‘National Sports Governance (National Sports Board (NSB)) Rules, 2026’ and the ‘National Sports Governance (National Sports Tribunal (NST)) Rules, 2026’ under the provisions of the ‘National Sports Governance Act, 2025’.

Under the NSB Rules 2026, the National Sports Board (NSB) shall consist of a Chairperson and 2 members. As per the NST Rules 2026, the Chairperson of the National Sports Tribunal (NST) will hold office for a term of 5 years or until attaining the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier. Members of the NST will hold office for a term of 5 years or until they attain the age of 67 years, whichever is earlier.

NEW CSR POLICY RULES NOTIFIED

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has notified the ‘Companies (Corporate Social Responsibility Policy) Amendment Rules, 2026’.

Under this, companies are permitted to channel up to 10% of their annual mandatory Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) expenditure into Zero Coupon Zero Principal (ZCZP) instruments listed on Social Stock Exchanges (SSEs). Companies must direct the remaining 90% of their CSR spending toward traditional community implementation routes.

The NPO issuing the ZCZPs is responsible for project execution and evaluation, and must complete the funded public welfare project within 3 succeeding financial years from the date of issue.

CCEA APPROVES SARTHAK-PDS SCHEME

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the ‘SARTHAK-PDS’ (Scheme for Assistance in Ration Transport and Handling-Income with Automation in PDS) umbrella scheme with a central outlay of ₹25,530 crore.

The program will be implemented for 5 years from April 2026 to March 2031, aiming to modernize the food subsidy network and benefit citizens covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).

The scheme integrates two legacy programs: the ‘Assistance to State Agencies for intra-State movement of foodgrains and Fair Price Shop (FPS) dealers’ margin under NFSA’ and the ‘Scheme for Modernization and Reforms through Technology in Public Distribution System (SMART PDS)’. This integration aims to reduce leakages and streamline operations.

CLEAN MOBILITY SCHEME

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has announced the ‘Clean Mobility Scheme’ with a financial outlay of ₹9,585 crore to replace old trucks and buses in the Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR). This 2-year fleet modernization initiative aims to reduce vehicular emissions and winter air pollution in the region.

The scheme is funded by the National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and will be implemented by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG). It involves a central share of ₹5,041 crore and ₹1,601 crore in tax concessions from participating states.

The scheme targets the modernization of 2.07 lakh older commercial vehicles registered across Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh. To encourage participation, the government offers a 5% interest subsidy on vehicle loans and monthly fuel vouchers worth up to ₹4,800 provided by Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs).

NEW SEZS IN PUDUCHERRY

The central government has notified two Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the UT of Puducherry, with a total proposed investment of ₹1,975 crore. These include an IT/ITES SEZ and a Multi-Sector SEZ.

The **IT/ITES SEZ** is being developed by the **Oulgaret Municipality** at Thattanchavady village in Oulgaret Taluk, making it the **first SEZ project in India to be developed by a municipality**. The **Multi-Sector SEZ** is being developed by the **Pondicherry Industrial Promotion Development and Investment Corporation (PIPDIC)** at Karasur village in Villianur Taluk.

NEW ROAD PROJECTS

The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** has approved **highway infrastructure projects** in **Madhya Pradesh** and **Bihar**.

In **Madhya Pradesh**, the CCEA approved the **upgradation of the Hiwarkhedi-Roshni-Ashapur-Rudhy section of NH-347B (125.01 km)** to a 2-lane standard with paved shoulders, and the **widening of the Deshgaon-Julwaniya section of NH-347B (108.643 km)** to a 4-lane standard. These projects will be implemented under the **Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM)** at a cost of **₹4,415.60 crore**.

In **Bihar**, the CCEA approved the **upgradation of the Khagaria-Purnea section of NH-31 and NH-231** to a 4-lane standard, covering a length of **143.529 km**. This project will be executed under the **Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) (Toll)** mode at a cost of **₹3,936.05 crore**.

PRICE STABILIZATION FUND FOR AIRLINES

The **Union Cabinet** has approved a **₹10,000 crore Price Stabilization Fund** to support **scheduled Indian airlines** against **rising Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices**. Under this **36-month scheme**, the government will provide a **₹10,000 crore interest-free advance** to **Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs)** to cover **under-recoveries**.

The initiative **caps the ATF sale price at ₹115 per litre**, with the government compensating OMCs for any losses. The advanced funds will be **recovered from OMCs** once **global prices stabilize** and return to the **Consolidated Fund of India**.

CHIRAG COE INAUGURATED

Indian Railways (IR) has inaugurated a **Centre of Excellence (CoE)** named “**CHIRAG**” (**Centre for HR Information Systems, Research and Analytics in Governance**) at the **South Central Railway (SCR)** grounds in **Secunderabad, Telangana**.

The centre is dedicated to **human resource management training, research, and digital transformation** within IR. It aims to serve as the **technological backbone** for the **Human Resource Management System (HRMS)** by providing **nationwide certified, role-based training**. The project is scheduled for full completion by **May 2028**.

HIGHWAY PROJECTS

The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** has approved the **4-laning** of the **Armoor-Jagtial-Mancherial section** of **National Highway (NH)-63** and the **Jagtial-Karimnagar section** of **NH-563**. These projects, spanning a total length of **190.76 km**, will be developed at an estimated cost of **₹7,597 crore**.

Additionally, the **CCEA** has sanctioned the construction of a **new coastal highway** connecting **Rameshwar to Paradeep** in **Odisha**. The project, spanning **160.18 km**, will be implemented at an estimated cost of **₹8,300 crore**.

IBCA PRE-SUMMIT IN BHOPAL

Union Minister Bhupendra Yadav and **Madhya Pradesh CM Mohan Yadav** have inaugurated the **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Pre-Summit** at the **Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM)** in **Bhopal**. The summit was held on the occasion of the **International Day for Biological Diversity**, observed on **May 22**.

To **promote biodiversity conservation**, the **MP Forest Department**, with support from the **Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd (HUDCO)**, flagged off **20 motorcycles and a rescue truck**.

LOGISTICS PORT PERFORMANCE INDEX LAUNCHED

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has launched the **Logistics Port Performance Index (LPPI)** for **FY25** during the **37th Foundation Day** celebrations of the **Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority** in Mumbai.

The **LPPI**, based on the “**Sagar Aankalan**” **framework**, serves as a national benchmark to **measure efficiency across key cargo sectors**. The index recognized top performers: **Paradip Port Authority (Odisha)** for **dry bulk**, **Sikka Port (Gujarat)** for **liquid bulk**, and **Mundra Port (Gujarat)** for **container cargo**.

The **Directorate General of Shipping** has introduced **4 digital initiatives** to strengthen the maritime sector: the 24x7 Grievance Redressal Module (e-Navik) for complaints from seafarers, the Ship Registration Module (e-Samudra) for electronic vessel registration, a **Medical Practitioner Module** for digitizing health check certifications, and the **Unified Ship Recycling Credit Note Module**, which offers a **40% credit note** on scrap value for recycling at compliant Indian yards.

MAHA WATER MISSION

The **Ministry of Jal Shakti** and the **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)** have jointly launched the ‘**Missions for Advancement in High-Impact Areas (MAHA) Water Mission**’. The mission has a financial outlay of **₹200 crore** to be implemented over **5 years**. It will provide **funding support of up to ₹20 crore per consortium**.

The mission was unveiled during a **national workshop on Research and Development (R&D) in Water** held in **New Delhi**, aiming to **bolster the water security of India** through **research and technology-driven solutions**.

LETTER OF APPROVAL

The **Ministry of Education** has issued a **Letter of Approval (LoA)** to the **University of Liverpool, UK**, to establish a **branch campus** in **Bengaluru**.

MISSION QUEEN PINEAPPLE

Union Minister Jyotiraditya M Scindia and **Tripura CM Dr. Manik Saha** have launched the ‘**Tripura Mission Queen Pineapple**’ at **Sanchar Bhawan** in **New Delhi**. The initiative is a **₹236 crore convergence-led project** focused on **pineapple cultivation and value chain development**.

The mission aims to **bridge existing gaps** through **convergence-led investments** and **market-oriented interventions** to **enhance farmer value realization**, while promoting Tripura’s **GI-tagged ‘Queen Pineapple’** as its **Unique Selling Proposition (USP)**.

KHET BACHAO ABHIYAN LAUNCHED

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has launched the ‘**Khet Bachao Abhiyan**’ in **Ramsiya village of Raisen, Madhya Pradesh**.

The campaign aims to **promote sustainable agriculture, improve soil health, and raise awareness regarding climate-resilient farming practices**.

PM RESEARCH CHAIR SCHEME LAUNCHED

The **Department of Higher Education (DoHE)** under the **Ministry of Education (MoE)** has launched the **Prime Minister Research Chair (PMRC) Scheme 2026**. The scheme aims to **integrate accomplished Indian-origin researchers, scientists, technologists, and professionals** from across the globe into the **research and innovation ecosystem of India**.

The scheme identifies **13 priority sectors** categorized under **three pillars: Lead Institutions, Host Institutions, and PMRC Fellows**. The MoE has designated **7 premier institutions** as **Lead Institutions** to facilitate the implementation of the scheme across various thematic areas.

The selection of participating institutions and fellows is monitored by an **Empowered Committee** chaired by **Professor Ajay Kumar Sood**, the **Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA) to the Government of India**.

SEVENTH RMC LAUNCHED IN JAMMU

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh has inaugurated **India’s 7th Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC)** in **Jammu**. The centre will provide **specialized weather, disaster, and climate services** for **Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, and Himachal Pradesh**.

He also announced the upcoming establishment of an **8th RMC** in **Lucknow**, which will manage services for **Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand**.

100TH RAMSAR SITE

The **Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary**, also known as **Surha Tal**, in **Uttar Pradesh** has been declared as the **100th Ramsar Site of India**. **PM Narendra Modi** announced this milestone on **World Environment Day (June 5)**.

With this designation, **India ranks 3rd globally** in the total number of Ramsar sites, trailing only the **UK and Mexico**, and holds the **1st position in Asia**. This sanctuary marks the **13th Ramsar site in Uttar Pradesh**, whereas **Tamil Nadu** currently holds the **highest tally of Ramsar sites in India with 20 designated wetlands**.

SWACHH APPLICATION LAUNCHED

Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has launched the ‘Swacch Application’ in Kolkata. The geo-tagged mobile app is designed to enhance cleanliness in municipal areas and bolster the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) through technology-enabled solutions.

The application facilitates citizen participation in urban governance by enabling users to report issues for municipal action. The initiative is currently being implemented across 10 municipalities in its initial phase.

FCI QR TAGGING INITIATIVE EXPANDS

The central government has expanded the QR code tagging initiative for Food Corporation of India foodgrain bags to Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Odisha.

The initiative covers a total volume of 20 lakh tonnes of rice moved from milling units to distribution hubs. The state-wise allocation includes 10 lakh tonnes in Andhra Pradesh, 5 lakh tonnes in Telangana, and 5 lakh tonnes in Odisha.

Food Corporation of India (FCI):

Under – Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

CMD – Rabindra Kumar Agarwal

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 1965

SIX YEARS OF PM SVANIDHI

The PM Street Vendor’s AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme, launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoH&UA), has completed 6 years.

Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and Tripura CM Manik Saha interacted with beneficiaries from Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, and Tripura. During the event, credit cards and loan sanction letters were distributed to street vendors in Tripura.

It is to be noted that over the last 6 years, the scheme has facilitated 1.12 crore loans, with over 1.05 crore collateral-free loans sanctioned across the country, amounting to a total value exceeding ₹17,800 crore.

NEW RMC IN LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath and Union Minister of State Dr. Jitendra Singh have inaugurated the 8th Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) in Lucknow.

The facility upgrades the existing Lucknow Meteorological Centre into a regional hub, designed to deliver high-resolution and hyper-local precision weather forecasting. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) now operates 8 RMCs, with the other 7 located in Mumbai, Chennai, New Delhi, Kolkata, Nagpur, Guwahati, and Jammu.

AYUSHMAN BHARAT ROLLOUT COMPLETE

West Bengal has officially implemented the Ayushman Bharat PM Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY), becoming the 36th State/UT to join the scheme.

This marks the completion of a 100% nationwide rollout of the world’s largest publicly funded health assurance scheme across every state and UT in India. It is to be noted that the central government has allocated ₹3,505 crore to West Bengal under the National Health Mission (NHM) for FY27.

VYOMA INNOVATION CHALLENGE LAUNCHED

The Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD) has launched the ‘VYOMA Innovation Challenge’ to promote the development of open-source, multilingual, and voice-first AI solutions. The initiative is launched in partnership with Current AI and Kalpa Impact.

The challenge focuses on creating AI solutions that can operate in offline and low-connectivity environments. It is structured around ‘Sunno Sutra’, a multilingual, voice-first, open-source handheld AI reference device.

NEW VEGAN LOGO BY FSSAI

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has introduced a new standardized “Vegan” logo. The use of this logo will be mandatory for all approved vegan food products in India from July 2027.

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI):

Chairman – PS Srivastava

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 2008

LETTERS OF APPROVAL FOR FOREIGN UNIVERSITIES

The **Ministry of Education** has issued **Letters of Approval (LoA)** to **3 international universities** to establish campuses in India. The **University of Bristol (UK)** and the **University of York (UK)** will set up their campuses in **Mumbai**. The **University of New South Wales (UNSW, Australia)** will establish its campus at **Manyata Business Park** in **Bengaluru**.

GOVERNMENT FORMS WORKING GROUPS

The **Government of India** has constituted **6 sector-specific working groups** to identify up to **100 products** to **enhance domestic manufacturing** and **decrease import dependency**.

These working groups are chaired by **Amardeep Singh Bhatia**, **Secretary of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I)**.

LAUNCH OF NAVACHAR MANTRA

Union Minister of State Jayant Chaudhary has launched the “**Navachar Mantra**” initiative at the **IIT Delhi**. This **national flagship initiative** aims to **identify, mentor, and scale grassroots innovators and early-stage entrepreneurs**.

NEW DIGITAL PORTAL

Union Minister of State **Dr. Jitendra Singh** has announced the launch of a **digital portal** supported by the **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)** to **strengthen scientific research and innovation**. The announcement was made during a **joint review meeting of all science Ministries** in **New Delhi**.

The portal serves as a **capacity-building platform** for **researchers and young innovators**, providing support in **scientific writing, publication processes, Intellectual Property (IP) protection, and patent-related procedures**.

HAWK SYSTEM LAUNCHED

The **Kerala government** has launched the **Hostile Activity Watch Kernel (HAWK)**, which is the **first fully digitised and judiciary-integrated wildlife offence management system of India**.

The **HAWK** operates as a **cloud-based Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system** to manage wildlife crime data and support enforcement efforts. The system **integrates forest records with the District Court Management System** through an **Application Programming Interface (API)**, making **Kerala the first state in India** to implement such a **judiciary-integrated framework**.

LAUNCH OF RISA BRAND

The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**, through the **Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)**, has launched a premium brand named “**RISA – Timeless Tribal**” for **tribal textiles, embroideries, and handicrafts**. An exclusive **RISA store** was inaugurated at the **Rajiv Gandhi Handicrafts Bhawan in New Delhi**.

The initiative aims to **establish a brand identity for tribal products, strengthen market linkages for tribal artisans, facilitate design development, and promote tribal heritage** in domestic and international markets.

LONGEST-SERVING ELECTED PM

The **Union Cabinet** has passed a resolution recognizing **10 June 2026**, as **PM Narendra Modi** becomes the **longest-serving elected Prime Minister of India**. PM Modi achieved this record with **4,399 days of continuous service**, surpassing the previous record held by **Jawaharlal Nehru**, who served for **4,398 continuous days** between **1952 and 1964**.

APP AND KIOSKS LAUNCHED

Union Minister of State Kirti Vardhan Singh has launched the ‘**NZP Saathi App**’ and inaugurated **self-ticketing kiosks** at the **National Zoological Park (NZP)** in **New Delhi**.

The app acts as a **digital guide** for the zoo, providing **smart navigation** and facilitating **easy online ticketing** for visitors.

NEW FM TRANSMITTER IN RAJASTHAN

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has inaugurated a **20 kW Akashvani FM transmitter** in **Jaisalmer, Rajasthan**, to **upgrade communication capabilities along the India-Pakistan border**.

He also announced the establishment of an **Advanced Quantum Computing and Quantum Communications Lab** and a **dedicated AI Lab** at the **Malaviya National Institute of Technology (MNIT)** in **Jaipur**.

LPMS VINIMAY LAUNCHED

Union Minister Amit Shah has launched the **Land Port Management System (LPMS) – VINIMAY**, a **digital platform** in New Delhi. Developed by the **Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI)** under the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**, the system aims to **modernize land port operations, facilitate trade, and strengthen border security**.

The implementation of the platform is expected to **eliminate 90% of paperwork, reduce truck waiting time by 40–60%, and cut gate processing time by 22–35%**.

AI ADVISORY SERVICE FOR FARMERS

The **ICAR–Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research (ICAR–IIOR)**, **Hyderabad**, has launched “**Oilseeds Kisaan Mitra**,” a **WhatsApp-based AI advisory service**.

The initiative aims to **harness digital technology** to benefit the farming community. It enables **oilseed farmers across India** to access **free, trusted, and instant crop advisory** through **WhatsApp**.

PM MODI VISITS GUJARAT

PM Narendra Modi has visited **Gujarat**, where he inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for various development projects in **Surat** worth **₹18,800 crore**, aimed at strengthening **road connectivity, power infrastructure, and industrial development**.

He also virtually inaugurated the first ‘**World Yogasana Championship**’ in **Ahmedabad**, which is recognised as a **UNESCO World Heritage City**.

Key projects include **Packages VI and VII of the Vadodara–Mumbai Expressway**, a **200-bed Employees’ State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) Hospital**, a **transmission network expansion project**, and **Chemical and Bulk Drug Zone projects** in **Valsad and Bharuch**.

BRICS AGRICULTURE MINISTERS' MEETING

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has chaired the **16th BRICS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting** in **Indore, Madhya Pradesh**. Held under **India’s 2026 BRICS Chairship**, this was the **first-ever BRICS agricultural summit** to include both Member and Partner Countries.

The **BRICS Agriculture Working Group** identified **4 priorities: Food Security and Nutrition** (focusing on smallholder farmers, women, and youth), **Agricultural Trade, Regenerative Farming** (promoting climate-resilient practices), and **Investment and Innovation**.

The summit concluded with the adoption of the ‘**Indore Declaration**’, which emphasises a **farmer-centric global food system** and **rejects unilateral trade restrictions** that threaten food security.

To implement the declaration, the member nations established **5 institutional networks**: the **BRICS Network of Centres of Excellence on Agroecology and Regenerative Agriculture** (coordinated by the **ICAR–Indian Institute of Farming System Research (IIFSR), Modipuram**), **Network on Digital Agriculture** (coordinated by the **IIT Delhi**), **BRICS Agro-Inputs, Genetic Resources, and Information Network (BRICS AGRIN Framework)**, **Knowledge-to-Action Hub** (by strengthening the **BRICS Agricultural Research Platform (BARP)**), and the **Global Forum on Farmers' Rights in Seed Systems**.

NEGD SELECTS FIRMS FOR AI/ML PROJECTS

The **National e-Governance Division (NeGD)**, an independent business division under the **Digital India Corporation (DIC)** of the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, has **empanelled 6 firms** to provide **AI and Machine Learning (ML) solutions** for **central ministries and agencies**.

The selected firms are **TCS, NEC India, Kyndryl Solutions, Innefu Labs, CoRover.ai, and Cactus Technology Solutions**. The empanelment is valid for **2 years**, with a provision for an **extension of up to 1 year**.

AI VIDEO MODEL

Bengaluru-based **Avataar** has launched ‘**Varya**’, **India’s first indigenous, distilled video AI model**, designed to make **generative video storytelling** accessible and affordable at a population scale. It was launched in partnership with the **IndiaAI Mission**.

The AI model operates as a **text-to-video and image-to-video foundation model**, offering enhanced speed and cost efficiencies to the digital ecosystem.

NEW RURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has unveiled the ‘**Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin)**’ (**VB-G RAM G**) framework.

The **rural development initiative** has been allocated a budget of **₹1.25 lakh crore** and is set to be effective from **July 2026**. It aims to **generate employment, create village assets, and promote digital governance** across **nearly 2.8 lakh Gram Panchayats**.

NEW NCC STATE DIRECTORATES

The **Headquarters Directorate General of the National Cadet Corps (NCC)** has approved the establishment of **independent State Directorates** in **Andhra Pradesh** and **Jharkhand**. This expansion increases the **total number of NCC State Directorates** in India from **17 to 19**.

PM MODI IN DAMAN

PM Narendra Modi has visited the Union Territory of **Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu**. He inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for **56 development projects** worth **₹2,970 crore**, aiming to **improve healthcare, air connectivity, tourism, and public infrastructure** in the region.

Key projects include the new terminal building of **NAMO Airport** and the **NAMO Hospital**, developed at a combined cost of **₹1,340 crore**.

10 YEARS OF PMSMA SCHEME

Union Minister **JP Nadda** has launched nationwide celebrations in New Delhi to mark the **10th anniversary** of the **PM Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)**, under the theme “**10 Years of PMSMA – A Decade of Care**”.

Launched in **2016** by **PM Narendra Modi**, the **PMSMA** provides **free, comprehensive, and quality antenatal care services** to pregnant women on the **9th day of every month**. During the event, the minister released a **special ₹75 commemorative coin** and a **₹5 postage stamp**. Nationwide campaigns are being conducted to encourage pregnant women to avail the **9 assured free antenatal care services** offered under the scheme.

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN BIHAR

Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh and Bihar CM Samrat Choudhary have launched an **Integrated Aqua Park** at the **Vanasaur Fish Seed Farm** in **Bhojpur**, developed with an investment of **₹31.21 crore** under the **PM Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)**.

They also inaugurated the **Regional Centre of the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB)** in **Patna**, which will serve as a **knowledge and institutional hub for Bihar and the Eastern India region**.

Union Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi and CM Samrat Choudhary laid the foundation stone for a **Technology Centre** in **Khizarsarai, Gaya**. The facility is being developed with a budget of **₹170 crore**.

VARANASI UNDER EASY CONNECT MODEL

Varanasi becomes the **first Indian city** to be integrated under the “**Easy Connect**” model, a **hub-and-spoke aviation framework** launched by the **Government of India**.

Spearheaded by **Air India**, the initiative aims to **transform non-metro cities into key starting points for global travel**.

COMMITTEE FOR NATIONAL SPORTS BOARD

The **union government** has constituted a **Search-cum Selection Committee for the National Sports Board**. The committee is established under the **National Sports Board (Search-cum Selection Committee) Rules, 2026**, framed in accordance with the **National Sports Governance Act, 2025**.

The committee is **chaired by Dr TV Somanathan**. Its members include **Hari Ranjan Rao, Lt General (Retd) Harpal Singh**, and two **National Sports Awardees, Gagan Narang** and **N Kunjurani Devi**.

KAVACH INSTALLATIONS

Indian Railways has approved the installation of the ‘**Kavach**’ **automatic train protection system** on the balance Broad Gauge sections of the **Ambala Division (Northern Railway)**, spanning **811 route km** at a cost of **₹201 crore**.

Additionally, it has approved the installation of ‘**Kavach**’ **Version 4.0** on **598 route km** across **48 block sections** of the **Ahmedabad Division (Western Railway)** in **Gujarat**, at a cost of **₹140 crore**.

MERGER OF REC AND PFC APPROVED

President Droupadi Murmu has approved the merger of REC Ltd (REC) into the Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC). The merger aims to create a larger and more efficient public sector power financing institution.

REC Ltd:

CEO – Jitendra Srivastava
Headquarters – New Delhi
Established in – 1969

MANUFACTURING FACILITY IN PUNE

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, in the presence of Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis, has inaugurated the advanced manufacturing facility of Jabil Inc. at the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) in Ranjangaon, Pune.

The facility aims to create an export-centric ecosystem for manufacturing next-generation hardware for AI data centres.

SKILL INDIA COMPLETES 12 YEARS

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has completed 12 years of the ‘Skill India’ initiative, which is one of the world’s largest skilling ecosystems.

In terms of infrastructure growth, the number of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) has increased from 9,776 in 2014 to over 13,888, expanding access to skill development nationwide.

FIRST DRONE MAIL SERVICE IN HP

The Department of Posts under the Ministry of Communications has launched its first drone-based mail and parcel delivery service. The service operates between the Mandi Head Post Office and the Rehardhar Branch Post Office in Himachal Pradesh.

MSP PROCUREMENT APPROVED

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has approved the procurement of pulses and oilseeds at Minimum Support Price (MSP) under the Price Support Scheme (PSS). Uttar Pradesh is the major beneficiary for the Summer 2026 season, with approvals for 48,298 metric tonnes (MT) of moong, 97,970 MT of urad, and 41,718 MT of groundnut.

Procurement approvals include 18,250 MT of moong for Gujarat and 2,115 MT of moong for Haryana. Additionally, for Tamil Nadu, the moong procurement limit for the Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2025-26 has been increased from 885 MT to 990 MT.

NEW GI TAGS

The Geographical Indications Registry (GIR) has granted Geographical Indication (GI) tags to 11 products from Jharkhand, including the Bhoya Saree and Fabric, Kuchai Silk Saree, Jharkhand Bamboo Craft, and Sohrai Painting.

With these additions, Jharkhand has a total of 12 GI-tagged products, of which 4 are supported by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

The GIR has also granted GI status to 4 traditional products from Assam, namely Karbi Anglong Handloom Products, Assam Bihu Pepa, Assam Bamboo Crafts, and Deuri Handloom Products. Assam currently holds 45 GI-tagged products in total, with 12 being supported by NABARD.

The tribal musical instrument of Tripura, Sarinda (also known as Sarinda Uakhrap), has been granted a GI tag. Tripura now possesses a total of 4 GI-tagged products, all of which are supported by NABARD. It is to be noted that a GI registration is valid for a period of 10 years from the date of registration and can be renewed for further periods of 10 years each.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD):
Chairman – Shaji KV
Headquarters – Mumbai
Established in – 1982

SMART WAREHOUSING SYSTEM LAUNCHED

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi has launched the tech-driven Smart Warehousing System at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. This system represents the world’s largest deployment of AI and Internet of Things (IoT)-based technologies in public-sector storage.

The system is currently operational across 216 grain warehouses managed by the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC). The Food Corporation of India is scheduled to transition 150 of its warehouses to the smart system by October 2026.

Food Corporation of India (FCI):

CMD – **Rabindra Kumar Agarwal**
Headquarters – **New Delhi**
Established in – **1965**

STARTUPS FOR FUNDING

The **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe)** has selected **3 Indian space startups** as the **first set of Non-Governmental Entities (NGEs)** to receive funding under its **Technology Adoption Fund (TAF)** scheme.

The selected startups are **Astrobase Space Technologies Pvt Ltd** (Bengaluru), **SatSure Analytics India Pvt Ltd** (Bengaluru), and **TM2SPACE Technologies Pvt Ltd** (Hyderabad). Under this initiative, **SatSure Analytics India Pvt Ltd** will develop a **Large Earth Observation Model (LOM)** named “**Dhaarini**”.

BRICS URBANISATION FORUM

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has concluded the **13th BRICS Urbanisation Forum** at **Sushma Swaraj Bhavan** in **New Delhi**. Held under the **BRICS Chairship of India 2026**, the forum was themed “**Cities for People: BRICS Cooperation for Inclusive and Resilient Urban Futures**”.

The event resulted in the adoption of a ‘**Ministerial Declaration**’ and the proposal for a ‘**BRICS Urban Research and Knowledge Network**’ to **strengthen urban cooperation among member nations**. Two publications, “**India’s Urban Transformation: Stories of Change**” and “**Cities for People: Urban Stories from BRICS Nations**”, were also showcased.

NIUA CELEBRATES GOLDEN JUBILEE

The **National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)** has celebrated **50 years** of its contribution to India’s urban development. The **golden jubilee celebrations** were held at **Vigyan Bhawan** in **New Delhi** under the theme ‘**Resilient Urban India @2047**’.

Dr PK Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, attended the event as the **Chief Guest**. During the event, the **National Urban Learning Platform** was launched to **strengthen technical capacity building in urban governance** through an **integrated hybrid learning system** and newly introduced technical courses.

WT-MARUT PORTAL LAUNCHED

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi has launched the ‘Wind Turbine Materials and Resources Utility Tracker’ (WT-MARUT) at the **Global Wind Day Conference 2026** in **Goa**. It is **India’s first Wind Turbine Supply Chain Management Portal**.

Developed by the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** in collaboration with the **Indian Wind Turbine Manufacturers Association (IWTMA)**, the portal aims to **strengthen domestic wind manufacturing** and **improve supply-chain transparency**. The initiative is designed to support the national target of achieving **100 GW of wind energy capacity by 2030**.

During the conference, the Union Minister also unveiled the **Wind Domestic Content Requirement (DCR) Portal**, a coffee table book titled ‘**Pawan Urja**’, and a series of knowledge and state-wise policy reports.

GREENFIELD CITIES IN DELHI NCR

The **National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB)**, chaired by **Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar**, has approved the development of **4 greenfield cities**, branded as “**Namo Cities**”, in the **Delhi-NCR region** under the **Regional Plan 2041**.

One city will be developed in each of the 4 states and territories: Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan. The project is **estimated to cost ₹5,000 crore** and will be **implemented over a period of 5 years**.

BRICS MSME FORUM

The **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** has hosted the **First BRICS MSME Forum** and the **Third SME Working Group Meeting** in **Agra, Uttar Pradesh**. The event was held under the theme ‘**Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability**’.

The **Third SME Working Group Meeting** deliberated on the theme ‘**Building MSME Ecosystem – Sustainable Roots to Global Routes**’.

MOU FOR KISHAU DAM PROJECT

Six northern states including **Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, and Rajasthan**, have signed an **MoU** for the implementation of the **Kishau Multipurpose Dam Project**. The agreement was signed during a meeting chaired by **Union Minister Amit Shah** in **New Delhi**.

The project is a **hydroelectric and water storage initiative** on the **Tons River**, a **tributary of the Yamuna**, located on the border of **Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh** in the Dehradun–Sirmour region. The project is estimated to cost **₹15,000 crore**. The **Central Government** will provide **90% of the water component cost** as **Central Assistance**, while the **remaining 10%** will be shared by the **participating states**.

NAVRATNA STATUS FOR CPCL AND GRSE

The **Department of Public Enterprises** under the **Ministry of Finance** has upgraded **Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd (CPCL)** as India’s **28th Navratna company** and **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE)** as the **29th Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)**.

Following this, both Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) can **invest up to ₹1,000 crore or 15% of their net worth** on a single project **without prior approval** from the central government.

Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE):

Chairman & MD – Commodore PR Hari (Retd.)

Headquarters – Kolkata

Established in – 1960

Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd (CPCL):

MD – Arvind Kumar

Headquarters – Chennai

Established in – 1965

ISO CERTIFICATION

Osmania University in Hyderabad has become the **first university in India** to receive **four International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Management System Certifications** from the **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**.

The university has been awarded certifications for **ISO 21001:2018** (Educational Organisations Management System), **ISO 14001:2015** (Environmental Management System), **ISO 50001:2018** (Energy Management System), and **ISO 22000:2018** (Food Safety Management System).

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS):

Director General – Sanjay Garg

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 1987

NEW CYBER CRIME PORTALS

The **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)**, under the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**, has launched two new portals: the **Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM)** and the **Money Restoration Module (MRM)**.

These portals are designed to **streamline direct operational coordination** among police forces, banking networks, and the **National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP)**.

NEW CISF HEADQUARTERS

Union Minister of State **Sanjay Kumar** has laid the foundation stone for the **new Force Headquarters building** of the **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)** at the **CGO Complex in New Delhi**.

The building is being constructed by the **Central Public Works Department (CPWD)** at an estimated cost of **₹75.78 crore**. During the event, he also inaugurated and dedicated **multiple infrastructure projects** of the **CISF** to the nation, valued at **₹136.03 crore**.

AMIT SHAH LAUNCHES NAFEX.IN

Union Minister Amit Shah has launched **four initiatives** to expand governance and assistance for farmers in New Delhi. The **‘DRISHTI’ portal** was introduced as a dedicated tracking system to streamline the **real-time inventory management of pulses and oilseeds**.

The digital e-auction platform **‘NAFEX.in’** of the **National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED)** was launched to **connect farmers directly with buyers** to eliminate middlemen, ensuring transparent bidding and **direct payments to the bank accounts of farmers within 48 hours**.

The **‘NAFED-KALYAN’ scholarship** was launched as a social welfare initiative that **allocates 1% of the profits of NAFED** to fund the higher education and career development of the children of farmers. Additionally, an **Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) portal** was launched to **strengthen internal digital governance** and increase overall operational efficiency.

ORGANIC SPICE PROCESSING UNIT

Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, along with Conrad K Sangma, the CM of Meghalaya, and Prem Singh Tamang, the CM of Sikkim, has inaugurated the largest organic spice processing unit of Northeast India at Bhoirymbong in Meghalaya.

The facility was established under the Eastern Ri-Bhoi Organic Farmer Producer Company Ltd (FPC) with an investment of ₹32 crore. The processing unit has an annual capacity to process over 10,000 metric tonnes (MT) of high-value organic spices.

GREEN HYDROGEN CERTIFICATION PORTAL

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi has launched the Green Hydrogen Certification Portal of India (GHCI Portal) during the National Workshop on “Strengthening the National Green Hydrogen Mission: Through State Policies, Hubs & Infrastructure” in New Delhi.

The portal will serve as a digital platform to enable transparent certification, verification, and regulatory compliance under the Green Hydrogen Certification Scheme of India (GHCI). The platform is scheduled to become operational in July 2026.

DISHA 2.0

Union Minister of State Arjun Ram Meghwal has approved the continuation of the Central Sector Scheme ‘Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice’ (DISHA), which is now restructured as ‘DISHA 2.0’.

The scheme has been allocated an outlay of ₹255 crore for 5 years (April 2026 to March 2031). The funding is provided through 100% Gross Budgetary Support from the Government of India (GoI), following recommendations from the Standing Finance Committee chaired by Niraj Verma.

The scheme aims to strengthen access to justice as mandated by the Preamble and Articles 14, 21, and 39A of the Constitution of India, and supports the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG-16) on Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions. It targets 3 crore beneficiaries.

The scheme comprises 4 components: ‘Tele-Law’ (Reaching the Unreached), ‘Nyaya Bandhu’ (Pro-Bono Legal Services) Programme, ‘Legal Literacy and Legal Awareness Programme’ (LLAP), and ‘VIDHI Sanjeevani’.

AIR SUVIDHA 2.0 LAUNCHED

The Ministry of Civil Aviation and Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) have launched “AIR SUVIDHA 2.0”, an upgraded contactless Passenger Health Self-Declaration Portal.

The portal aims to strengthen public health surveillance at Points of Entry in response to the ongoing Ebola disease outbreak.

NATIONWIDE BAN ON TELEGRAM

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has issued an emergency nationwide order to block the messaging platform 'Telegram'. The directive was executed under the provisions of Section 69A of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000.

This measure was implemented after the National Testing Agency (NTA) and intelligence agencies identified a significant rise in organized cheating rackets on the platform, specifically in the period leading up to the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) 2026 re-test.

HUB-AND-SPOKE FLIGHT

Union Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu has inaugurated India’s first hub-and-spoke flight service, designated as Air India flight 1111, at the Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

Launched under Air India’s ‘Easy Connect’ initiative, the service provides connectivity to 17 international destinations.

Air India:

CEO & MD – Campbell Wilson

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 1932

INDIAAI FELLOWSHIP FOR STUDENTS

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has awarded the IndiaAI Fellowship to 7 Computer Science Engineering (CSE) students at Chandigarh University.

Each recipient will receive financial assistance of ₹1 lakh for innovative projects using AI and Machine Learning applications.

HYDROGEN PRODUCTION FACILITY

The **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)** has inaugurated the **world’s first hydrogen production facility** utilizing a **Copper–Chlorine (Cu–Cl) thermochemical cycle** at the **Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR)** in **Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu**.

The facility is powered by **nuclear heat** derived from a **Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR)**. The **Cu–Cl cycle** is a **multi-step chemical process** that **splits water molecules into hydrogen and oxygen** through the application of **high-temperature thermal energy**.

PM MODI VISITS WEST BENGAL

PM Narendra Modi has visited **West Bengal** to participate in the **‘Paschimbanga Divas’** (West Bengal Day) celebrations held at **Tarakeswar in Hooghly**. The event was organised under the theme **“West Bengal: Heritage, Harmony and Development”**.

During the visit, he also released the **23rd instalment** of the **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM–KISAN) scheme**.

DIGITAL POLICING APPS

Union Minister Amit Shah has launched **4 digital policing applications** at the **26th All India Fingerprint Conference** in **New Delhi**. The applications are National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)–Abhigyan, **Criminal Procedure Identification (CrPI)**, **e-Prosecution 2.0**, and **e-Forensics 2.0**.

These applications are designed to strengthen the **Integrated Criminal Justice System (ICJS)** by **leveraging AI for biometric identification, forensic integration, and digital prosecution management**.

FINANCIAL AID FOR BIOREFINERY

The **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas** has approved financial assistance of **₹150 crore** for **India’s first private-sector 91 Kilo Litres Per Day (KLPD) Hybrid Second-Generation (2G) Ethanol Biorefinery**, located in **Dhanaura, Uttar Pradesh**.

The assistance is provided through the **Centre for High Technology (CHT)** under the **PM JI–VAN (Jaiv Indhan– Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran) Yojana**. The biorefinery produces **sustainable 2G ethanol** using **agricultural residues**.

INDIA HOSTS BRICS MEETINGS

The **BRICS Heads of Space Agencies (HOSA)** meeting was held in **Bengaluru**. It was hosted by the **ISRO** and the **Department of Space (DoS)** with support from the **Ministry of External Affairs**, featuring participation from all **BRICS member nations**.

The **11th BRICS Energy Ministers’ Meeting** was held in **Gurugram, Haryana**, under the **BRICS Chairship of India for 2026**. The meeting was conducted under the theme **“Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability,”** with the Energy Track focusing on the theme **“Energy for All.”**

NEW DIGITAL PLATFORMS

The **National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)** has celebrated its **23rd Foundation Day** and launched 4 digital platforms.

The platforms include: **'IX Portal'** to optimize the operations and management of domestic internet exchanges. **'myIRINN Portal'** as a secure platform for members and affiliates of the Indian Registry for Internet Names and Numbers (IRINN). **'.IN Auction Portal'** to streamline the bidding and acquisition process for premium '.in' domain names. **'AI–Powered WHOIS Screening Platform'** to secure the '.in' domain space of India.

ECONOMY

TAIWAN OVERTAKES INDIA

The **Taiwan Stock Exchange** has **surpassed India** to become the **world’s 5th largest stock market**, with a **market capitalization of \$4.95 trillion** compared to **India’s \$4.92 trillion**.

The **leading global equity markets, ranked by market capitalization**, include the **USA, China, Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, India, and South Korea**.

GDP FORECAST FOR FY27

According to a report by **Fitch Ratings**, the **GDP growth projection for India** for **FY27** has been **lowered to 6.4%** from the earlier estimate of **6.7%**.

Fitch Ratings:

CEO – **Paul Taylor**

President – **Ian Linnell**

Headquarters – **New York, USA and London, UK**

Established in – **1914**

REPORT BY FY26

The **National Statistics Office (NSO)** has released the **Provisional Estimates (PE) of annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** for the **FY26** and the quarterly estimates for the fourth quarter (Q4) of FY26.

India’s **real GDP growth for FY26** is estimated at **7.7%**, reflecting a **60 basis points (bps) increase** from 7.1% in FY25. **Real GDP at constant (2022-23) prices** is estimated at **₹323.12 lakh crore** for FY26, compared to ₹299.89 lakh crore in the First Revised Estimates (FRE) for FY25

Nominal GDP at current prices grew by **8.9%** in FY26 to reach **₹346.36 lakh crore**, compared to 9.7% growth and a value of ₹318.07 lakh crore in the previous financial year. These estimates are based on a **revised base year of 2022-23**, which was introduced by the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** in February 2026, replacing the previous 2011-12 base year.

In **Q4 FY26**, **real GDP grew by 7.8%**, with the value estimated at ₹87.77 lakh crore, up from ₹81.40 lakh crore in Q4 FY25. Meanwhile, **nominal GDP in Q4 FY26** registered a growth rate of **9.1%**, reaching an estimated value of ₹94.65 lakh crore compared to ₹86.75 lakh crore in Q4 FY25.

GDP FORECAST BY OECD

According to the “**OECD Economic Outlook Under Pressure: June 2026**” report released by the **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)**, **India’s GDP growth** is projected at **7.6% for FY26**, **6.3% for FY27** (revised from 6.1%), and **6.4% for FY28**. The report also projects **India’s inflation** to rise from **2.1% in FY26** to **4.8% in FY27**.

GDP FORECAST

According to the latest “Ecowrap” report by the State Bank of India, the **Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of India** for **FY26** is projected to increase to **7.7%**. This growth is attributed to the strong performance of the economy in **Q4 of FY26**, which accelerated to **7.8%**.

REPORT BY BLOOMBERG

According to data by **Bloomberg**, **India** has slipped to the **7th position in global market capitalization (mcap)** with a valuation of **\$4.84 trillion**, while **South Korea** has ascended to the **6th position** with **\$5.01 trillion**.

The **USA** leads the global mcap rankings with **\$79.1 trillion**, followed by **China, Japan, and Hong Kong**. Additionally, **India’s share in the Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) Global Standard Index** has decreased from **21% in September 2024** to **12.3%**.

REFORMS TO BOOST FPI PARTICIPATION

The **Ministry of Finance** has introduced **reforms** to increase the **participation of Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs)** in **Government Securities (G-Secs)**.

The measures include **tax exemptions** on **interest income, Long Term Capital Gains (LTCG), and Short Term Capital Gains (STCG)**. Additionally, the reforms involve the **expansion of specified securities** under the **Fully Accessible Route (FAR)**.

NEW APPLICANTS UNDER PLI SCHEME

The **Government of India (GoI)** has approved **22 new applicants** under the **third round of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Textiles**. These entities are expected to bring an investment of ₹2,339.14 crore and generate a turnover of ₹15,561.34 crore.

With this, a **total of 96 companies** have been selected under the third round of the scheme, with a **cumulative committed investment of ₹12,822.67 crore** and a **projected turnover of ₹58,294.18 crore**. The approved applicants operate in the **Man-Made Fibre (MMF) Apparel, MMF Fabrics, and Technical Textiles** segments.

WPI INFLATION DATA RELEASED

The **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** has released the **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation data**, with **2022-23 as the revised base year**.

Wholesale price inflation in India rose to **9.68% in May 2026**, from **8.26% in April 2026**. Sector-wise, **fuel and power inflation stood at 30.33%**, with **crude petroleum inflation at 61.51%**. **Food inflation was recorded at 3.60%**, while **manufactured products saw an inflation rate of 7.48%**. **Retail inflation** was reported at **3.93%**.

GDP FORECAST BY WORLD BANK

According to the “**Global Economic Prospects**” (**GEP**) report released by the **World Bank (WB)** in **June 2026**, the **economic growth projection of India for FY27** has been raised to **6.6%**, a **10 basis points (bps) increase** from the previous forecast of 6.5%.

The **GDP of India** is projected to grow by **6.6% in FY27**, moderating from an estimated **7.7% in FY26**, and is expected to accelerate to **7.2% in FY28**.

NSE LAUNCHES NEW INDICES

NSE Indices Ltd, a **subsidiary of the National Stock Exchange (NSE)**, has **introduced 11 new sector-specific indices**, taking the **total number of indices managed by the entity to 34**.

These indices cover **sectors such as power, capital goods, telecommunications, construction, consumer services, retail, healthcare, and financial services**.

National Stock Exchange (NSE):
Chairman – Srinivas Injeti
MD & CEO – Ashishkumar Chauhan
Headquarters – Mumbai
Established in – 1992

GDP FORECAST

According to the “**Economic Outlook Asia-Pacific Q3 2026**” report released by **S&P Global Ratings (S&P)**, the **real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast of India for FY27** is revised to **6.6%**. The **Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation of India** is projected to rise to **5.1%**.

BSE LAUNCHES SAATVIK INDEX

BSE Index Services Pvt Ltd, a subsidiary of the **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)**, has launched **India’s first Saatvik Index** named “**BSE Saatvik 100**”.

The index is designed to **promote ethical-based investing** and is derived from the constituents of the **BSE 500 Index**. The index has a **base value of 1,000** with an **initial value date of June 20, 2005**. It will be **reconstituted every 6 months** of a year.

Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE):
Chairman – Subhasis Chaudhuri
MD & CEO – Sundararaman Ramamurthy
Headquarters – Dalal Street, Mumbai
Established in – 1875

BANKING

JUMPP RECEIVES INSURANCE LICENSE

Jumpp, operated by the **Finvasia Group**, has received **Corporate Agency and Insurance Self Network Platform (ISNP) licences** from the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)**.

These licences enable Jumpp to distribute insurance products digitally through its AI-powered platform. The platform has also partnered with **YES Bank** to provide **banking and Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) services**.

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI):
Chairman – Ajay Seth
Headquarters – Hyderabad
Established in – 1999

AIIB LAUNCHES FINANCING FACILITY

The **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** has launched a **new financing facility** named the ‘**Energy, Food Security and Economic Resilience Facility (EFSERF)**’.

The **\$10 billion** facility aims to **assist member countries in mitigating the economic impact of the ongoing conflict in the Middle East**. The financial support under the EFSERF will be **disbursed over a period of 2 years**.

LIC LAUNCHES NEW INSURANCE PLANS

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has announced **two new joint life insurance savings plans** named ‘**LIC’s New Jeevan Sathi Single Premium**’ and ‘**LIC’s New Jeevan Sathi Limited Premium**’.

These plans, **designed for couples**, will be available from **June 2026**. They offer **joint life financial protection, guaranteed returns, fixed benefits**, and a **premium waiver on the first death**, along with loan facilities and flexible payout options.

RBI IMPOSES PENALTIES

The **RBI** has imposed a penalty of **₹10.1 lakh** on **City Union Bank** for **levying loan-related charges on priority sector agriculture advances up to ₹25,000** and for **failing to report Self Help Group (SHG) member-level data** to credit information companies.

Mintifi Finserve Pvt Ltd was fined **₹3.1 lakh** for **failure to upload certain Know Your Customer (KYC) records**, and **Newa Investments Pvt Ltd** was fined **₹2.7 lakh** for **appointing directors without obtaining prior approval from the regulator**.

RBI GUIDELINES FOR CO-OPERATIVE BANKS

RBI has issued **final amendment directions** for **Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs)** and **Rural Co-operative Banks (RCBs)**, mandating a **3-year cooling-off period** for **directors who have completed a continuous tenure of 10 years** on the board.

RBI has also established an **8-member expert panel** under the **Quantum Secure and Adaptive Financial Ecosystem (Q-SAFE)** initiative to **evaluate the risks posed to the financial system by the adoption of quantum technology**. The panel is led by **Anil Prabhakar**, a professor at the **IIT Madras**, who serves as the convener.

NEW UPI FEATURES

Bank of Baroda (BoB) has introduced **biometric payment authentication** and Internet of Things (IoT)-based payment capabilities on its UPI application, '**bob ₹ Pay**'.

The biometric feature uses **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)-based face authentication** to secure transactions, allowing users to authorize UPI transactions up to **₹5,000** using **fingerprint or facial recognition**.

RBI GRANTS PA-P LICENSE

One Mobikwik Systems Ltd, the parent company of Mobikwik, has received **in-principle approval** from the **RBI** for a **Payment Aggregator-Physical (PA-P) licence**. This licence will enable the firm to **facilitate offline merchant payments** across India.

DBJ PARTNERS WITH HDFC CAPITAL

The **Development Bank of Japan (DBJ)** has partnered with **HDFC Capital Advisors Ltd (HDFC Capital)** to invest in **real estate funds** for **affordable and mid-income housing in India**. This marks the **first-ever real estate investment by the DBJ in India**.

The partnership aims for a **total targeted corpus of \$1 billion**. Under this collaboration, the DBJ has pledged capital to the **HDFC Capital Development of Real Estate Affordable and Mid-Income Fund (H-DREAM Fund)**, which is managed by HDFC Capital. The **H-DREAM Fund** has a **target corpus of \$500 million**, with an **additional \$500 million green shoe option**.

UPI ACCEPTANCE IN CAMBODIA

NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL) has partnered with **ACLEDA Bank Plc** to facilitate the acceptance of the **UPI** in **Cambodia**.

With this, **Cambodia** has become the **9th international destination** to integrate the Indian UPI system. The other countries where UPI is enabled include **Singapore, the UAE, France, Mauritius, Nepal, Bhutan, Qatar, and Sri Lanka**.

KVB LAUNCHES NEW CREDIT CARDS

Karur Vysya Bank (KVB) has **launched 4 new premium credit card portfolios** on the **Visa** platform.

The portfolios are **Aura (Visa Platinum), Samara (Visa Signature), Altura (Visa Infinite), and Eternis (Visa Infinite)**. This launch is part of the strategy of the bank to **strengthen its offerings for affluent and lifestyle-focused customers**.

WBGB PARTNERS WITH CANARA HSBC LIFE INSURANCE

West Bengal Gramin Bank (WBGB) has partnered with **Canara HSBC Life Insurance Company Ltd** to **enhance life insurance coverage** in **rural and semi-urban areas of West Bengal**. The insurance company will use the bank's network of **960 branches** across the state to offer its insurance products.

DECENTRO GETS PSP LICENSE

Decentro has become the **first Indian Payment Aggregator (PA)** to secure **final approval** from the **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** to operate as a **Payment Service Provider (PSP)**. The company will conduct its operations at the **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City)** in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

Established in **2020**, the company plans to launch **4 services** under the **PSP framework**, which include **merchant acquisition, virtual account issuance, cross-border money transfers, and escrow services**.

RBI POLICY TO BOOST FOREIGN CAPITAL

The **RBI** has introduced a **6-point policy package** to **boost foreign capital inflows** and **stabilize the Indian rupee**. Under the **Fully Accessible Route (FAR)**, **RBI** has expanded the scope of 'specified securities' to include new **central government securities (G-Secs)** with **tenors of 15, 30, and 40 years**.

To optimize **foreign portfolio capital flows**, **RBI** has **abolished historical entry bottlenecks** under the **General Route**, including **short-term investment lock-ins, concentration limits, and individual security caps** for **Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs)**.

Equity investment ceilings have been **increased for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs)** without **SEBI registration**. A **concessional forex swap facility** is introduced for **External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs)** raised by **Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)** to **insulate public infrastructure funding from currency volatility**.

RBI will **bear the full hedging costs** for **Authorized Dealer (AD) banks** that raise fresh **3 to 5-year Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) (FCNR(B)) deposits**, valid until **September 2026**. The **timeframe for exporters** to repatriate and realize international sales revenue is **reduced to 9 months** from the previous 15 months.

BHARATPE LAUNCHES CREDIT ON UPI

BharatPe has launched '**BharatPe Flex**', a **UPI solution**, in partnership with **YES Bank**. This allows eligible customers to use a **pre-approved credit line** for **daily UPI transactions**.

ADB PARTNERS WITH STANDARD CHARTERED

The **Asian Development Bank** and **Standard Chartered Bank** have signed agreements to **enhance supply chain finance in India**. This collaboration establishes **risk-sharing arrangements** for transactions in both the **United States Dollar (USD)** and the **Indian Rupee (INR)**.

RBI RELEASES ANNUAL REPORT

The **RBI** has released the '**Annual Report 2025-26**'. The **Balance Sheet (BS)** of the **RBI** expanded by 20.6% in FY26, increasing from ₹76.25 lakh crore to **₹91.97 lakh crore**, registering a growth of ₹15.72 lakh crore. A provision of **₹1.09 lakh crore** was transferred to the **Contingency Fund (CF)**.

The expansion on the assets side was driven by a 44.9% increase in **domestic investments** to ₹22.59 lakh crore, a 63.8% rise in **gold holdings** to ₹10.94 lakh crore, and a 7.9% growth in **foreign investments** to ₹52.68 lakh crore. The number of **reported fraud cases declined to 10,114** from 23,722 in the previous year.

NEW DIGITAL PLATFORMS BY PFRDA

The **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** has launched the '**StAR NPS**' platform. Developed by the **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) Technologies Pvt Ltd (BTPL)**, this **digital onboarding solution** aims to **simplify the subscriber registration process** for the **National Pension System (NPS)**.

The **PFRDA** has also introduced a '**Regulatory Sandbox Framework**', effective from **June 2, 2026**, to facilitate the **controlled testing of innovative pension-sector solutions** before their wider implementation.

EXTENSION OF CREDIT GUARANTEE SCHEME

The **Government of India (GoI)** has **extended the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Microfinance Institutions-2.0 (CGSMFI-2.0)** until **August 2026** or until **guarantees amounting to ₹20,000 crore** are issued, whichever is earlier.

The government has also **increased the maximum loan amount cap** for **Large Sized Non-Banking Financial Company-Micro Finance Institutions (NBFC-MFIs)/Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs)** from **₹300 crore to ₹1,000 crore**, subject to an **overall ceiling of 20% of Assets under Management (AUM)**.

FOREX SWAP FACILITIES

The **RBI** has introduced **two special USD-Rupee forex swap facilities** to **attract foreign currency inflows** and **support external financing**.

The **first facility** is for **fresh Foreign Currency Non-Resident Bank (FCNR (B)) deposits**, allowing **Authorised Dealer (AD) Category-I banks** to access the **RBI's forex swap facility** (available in **USD only**) for deposits raised in any **freely convertible currency**.

The **second facility** is for **eligible External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs)** with an **average maturity of 3 years and above**, and **overseas Foreign Currency Borrowings (OFCBs)** raised by **AD Category-I banks** with a **minimum maturity of 3 years**.

RBI IMPOSES PENALTY

The **RBI** has imposed a **monetary penalty** of **₹41.8 lakh** on **Canara Bank** for **failing to comply with regulatory norms**. The fine was imposed after a **supervisory review** revealed **lapses in ‘Know Your Customer’ (KYC) norms** and **account classification**.

RBI MAINTAINS REPO RATE

The **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** of the **RBI**, chaired by **Governor Sanjay Malhotra**, held its **second bi-monthly meeting for FY27**. The committee unanimously voted to maintain the **policy repo rate at 5.25%** and retained a **‘neutral’** stance.

The **RBI** has maintained other key policy rates: **Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) rate at 5%**, **Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate at 5.5%**, **Bank Rate at 5.5%**, **Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) at 3%**, and **Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) at 18%**. The **real GDP growth projection for India for FY27** is revised to **6.6%** from 6.9%.

The quarterly real GDP growth is projected at 6.6% for Q1, 6.3% for Q2, 6.5% for Q3, and 6.8% for Q4. The **Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation projection** is increased to **5.1%** from 4.6%, and **core inflation** to **4.7%** from 4.4%. Additionally, the **baseline crude oil price projection** is revised to **\$95 per barrel**, up from \$85 per barrel.

VIYONA FINTECH GETS BBPS CERTIFICATION

Viyona Fintech India Pvt Ltd, a **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**–certified **Technology Service Provider**, has received certification as a **Biller Operating Unit (BOU)** under the **Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)**.

The **BBPS** is operated by **NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd (NBBL)**. This certification enables Viyona to facilitate billers across various sectors to collect payments through the **Bharat BillPay network**.

RBI RECOGNIZES SRO FOR AA ECOSYSTEM

The **RBI** has recognised the **Sahamati Foundation** as the **Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO)** for the country’s **Account Aggregator (AA) ecosystem**.

RBI REVISES LENDING NORMS

The **RBI** has issued the “**Third Amendment Directions, 2026**” to govern **bank lending to Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs)**, while strengthening risk and exposure norms.

Banks are permitted to extend credit only to those **REITs** and **InvITs** that are **registered with the SEBI** and **listed on recognized Stock Exchanges**. Lending to REITs is restricted to listed trusts where **at least 80% of assets** consist of **cash-generating properties** that have been **operational for more than 1 year**.

Banks may lend to listed **InvITs** only if **at least 80% of their assets** are invested in **completed and revenue-generating infrastructure projects** that have demonstrated **positive cash flows for a period exceeding 1 year**.

STAKE SALE IN CAPITAL SFB

The **Oman India Joint Investment Fund II (OIJIF II)**, a **private equity firm** promoted by the **sovereign wealth fund of the Sultanate of Oman** and the State Bank of India, has **divested a 3.65% stake** in **Capital Small Finance Bank (SFB)**.

APPROVAL FOR MF OPERATIONS

Nuvama Wealth Management Ltd has received **final approval** from the **SEBI** to commence **mutual fund (MF) operations**. The company will conduct these operations through its **asset management arm, Nuvama Asset Management Ltd**.

REVISED TRADING FRAMEWORK FOR ETFs

SEBI has revised the **trading framework** for **Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs)** by introducing **dynamic price bands**, effective from **September 2026**.

For **equity and debt ETFs** (excluding overnight and liquid ETFs), the fixed 20% price band based on **Net Asset Value (NAV)** is replaced by a **dynamic price band starting at 10%**, which can be expanded up to **20%** after a **cooling-off period**. If prices hit the upper threshold, the band expands by **5% increments**.

For **commodity ETFs** tracking **gold and silver**, the framework prescribes dynamic price bands with an **initial limit of ±6%**, which can be expanded in stages of **3%** after a **cooling-off period**.

REELATHON 2026

The **RBI** has launched “**RBI Reelathon 2026**”, a **statewide cyber fraud awareness campaign** in **Kerala**.

The initiative is being conducted across **150 colleges** in the state to promote **financial literacy, cyber hygiene, safe digital banking, smart borrowing, and vigilance against online financial threats** through student engagement and a **reel-making competition**.

RBI RESTRICTIONS

The **RBI** has imposed **regulatory restrictions** on the **Mumbai-based Mogaveera Co-operative Bank Ltd** for **6 months**.

Under these directives, the **withdrawal limit is capped at ₹1 lakh** for depositors across all accounts, including savings and current accounts.

YES BANK PARTNERS WITH NORTHERN ARC CAPITAL

YES Bank and **Northern Arc Capital** have entered into a **strategic partnership** to **expand access to formal credit, digital lending services, and investment opportunities** across India.

YES Bank:

MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar

Headquarters – Mumbai

Established in – 2004

Tagline – Experience Our Expertise

TENURE EXTENSION FOR KEKI MISTRY

The **RBI** has approved the extension of the tenure of **Keki Mistry** as the **Interim Part-Time Chairman** of **HDFC Bank Limited** for a period of **3 months**. He will continue in the position until **18 September 2026**.

RBI RELAXES CAPITAL NORMS

The **RBI** has **relaxed capital requirements** for **bank loans backed by the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS 5.0)**, effective immediately.

Under the **revised norms, 75% of the guaranteed portion of the loan attracts a zero-risk weight**, while the **remaining 25% of the exposure attracts a 20% risk weight**. To qualify for the **0% risk weight**, banks must **settle claims within 30 days** from the date of invocation.

DEPOSIT SCHEMES BY BANK OF BARODA

Bank of Baroda has launched the ‘**bob Golden Goal Deposit Scheme**’, a **555-day retail term deposit plan** for **deposits below ₹3 crore**, offering **interest rates up to 7.4% per annum**.

The bank has also introduced the ‘**bob Legend Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) [FCNR(B)]**’ deposit scheme, which offers **interest rates of 6% for tenures of 3 to less than 4 years, 6.1% for 4 to less than 5 years, and 6.5% for 5-year deposits**.

LAUNCH OF ARIFAC PLATFORM

The **Alliance of Reporting Entities in Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) (ARIFAC)** has been launched as a **national industry platform**. It aims to **strengthen the AML and CFT framework of India** by establishing a **unified defense against financial crimes**.

This **private-sector initiative** operates under the guidance of the **Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND)**, which acts as an official observer. The day-to-day operations of the platform are managed by the **Payments Council of India (PCI)** and the **Fintech Convergence Council (FCC)**.

RBI CANCELS LICENSE

The **RBI** has **cancelled the licence** of **Karnataka-based Shree Mahalaxmi Urban Co-operative Credit Bank**. The cancellation was due to **inadequate capital and lack of earning prospects** of the bank.

NORM ON COLLATERAL-FREE AGRI LOANS

The **RBI** has directed banks to **exempt agricultural and allied sector loans up to ₹2 lakh** per borrower from **collateral security and margin requirements** under the updated guidelines of the **Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme**.

Furthermore, the **voluntary pledge of gold and silver** as collateral for agricultural loans up to the collateral-free limit of **₹2 lakh** will not be considered a violation of the guidelines on collateral-free lending.

PNB LAUNCHES CO-BRANDED CREDIT CARD

Punjab National Bank (PNB) has signed a **5-year agreement** with **Zaggle Prepaid Ocean Services Ltd** to **launch and distribute co-branded credit cards**.

WORKING GROUP ON AI

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has constituted a 7-member Working Group on AI (WG-AI) to guide insurance companies regarding the adoption, governance, and oversight of AI technologies.

The WG-AI is chaired by Prof. Sandeep K Shukla, Director of the International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Hyderabad. Deepak Gaikwad, General Manager (GM) and Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) at IRDAI, has been appointed as the member-convener of the group.

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI):

Chairman – Ajay Seth
Headquarters – Hyderabad
Established in – 1999

ZERODHA LAUNCHES LIFECYCLE MUTUAL FUNDS

Zerodha Fund House, India’s first passive-only, direct-only Asset Management Company (AMC), has launched the country’s first lifecycle (target-date) mutual funds. The new funds include the ‘Zerodha Life Cycle Fund 2036’ (10-year maturity) and the ‘Zerodha Life Cycle Fund 2041’ (15-year maturity).

These funds are classified as equity funds for taxation purposes, offering long-term capital gains (LTCG) benefits. It is to be noted that these funds have no lock-in period and require a minimum investment of ₹100.

Zerodha:
Founders – Nithin Kamath and Nikhil Kamath
CEO – Nithin Kamath
Headquarters – Bengaluru
Established in – 2010

NEW AI PLATFORM BY PFRDA

The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has launched an AI-enabled grievance redressal platform named ‘PFRDA Pension Sahayak’ for subscribers of pension schemes regulated by the authority.

FCNR MAX DEPOSIT SCHEME

Federal Bank Ltd has launched the ‘FCNR Max Deposit Scheme’, a Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) [FCNR(B)] deposit product for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs).

The scheme offers an annual interest rate of 6.25% on USD deposits with tenures ranging from 3 to 5 years and is valid until September 2026.

Federal Bank:
MD & CEO – KVS Manian
Headquarters – Aluva, Kerala
Established in – 1931
Tagline – Your Perfect Banking Partner

RBI REVAMPS KCC SCHEME

The RBI has revamped the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme by standardizing the definition of crop seasons to ensure uniform loan processing and repayment. The ‘KCC Directions, 2026’ will be applicable to all loans sanctioned under the scheme from January 2027.

The objective of these directions is to establish a framework for providing adequate and timely credit support through the banking system to meet the working capital and investment credit requirements of borrowers engaged in agriculture and allied activities.

APPROVAL FROM NPCI

JUMPP, an AI-driven fintech platform, has received approval from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to operate as a Third Party Application Provider (TPAP). This authorization allows the platform to integrate UPI payment capabilities into its application.

AGREEMENTS

EXTENSION OF MOU FOR GEOTHERMAL PROJECT

Vinod Saxena, the Lieutenant Governor (LG) of Ladakh, has approved a 5-year extension of the MoU with the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) for the development of the first geothermal power project in India.

Under the agreement, the ONGC will construct a 1 MWe pilot geothermal power plant in the Puga Valley of eastern Ladakh, at an altitude of over 14,000 ft.

NIBE GROUP FORM JOINT VENTURE

The Nibe Group has signed a Joint Venture (JV) with Israel-based Elbit Systems to establish manufacturing facilities for advanced energetic materials and propellants in India.

The JV will manufacture products including **Nitro Cellulose, Nitro Glycerine**, and various **propellant bases** like single base, double base, and triple base.

BIT MESRA PARTNERS WITH NESAC

The **Birla Institute of Technology Mesra (BIT Mesra)** has signed an **MoU** with the **North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC)**, which functions under the **Department of Space (DoS)** and the **North Eastern Council (NEC)**.

The MoU is **valid for 5 years** and aims to strengthen cooperation in the fields of **geospatial technologies, Geospatial Artificial Intelligence (GeoAI), remote sensing**, and **higher education**.

DIBD AND DPIIT SIGN MOU

The **Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD)** has signed an **MoU** with the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** to launch the “**BHASHINI Seva/Sanchalan - A BHASHINI Sahayogi Program**”.

The initiative aims to **enhance multilingual digital capabilities** across the industry and internal trade ecosystem in India by leveraging the **BHASHINI platform**, which serves as the **National Language Digital Public Infrastructure** of the country.

JAL SHAKTI MINISTRY SIGNS MOU WITH ISRO

The **Ministry of Jal Shakti** has signed an MoU with the **ISRO** to **enhance water resource management using satellite technology**. The collaboration involves joint research across **24 key areas**. It is to be noted that the Ministry has already supported **113 research projects** in the water sector over the past decade.

Additionally, the **third phase of the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) campaign** has been launched, aiming to create **2 crore water conservation structures** between **June 2026 and May 2027**. The previous phase of the campaign successfully created over **1.5 crore water conservation structures**.

FRAMEWORK ON CRITICAL MINERALS

India and the **USA** have signed a framework titled “**Securing of Supply in the Mining and Processing of Critical Minerals and Rare Earths**” to secure the supply, mining, processing, and recycling of **critical minerals and rare earth elements**.

The agreement was signed on the sidelines of the **11th Quad Foreign Ministers Meeting** in **New Delhi**. The US government is allocating over **\$30 billion** through **investments, loans, and public-private partnerships** to strengthen critical mineral supply chains.

AYUSHEXCIL SIGNS MOU WITH SPICES BOARD OF INDIA

The **Ayush Export Promotion Council (AYUSHEXCIL)** has signed an **MoU** with the **Spices Board of India** to **strengthen the traditional wellness and natural products sector** in India.

The partnership focuses on **export promotion, quality assurance, innovation, branding, and international market development** for **Ayush, medicinal spice, nutraceutical, and Ayurvedic products**.

GUJARAT SIGNS MOU WITH META

The **Gujarat government** has signed an MoU with **Meta Platforms Inc** to launch a **WhatsApp chatbot** under the ‘**Sugam Digital**’ initiative.

The **2-year collaboration** aims to enhance **e-governance** in the state by implementing **AI driven public services**, accessibility projects, and digital skilling programmes. Through this chatbot, citizens can access around **20 public services** from **5 departments** in both **Gujarati and English**.

NSDC PARTNERS WITH FVCC

The **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** has signed a **strategic partnership** with the **Japan-based Fourth Valley Concierge Corporation (FVCC)** to **enhance workforce mobility for Indian professionals seeking employment in Japan**.

The partnership will utilize the **NSDC Trust’s “Credibility Check” framework** to establish a **transparent verification system** for these professionals.

PROTOCOL FOR WTO ACCESSION

India has signed a **bilateral accession protocol** with **Ethiopia** in **Geneva, Switzerland**, to facilitate the latter’s entry into the **World Trade Organization (WTO)**.

It is to be noted that India supports the accession of **Least Developed Countries (LDCs)** and developing nations to the WTO to promote **inclusive growth and South-South cooperation**. The agreement was fast-tracked under the guidance of **Union Minister Piyush Goyal**.

MOUS FOR JAL JEEVAN MISSION 2.0

The **Ministry of Jal Shakti** has signed **reform-linked MoUs** under the **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0** with **Arunachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, Nagaland, and the UT of Puducherry**.

The core objective of the JJM 2.0 is to establish a **decentralized governance framework**, specifically a **Gram Panchayat-led, service-based model of rural water supply**.

NSE SIGNS MOU WITH SUFI

The **National Stock Exchange of India Ltd (NSE)** has signed an MoU with the **Steel Users Federation of India (SUFI)** to develop the **steel and commodity derivatives ecosystem**.

It is to be noted that the **crude steel production of India** increased by **nearly 11% year-on-year** to **168.4 million tonnes (MT)** in the **FY26** and is projected to reach **300 MT by 2030**.

National Stock Exchange (NSE):

Chairman – **Srinivas Injeti**

MD & CEO – **Ashishkumar Chauhan**

Headquarters – **Mumbai**

Established in – **1992**

GOOGLE PARTNERS WITH UNICEF

Google and **UNICEF** have announced a **3-year global partnership** at the **Education World Forum (EWF) 2026** to **deploy AI-powered education tools and digital learning resources** for students and educators.

The initiative aims to **bridge the digital divide and strengthen foundational skills** such as reading, comprehension, and numeracy. The project will be implemented in **Brazil, India, Kenya, and Pakistan**, in collaboration with national governments and local communities.

NISM PARTNERS WITH GALGOTIAS UNIVERSITY

The **National Institute of Securities Markets (NISM)** has partnered with **Galgotias University** in **Uttar Pradesh** to **enhance professional learning** in sectors like **securities markets, financial services, derivatives, fintech, and risk management**.

BITES SIGNS MOU WITH CRISIL

Rail India Technical and Economic Service (BITES) Ltd has signed an **MoU** with **Credit Rating Information Services of India Ltd (CRISIL)** to jointly develop **data-driven infrastructure consultancy solutions** across multiple sectors in **India and overseas**.

CRISIL:

MD & CEO – **Amish Mehta**

Headquarters – **Mumbai**

Established in – **1987**

TN GOVERNMENT SIGNS MOU WITH L&T

The **Tamil Nadu government** has signed an MoU with **Larsen & Toubro (L&T)** for investments worth **₹18,600 crore**.

The agreement covers 3 projects: a **Hyperscale and Edge AI Data Centre** in **Kancheepuram** (**₹15,000 crore**), an **Electronics and Electrical Systems Manufacturing Hub** in **Coimbatore** (**₹2,500 crore**), and an **Offshore Wind Infrastructure and Shipyard Expansion** in **Kattupalli, Tiruvallur** (**₹1,100 crore**).

MOUS SIGNED TO MODERNIZE EMRS

The **National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS)** has signed **three MoUs** to modernise **Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs)** through **digital innovation and structural enhancements**.

Under the first agreement, the EdTech firm **CoGrad** will provide **499 EMRSs** with **two years of free access** to its “**Medha AI**” platform. NESTS has also renewed its corporate philanthropy partnership with the **Learning Links Foundation (Amazon)** for another **two years**. Additionally, a governance MoU signed with the **Bihar Mahadalit Vikas Mission** has standardised EMRS funding at **₹1.47 lakh per student**.

MOU BETWEEN DIBD AND KATHMANDU UNIVERSITY

The **Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD)** has signed an **MoU** with the **Centre for Digital Public Infrastructure & Artificial Intelligence (DPI-AI)** at **Kathmandu University, Nepal**.

The partnership aims to advance **Language AI, multilingual digital public infrastructure**, and **inclusive digital ecosystems** in both **India and Nepal**.

CRITICAL MINERALS OBSERVATORY

India and the **UK** have launched the **India-UK Critical Minerals Global Supply Chain Observatory (GSCO)** in **New Delhi**. The platform was jointly inaugurated by Union Minister **G Kishan Reddy** and UK Foreign Secretary **Yvette Cooper**.

The initiative is a result of a partnership between the **IIT (Indian School of Mines) (IIT-ISM) Dhanbad**, **TEXMiN**, and the **University of Cambridge**.

INDIA-OMAN CEPA COMES INTO FORCE

The **India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** came into force in **June 2026**, in the presence of Union Minister **Piyush Goyal**.

Following the operationalisation, the first consignments availing **preferential tariff benefits**, including **agricultural products, gems, and jewellery**, were flagged off from **Mumbai, Kolkata, and Chennai**.

The CEPA provides **duty-free export access on 99.38% of tariff lines**, covering **98.08% of India’s exports**. Under the previous **Most Favoured Nation (MFN) regime**, only **15.33%** of India’s exports entered Oman duty-free.

Oman:
Prime Minister – Haitham bin Tariq Al Said
Capital – Muscat
Currency – Omani Rial (OMR)

CHANDIGARH UNIVERSITY PARTNERS WITH INTEL

Chandigarh University in **Punjab** has become the **first private university in India** to launch an **‘IndiaAI Data Lab’**.

The lab has been established in partnership with **Intel India** to **enhance students’ employability** by providing industry-relevant skills in **AI, Data Science, and emerging technologies**.

TELANGANA SIGNS AGREEMENT

The **Telangana government** and the **German state of Thuringia** have signed a **cooperation agreement** to strengthen collaboration in sectors like **skill development, industrial growth, innovation, technology, workforce development, startups, and life sciences**.

The collaboration also includes the establishment of a **German Language Training Hub** in **Hyderabad**, which will be integrated with the **Telangana Overseas Manpower Company (TOMCOM)** to **enhance capacity building**.

INDIA-OMAN CEPA AGREEMENT

Under the **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)**, **India** has extended **liberalized tariffs on 77.79% of its tariff lines**, covering **94.81% of imports from Oman**.

Oman has committed to **expanding market access across 127 services sub-sectors**, including binding provisions for professionals in various sectors. The agreement also **enhances professional mobility**, permitting **business visitors to stay for up to 90 days**, **independent professionals for up to 180 days**, and **Intra-Corporate Transferees (ICTs) for up to 4 years**.

SAI SIGNS MOU WITH UNIVERSITY OF TSUKUBA

The **Sports Authority of India** has signed an **MoU** with the **University of Tsukuba, Japan**, to facilitate **specialized training and exchange programmes** for **Indian athletes, coaches, and sports scientists**.

AIR INDIA AND RIYADH AIR SIGN MOU

Air India has signed an MoU with **Riyadh Air**, the new **premium national carrier of Saudi Arabia**, to **enhance premium travel options**.

The partnership aims to **streamline booking processes** and **expand flight connectivity** between **India, Saudi Arabia, and global destinations**.

RAPIDO PARTNERS WITH MORTH

The **Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH)** has partnered with **Rapido** (Roppen Transportation Services Pvt Ltd) to promote the **RahVeer Scheme**.

The scheme, **launched by the MoRTH in 2025**, is a **reward-based initiative** to encourage citizens to provide timely assistance to road accident victims during the **critical golden hour**. Under the scheme, those providing life-saving support are **assured of protection from legal or procedural concerns** and are eligible for a **reward of ₹25,000**.

MOUS UNDER JJM 2.0

The **Ministry of Jal Shakti** has signed **reform-linked MoUs** with **Manipur and Bihar** under the **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0**.

The agreements aim to **shift the focus from infrastructure creation to long-term sustainability** by establishing a **Gram Panchayat-led, service-based, and community-centered governance framework**. With this, **33 out of 34 eligible States and Union Territories** have signed the agreement with the **Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS)** under **JJM 2.0**.

MOA FOR URBAN ROAD FRAMEWORK

The **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI)** has signed a **Memorandum of Agreement (MoA)** with the **Public Works Department (PWD) of Uttar Pradesh** and the **School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), New Delhi**. The collaboration aims to implement a **scientific framework for the paving and greening of urban roads**.

MOU FOR OIL AND GAS OPERATIONS

The centre has signed a **tripartite MoU** with the **state governments of Assam and Nagaland** to **resume mineral oil and natural gas operations** along their **contested border**. The agreement was signed in the presence of **Union Minister Amit Shah**.

The pact covers **over 1,000 sq km of area** along the border, encompassing **6 identified disputed oilfields**. The revenue generated from the hydrocarbon resources extracted from these regions will be shared between the two states based on a **50:50 formula**.

CSIR-CRRI SIGNS MOA WITH HARYANA

The **Council of Scientific & Industrial Research – Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI)** in **New Delhi** has signed a **Memorandum of Agreement (MoA)** with the **Haryana government** to implement the **“Implementation of the Standard Framework for Paving and Greening of Urban Roads”** project.

The initiative aims to **reduce road dust pollution** in the **National Capital Region (NCR)**, Delhi, while promoting **sustainable urban road infrastructure** and **enhancing long-term mobility planning and maintenance**.

NISD SIGNS MOU WITH DRSTUAOA

The **National Institute of Social Defence (NISD)** under the **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment** has signed an **MoU** with the **Dr. RS Tolia Uttarakhand Academy of Administration (DRSTUAoA)** in **Nainital** to **collaborate on capacity building regarding social defence issues** in the state.

BSNL PARTNERS WITH IIT KANPUR

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) has signed an **MoU** with the **IIT Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh**, to collaborate on the development of **future-generation telecommunication technologies**.

The partnership aims to **accelerate the development, testing, and deployment of indigenous telecommunications technologies** to strengthen the **digital self-reliance of India**.

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL):

CEO – A Robert J Ravi

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 2000

QCI SIGNS MOU WITH FDDI

The **Quality Council of India (QCI)** has signed an MoU with the **Footwear Design and Development Institute (FDDI)** to strengthen the quality, testing, accreditation, and skilling ecosystem in the Indian leather and footwear sector.

The collaboration aims to establish a framework for capacity building, certification, and development of testing infrastructure across key footwear clusters, including Agra, Bahadurgarh, Ranipet, Chennai, Calicut, and Kanpur.

NLCIL SIGNS MOU WITH CSIR-CECRI

NLC India has signed an MoU with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Central Electrochemical Research Institute (CSIR-CECRI) in Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu, to develop technologies for the extraction of Rare Earth Elements (REEs) and critical minerals from mining waste.

MOU FOR UNDERWATER PROJECT

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has signed an MoU with the Njord - Center for Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage of the National Museum of Denmark in Copenhagen to conduct an underwater archaeological project.

The project aims to locate and document the remains of the historic Danish ship ‘Oresund’. It is to be noted that the ‘Oresund’ was the first Danish ship to reach India.

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI):
Director General – Yadubir Singh Rawat
Headquarters – New Delhi
Established in – 1861

BHASHINI SIGNS MOU WITH GEM

The Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD) has signed an MoU with the Government e Marketplace (GeM) to launch the “BHASHINI for Seva/Sanchalan - A BHASHINI Sahayogi Program”.

The initiative aims to strengthen multilingual digital capabilities across the public procurement ecosystem of India by leveraging the BHASHINI Platform.

GeM (Government e-Marketplace):
CEO – Mihir Kumar
Established in – 2016

ASHOK LEYLAND AS OEMS

Ashok Leyland and Switch Mobility have partnered with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways as the first Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) to offer discounts under the New Delhi-NCR vehicle replacement scheme.

The scheme, with an outlay of ₹9,585 crore, aims to replace over 2 lakh old commercial vehicles. Under this initiative, the companies are offering an 8% discount on the ex-showroom price of eligible new trucks and buses.

Ashok Leyland:
CEO & MD – Shenu Agarwal
Headquarters – Chennai
Established in – 1948

IN-SPACE SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH GUJARAT GOVERNMENT

The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) has signed an agreement with the Gujarat government to develop a Common Technical Facility (CTF) for the space-tech sector at the Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC) in Khoraj, Gujarat.

IN-SPACe will provide technical expertise and financial assistance of up to ₹100 crore for the procurement of equipment required for the development of the CTF.

OIL SIGNS COLLABORATION FRAMEWORK

Oil India Ltd (OIL) has signed a collaboration framework with the Canada-based Petroleum Technology Research Centre (PRTC) to jointly explore clean energy technologies, with a focus on carbon capture and geothermal energy.

INDIA AND JAPAN ADOPT JCM RULES

India and Japan have adopted the ‘Rules of Implementation’ for the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement.

Announced by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), this initiative establishes the first operational framework for India to trade bilateral carbon credits to facilitate the achievement of global climate goals.

INDIAN ARMY SIGNS MOU WITH BHARTI AIRTEL

The Indian Army has signed an MoU with Bharti Airtel Ltd to expand mobile communication infrastructure in Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh.

NUCLEAR ENGINEERING CENTER

The **IIT Hyderabad** will establish the **Centre for Design and Engineering in Nuclear Energy (CODENE)**, which will be the **first Centre of Design Excellence in Nuclear Engineering in India**.

The centre is being established under a **tripartite MoU** signed between **IIT, Coastal Engineering and Equipments (India) Pvt Ltd (CEEPL India)**, and **France-based Dassault Systemes SE** during the **‘Bharat Innovates 2026’**.

GEM PARTNERS WITH CSC-SPV

The **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** has partnered with the **Common Service Centre e-Governance Services India Ltd (CSC-SPV)** to **expand access to government procurement in rural and underserved regions**.

Under this partnership, **50 GeM Suvidha Kendras (GSKs)** will be established on a **pilot basis** through the **CSC network**. These GSKs will be operational in states including **Delhi-NCR, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Telangana, and West Bengal**.

TATA MOTORS SIGNS MOU WITH MORTH

Tata Motors has signed an MoU with the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** to join the **Government of India (GoI) fleet renewal programme**, which has an outlay of **₹9,585 crore**.

The initiative aims to **mitigate pollution** by **phasing out older commercial vehicles** in the **Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR)** and replacing them with cleaner alternatives.

IITM SIGNS MOU WITH ARIES

The **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) Pune** has signed an **MoU** with the **Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES)** in **Nainital** to conduct **collaborative research on climate change**.

Under this MoU, a **Climate Observation Station** will be established at **ARIES, Devasthal**, as a part of the **Bharat Climate Observation Network (BCON)**.

MAHINDRA SIGNS MOU FOR FLEET MODERNISATION

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd and **SML Mahindra** have signed an MoU with the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** to participate in the government's **fleet modernisation initiative**.

The programme aims to **replace aging commercial vehicles** in the **Delhi-NCR region** to **curb air pollution** by offering **manufacturing discounts**. Mahindra joins other manufacturers like **Tata Motors, Ashok Leyland, and Switch Mobility** in this initiative.

ESSAR GROUP SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH IRH

The **Essar Group** has signed a **\$500 million crude oil sourcing and product supply agreement** with the **Abu Dhabi-based International Resources Holding (IRH)**.

The agreement aims to support **procurement, supply chain optimization, and energy trading** in global markets.

AGREEMENT WITH SOLESTRA GROUP

Jeh Aerospace Pvt Ltd has signed a **multi-year, multi-million-dollar agreement** with the **USA-based Solestra Group** to establish a dedicated **Global Manufacturing Centre (GMC)** at the former's facility in **Hyderabad**.

DIBD SIGNS MOU WITH AISF

The **Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD)** has signed an **MoU** with the **Assam Innovation & Startup Foundation (AISF)** to collaborate on **promoting language technology and Generative AI solutions** across the state.

NHAI SIGNS MOU WITH NCAER

The **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** has signed an **MoU** with the **National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)** to establish the **“NHAI Centre for Economics of Transportation, Mobility and Logistics”**.

The facility will serve as the **first permanent and independent research centre of India** dedicated specifically to the **economics of transportation, mobility, and logistics**.

National Highways Authority of India (NHAI):

Chairman – Santosh Kumar Yadav

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 1988

DICV SIGNS MOU WITH MORTH

Daimler India Commercial Vehicles (DICV), the owner of the Bharat Benz brand, has signed an MoU with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) to support the vehicle replacement initiative of the Government of India.

The scheme focuses on the replacement of old trucks and buses in the Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR) to encourage fleet modernisation. Under the agreement, the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) will provide an 8% discount on the ex-showroom price of eligible trucks and buses purchased under the scheme.

ADB SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH SCHOOLNET INDIA

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a \$10 million financing package with Schoolnet India Ltd (SIL) to improve learning outcomes in government schools across India.

The project aims to scale up digital learning infrastructure in 30,000 government schools, directly benefiting 45 million students. Under the initiative, computer laboratories will be installed in at least 1,000 government schools.

GUJARAT SIGNS MOU WITH HUDCO

The Gujarat government has signed an MoU with the Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd (HUDCO) for long-term financing of up to ₹1 lakh crore to support high-impact transit, highway, and smart city development projects across the state.

MOSPI SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH GRAAM

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has signed a Statement of Intent (Sol) with the Grassroots Research And Advocacy Movement (GRAAM). The partnership facilitates the engagement of two research fellows under the Embark India Development Fellowship (EIDF) proposal.

C-DOT SIGNS MOU WITH IIT HYDERABAD

The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) has signed an MoU with the IIT Hyderabad to advance research and innovation in next-generation communication technologies.

Under this collaboration, C-DOT is establishing a Centre of Excellence (CoE) at the campus. This marks the 4th CoE established by C-DOT, following those at IIT Kanpur, IIT Gandhinagar, and IIT Roorkee.

FIE SIGNS MOU WITH FAI

The International Fencing Federation (FIE) has signed an MoU with the Fencing Association of India (FAI) to promote the sport in India. The partnership aims to foster cooperation with a specific focus on preparations for the upcoming Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games.

BHARATHCLOUD SIGNS MOU WITH ICSI

BharathCloud has signed an MoU with the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) in Pune to provide secure, India-hosted cloud infrastructure for Company Secretaries (CS).

Under the partnership, ICSI members will get access to BharathCloud services at special pricing for 2 years.

CAG SIGNS MOU WITH ISRAEL

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has signed an MoU with the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) of Israel to strengthen cooperation in public sector auditing.

NSE SIGNS MOU

The National Stock Exchange of India Ltd (NSE) has signed an MoU with the Bharat Metal Exchange (BME) to promote the development and adoption of non-ferrous metal derivatives in India.

REPORTS

PRODUCTION ESTIMATES

Union Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** has released the **Third Advance Estimates of Production of Major Agricultural Crops** for the **2025-26 crop year**. **India’s total foodgrain production** is estimated at a record **376.56 million tonnes (MT)** for 2025-26, marking a **5.3% increase** over the previous year’s production of 357.73 MT.

Rice production is estimated at a record **154.02 MT**, while **wheat production** is projected to **increase by 2.29%** to reach **120.65 MT**. **Total oilseeds production** is estimated at **43.05 MT**, which includes **13.07 MT of groundnut**, **12.59 MT of soyabean**, and **13.76 MT of rapeseed and mustard**.

SEMICONDUCTOR ROADMAP

The **Frontier Tech Hub of the NITI Aayog** has released a 10-year roadmap titled “**Future of India’s Semiconductor Industry**” to strengthen India’s position in the global semiconductor value chain.

The roadmap, unveiled by Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, aims to establish a **semiconductor value chain worth \$120-\$150 billion by 2035**, with India potentially capturing **10-13% of the global semiconductor market**.

It is to be noted that India imported semiconductor products worth **\$150 billion between FY17 and FY25**. Projections suggest that **annual imports could rise to \$240 billion by 2035** if current trends continue.

NHA ESTIMATES FOR FY23

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW) has released the **10th National Health Accounts (NHA) estimates for FY23**. The **Total Health Expenditure (THE)** of India in FY23 is estimated at **₹8.81 lakh crore**, which constitutes **3.37% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**.

The **Government Health Expenditure (GHE)** has increased from **₹1.3 lakh crore in FY14** to **₹3.85 lakh crore in FY23**. The report was prepared by the **National Health Accounts Technical Secretariat (NHATS)** under the **National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC)**.

TOP 10 RICHEST PEOPLE

According to the latest rankings of the **World’s Top 10 Richest People**, released by the **Forbes**, **Elon Musk**, the **CEO of Tesla and SpaceX**, retains the **top position** with an estimated net worth of **\$835 billion**.

Larry Page and **Sergey Brin**, the **co-founders of Alphabet Inc.** (the parent company of Google), hold the **second and third positions**. **Jeff Bezos**, the **founder of Amazon and Blue Origin**, is ranked **fourth**, followed by **Larry Ellison**, the **co-founder and Chairman of Oracle Corporation**, in the **fifth position**.

Forbes:
Founder – BC Forbes
CEO – Sherry Phillips
Established in – 1917

STATE OF INDIA DIGITAL ECONOMY REPORT

According to the “**State of India’s Digital Economy (SIDE) 2026**” report released by the **Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER)-Prosus Centre for Internet and Digital Economy (IPCIDE)**, **India ranks as the world’s 5th most digitalised economy**.

In the **Connect, Harness, Innovate, Protect and Sustain (CHIPS) index for AI**, **India is positioned 4th globally**, behind **USA, China, and Singapore**. India also recorded an **8.8% growth in internet users**. It is to be noted that **India accounts for 19.9% of global AI users** and possesses the **2nd largest concentration of AI talent worldwide**.

REPORT ON MILITARY SPENDING

According to the “**SIPRI Yearbook 2026: Armaments, Disarmament and International Security**” released by the **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)**, **global military expenditure** surged to **\$2.9 trillion** in **2025**. The **USA** remained the **world’s largest military spender** with an expenditure of **\$954 billion**, followed by China and Russia.

India ranked as the **world’s 5th largest military spender** in **2025**, with a **defence expenditure of \$92.1 billion**, representing an **8.9% increase** compared to 2024. Furthermore, the **nuclear arsenal of India** increased to **190 warheads** as of **January 2026**.

HORTICULTURE CROP PRODUCTION REPORT

According to the ‘**Second Advance Estimates of Horticulture Crops for 2025–26**’ released by the **Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW)**, the **total horticulture production** is projected at **3,777.76 lakh tonnes (LT)** across an area of **301.51 lakh hectares (ha)**. This indicates a **1.90% rise in production** and a **0.05% increase in area** compared to 2024–25.

Fruit production is estimated at **1,214.75 LT**, reflecting an increase of **3.25%**. **Vegetable production** is projected at **2,210 LT** (a **1.47% growth**) across an area of **118.79 lakh ha**, which is an increase of **0.75%**. **Onion production** is estimated to remain stable at **307.37 LT**, while the area under cultivation is expected to rise by **2.31% to 20.14 lakh ha**.

NATIONAL FAMILY HEALTH SURVEY

The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)** has released the **National Family Health Survey – 6 (NFHS-6)**. The survey was conducted during **2023–24** by the **International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS)** in Mumbai, which served as the nodal agency.

The survey covered **6.79 lakh households** across **715 districts** in all States and Union Territories (UTs), **excluding Manipur**. It focuses on **101 major indicators** to provide a comprehensive snapshot of health and demographic trends across India.

WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2027

According to the “**QS World University Rankings 2027**” released by the **Quacquarelli Symonds (QS)**, **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) (USA)** has secured the **top position globally** for the **15th consecutive year**.

It is followed by **Stanford University (USA)**, **Imperial College London (UK)**, the **University of Oxford (UK)**, and **Harvard University (USA)**. The **National University of Singapore (NUS)** is **ranked 10th globally**, remaining the **highest-ranked university in Asia**.

Among Indian institutions, the **IIT Delhi** is the **top-ranked institution** for the **second consecutive year**, securing the **118th position globally**. It is followed by **IIT Bombay at 134th** and **IIT Madras at 170th**.

GLOBAL PATENT RANKING

Jio Platforms (JPL), the technology arm of **Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL)**, has entered the **global top 20** in the **Patent Co-operation Treaty (PCT) rankings for 2025** released by the **World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)**.

JPL is the **only Indian technology innovator** to secure a position in the **top 20 list**. **China leads the world** in 2025 PCT filings with **73.7 thousand applications**, while **India ranked 12th globally** with **3.07 thousand PCT applications**.

TECHNOLOGY PIONEERS COHORT

The **World Economic Forum (WEF)** has released its “**2026 Technology Pioneers**” cohort, which features **100 early-stage companies from 23 countries**. The **USA leads the list with 43 startups**, followed by China and the UK.

India is represented by **9 startups** in the 2026 cohort (compared to 10 in the 2025 list), bringing the **total number of Indian firms in the WEF cohort to 28**. The selected companies will contribute to **WEF initiatives** through a **two-year engagement program**.

GLOBAL PEACE INDEX

According to the “**20th edition of the Global Peace Index (GPI)**” released by the **The Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)**, **India is ranked 127th** globally with an **overall score of 2.4**.

Iceland has retained the position as the **most peaceful country** in the world for the **19th consecutive year**, with a **score of 1.16**. It is followed by **New Zealand, Switzerland, Slovenia, and Ireland**. **Russia** is ranked **163rd**, placing it at the **bottom of the index**.

TIME 100 SPORTS LIST

TIME has released the inaugural edition of the “**TIME 100 Most Influential People in Sports 2026**” list, which categorizes individuals into **4 segments: Leaders, Icons, Innovators, and Titans**.

Smriti Mandhana is the **only Indian featured on the list**, placed in the “**Titans**” category alongside notable sports personalities such as **Cristiano Ronaldo, Erling Haaland, and Temba Bavuma**.

ENERGY TRANSITION INDEX 2026

The **World Economic Forum (WEF)**, in collaboration with **Accenture**, has released the **“Energy Transition Index (ETI) 2026: Insight Report June 2026”**. **India is ranked 70th** in the index with an overall **score of 54.9**.

Sweden topped the index with a **score of 75.3**, followed by **Finland, Denmark, Estonia, and Norway**. The **Democratic Republic of the Congo is ranked last at 120th place**.

World Economic Forum (WEF):

Founder – **Peter Brabeck**

President – **Borge Brende**

Headquarters – **Cologne, Switzerland**

Established in – **1971**

GLOBAL STARTUP ECOSYSTEM REPORT

According to the **“Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2026”** (GSER 2026) released by **Startup Genome**, **Bengaluru** is ranked **15th globally** among the top startup ecosystems. It has also emerged as the **second-best AI-native cluster in Asia**, positioned behind **Beijing (China)**.

Silicon Valley (USA) topped the global rankings, followed by **New York City (USA)** and **London (UK)**.

BURGUNDY PRIVATE HURUN INDIA 500

The 5th edition of the **“Burgundy Private Hurun India 500”** report, a collaboration between **Axis Bank’s Burgundy Private** and **Hurun India**, values the **500 most valuable non-state-run companies in India** at **\$3.4 trillion**.

Reliance Industries Ltd is the **most valuable company in India**, followed by **HDFC Bank** and **Bharti Airtel**. The **Tata Group** is the **leading conglomerate**, with 14 companies valued at **₹24.9 lakh crore**. **Bharti Airtel** is the **top wealth creator** over a 5-year period, adding **₹7.64 trillion** in value.

The **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** is the **most valuable unlisted firm in India**, with a valuation of **₹4.86 lakh crore**. The report also featured **5 Indian Premier League (IPL) franchises** as new entrants, with **Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR)** ranked as the **most valuable franchise** at **₹20,850 crore**, followed by **Chennai Super Kings, Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Rajasthan Royals,** and **Punjab Kings**.

REPORT BY FAO

According to the **“State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) 2026”** report released by the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** under the theme **“Blue Transformation: Turning Vision into Impact”**, **India** has emerged as the **world’s second-largest producer of aquatic animals**, contributing **9% of the total global production** in **2024**.

India ranks first globally in **inland water catches**, producing **2.2 million tonnes (MT)** from **rivers, lakes, and freshwater systems**. The **top five aquaculture-producing countries** globally are **China, Indonesia, India, Vietnam, and Bangladesh**.

WOMEN IN POLITICS

The **Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)** and the **United Nations (UN) Women** have released **the “2026 Women in Politics map”** which provides global rankings on the representation of women in executive and government positions as of **January 2026**.

India ranks **151st** globally in parliamentary representation, with women holding **13.8%** of the seats. In terms of representation of women among Cabinet ministers, India ranks **173rd** globally, with women occupying **5.6%** of Cabinet positions.

INTERNATIONAL

VISIT TO VIETNAM

Union Minister Rajnath Singh visited **Vietnam** to operationalise the **Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (ECSP)**. During his visit, he held ministerial-level discussions with the **Deputy Prime Minister of Vietnam, General Phan Van Giang**, and met with the **President of Vietnam, To Lam**.

He announced that India is committed to establishing an **AI laboratory** at the **Telecommunications University in Nha Trang**. Additionally, he visited the **Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum** in **Hanoi** on the **136th birth anniversary** of the leader.

QUAD FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING

The **11th edition** of the **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (QFMM)** was held in **New Delhi**, chaired by **Union Minister S Jaishankar**.

Major initiatives launched include the **Indo-Pacific Maritime Surveillance Collaboration (IPMSC)** and the ‘Quad Initiative on Indo-Pacific Energy Security’. **India** will host the second edition of the ‘**Quad-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission**’.

Under the **Advancing Innovations for Empowering NextGen Agriculture (AI-ENGAGE)** initiative, over **\$6 million** in funding has been allocated to support **6** international research projects. Additionally, the ‘Quad Critical Minerals Initiative Framework’ aims to mobilize up to **\$20 billion** in investments from public and private sectors.

PM MODI VISITS ITALY

PM Narendra Modi visited **Italy** at the invitation of **Giorgia Meloni**, the PM of Italy. During their bilateral meeting in Rome, the leaders reviewed the progress of the **Joint Strategic Action Plan 2025–2029**.

The visit resulted in the adoption of a **Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI)** and a **Defence Industrial Roadmap**. Both nations also declared **2027 as the Year of Culture and Tourism** and signed **10 MoUs** across various sectors.

CYPRUS PRESIDENT VISITS INDIA

Nikos Christodoulides, the **President of the Republic of Cyprus**, visited India at the invitation of **PM Narendra Modi**. He held **bilateral discussions** with PM Modi at **Hyderabad House in New Delhi**.

During his visit to **Mumbai**, President Christodoulides participated in the **traditional bell-ringing ceremony** at the **National Stock Exchange of India Ltd (NSE)** and attended the **Cyprus-India Business Forum**. Both countries signed **6 MoUs** across various sectors and made **8 major announcements** to **strengthen bilateral cooperation**.

NEW PM OF SENEGAL

Ahmadou Al Aminou Lo has been appointed as the **Prime Minister (PM)** of **Senegal**. He succeeds **Ousmane Sonko**.

INDIA CANADA TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

Union Minister Piyush Goyal visited Canada to facilitate an **economic reset and accelerate free trade negotiations**. He led the **largest-ever Indian business delegation** to the country to fast-track the **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)**.

Both nations aim to finalize a balanced CEPA by the **end of 2026**. India and Canada have set a target to scale **bilateral trade** from **\$8.5 billion to \$50 billion by 2030**. During his visit, he held bilateral engagements in **Ottawa**, including a meeting with Canadian PM **Mark Carney**.

SAUDI ARABIA JOINS IBCA

Saudi Arabia has officially joined the **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)**, becoming the **26th member nation** to ratify the **treaty-based global alliance**. With this accession, the IBCA now comprises **26 member countries** and **5 observer nations**.

METTE WINS THIRD TERM

Mette Frederiksen, leader of the **Social Democrats**, has secured a **third consecutive term** as the **Prime Minister of Denmark**.

She is the **second woman** to serve as the PM of Denmark, succeeding **Helle Thorning-Schmidt**. Frederiksen remains the **youngest individual** to hold the office of PM in Denmark.

INDIA JOINS PROJECT GLASSWING

India has joined ‘**Project Glasswing**’, a **global cybersecurity initiative** led by **Anthropic PBC**, gaining access to ‘**Claude Mythos AI**’, an **advanced AI model**.

This model is designed to **identify software vulnerabilities** and **strengthen cyber defences for critical infrastructure**, helping participating nations enhance their **cybersecurity resilience** and safeguard their critical digital infrastructure.

NEW MEMBERS ELECTED TO UNSC

The **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** has elected **Austria, Kyrgyzstan, Portugal, Trinidad and Tobago (T&T), and Zimbabwe** as **non-permanent members** of the 15-member **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** for a **2-year term (2027–2028)**. This marks the **first-ever term for Kyrgyzstan** in the UNSC.

The **new members** will replace the outgoing members **Denmark, Greece, Pakistan, Panama, and Somalia**, whose terms end in 2026. They will join the existing non-permanent members **Colombia, Bahrain, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Latvia, and Liberia**, who will serve until 2027.

MYANMAR PRESIDENT VISITS INDIA

President U Min Aung Hlaing of Myanmar visited India, covering Bihar, New Delhi, and Mumbai. In Bihar, he offered prayers at the Mahabodhi Temple, meditated under the Bodhi Tree, and visited the Sujata Temple and the local Burmese Monastery.

In New Delhi, he held bilateral discussions with PM Narendra Modi at Hyderabad House, met Union Minister S Jaishankar, and President Droupadi Murmu. He also visited the Buddha Relics exposition at the Qila Rai Pithora cultural complex. He concluded his visit in Mumbai, where he interacted with business and industry leaders to strengthen commercial ties and explore investment opportunities.

NEW PM NOMINEE FOR SOUTH KOREA

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung has nominated Han Seong-sook as the next Prime Minister (PM) of the country. Upon parliamentary approval, she will succeed Kim Min-seok.

It is to be noted that she will become the second woman to serve as the PM in the history of South Korea, following Han Myeong-sook.

NEPAL FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS INDIA

Nepal Foreign Minister (FM) Shisir Khanal visited India at the invitation of Union Minister S Jaishankar to review bilateral relations. During the visit to New Delhi, he held talks with S Jaishankar and the National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval.

A key outcome of the discussion was the launch of a Person-to-Person (P2P) linkage between the UPI of India and the National Payments Interface (NPI) of Nepal. Furthermore, 84 reconstruction projects funded by India, initiated after the 2015 earthquake, were formally handed over to the Government of Nepal.

VENEZUELA ACTING PRESIDENT VISITS INDIA

Delcy Eloina Gomez, the Acting President of Venezuela, has visited India to strengthen bilateral energy cooperation. She held bilateral talks with PM Narendra Modi at Hyderabad House in New Delhi.

She also met Union Minister S Jaishankar and paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat. She visited the Jamnagar oil refinery in Gujarat, owned by Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL), which is the world’s largest single-point oil refining facility.

US-IRAN SIGN PEACE AGREEMENT

US President Donald Trump and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian have signed a 14-point MoU aimed at ending the conflict between the two nations. The interim agreement was finalised electronically during the G7 summit in France.

The agreement mandates an immediate ceasefire, the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, and a 60-day negotiation period for a comprehensive peace settlement. The US and its regional partners have also committed to a \$300 billion reconstruction fund to support the economic development of Iran.

INDIA SECURES FATF VICE PRESIDENCY

India has secured the Vice-Presidency of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) for the first time since becoming a full member in 2010. Vivek Aggarwal has been elected as the Vice President for a one-year tenure commencing in July 2026, succeeding Giles Thomson.

It is to be noted that the FATF is a 40-member intergovernmental body that establishes global standards to combat money laundering, terrorist financing, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Financial Action Task Force (FATF):

President – Elisa Madrazo (Mexico)

Headquarters – Paris, France

Established in – 1989

PM MODI VISIT TO FRANCE

PM Narendra Modi has visited France to strengthen the India-France Special Global Strategic Partnership, focusing on trade, technology, and security. He held bilateral talks with President Emmanuel Macron in Nice and participated in the 52nd G7 Outreach Summit as a guest partner.

PM Modi and President Macron co-launched the ‘**Bharat Innovates**’ initiative in **Nice**, featuring participation from **over 120 Indian startups**. At the **VivaTech 2026 expo** in **Paris**, the **largest technology exhibition in Europe**, **India** was designated as the ‘**AI Country of Focus**’.

The visit resulted in **13 key outcomes**, including the adoption of the ‘**India-France Innovation Roadmap 2030**’, the establishment of a **Joint Working Group (JWG) on AI Governance**, and the **expansion of the UPI in France**. PM Modi also addressed the Indian diaspora during the ‘**Bonjour Modi**’ event held in **Paris**.

UZBEKISTAN JOINS NDB

Uzbekistan has become the **10th member and shareholder** of the **New Development Bank (NDB)** after **ratifying the NDB Articles of Agreement (AoA)**. This marks the **first entry of a Central Asian nation into the NDB**.

New Development Bank (NDB):

President – **Dilma Rousseff**

Headquarters – **Shanghai, China**

Established in – **2015**

G7 SUMMIT HELD IN FRANCE

France hosted the **52nd G7 Summit** under the theme “**Working Together to Address Major International Challenges**”. **PM Narendra Modi** represented **India** at the summit.

Key outcomes of the summit included the adoption of the “**Leaders’ Declaration on Tackling Migrant Smuggling**” to curb human trafficking and the unveiling of the “**Declaration on Critical Minerals Supply Chains**”.

Japanese PM **Takaichi** introduced the “**Partnership On Wide Energy and Resources Resilience (POWER Asia)**”, which aims to provide nearly **\$10 billion** in financial assistance to **strengthen energy and critical minerals supply chains**. It is to be noted that the **53rd edition** of the G7 Summit is scheduled to be hosted by the **USA**.

PM MODI IN SLOVAKIA

PM Narendra Modi has visited **Slovakia** and was honoured with “**The Order of the White Double Cross (1st Class)**,” the **highest national award of the country**, by **President Peter Pellegrini**. This marks the **33rd global honour** for the PM.

Both countries have elevated their bilateral relationship to a **Comprehensive Partnership (CP)**. **PM Modi** and his counterpart **Robert Fico** formalized **11 agreements** focusing on **strategic cooperation, innovation, and technology**.

Both nations agreed to establish a **Joint Working Group (JWG) on Counter-Terrorism** to enhance security and launch a **Consular Dialogue mechanism**. They also announced the establishment of the first-ever **Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) Chair in AI** at the **Technical University of Kosice** in Slovakia.

BANGLADESH JOINS IBCA

Bangladesh has officially joined the **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** as its **27th member country**. The partnership aims to **enhance joint conservation strategies, habitat protection, and transboundary wildlife management**.

ABIY AHMED RE-ELECTED IN ETHIOPIA

Abiy Ahmed, the leader of the **Prosperity Party**, has been elected as the **PM of Ethiopia** for the **second consecutive 5-year term**, after the party's victory at the general election. It is to be noted that he was the recipient of the **Nobel Peace Prize in 2019**.

DEFENCE

NEW DIGITAL PLATFORMS FOR INDIAN ARMY

The **Indian Army (IA)** has launched ‘**Q-FORCE**’, an **integrated digital application** designed to **streamline logistics and sustainment management** by integrating multiple logistics and inventory platforms across diverse operational terrains.

Additionally, the IA has introduced ‘**Kautilya**’, an **AI-powered command intelligence platform**.

RFP FOR AMCA PROGRAMME

The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** has issued a **Request for Proposal (RFP)** for the **Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)** programme, which is **India’s first indigenous fifth-generation stealth fighter aircraft** project.

The **government-funded programme** has an estimated **prototype development cost of ₹15,000 crore**, covering the development of **5 flying prototypes** and **1 structural test aircraft**.

For the first time, the MoD has **excluded Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL)** from the manufacturing process and **invited private sector participation**. A **650-acre greenfield manufacturing facility** and the **Core Integration and Flight Testing Centre** of the **Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA)** are being developed at **Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh**, in collaboration with the selected private partner.

NEW DEFENCE COMPLEX

Union Minister **Rajnath Singh** has inaugurated the **private defence manufacturing complex** of the **NIBE Group** in **Shirdi, Maharashtra**. The project involved an investment of over **₹5,000 crore**.

Additionally, the Minister has approved the establishment of **four defence corridors** in **Pune, Nashik, Ahmednagar, and Nagpur** to strengthen the **indigenous defence manufacturing ecosystem** of India.

SUCCESSFUL FLIGHT TEST OF RUDRAM-II

The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** have successfully conducted flight tests of the indigenous **RudraM-II Air-to-Surface Missile**. The missile was launched from a **Sukhoi Su-30MKI** fighter aircraft off the **Odisha coast**.

The **RudraM-II** is a **solid-propelled, high-speed, air-launched system** designed for the **Suppression of Enemy Air Defences (SEAD)**. It is capable of neutralising enemy **surveillance radars, communication hubs, and tracking stations**, with an **operational strike range of 300 to 350 km**.

BRAHMOS MISSILE EXPORT DEAL

The **Government of India** has signed an agreement to **export BrahMos missiles** to **Vietnam** in a **deal valued at ₹6,000 crore** (\$629 million).

This agreement strengthens **bilateral defence and strategic cooperation** between the countries. **Vietnam** is the **second overseas buyer** of the **BrahMos missile system**, after the **Philippines**.

AUKUS ALLIANCE DEVELOPS UNDERWATER DRONES

The **AUKUS (Australia, United Kingdom, and United States)** security alliance has launched a **joint underwater drone programme** under the **‘AUKUS alliance Pillar Two’** to co-develop advanced **Uncrewed Undersea Vehicles (UUVs)**.

The initiative aims to develop **adaptable, multi-mission UUV payloads** to support undersea operations and maintain the collective strategic advantage of the partner nations. The **first delivery of UUV technology** under this programme is expected by **2027**.

DRDO CONDUCTS BOMB TRIAL

The **DRDO** has successfully tested a **high-calibre conventional bomb** at the **Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL)** in **Haryana**.

The test was conducted following standard operating procedures (SOPs) and was supervised by senior officials from the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** and **DRDO scientists**. The trial aimed to **validate advanced munitions** and **strengthen defence capabilities**.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO):
Chairman – Rajesh Kumar Singh
Headquarters – New Delhi
Established in – 1958

IAF SIGNS CONTRACTS WITH IIT BOMBAY

The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has signed **three contracts** with the **IIT Bombay** to indigenously develop **AI-driven predictive maintenance technologies**.

This initiative includes the development of a **digital diagnostic health index** for the **Sukhoi Su-30MKI fighter aircraft fleet**. The **Su-30MKI** is a **twin-engine, multi-role fighter aircraft** developed by **Sukhoi, Russia**, and customised for India by **Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL)**.

INDIAN ARMY TRIALS DIVYASTRA MK-1

The **Indian Army** has successfully completed operational trials of the **Divyastra Mk-1** in **Jodhpur, Rajasthan**.

The **Divyastra Mk-1** is an **advanced indigenous AI powered tactical loitering munition system** developed by **Hoverit**. It is designed to strengthen **Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities** along the border regions of India.

INDIA TO PROCURE 114 RAFALE JETS

India has issued a **Letter of Request (LoR)** to **France** for a **government-to-government (G2G) deal** worth **₹3.25 lakh crore** to procure **114 Rafale fighter jets** for the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**.

Under this agreement, **94** of these aircraft will be **manufactured in India** by **Dassault Aviation** in collaboration with an Indian partner. The first **Rafale-M jets** are expected to be delivered by **2028**.

SOLAR POWER PROJECT

Union Minister **Rajnath Singh** has approved the establishment of a **250 MW Solar Power Project** at the **Sitapur Ex-Cantonment area** in **Uttar Pradesh**. This is the **first large-scale green energy installation** developed on **vacant defence land**.

The project will feature an **integrated Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)** to store surplus energy and ensure a stable power supply. **NTPC Ltd** will implement the project through a **competitive bidding process**.

NEW GNSS JAMMERS FOR INDIAN NAVY

The **Ministry of Defence** has signed a contract with the **Bengaluru-based Accord Software and Systems Pvt Ltd (ASSPL)** for the procurement of **20 Enhanced Capability Global Navigation Satellite System (ECGNSS) Jammers** for the **Indian Navy**.

The contract is worth **₹449 crore** and falls under the **‘Buy (Indian-Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured (IDDM))’** category, which mandates at least **75% indigenous content**.

RUSSIA OFFERS FIGHTER JETS TO INDIA

Russian President Vladimir Putin has offered India the advanced **Sukhoi Su-57**, a **fifth-generation stealth aircraft**.

He also proposed **joint production in India**, including **full technology transfer** and the establishment of **manufacturing facilities**, during the **St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF)** held in **St. Petersburg, Russia**.

SUCCESSFUL TEST FLIGHT OF C295 TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT

Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL) and **Airbus SE** have successfully completed the **first test flight** of **India’s first domestically manufactured Airbus C295 military transport aircraft** from the Final Assembly Line in **Vadodara, Gujarat**.

This marks India’s **first large-scale private-sector military aircraft programme**, executed under a **Ministry of Defence** contract worth **₹21,935 crore**. The contract involves the supply of **56 C295 aircraft** to the **Indian Air Force**, with deliveries scheduled between **2026 and 2031**.

This initiative aims to modernise the transport fleet of the IAF by replacing the ageing **Avro-748** fleet and phasing out the **Antonov An-32** aircraft.

DRDO TESTS NEW CRUISE MISSILE

The **DRDO** has successfully conducted the **flight-test** of the indigenous **Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM)** from **Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island**, off the coast of **Odisha**.

All sub-systems of the missile were developed by various DRDO laboratories and Indian industry partners, with the **Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE)** in **Bengaluru** serving as the **nodal laboratory** for the project.

DRDO TESTS MISSILE DEFENCE SYSTEM

The **DRDO** has conducted **three consecutive flight tests** of its **integrated multi-layered Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) system**. These trials, executed from the **Integrated Test Range (ITR)** in **Chandipur, Odisha**, demonstrated the system’s capability to intercept **long-range (5,000 km)** and **medium-range (2,000 km)** missiles using **two advanced interceptor missiles**.

Additionally, the **maiden flight test** of the indigenous **Naval Anti-Ship Missile-Medium Range (NASM-MR)** was also **successfully conducted**.

DEFENCE PRODUCTION IN FY26

According to the **Ministry of Defence**, India’s **annual defence production** has reached an all-time high of **₹1.78 lakh crore** in the **FY26**. This marks a **15.6% annual growth** from the **₹1.54 lakh crore** recorded in **FY25**.

WOMEN OFFICERS COMMISSIONED

The **Ministry of Defence** has commissioned the **first batch of 17 women cadets** trained at the **National Defence Academy (NDA)** into the **Indian Armed Forces**, marking a **historic milestone in gender inclusion**.

The **Indian Army** commissioned **9 women officers** at the **Indian Military Academy (IMA)** in **Dehradun, Uttarakhand**. The **Indian Air Force** commissioned **5 women officers** at the **Air Force Academy (AFA)** in **Dundigal, Hyderabad**, and the **Indian Navy** commissioned **3 women officers** at the **Indian Naval Academy (INA)** in **Ezhimala, Kerala**.

INDIA AND THAILAND HOLD DEFENCE DIALOGUE

India and **Thailand** have held the **10th Defence Dialogue** in **Bangkok, Thailand**, to **strengthen bilateral security cooperation**.

During the dialogue, both nations agreed to deepen collaboration in **manufacturing, research, innovation, and capability development**.

DROGO AEROSPACE DELIVERS DRONES

Drogo Aerospace Pvt Ltd, formerly known as Drogo Drones, has delivered the first batch of **41 ‘JK 250e’ electric drones** to the **Southern Command of the Indian Army** in **Nashik, Maharashtra**. This delivery is part of a **contract worth ₹72 crore** for the procurement of **217 drones**.

DECOMMISSIONING OF SEA KING HELICOPTERS

The **Indian Navy (IN)** has **decommissioned** its fleet of **‘Sea King Mk42B’** helicopters, also known as the **‘Flying Frigates’**, after **36 years of service**.

The fleet, operated by the **Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS 330)**, concluded its service with a **final ceremonial flight** from **INS Shikra**, the base of the **Western Naval Command (WNC)** in **Mumbai**.

PM MODI COMMISSIONS NAVAL SHIPS

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has commissioned three **indigenously built naval ships** **INS Dunagiri, INS Sanshodhak, and INS Agray**, at the **Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port Trust** in **Kolkata**.

These **frontline warships** were designed by the **Warship Design Bureau** of the Indian Navy and manufactured by the **Kolkata-based Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE)**, with over **75% indigenous content**.

INS Dunagiri is a **Project 17A stealth guided-missile frigate** equipped with **BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles** and **Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM)** systems. **INS Sanshodhak** is a **Sandhayak-class Large Survey Vessel (SVL)**. **INS Agray** is an **Arnala-class anti-submarine shallow water craft**.

Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE):

CMD – Commodore PR Hari (Retd.)

Headquarters – Kolkata

Established in – 1960

IMA PASSING OUT PARADE

President Droupadi Murmu presided over the **Passing Out Parade** of the **158th Regular Course** of the Indian Military Academy in **Dehradun, Uttarakhand**.

Lieutenant Vishal Kumar was awarded the **Sword of Honour** and the **President’s Gold Medal** for securing the **first position in the overall Order of Merit** and emerging as the **best all-round officer cadet**. **Academy Under Officer Prince Raj** received the **Silver Medal**, and **Senior Under Officer Tejas Bhatt** was awarded the **Bronze Medal**.

KAMIKAZE DRONES RECEIVED

The **Indian Army** has procured **106 jet-powered Peacekeeper (Agniveg) drones** from the defence manufacturer **SMPP Ltd**. The consignment includes **100 operational drones** and **6 training drones**.

These drones were developed in partnership with **KB Indela, Belarus**, and have been **partially localized within India**. The **Peacekeeper drone** has an **operational range of 180 km**. An **upgraded variant** of the drone, capable of reaching **speeds of 750 kmph**, has been proposed.

SIMHA 4X4 LAMPV UNVEILED

Kalyani Strategic Systems Ltd (KSSL), the defence arm of Bharat Forge Ltd (BFL), in partnership with the South Africa-based Paramount Group, has unveiled the ‘Simha 4×4 Light Armoured Multi-Purpose Vehicle (LAMPV)’.

The vehicle, featuring an ab initio modular design, was unveiled at the Eurosatory 2026 event held in Paris, France.

MILITARY DRONE TECHNOLOGY HUB

The Ministry of Defence has granted in-principle approval to establish a National Military Drone Technology Hub at the IIT Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh.

The project, valued at ₹500 crore, aims to strengthen India’s capabilities in advanced unmanned systems.

INDIA TESTS GARUDA STRA

India has successfully tested the indigenous 120-millimeter (mm) vehicle-mounted mortar system named “Garudastra”, developed by Nibe Ltd for the Indian Army.

ICG INDUCTS INDIGENOUS ACV

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has inducted its first indigenously constructed Air Cushion Vehicle (ACV), designated H-561, at the Rassaim shipyard facility in Goa.

The vessel, built by the Goa-based Chowgule & Company Pvt Ltd (CCPL), is made of marine-grade aluminium and contains over 50% indigenous content. The ACV can accommodate up to 42 personnel and an 8-tonne payload, with a maximum speed of 45 knots.

DEFENCE LAND FOR MUSI PROJECT

The Ministry of Defence has granted permission to the Musi Riverfront Development Corporation Ltd (MRDCL) to use 83.814 acres of defence land under the Artillery Centre in Hyderabad.

The land, valued at ₹533.42 crore, has been allocated for the Gandhi Sarovar Project at Bapu Ghat, Hyderabad, under the Equal Value Infrastructure (EVI) Policy.

EXERCISE KHAAN QUEST

The Indian Army is participating in the 23rd edition of the multilateral joint military exercise ‘KHAAN QUEST’ 2026, hosted by Mongolia at the Five Hills Training Area in Ulaanbaatar.

The Indian contingent consists of 40 members, including troops from the JAT Regiment and other Arms & Services. The exercise involves personnel from 18 participating countries.

ICGS AKSHAY COMMISSIONED INTO ICG

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has commissioned the ICGS Akshay, a new-generation Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV), into its fleet.

The vessel, built by Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL), was inducted at the GSL facility in Vasco, Goa. It features over 60% indigenous content and is the fourth vessel in the Adamya-class FPV series.

DELEGATION OF FINANCIAL POWERS TO DRDO

Union Minister Rajnath Singh has released the ‘Delegation of Financial Powers to Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) (DFP-2026)’ in New Delhi. The framework aims to expedite local clearances by expanding financial powers across various management levels of the DRDO.

Under the new policy, the financial powers for competitive procurement and sanctioning new projects for the Secretary, Department of Defence R&D (DRDO Chairman) have been doubled from ₹75 crore to ₹150 crore.

The sanctioning autonomy for Directors General (DGs) has been increased from ₹25 crore to ₹75 crore, and for Laboratory Directors from ₹2 crore to ₹5 crore. Additionally, single-tender and proprietary procurement limits have been upgraded, authorizing the Secretary, DRDO up to ₹75 crore, DGs up to ₹37.5 crore, and Lab Directors up to ₹2.5 crore.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO):

Chairman – Rajesh Kumar Singh

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 1958

BUSINESS

STAKE ACQUISITION

The **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** has acquired **26.26 crore equity shares**, representing a **2.901% stake**, in the **Central Bank of India (CBI)** through **open market purchases**. This transaction has increased the **total shareholding of LIC in the bank from 3.16% to 6.06%**.

ZEE PARTNERS WITH FIFA

Zee Entertainment Enterprises has partnered with the **Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)** to broadcast **39 global football events** in the Indian market.

The **8-year agreement** includes coverage of major tournaments such as the **FIFA World Cup 2026, FIFA World Cup 2030**, and the **FIFA Women’s World Cup 2027**, along with docu-series content.

TCS PARTNERS WITH MISTRAL AI

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has become the **first Global Systems Integrator (GSI)** to partner with the **France-based Mistral AI**, an **AI startup**.

The collaboration aims to deliver **advanced enterprise generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) solutions** for clients worldwide. The former will use ‘**Mistral Forge**’ to develop **custom enterprise AI models**, allowing clients to integrate their specific data and context for better decision-making.

GOOGLE LAUNCHES AI TRAINING

Google has announced the ‘**Google for Education Schoolers (GES)**’, a **free AI training programme for teachers**, at the **Education World Forum 2026** in **London**. Launched in collaboration with the **UNICEF**, the initiative aims to provide **mobile-first AI training** to school and higher education teachers on the **responsible use of AI tools**.

In its initial phase, the programme will be implemented in partnership with the governments of **Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Punjab, and the UT of Ladakh**. During the first year, the programme will be accessible in **6 Indian languages** namely **Assamese, Hindi, Marathi, Telugu, Odia, and Punjabi**.

United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF):

Executive Director – Catherine Russell

Headquarters – New York, USA

Established in – 1946

SEA SHIPMENT OF MILLET FOODS

The **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** has facilitated the **first-ever sea shipment** of **botanical-infused ready-to-cook millet functional foods** from **Karnataka** to **New Zealand**.

This initiative is expected to **boost the agri-food exports of India**, **increase the income of farmers**, and **strengthen the agri-export ecosystem**.

TCS SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH SKF

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has signed a multi-million dollar deal with **Sweden-based SKF** to deploy a **next-generation Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) platform**.

The partnership aims to **leverage AI** across Information Technology (IT) systems and business operations to enhance customer experience and support long-term growth. As part of the agreement, the former will provide **end-to-end managed services**, including applications, infrastructure, data management, end-user services, security, and connectivity for SKF operations globally.

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS):

MD & CEO – K Krithivasan

Headquarters – Mumbai

Established in – 1968

JHARKHAND EXPORTS MANGOES TO UK

The **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** has facilitated the **first-ever commercial export** of **fresh mangoes** from **Jharkhand** to the **United Kingdom**.

NEW FRAGRANCE HUB BY HUL

Hindustan Unilever Ltd has inaugurated the **Unilever Fragrance Hub (UFH)** at the **IIT Bombay**. This is the **third such global facility** for the company, after the ones in the **UK** and the **USA**.

ADANI PORTS SECURES CONTRACT IN ARGENTINA

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) has secured a 10-year marine services contract worth \$70 million (₹666 crore) for the first Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) export project in Argentina.

The contract was awarded through competitive bidding to a consortium of Adani Harbour International FZCO and the Argentina-based Meridian Group. The services will be executed by Meridian Transportes Marítimos SA, a joint venture formed with a 51:49 equity split between the partners.

SOFTBANK SELLS STAKE IN LENSKART

Japan-based SoftBank Group has divested a 3.25% stake in Lenskart Solutions through its affiliate SoftBank Vision Fund II (SVF II) Lightbulb (Cayman) Ltd. The transaction was executed through the sale of 5.65 crore shares.

MAHINDRA AND MANULIFE INSURANCE JOINT VENTURE

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has approved the incorporation of Mahindra Manulife Insurance Ltd (MMIL). It is a 50:50 life insurance joint venture between the Mahindra Group (India) and the Manulife Financial Corporation (MFC) (Canada).

The venture aims to provide AI-native and digitally-led insurance solutions across rural, semi-urban, and urban India, aligning with the vision of “Insurance for All”.

THIRD COHORT OF ORBIT

Technology Hub (T-Hub) has inaugurated the third cohort of the ORBIT programme, an Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)-supported Atal Innovation Incubation Centre (AIC)-T-Hub Space-Tech Accelerator Programme. The third cohort includes 13 startups, including Sanyak Space Technologies, Humanity Space, Red Balloon Aerospace, and Nibiaa Devices.

With this, the ORBIT programme has supported 36 space-tech startups in total, while the broader space-tech initiatives of T-Hub have engaged over 100 startups. It is to be noted that previous cohorts have collectively raised nearly ₹30 crore in funding and developed 18 Intellectual Properties (IPs).

TEZPUR LITCHI EXPORTED TO DUBAI

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has facilitated the first export consignment of Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged Tezpur Litchi from Assam to Dubai.

GQG PARTNERS SELLS STAKE IN GMR AIRPORTS

American investment firm GQG Partners has sold a 1.85% stake in GMR Airports Ltd (GAL) to Fidelity International Ltd (FIL) through Open Market Operations (OMOs) for ₹1,906 crore.

INVESTMENT IN HYGENCO

The International Finance Corporation (IFC), an arm of the World Bank Group, along with global investors, has committed \$105 million to Hygenco Green Energies Pvt Ltd to accelerate green hydrogen development in India.

This marks the first direct green hydrogen investment in India for the IFC, Siemens, and Fullerton. The total funding includes \$50 million from the IFC, \$25 million from Siemens, and up to \$30 million from Fullerton.

CCI APPROVES ACQUISITION DEALS

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of a 2.8% stake in Shriram Life Insurance Company Ltd (SLIC) by Sanlam Emerging Markets (Mauritius) Ltd (SEMM) through a preferential issue.

Additionally, the commission has approved the acquisition of a 29.06% stake in PUMA SE by Ancat Holding GmbH, an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of ANTA, via a secondary share purchase.

FLEX-FUEL VEHICLES

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has launched India’s first passenger Flex-Fuel Vehicle (FFV), the Maruti Suzuki Wagon R, capable of running on ethanol-petrol blends ranging from 20% ethanol (E20) to E100.

It is to be noted that Union Minister Nitin Gadkari also launched Hero MotoCorp’s first flex-fuel motorcycles, the ‘Splendor+ Flex Fuel’ and ‘HF Deluxe Flex Fuel’, in New Delhi. These initiatives are aimed at promoting ethanol-based mobility in India.

META AND RIL TO DEVELOP AI DATA CENTRE

Meta has partnered with Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) to develop its first large-scale AI-enabled data centre in Jamnagar, Gujarat.

Under the agreement, the former will lease 168 MW of AI-ready data centre capacity from RIL, with operations expected to commence by 2028.

ADIA BACKED TRUST TO SELL STAKE IN LENSkart

Platinum Jasmine A 2018 Trust, an investment vehicle backed by the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA), has announced plans to reduce its 2.3% stake in Lenskart Solutions Ltd through a block deal.

ELON MUSK BECOMES FIRST TRILLIONAIRE

Elon Musk, CEO of Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (SpaceX), became the world’s first trillionaire on paper following the Initial Public Offering (IPO) of the company.

SpaceX raised \$75 billion through the IPO, surpassing the 2019 Saudi Aramco IPO to become the largest public offering in history.

CCI APPROVES BUSINESS ACQUISITIONS

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the subscription of equity shareholding in Axis Finance Ltd by Kedaara Pearl Holding and Kedaara Capital Fund IV AIF.

The CCI has also approved the acquisition of PGIM India Asset Management Pvt Ltd and PGIM India Trustees Pvt Ltd by TVS Emerald Ltd and TVS Venu Management and Consultancy Services Pvt Ltd.

Competition Commission of India (CCI):

Chairperson – Ravneet Kaur

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 2003

SARVAM AI ATTAINS UNICORN STATUS

Sarvam AI, an Indian full-stack sovereign AI startup, has become the 130th unicorn of India. The company raised \$234 million as part of its \$300 million Series B funding round.

With this, the valuation of the company has reached \$1.5 billion, making it the only AI startup in India to achieve this valuation.

META ACQUIRES STAKE IN CRED

Meta has acquired a minority stake of 20% in the Indian financial technology (fintech) startup CRED.

The acquisition was completed through a Series H funding round worth \$900 million (₹8,550 crore), which values the company at \$4.5 billion.

CRED:

CEO – Miten Sampat

Headquarters – Bengaluru

Established in – 2018

IFC INVESTMENT IN SIFY

The International Finance Corporation (IFC), the private-sector arm of the World Bank Group (WBG), has pledged \$371 million to Sify Infinit Spaces Ltd (SISL), a subsidiary of Sify Technologies Ltd.

The financing will support the development of AI-ready, energy-efficient Data Centre (DC) infrastructure in Navi Mumbai and Chennai.

SPACEX TO ACQUIRE ANYSPHERE

SpaceX has agreed to acquire Anysphere, the parent company of the AI coding assistant Cursor, in an all-stock transaction worth \$60 billion.

MARUTI SUZUKI PARTNERS WITH STARTUPS

Maruti Suzuki India has partnered with 5 startups under the fifth cohort of the Maruti Suzuki Incubation Program (MSIP).

The selected startups are MiniMines, Easework AI, Sarvam AI, Siftly, and CodeMate AI. These startups will develop solutions focused on operational efficiency, customer experience, and recycling of end-of-life electric vehicle (EV) batteries. The MSIP is conducted in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bangalore.

SCIENCE

NASA UNVEILS MOON BASE PLAN

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has unveiled a \$20 billion, 3-phased plan to establish a permanent lunar base equipped with rovers and drones.

The plan aims to set up the base by **March 2027**, with the objective of **landing astronauts on the moon in 2028**. The mission is structured into 3 phases: **Moon Base-I (2026-2028)**, **Moon Base-II (2029-2032)**, and **Moon Base-III (2032 onwards)**.

NEW COSMIC STRUCTURE DISCOVERED

An international team of researchers led by **Dr. Ronaldo Laishram** from the **National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ)** has discovered an **ancient cosmic structure** named the “**Loktak Protocluster**”.

Located **12.6 billion light-years away** in the **constellation Sextans**, the structure allows astronomers to observe the universe as it existed when it was only **1.2 billion years old** (**9% of its current age**).

It is named after **Loktak Lake** in **Manipur**, the **largest freshwater lake in Northeast India**, famous for its “**phumdis**” (floating masses of vegetation). The discovery was made by integrating data from the Japan-based **Subaru Telescope** and the **James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)** of **NASA**.

NEW RESEARCH FACILITY

IIT Madras has launched an **advanced hydrodynamic testing facility** named “**Circulating Water Tunnel Facility**” at its **Thaiyur campus in Chennai**.

The facility is designed to **strengthen indigenous ship design, ocean engineering research, and hydrodynamic testing capabilities** in India. It was constructed with **₹4.5 crore** in **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funding** provided by **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL)**.

NEW TECH AND INCUBATION CENTRE

Union Minister Jitendra Singh has inaugurated the indigenously developed **Plasma Enhanced Chemical Vapor Deposition (PECVD) system** and the new **Research Entrepreneurship for Translation, Innovation and Navigation (RETINA) incubation centre** at the **Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS)** campus in **Kolkata**.

The inauguration coincided with the **150th-anniversary celebrations** of IACS, which is recognized as **Asia’s oldest research institution** and the **birthplace of the Raman Effect**. It is to be noted that the PECVD system is **India’s first completely indigenous technology** developed for the **fabrication of amorphous silicon solar cells**.

CHANDRAYAAN-2 FINDS WATER ICE ON MOON

The **Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft**, orbiting the Moon since 2019, has provided evidence of **subsurface water ice deposits** within the **permanently shadowed regions (PSRs) of lunar south polar craters**. This study, conducted by the **Physical Research Laboratory (PRL)** in **Ahmedabad**, was published in the **Nature Portfolio Journal (NPJ) Space Exploration**.

Researchers utilized the **Dual-Frequency Synthetic Aperture Radar (DFSAR)** to analyze ‘**doubly shadowed craters**’ within the PSRs. The findings from a **1.1 km crater** in the **Faustini Basin** indicate an impact into an **ice-rich subsurface** that briefly flowed before refreezing.

MICROSOFT UNVEILS QUANTUM CHIP

Microsoft has unveiled “**Majorana 2**”, its **second-generation topological quantum computing chip** developed using its **agentic AI platform**, “**Microsoft Discovery**”.

The prototype features **12 topological qubits** as a model for scalable systems, with the company aiming to develop **commercially viable quantum systems** by **2029**. Additionally, Microsoft has introduced “**Scout**”, an **AI-powered Microsoft 365 assistant** designed to **autonomously manage schedules, emails, and meetings**.

Microsoft:
Founders – Bill Gates and Paul Allen
Chairman & CEO – Satya Nadella
Headquarters – Washington, USA
Established in – 1975

NASA ANNOUNCES ARTEMIS III CREW

The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** has announced the **4-member crew** for the **Artemis III mission**, which is scheduled for a **Low-Earth Orbit (LEO)** mission in **late 2027**. The crew comprises **Randy Bresnik (Commander)**, **Andre Douglas**, and **Frank Rubio** from the USA, alongside **Luca Parmitano** from the **European Space Agency (ESA)**.

The mission will test **docking procedures** between **Starship of SpaceX**, **Blue Moon lander of Blue Origin**, and **Orion capsule of NASA**, launched by the **Space Launch System (SLS)**. This mission aims to demonstrate **operational readiness for future human lunar landings** and planned lunar operations.

PROSTATE CANCER THERAPY

Novartis India has launched '**Pluvicto**', the **first regulatory authority-approved radioligand therapy (RLT)** in India for **advanced prostate cancer**.

This **precision medicine** is indicated for patients with **Prostate-Specific Membrane Antigen (PSMA)-positive metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC)**.

CSIR RELEASES INDIGENOUS TECHNOLOGIES

The **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** organized a '**Technology Transfer and Bharatiya Nirdeshak Dravya (BND) Release Function**' at its headquarters in **New Delhi**.

During the event, **7 indigenous technologies** developed by the **CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL)** and the **CSIR-Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI)** were transferred to the industry to promote **commercialisation**. Additionally, **10 BND reference materials** were released, and **5 vapor cells for quantum sensing applications**, developed by **CSIR-NPL**, were handed over.

ISRO TECH TO EXTEND LUNAR LANDER LIFE

The **ISRO**, in collaboration with the **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)**, is developing an **advanced artificial heating system** for **future lunar landers**. This technology is designed to enable landers to **survive lunar nights**, where temperatures drop **below -129°C**.

It is to be noted that this system aims to **extend the operational life** of lunar landers from the current duration of **one lunar day (14 Earth days)** to **up to 200 days**.

NUCLEAR RESEARCH FACILITIES

The **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)** has inaugurated the **Versatile Deuterated Compounds Production Plant (VDPP)** and commissioned a **24 kA Prototype Sodium Cell** at the **Heavy Water Board Facilities (HWBF)** in **Vadodara, Gujarat**.

CLAUDE FABLE 5 SUSPENDED GLOBALLY

The AI model '**Claude Fable 5**' from **Anthropic** has been **suspended globally**, just **3 days after its launch**. This action follows an **unprecedented export control directive** issued by the **US government**.

SPACE INDUSTRY E-CATALOGUE

The **5th edition** of the **Indian Space Congress (ISC) 2026** was held in **New Delhi**. During the event, **India’s first digital repository of space-sector capabilities**, named “**Indian Space Industry E-Catalogue**”, was launched.

Developed by the **Satcom Industry Association (SIA)-India**, it serves as a platform for **capability discovery, collaboration, and business development** within the Indian space ecosystem.

Additionally, **two reports** were released: “**Building India’s On-Orbit Servicing and Refuelling Ecosystem: Policy, Partnerships, and Pathways Forward**” (developed in collaboration with **OrbitAID**) and “**India’s Strategic Opportunity in Space-Based Compute Infrastructure**” (developed in partnership with **TakeMe2Space**).

ISRO TESTS SEMI-CRYOGENIC ENGINE

ISRO has successfully conducted a **hot test** of its **semi-cryogenic engine power head** at the **ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC)** in **Tamil Nadu**. The test demonstrated **stable operation** at a **thrust level of 175 tons**, achieving **88% of the target thrust**.

This **semi-cryogenic propulsion stage** is being developed to replace the **L110 core stage** on the **LVM3 (Launch Vehicle Mark 3)** launch vehicle. The system is powered by the **2,000-kilonewton (kN) SE2000 engine**.

STATE

AP GOVT LAUNCHES ANGEL FUND

The **Andhra Pradesh** government, in collaboration with the **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**, has announced the launch of an **angel fund** through the **Ratan Tata Innovation Hub (RTIH)** in **New Delhi**.

The initiative aims to make the state a **hub for deep-tech innovation** by providing startups with **early-stage funding, industry access, ecosystem support,** and **global scaling opportunities.**

ADARSH SHAHAR SAMRIDDHI YOJANA

The **Chhattisgarh** government has launched the ‘**Adarsh Shahar Samriddhi Yojana**’ with a budgetary allocation of **₹200 crore** for the **2026-27** period to develop **modern civic infrastructure** in emerging towns and urban centres.

The state’s **Urban Administration and Development Department** has released the guidelines and the phase-1 execution layout for the scheme.

MISSION SENEHJORI

Union Minister Jyotiraditya M Scindia and **Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma** have launched **Mission ‘Senehjori’** to transform the **Assam Muga Silk** sector into a **globally competitive luxury textile ecosystem.**

Muga silk is the **world’s only naturally golden silk** and **India’s first GI-tagged silk.** The **total budget** for the revitalization of this sector is **₹396-411 crore,** with a **contribution of ₹136-151 crore from the Ministry.** The initiative is structured as a **3-year roadmap** with milestones to be completed by **2028.**

ANNAPURNA YOJANA

The **West Bengal** government has started the enrolment for the ‘**Annapurna Yojana**’, also known as the ‘**Annapurna Bhandar**’ scheme.

The scheme aims to **empower women** and support households by providing **monthly financial assistance** to **eligible women (aged 25-60)** who do not have a **fixed income, government salary, or pension.**

WEST BENGAL JOINS NEVA PLATFORM

The **West Bengal Legislative Assembly** has signed a **tripartite MoU** to implement the **National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA).**

With this, the state becomes the **33rd legislature in India** to join the platform. The initiative aims to transition the state legislature towards a **paperless and fully digital ecosystem.**

PRESIDENT MURMU'S VISIT TO SIKKIM

President Droupadi Murmu visited **Sikkim** to commemorate the **Golden Jubilee (50 years of statehood)** and inaugurate various developmental and cultural initiatives.

During the visit, she toured the **Orchidarium,** the **Namgyal Institute of Tibetology,** and **Nathu La** at the **India-China border.** She attended the **7th Convocation of Sikkim University** at **Manan Bhavan** in **Gangtok.** She flagged off the ‘**Pink City Runners**’ (a fleet of vehicles dedicated to women) at Ridge Park and presented the **President’s Police Colour** to the **Sikkim Police** at **Palzor Stadium.**

TOBACCO PRODUCTS BANNED IN NAGALAND

The **Nagaland** government has imposed a **1-year statewide ban** on the **manufacture, storage, transportation, distribution, and sale** of all **food products containing tobacco or nicotine.**

SAFAI MITRA SCHEME

The **Himachal Pradesh** government has signed an MoU with the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** to promote **climate-resilient development, environmental sustainability, biodiversity conservation,** and **inclusive growth** in the state.

Additionally, CM **Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu** has launched the ‘**Safai Mitra Scheme**’ to **empower informal waste management workers.**

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP):

Administrator (acting) – Haoliang Xu

Headquarters – New York, United States

Established in – 1966

NEW INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** has approved the construction of **General Pool Residential Accommodation (GPRA)** and **Central Government General Pool Office Accommodation (CGGPOA)** in **Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh.** It is to be noted that this is the **first GPRA project** to be established in the state.

SPECIAL TASK FORCE

The **Tamil Nadu** government has launched the **Singappen Special Task Force,** an **all-women police unit** dedicated to **preventing crimes against women and children.**

Headed by **Inspector General of Police (IGP) K Bhavaneeswari**, the unit will deploy about **2,500 personnel** in its initial phase. The government has allocated **₹354 crore** for this initiative.

PRIYADARSHINI BUS SCHEME

The **Kerala** government has launched the ‘**Priyadarshini**’ **free bus travel scheme**. Under this initiative, **women and transgender persons** are eligible for free travel on **ordinary Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC)** buses **across the state**.

RESERVATION FOR EX-AGNIVEERS

The **Delhi Lieutenant Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu** has directed a **20% reservation** for **ex-Agniveers** in the **direct recruitment** to vacant **Group 'C' posts** across key operational departments.

SHAN CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Vinai Kumar Saxena, the **Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh**, has approved the formation of the ‘**Snow Leopard and High-Altitude Nature**’ (**SHAN Conservation Society**) to **protect the endangered snow leopard and its habitat**. This is the **first initiative of its kind** in the region.

It is to be noted that according to the ‘**2024 Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India**’, there are **718 snow leopards** in the country, with **477** of them located in **Ladakh**.

LOAN FOR HARYANA

The **World Bank** has approved a **loan of ₹4,000 crore** for the “**Jal Sanrakshit Haryana**” (**Water Secure Haryana**) project, which has an **outlay of ₹5,714 crore**. The project aims to **resolve the groundwater crisis** and ensure **water sustainability** in the state.

It will be implemented in phases over a **6-year period (2026-2032)** and will cover **15 clusters** across **48.94 lakh acres**.

MAHARASHTRA PARTNERS WITH GOOGLE

The **Maharashtra** government has signed a **Letter of Intent (LoI)** with **Google for Education** to train teachers in **AI and digital technology**.

The **18-month initiative** aims to **strengthen teachers’ digital competencies, improve AI literacy, and promote technology-enabled learning** in schools, in line with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.

NEW WATER METRO IN GOA

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has inaugurated the new **Captain of Ports Terminal Building** in **Panaji, Goa**. The building was developed by the **Goa State Infrastructure Development Corporation (GSIDC)** at a cost of **₹48.87 crore**.

He also announced that the proposed **Goa Water Metro project**, an **environment-friendly urban mobility initiative** worth **₹3,146 crore**, has been elevated to **Phase-I implementation priority**.

HP SIGNS HYDROPOWER AGREEMENTS

The **Himachal Pradesh** government has signed implementation agreements for **19 hydropower projects** with a combined capacity of **278 Megawatts (MW)**. These projects, involving an investment of **₹3,336 crore**, are scheduled for implementation in **2026**.

DELHI EV POLICY 2026

The **Delhi Cabinet** has approved the ‘**Delhi Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy 2026**’, effective from **July 2026** to **March 2030**, with a financial outlay of **₹15,000 crore**.

The policy offers a **100% road tax** and registration fee waiver for electric cars up to **₹30 lakh**, and a **50%** exemption for strong hybrid models (up to **₹30 lakh**). **Luxury EVs** priced above ₹30 lakh are excluded.

Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) subsidies for electric 2-wheelers are **₹30,000 (1st year), ₹20,000 (2nd year), and ₹10,000 (3rd year)**, while electric **3-wheelers** receive ₹50,000, ₹40,000, and ₹30,000 over three years.

N1 category goods trucks are eligible for an incentive of up to **₹1 lakh**. Scrappage bonuses include **₹1 lakh** for 4-wheelers, ₹50,000 for commercial trucks, ₹25,000 for 3-wheelers, and ₹10,000 for 2-wheelers. Commercial and school fleet operators are mandated to electrify 10% of their fleet within two years, 20% by the third year, and 30% by **March 2030**.

The government also aims to deploy over **30,000** charging stations. Additionally, the **first 1,000** heavy-duty N2 electric trucks (3.5 to 12 tonnes) will receive a **10-year** exemption from city peak hour ‘No Entry’ restrictions.

APPOINTMENTS

NEW CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF

General NS Raja Subramani has assumed charge as the **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)** of India. He succeeds **General Anil Chauhan**.

Prior to this appointment, he served as the Military Advisor at the **National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS)** and is recognized as an expert on security matters concerning Pakistan and China.

NEW APPOINTMENT IN MPEDA

Packirisamy Jawahar has been appointed as the **Chairman** of the **Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)**. He succeeds **DV Swamy**.

SANJAY VATSAYAN TAKES CHARGE

Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan has assumed charge as the **Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (FOC-in-C)** of the **Western Naval Command (WNC)**. He succeeds **Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan**.

APPOINTMENTS FOR 2026 COMMONWEALTH GAMES

The **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** has appointed **Rohit Rajpal**, a former **Davis Cup captain**, as the **Chef de Mission** for the **23rd Commonwealth Games (2026 CWG)**, to be held in **Glasgow, Scotland**.

Additionally, **Ravi Bengani** has been appointed as the **Deputy Chef de Mission**, while **Vandana Rao** and **Rahul Swami** have been designated as the **general team managers** for the Indian contingent.

RBI APPROVES LEADERSHIP

The **RBI** has approved leadership updates for two financial institutions. **Sandeep Bakhshi** has been **re-appointed** as the **MD & CEO** of **ICICI Bank** for a **2-year term**, effective until **October 3, 2028**.

Additionally, **Ketan Merchant** has been granted a **3-month interim leadership extension** at **Fino Payments Bank**.

NEW JUDGES FOR SUPREME COURT

Five new judges have been appointed to the **Supreme Court (SC)**, taking its **current strength to 37**, one short of the **sanctioned strength of 38**.

The newly appointed judges are **Senior Advocate Venkita Subramani Mohana**, **Justice Shree Chandrashekhar**, **Justice Sheel Nagu**, **Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva**, and **Justice Arun Palli**.

NEW APPOINTMENTS IN DEFENCE

Vice Admiral Vineet McCarty has assumed charge as the **20th Commander-in-Chief** of the **Andaman & Nicobar Command (CINCAN)**, succeeding **Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar**.

Major General Rachel Thomas has been appointed as the **Additional Director General** of the **Military Nursing Service (MNS)**, succeeding **Major General Lissamma**. **Air Marshal Tarun Chaudhry** has assumed charge as the **Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief** of the **Central Air Command**, succeeding **Air Marshal Balakrishnan Manikantan**.

NEW PM FOR SLOVENIA

Janez Jansa, the leader of the **Slovenian Democratic Party**, has been elected as the Prime Minister of Slovenia for the 4th term. He succeeds **Robert Golob**.

SEBI APPROVES APPOINTMENTS

The **SEBI** has approved the appointment of 2 **Executive Directors (EDs)** for each of the 3 **Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs)**: **BSE Ltd (BSE)**, **Central Depository Services Ltd (CDSL)**, and **National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL)**.

The appointments are as follows: **BSE**: **Saurabh Shukla** (**Critical Operations**) and **Gopalan S Raghavan** (**Regulatory & Compliance**), **CDSL**: **Amit Mahajan** (**Critical Operations**) and **Nayana Ovalekar** (**Regulatory & Compliance**), **NSDL**: **Subhash Kelkar** (**Critical Operations**) and **Ankit Sharma** (**Regulatory & Compliance**).

NEW CHIEF JUSTICE

Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, previously a **Judge of the Sikkim High Court**, has been appointed as the **Chief Justice of the Patna High Court**.

NEW CHAIRMAN OF DRDO

Rajesh Kumar Singh, the **Defence Secretary at the Ministry of Defence**, has been given the additional charge of **Secretary of the Department of Defence Research and Development (DDR&D)** and **Chairman of the DRDO**. He succeeds **Dr. Samir V Kamat** in these roles.

NEW KARNATAKA CM

DK Shivakumar has been sworn in as the **25th Chief Minister (CM) of Karnataka**, with the oath of office and secrecy administered by **Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot**.

He **succeeds Siddaramaiah**, who resigned from the position following a planned power-sharing arrangement. **Dr G Parameshwara** has been sworn in as the **Deputy CM of Karnataka**.

NEW ED FOR WORLD BANK

Neelkanth Mishra has been appointed as the **Executive Director** at the **World Bank** for a tenure of **3 years**. He succeeds **Parameswaran Iyer**.

NEW UNGA PRESIDENT ELECTED

Khalilur Rahman, the **Foreign Minister of Bangladesh**, has been elected as the **President of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)**. He will serve a **1-year term**, succeeding **Annalena Charlotte Alma Baerbock**.

NEW CBSE CHAIRPERSON APPOINTED

The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet** has approved the appointment of **Prashant Sitaram Lokhande** as the **Chairperson of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)**. He succeeds **Rahul Singh**.

NEW CEO FOR INDIAAI MISSION

Saurabh Vijay, the **CEO of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)**, has assumed **additional charge** as the **CEO of the IndiaAI Mission**.

He **succeeds Abhishek Singh**. **Sudeep Shrivastava** has assumed charge as the **Chief Operating Officer (COO)** of the **IndiaAI Mission**.

NEW ARMY CHIEF APPOINTED

Lieutenant General Dhiraj Seth, the current **Vice Chief of the Army Staff**, has been appointed as the **Chief of the Army Staff (COAS)**. He will assume charge on **June 30, 2026**, succeeding **General Upendra Dwivedi**.

RE-APPOINTMENT OF RBI DEPUTY GOVERNOR

The Government of India has re-appointed **Swaminathan Janakiraman** as the **Deputy Governor** of the **RBI** for a tenure of **2 years**. This re-appointment will be effective from **June 26, 2026**.

APPOINTMENTS IN NSC

The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet** has approved the appointment of the **Chairperson** and **members** of the **National Statistical Commission (NSC)**.

Dr. Saibal Chattopadhyay has been appointed as the **Chairperson**, while **Prof. Shubhabrata Das**, **Satyendra Bahadur Singh**, and **Dr. Madhavan Mukund** have been appointed as **members** of the commission.

S LOHIYA APPOINTED TO CENTRAL BOARDS

The Government of India has nominated **Sanjay Lohiya** as a **Non-Executive Director** on the **Central Board of the RBI** and the **State Bank of India (SBI)**. He succeeds **M Nagaraju**.

EXPERT COMMITTEE ON AGROBIODIVERSITY

The **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)**, under the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)**, has reconstituted the **Expert Committee on Agrobiodiversity** for a tenure of **1 year**.

Dr PL Gautam has been appointed as the **Chair** of the committee, and **Dr Trilochan Mohapatra** has been appointed as the **Co-Chair**.

NEW CMD FOR GIC RE

The **Department of Financial Services** has approved the appointment of **Hitesh Rameshchandra Joshi** as the **CMD** of the **General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re)**.

He will assume the office on **16 June 2026** and will serve until **September 2028**. He succeeds **Narayanan Ramaswamy**.

REAPPOINTMENT OF SOLICITOR GENERAL

The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** has approved the **reappointment of Tushar Mehta** as the **Solicitor General of India** for a period of **3 years**, starting from **July 2026**.

The ACC has also approved the **reappointment of 5 Additional Solicitors General (ASGs)** for the **Supreme Court** for a **3-year term**. They are **Vikramjit Banerjee, KM Nataraj, Suryaprakash V Raju, N Venkataraman**, and **Aishwarya Bhati**.

INDIAN JURIST AS ITLOS JUDGE

Indian jurist Bimal N Patel has been elected as a **judge** of the **International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)** for the **2026–2035** term. He will assume office on **October 2026**, **succeeding Neeru Chadha**.

NEW WHATSAPP CEO

Kunal Shah, the **founder of CRED**, has been appointed as the **Global Head and CEO of WhatsApp**. He **succeeds Will Cathcart**. It is to be noted that he is the **first Indian** to lead the messaging platform.

Concurrently, **Miten Sampat** has been appointed as the **interim CEO of CRED**, as Kunal Shah has stepped down from the position.

NEW PRESIDENT FOR FATF

Giles Thomson of the **United Kingdom** has been appointed as the **President of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** for a **2-year term** starting in **July 2026**. He **succeeds Elisa de Anda Madrazo** of Mexico.

NEW MD & CEO FOR UCO BANK

The Department of Financial Services has approved the appointment of **Rajendra Kumar Saboo**, the **Executive Director (ED)** of **UCO Bank**, as the **MD & CEO** of the bank with **additional charge**. He will hold this position from **June 19, 2026, to August 2026**. He **succeeds Ashwani Kumar**.

PRADEEP KHAROLA IN AIR INDIA

Pradeep Singh Kharola has **rejoined Air India** as the **Executive Advisor** to its Chairman, **N Chandrasekaran**.

AWARDS

FAO HONOUR

Valluvan, a farmer from the **Pollachi district** of **Tamil Nadu**, has been honoured as a ‘**Soil Farmer Hero**’ by the **Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)** of the **UN**.

He has received this recognition for transforming his **11-hectare landholding** into a profitable enterprise. He achieved this through the implementation of **multi-crop, tree-based farming techniques**, generating revenue of **₹2.5 lakh to ₹3 lakh per acre**.

NEW AWARDS FOR INDIAN PORTS

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal presented the **Sagar Aankalan – Logistics Port Performance Index (LPPI) awards** for the **FY25**. The **Deendayal Port Authority (DPA)** in **Gujarat** was recognized as the **best-performing port** in the ‘**Handling of Container Cargo – less than 0.5 Million Twenty-foot Equivalent Units (TEUs)**’ category.

The **Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA)** secured the **second position** in the ‘**Sagar Aankalan Award**’ for ‘**Excellence in Handling Liquid Bulk Cargo**’ in the category of ports handling **5 million tonnes and above**.

AWARDS FOR INDIAN HAJ MISSION

The **Indian Haj Mission** has been honoured with **two ‘Labbaytum Awards’** by the **Ministry of Hajj and Umrah of Saudi Arabia**.

The awards were conferred in the categories of **Coordination and Communication**, recognising the exemplary management of **Haj operations and pilgrim services** during **Haj 2026**. It is to be noted that this is the **first instance** of India receiving **two Labbaytum Awards** in a **single Haj season**.

NATIONAL E-GOVERNANCE AWARDS

The **National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG) 2026** recognized **17 projects** across India to promote excellence in **digital governance**. The awards comprised **10 Gold Awards, 6 Silver Awards**, and **1 Jury Award**.

The **Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI)**, managed by the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**, received a **Gold Award** under Category VII. The **e-Jagriti Platform**, operated by the **Department of Consumer Affairs**, secured a **Silver Award** under Category I.

Recognized projects include the ‘**Agri Stack**’ project by the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** and the ‘**Mahakumbh 2025 Initiative**’ by the **Prayagraj Mela Authority**. Additionally, the **Kerala Development and Innovation Strategic Council (K-DISC)** received recognition for its ‘**Blood Bag Traceability & Citizen Interaction Portal**’, a citizen-centric health technology development.

Gold Award winners receive a trophy, a citation, and a **cash prize of ₹10 lakh**, while **Silver Award** winners are awarded a trophy, a certificate, and **₹5 lakh**.

UN MILITARY GENDER ADVOCATE

Major Abhilasha Barak, an **Indian Army officer**, has been conferred the **2025 UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award**. She served as the **Engagement Team Commander** and **Gender Focal Point** within the Indian Battalion under the **UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)**.

She is the **third Indian peacekeeper** to receive this global award, after **Major Suman Gawani (2019)** and **Major Radhika Sen (2023)**. It is to be noted that She is the **first woman combat helicopter pilot** in the history of the Indian Army.

PRINCESS OF ASTURIAS AWARD

Lionel Messi, the **captain of Inter Miami CF**, has been conferred with the **Princess of Asturias Award for Sports 2026**. He becomes the **first individual footballer** to receive this honour.

The award recognises his **sporting achievements, global influence, and philanthropic efforts** in **supporting education and healthcare for disadvantaged children**.

FOOD PLANET PRIZE

The **Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF)** initiative has been awarded the **2026 Food Planet Prize**.

The prize, presented by the **Curt Bergfors Foundation** in **Bastad, Sweden**, is one of the world’s largest environmental awards focusing on the **transformation of global food systems**. The **APCNF** received a monetary prize of **\$1.5 million**.

GALLANTRY AWARDS

President **Droupadi Murmu** conferred gallantry awards during Phase-I of the **Defence Investiture Ceremony 2026**, held at **Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi**. The awards included **7 Kirti Chakras** (2 posthumous), **15 Vir Chakras** (3 posthumous), and **29 Shaurya Chakras** (1 posthumous).

Lieutenant Shashank Tiwari and **Sepoy Janjal Pravin Prabhakar** were awarded the **Kirti Chakra** posthumously. **Rifleman Sunil Kumar, Sub Inspector (GD) Mohd Imteyaj**, and **Constable (GD) Deepak Chingakhm** were posthumously awarded the **Vir Chakra**, while **Lance Dhadr (L/DFR) Baldev Chand** was awarded the **Shaurya Chakra** posthumously.

MILITARY AWARDS

Major Prabhat Mishra of the **Indian Army (IA)**, belonging to the **22 Kumaon Regiment**, has been honoured with the **Birrer-Brookes Award for Outstanding Master of Military Arts and Science (MMAS) Thesis** and the **General Douglas MacArthur Military Leadership Writing Award**.

He has also received the **Golden Pen Award for scholarly excellence**. It is to be noted that he is the **first Indian officer to win both the awards simultaneously**.

HONOUR FOR GRASA MILLETS

GRASA Millets & Food Pvt Ltd, the **first food-led metabolic recovery system of India**, has been conferred the ‘**Rashtriya Ratna Samman 2026**’.

The startup was awarded under the category of “**Emerging Health Tech & Nutrition Innovation Startup of the Year**” for the innovative approach of the company to **metabolic health**, which utilizes the **science of millets and fermentation**.

NEW AWARDS BY SANGEET NATAK AKADEMI

The **Sangeet Natak Akademi** has announced the fellowships and awards for 2024 and 2025. The **Akademi Fellowship (Akademi Ratna)**, the **highest lifetime achievement honour in performing arts in India (restricted to 40 living individuals)**, has been conferred upon **7 eminent artists**. The award carries a **cash prize of ₹3 lakh**, a Tamrapatra, and an Angavastram.

The **Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards (Akademi Puraskar)** were conferred upon **108 artists** for their work in Hindustani and Carnatic music, classical and folk dance, theatre, and puppetry. The award includes a **cash prize of ₹1 lakh**, a Tamrapatra, and an Angavastram.

Additionally, the **Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar**, which honours **young artists up to the age of 40**, was presented to **106 recipients**. Each recipient receives a **cash prize of ₹25,000**, a Tamrapatra, and an Angavastram.

EMBO GOLD MEDAL

Gautam Dey, an **Indian-origin scientist** affiliated with the **European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL)** in **Germany**, has been awarded the **European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) Gold Medal 2026**.

He received the recognition for his research on the **evolutionary origins of nuclear organization and cell division**. He shares the award with **Omayya Dudin** from the **University of Geneva, Switzerland**. The awardees receive a medal and a **bursary of €10,000**.

GRAND SAND MASTER CUP

Sudarsan Pattnaik, a sand artist from **Puri, Odisha**, has won the **Russia Grand Sand Master Cup 2026** at the **II International Festival of Sand Sculpture** in **Kaliningrad, Russia**. He is the **first Indian to receive this honour**.

His winning entry was a **3-meter high sand sculpture** depicting **two contrasting faces of Earth**. It is to be noted that he was honoured with the **Padma Shri in 2014** for his contributions to the field of Arts.

WOLF PRIZE 2025

Jainendra K Jain, an **Indian-born theoretical physicist**, has been honoured with the prestigious **Wolf Prize 2025** in the **Physics category**. He is the **first Indian-born theoretical physicist** to receive this honour, recognised for his **1989 discovery of composite fermions**.

In the **Physics category**, the prize was jointly awarded to **James P Eisenstein (USA)**, **Jainendra K Jain (India/USA)**, and **Mordehai Heiblum (Israel)** for their contributions to the study of **two-dimensional electron systems** and **composite fermions**. Each category carries a diploma and a **cash prize of \$100,000**.

GLOBAL PRESTIGE AWARD

Harsh Vardhan, the President of the **Bihar Cricket Association (BCA)**, has been honoured with the **Global Prestige Award** at the **House of Lords in UK**.

The award was presented under the theme **‘Visionaries of Change: Charting the Course to Viksit Bharat 2047’**. It is to be noted that he was elected as the **youngest President in the history of the BCA** in **2025**.

SJFI GOLD MEDAL

Viswanathan Anand has been conferred the **Sports Journalists’ Federation of India (SJFI) Gold Medal** in recognition of his exceptional contribution to **Indian chess** and outstanding achievements in the sport.

The award was presented by **former India captain Krishnamachari Srikkanth** at the **Madras Cricket Club (MCC)** in **Chennai**.

INDIAN ATHLETICS AWARDS

The **Athletics Federation of India (AFI)** organised the inaugural **Indian Athletics Awards 2025** in **New Delhi**. The awards were presented by **Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya**.

Neeraj Chopra and **Parul Chaudhary** were named the **Best Male and Female Athletes of the Year**, respectively, receiving a cash prize of **₹10 lakh** each. **Shanavaz Khan** and **Pooja Singh** were recognised as the **Best Emerging Athletes of the Year**, receiving **₹2.5 lakh** each.

Lifetime Achievement Awards, carrying a cash prize of **₹5 lakh** each, were conferred upon **PT Usha, Anju Bobby George, Gurbacha Singh Randhawa, and Bahadur Singh Randhawa**.

SPORTS

SWARA LAKSHMI NAIR ACHIEVES WIM TITLE

Swara Lakshmi Nair, a **chess player from Bengaluru** has secured the **Woman International Master (WIM) title**. She achieved this milestone at the **Ptuj International Masters tournament** held in **Slovenia**.

It is to be noted that she is the **first WIM from Bengaluru** and the **second WIM from Karnataka**, following **Isha Sharma** who achieved the title in **2019**.

FI CANADIAN GP

Andrea Kimi Antonelli, an **Italian** national racing for **Mercedes**, has won the **Formula One (F1) Canadian Grand Prix (GP) 2026**.

INDIA TO HOST ASIAN ATHLETICS EVENTS

India has secured the hosting rights for the **2027 Asian Relay Championships** and the **2028 Asian Indoor Athletics Championships**, marking the **first time both events will be hosted in India**.

The decision was finalized by the **Asian Athletics Association (AAA)** during an executive council meeting in **Hong Kong**, chaired by **Dahlan Al Hamad**. The **2027 Asian Relay Championships** will be held at the **Sector 7 Sports Complex in Chandigarh**, while the **2028 Asian Indoor Athletics Championships** will be hosted at the **Kalinga Stadium complex indoor facility in Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.

IPL 2026

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) has won the **19th edition** of the **Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026**, defeating **Gujarat Titans (GT)** by 5 wickets in the final held at the **Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad**.

Led by **Rajat Patidar**, RCB achieved their **second consecutive championship**, becoming the **third franchise in IPL history** to defend their title after **Chennai Super Kings** and **Mumbai Indians**. The winning team was awarded a **prize money of ₹20 crore**, while the runner-up received **₹12.5 crore**.

Virat Kohli (RCB) was named the **Player of the Match** in the final and became the **first cricketer to complete 9,000 runs in the IPL**. **Kagiso Rabada** of GT claimed the **Purple Cap** with **29 wickets**.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi of **Rajasthan Royals** secured the **Orange Cap** for scoring the most runs (**776 runs**). He also received **Player of the Series, Emerging Player of the Season, Most Valuable Player (MVP), Best Strike Rate Award, Fantasy Player of the Season, and the Most Sixes Award**.

U17 ASIAN WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

India has won **10 medals** including **2 gold, 3 silver**, and **5 bronze** at the **U17 Asian Wrestling Championships 2026** held in **Da Nang, Vietnam**.

The championship was organised by the **United World Wrestling (UWW)**. In the **Women’s Wrestling (WW) category**, **Diksha (43 kg)** and **Garima (73 kg)** have won **gold medals**.

United World Wrestling (UWW):

President – Nenad Lalovic

Headquarters – Lausanne, Switzerland

Established in – 1912

SAFF WOMEN CHAMPIONSHIP

India has won the **8th edition of the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Women’s Championship title**, defeating the defending champion **Bangladesh** by **3-1** in the final. The tournament was held at the **Fatorda Stadium (Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium) in Goa** and featured **6 participating nations**.

Individual honours were awarded to **Sanfida Nongrum (Most Valuable Player or MVP)**, **Aveka Singh (top scorer with 4 goals)**, and **Panthoi Chanu Elangbam (Best Goalkeeper)**. **Nepal received the Fair Play Award**. It is to be noted that this victory marks a **record-extending 6th SAFF Women’s Championship title for India**.

KS BHARAT RETIRES

KS Bharat, an **Indian wicketkeeper-batter**, has announced his retirement from international cricket after a **7-Test career**. He now intends to pursue opportunities in **overseas T20 leagues**.

In domestic cricket, he represented the **Andhra cricket team** and holds the distinction of being the **first wicketkeeper-batter to score a triple century in the Ranji Trophy**.

NORWAY CHESS 2026

The **14th edition** of the annual international chess tournament, **Norway Chess 2026**, was held in **Oslo, Norway**, featuring both the **Open section** and the **3rd Norway Chess Women tournament**. Both tournaments featured a **prize fund of NOK 1.69 million each**, with the winner of each section receiving **NOK 700,000**.

Indian Grandmaster (GM) **Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa** won the **Open section** with **18 points**, becoming the **first Indian to claim the title** after defeating **Vincent Keymer** of Germany in the final round. GM **Bibisara Assaubayeva** of **Kazakhstan** secured the title in the **3rd Norway Chess Women tournament**.

ASIAN U20 ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The **22nd edition** of the **Asian U20 Athletics Championships 2026** was held at the **Kai Tak Youth Sports Ground** in **Hong Kong, China**, featuring **45 sporting events**. The event was organised by the **Asian Athletics Association (AAA)**.

China topped the medal tally with **25 medals (14 gold)**, followed by **India** in **second position** with **19 medals (10 gold, 5 silver, and 4 bronze)**. **Japan** secured the third position.

Indian gold medalists include **Nitin Gupta** (Men 5000m Race Walk), **Amanat Kamboj** (Women Discus Throw), **Pooja Singh** (Women High Jump), **Muskan** (Women 5000m), and the **Women 4x400m Relay Team** comprising **Bhumika, Tahura, Sehnoor, and Neeru**.

U18 HOCKEY ASIA CUP

India, captained by **Ketan Kushwaha**, clinched the **gold medal** at the **Hockey U18 Asia Cup 2026** by defeating **Japan 4-1** in the final of the men's category. The tournament, organized by the **Asian Hockey Federation (AHF)**, was held in **Kakamigahara, Japan**.

Ashish Purti was named **Player of the Match** in the final and finished as the **tournament's top scorer with 13 goals**, while **Ayush Rajak** was adjudged the **Best Goalkeeper**.

The **Indian Women's U18 Hockey Team**, led by captain **Sweetey Kujur**, secured the **bronze medal** after a 3-0 victory over **South Korea**. **China** claimed the **gold medal** in the women's category by defeating Japan 2-1, while **Nousheen Naz** of India emerged as the **top scorer with 12 goals**.

WORLD YOGASANA CHAMPIONSHIP 2026

The **World Yogasana Championship 2026** was held at the **EKA Arena in Ahmedabad, Gujarat**. The championship was organized by **World Yogasana, Yogasana Bharat**, and the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)**. The official mascot of the event was '**Veer the Lion**'.

India dominated the medal tally by securing **114 medals (102 gold, 9 silver, and 3 bronze)** with a **122-member contingent**. **Abhay Burman** secured the **first gold medal** for India. **Japan** ranked **second** with 3 gold medals, followed by **Argentina** in the **third** position.

Indian Olympic Association:

President – PT Usha

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 1927

FRENCH OPEN 2026

The **125th edition** of the **French Open 2026** was held at **Stade Roland Garros** in **Paris, France**.

Alexander Zverev (Germany) won the **men's singles title** by defeating **Flavio Cobolli** (Italy), while **Mirra Andreeva** (Russia) won the **women's singles title** by defeating **Maja Chwalinska** (Poland). The men's and women's singles champions was awarded €2.8 million.

Marcel Granollers (Spain) and **Horacio Zeballos** (Argentina) retained the **men's doubles title (Jacques-Brugnon Cup)**. **Katerina Siniakova** (Czechia) and **Taylor Townsend** (USA) won the **women's doubles title (Simonne-Mathieu Cup)**, while **Sara Errani and Andrea Vavassori** (Italy) won the **mixed doubles title (Marcel-Bernard Cup)**.

ASIAN INDIVIDUAL CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

Savitha Baskar, a **19-year-old Indian International Master (IM)**, has **won the gold medal** on tie-breaks at the **Women's Asian Individual Chess Championship 2026**, held in **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**.

Afruza Khamdamova of Uzbekistan secured the **silver medal**, while **Song Yuxin of China** claimed the **bronze**. In the **Open section** of the championship, **Kong Xiangrui of China** won the **gold medal**.

YOUNGEST MONACO GP WINNER

Andrea Kimi Antonelli, an **Italian driver** representing the **Mercedes Formula 1 (F1) team**, has won the **2026 Monaco Grand Prix (GP)**. He becomes the **youngest winner in the history of the event**.

KANE WILLIAMSON RETIRES FROM CRICKET

Kane Williamson, former captain of the **New Zealand cricket team**, has **announced his retirement from international cricket with immediate effect**.

He concluded his career as **New Zealand's all-time leading run-scorer** with **19,346 international runs**.

SPANISH GRAND PRIX

Lewis Hamilton, a British national racing for Scuderia Ferrari HP, has won the Formula One (F1) Spanish Grand Prix 2026.

FIH HOCKEY WOMEN NATIONS CUP

India has won the 2025–26 International Hockey Federation (FIH) Hockey Women’s Nations Cup by defeating New Zealand 2–0 in the final held at the North Harbour Hockey Stadium, Auckland. This marks India’s second title in the tournament, which featured 8 top-tier nations.

Lalremsiami (India) was awarded the ‘Player of the Match’ in the final. Ashley Sessa (USA) was named the ‘Best Player’ of the tournament and shared the ‘Joint Top Scorer’ title with Deepika Sehrawat (India), with both scoring 6 goals. Grace O’Hanlon (New Zealand) was named the ‘Best Goalkeeper’. The USA secured the bronze medal in the competition.

DOHA DIAMOND LEAGUE

The 28th edition of the annual outdoor track and field meeting, the Doha Diamond League (DDL), was held at the Suhaim bin Hamad Stadium in Doha, Qatar.

Rumesh Pathirage, a Sri Lankan athlete, won the men’s javelin throw event with a throw of 88.68 m. Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra finished fourth in the event with a best throw of 85.69 m.

ASIAN RELAYS CHAMPIONSHIPS

India participated in the 2nd edition of the Asian Relays Championships held in Shangyu, China. The Indian contingent secured 3 medals, including a gold medal in the women’s 4x100m relay (season-best performance), a silver medal in the mixed 4x400m relay, and a bronze medal in the mixed 4x100m relay.

It is to be noted that India is scheduled to host the 2027 Asian Relays Championships in Chandigarh.

AVC MEN’S VOLLEYBALL CUP

The 6th edition of the Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) Men’s Volleyball Cup (formerly known as the AVC Men’s Challenge Cup) was held at the Veer Savarkar Sports Complex in Ahmedabad. Indonesia won its first gold medal after defeating South Korea by 3–0 in the final, while India secured the bronze medal.

Following this tournament, the Indian men’s volleyball team improved its Federation Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB) World Ranking from 60th to 42nd place. Individual awards: Boy Arnez Arabi (Indonesia) – Most Valuable Player (MVP); Vladislav Mastikhin (Kazakhstan) – Top Scorer; Anand Kottarathil (India) – Best Libero.

BOOKS

NEW BOOK BY SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN

Former Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu and former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda have launched a book titled “Apnapan: Narendra Modi Sang Mere Anubhav”.

The book is authored by Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and published by Prabhat Prakashan Pvt Ltd.

BOOK ON INDIA OLYMPIC HOCKEY TRIUMPH

PT Usha, the President of Indian Olympic Association, and Dr. Dilip Tirkey, the President of Hockey India, have released a book titled “India’s Olympic Gold: Hockey Triumph at Amsterdam” in New Delhi.

Authored by hockey historian K Arumugam and published by Stick2Hockey, the book commemorates the 98th anniversary of the Indian Men’s Hockey Team winning their first Olympic Gold medal at the 1928 Amsterdam Olympics.

BOOK ON OPERATION SINDOOR

Union Minister Rajnath Singh has released a commemorative volume titled “Operation Sindoor” in New Delhi.

The book documents the experiences and testimonies of 100 personnel from the Indian Armed Forces who participated in the operation. The volume was compiled under the guidance of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan, with publication support provided by the United Service Institution of India (USI).

BOOK ON CAG INTERVENTIONS

Vice President CP Radhakrishnan has released a book titled “When Audit Matters: CAG Interventions That Made a Difference” at Uprashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi.

The book is edited by former **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)** of India **Vinod Rai** and is published by **Rupa Publications India**. It demonstrates how **effective auditing** enhances government systems and reinforces public trust.

NEW BOOK ON AGATTHIYAR

Vice President CP Radhakrishnan has released a book titled “**Agatthiyar - The Unifier**” at **Upashtrapati Bhavan** in **New Delhi**.

The book is authored by **O Shama Bhatt** and **Dr. MN Sudha**, with a **Tamil translation** by **Professor Kalyani**. It is published by **Kalaimagal**, the Tamil literary magazine.

NEW BOOK ON VIP CULTURE

Vice President CP Radhakrishnan has released a book titled “**VIP Culture in India: Power, Privilege and the Distance from Democracy**”.

The book is authored by **Nabam Rebia** and co-authored by **Sandeep Kumar**, incorporating references to the **civilisational and intellectual traditions of India**.

NEW BOOK ON IIT STORY

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has launched a book titled “**IIT: The Story of India’s Most Prestigious Educational Ecosystem**” at the **IIT Delhi**. The book is authored by **Prabhat Kumar** and published by **HarperCollins India**.

OBITUARY

SHYAM LAL MEENA PASSED AWAY

Shyam Lal Meena, a **veteran Indian Olympian archer**, passed away at the age of 61. He was a recipient of the **Arjuna Award** in 1989.

BASHIR BADR PASSED AWAY

Dr. Bashir Badr, a **renowned Urdu poet**, passed away at the age of 91. He was a recipient of the **Padma Shri** in 1999 and the **Sahitya Akademi Award (Urdu)** in 1999 for his **collection of 69 ghazals**.

SUMAN KALYANPUR PASSED AWAY

Suman Kalyanpur, a **legendary Indian playback singer**, passed away at the age of 89. She was a recipient of the **Padma Bhushan** in 2023.

DHANENDRA KUMAR PASSED AWAY

Dhanendra Kumar, the **first chairman** of the **Competition Commission of India (CCI)**, passed away at the age of **80**.

RAJA RANDHIR SINGH PASSED AWAY

Raja Randhir Singh, a renowned **Indian shooter** and **five-time Olympian**, passed away at the age of 79.

He was honoured with the **Arjuna Award** in 1979 by the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS)** for his contributions to shooting sports.

DR SUBHASH C KASHYAP PASSED AWAY

Dr Subhash C Kashyap, a distinguished **constitutional expert** and **former Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha**, passed away at the age of 97. He was a recipient of the **Padma Bhushan** in 2015.

He **served the Parliament of India for over 37 years**, from the first Lok Sabha under Jawaharlal Nehru to the 9th Lok Sabha. He held the office of **Secretary-General from 1983 to 1990**.

MARCIA LUCAS PASSED AWAY

Marcia Lou Griffin, professionally known as **Marcia Lucas**, an **Oscar winning film editor**, passed away at the age of 80.

She was known for her work on the original ‘**Star Wars**’ trilogy and won an **Oscar for Best Film Editing** for ‘**Star Wars: Episode IV – A New Hope**’ in 1978.

KP DHANAPALAN PASSED AWAY

KP Dhanapalan, a senior **Congress leader** and **former Member of Parliament**, passed away at the age of 76. He represented the **Chalakudy Lok Sabha constituency** from 2009 to 2014.

BALWINDER SINGH PASSED AWAY

Balwinder Singh Dhaliwal, a **former Asian Games shot put bronze medallist** popularly known as ‘**Baba Dhaliwal**’, passed away at the age of 67. He was a recipient of the **Arjuna Award** in 1987.

JASPAL RANA PASSED AWAY

Jaspal Rana, the **Indian shooting legend** and **national coach**, passed away at the age of 49.

He remains the **most successful athlete of India in the Commonwealth Games** with **15 medals**, including **9 gold, across four editions**. He was a recipient of the **Arjuna Award** in **1994**, **Padma Shri** in **1997**, and the **Dronacharya Award** in **2020**.

BHARATHIRAJA PASSED AWAY

Bharathiraja, a **veteran Tamil filmmaker and actor**, passed away at the age of 85. He was a recipient of the **Padma Shri** in 2004 for his contributions to the field of **Arts**.

Throughout his career, he won **6 National Film Awards** and **3 Filmfare Awards South**.

SALIM KUMAR PASSED AWAY

Salim Kumar, a **veteran Malayalam actor**, passed away at the age of 56. He was the recipient of the **National Film Award for Best Actor** in 2010 for his performance in the film ‘**Adaminte Makan Abu**’.

THAI PRINCESS PASSED AWAY

Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol of **Thailand**, a **lawyer and diplomat**, passed away at the age of 47. She was the **eldest child** of **King Maha Vajiralongkorn**.

GAVRI DEVI PASSED AWAY

Gavri Devi, a prominent **Mand folk singer**, passed away at the age of 98. She was honoured with the **Sangeet Natak Akademi Award** in 1986 and the **Rajasthan Ratna** in 2013 for her contributions to folk music.

LT GEN VIJAY OBEROI PASSED AWAY

Lieutenant General Vijay Oberoi, the former **Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS)** of the **Indian Army (IA)**, passed away at the age of **84**.

ROBERT AF THURMAN PASSED AWAY

Robert AF Thurman, a renowned **American scholar of Tibetan Buddhism**, passed away at the age of 84.

He was a recipient of the **Padma Shri** award in **2020** for his contributions to **Literature and Education**.

FRANCOIS ENGLERT PASSED AWAY

Francois Englert, a **Belgian physicist**, passed away at the age of 93. He was a foundational scientist behind the theoretical framework that led to the discovery of the **Higgs boson**, which explains how fundamental particles acquire mass.

He was a recipient of the **Nobel Prize in Physics** in 2013, sharing the honour with **Peter Higgs**.

K BHAGYARAJ PASSED AWAY

K Bhagyaraj, a **veteran Tamil actor, director, and screenwriter**, passed away at the age of 73. He was a recipient of the **South Indian International Movie Awards (SIIMA) Lifetime Achievement Award** in 2014.

DAYS

COMMONWEALTH DAY IN INDIA

Day – 24 May
Commemorating – The birth anniversary of Queen Victoria in 1819

NATIONAL ANTI-TERRORISM DAY

Day – May 21
Commemorating – Death anniversary of former PM Rajiv Gandhi who was assassinated in Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu in 1991

INTERNATIONAL EVEREST DAY

Day – May 29
Commemorating – First ever Mt Everest summit by Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay in 1953

WORLD FOOTBALL DAY

Day – 25 May
Observed by – 2024

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF UN PEACEKEEPERS

Day – May 29

Theme 2026 – “Invest in Peace”

Observed since – 2003

Commemorating – The 78th anniversary of UN Peacekeeping, which began in 1948 with the deployment of military observers to the Middle East under the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO).

WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY

Day – May 31

Theme 2026 – “Unmasking the Appeal – Countering Nicotine and Tobacco Addiction”

Observed by – WHO

Observed since – 1988

HINDI JOURNALISM DAY (HINDI PATRAKARITA DIWAS)

Day – May 30

Commemorating – The launch of the first Hindi newspaper “Udant Martand” in Calcutta by Pandit Jugal Kishore Shukla in 1826

WORLD BICYCLE DAY

Day – June 3

Theme 2026 – “Cycling for a Greener Future”

Observed since – 2018

Initiated by – Leszek J Sibilski, a Polish-American social scientist

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Day – June 5

Theme 2026 – “Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future”

Observed by – United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Observed since – 1973

Host – Azerbaijan

WORLD OCEANS DAY

Day – 8 June

Theme 2026 – “Reimagine: Beyond the world we know, a new relationship with our ocean”

Observed since – 2009

WORLD BLOOD DONOR DAY

Day – 14 June

Theme 2026 – “One Drop of Humanity. Give Blood. Save Lives.”

Observed since – 2004

Commemorating – The birth anniversary of Karl Landsteiner, who discovered the ABO Blood Group System

GLOBAL WIND DAY

Day – June 15

Theme 2026 – “Our Wind, Our Community”

Observed since – 2007

NATIONAL READING DAY

Day – June 19

Observed since – 1996

Commemorating – The contributions of PN Panicker, known as the Father of the Library and Literacy Movement in Kerala

WORLD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT

Day – June 17

Theme 2026 – “Rangelands: Recognize. Respect. Restore.”

Observed since – 1995

Commemorating – Foundation anniversary of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

Host 2026 – Kenya

WORLD SICKLE CELL DAY

Day – June 19

Theme 2026 – “Closing the Survival Gap: Equity in Sickle Cell Disease”

Observed by – UN and WHO

Observed since – 2009

WORLD REFUGEE DAY

Day – June 20

Theme 2026 – “Until Everyone Is Safe”

Observed by – WHO and UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Observed since – 2001

Commemorating – Signing of the 1951 Refugee Convention at a UN conference in Geneva, Switzerland

Publication Guide

Volume

#1.8

Issue

#D1

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The Issue tag indicates the Day or Week or Month. ‘D’ indicates Day, and ‘M’ indicates Month.

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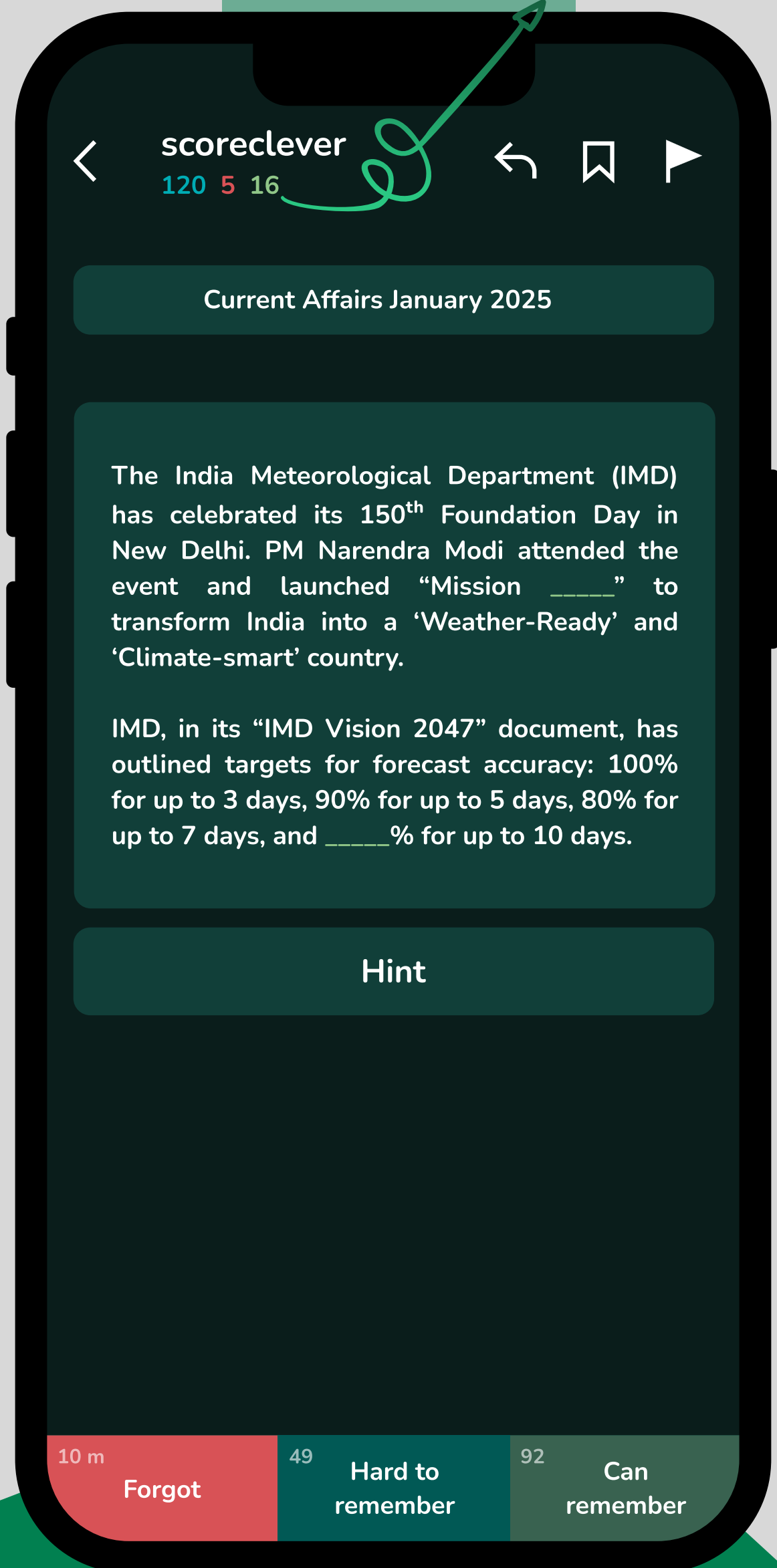
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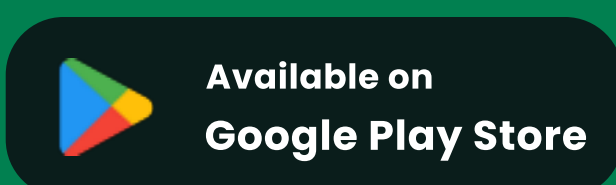
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