

Weekly Current Affairs One Liners (23rd Feb to 01st of March 2026)

BAFTA 2026: Check Full List of Winners

BAFTA Film Awards 2026 – Winners List

Major Awards

- **Best Film** – One Battle After Another
- **Outstanding British Film** – Hamnet
- **Outstanding Debut by a British Writer, Director or Producer** – My Father's Shadow
- **Film Not in the English Language** – Sentimental Value
- **Documentary** – Mr. Nobody Against Putin
- **Animated Film** – Zootropolis 2 (Zootopia 2)
- **Children's & Family Film** – Boong

Direction & Writing

- **Director** – Paul Thomas Anderson (One Battle After Another)
- **Original Screenplay** – Ryan Coogler (Sinners)
- **Adapted Screenplay** – Paul Thomas Anderson (One Battle After Another)

Acting Awards

- **Leading Actress** – Jessie Buckley (Hamnet)
- **Leading Actor** – Robert Aramayo (I Swear)
- **Supporting Actress** – Wunmi Mosaku (Sinners)
- **Supporting Actor** – Sean Penn (One Battle After Another)
- **EE Rising Star Award** – Robert Aramayo

Technical Awards

- **Casting** – I Swear (Lauren Evans)
- **Cinematography** – One Battle After Another (Michael Bauman)
- **Editing** – One Battle After Another (Andy Jurgensen)
- **Costume Design** – Frankenstein (Kate Hawley)
- **Make Up & Hair** – Frankenstein
- **Original Score** – Sinners (Ludwig Göransson)
- **Production Design** – Frankenstein
- **Sound** – F1
- **Special Visual Effects** – Avatar: Fire And Ash



Short Films

- **British Short Animation** – Two Black Boys In Paradise
- **British Short Film** – This Is Endometriosis

Special Honours

- **BAFTA Fellowship:** Donna Langley
- **Outstanding British Contribution to Cinema:** Clare Binns

About BAFTA

- The British Academy Film Awards (BAFTAs) is an annual award ceremony honoring excellence in British and international films.
- Presented by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA).
- First held on 29 May 1949 in the United Kingdom.
- Officially known as the EE British Academy Film Awards since 2013.
- Broadcast by the BBC since 1956.

National Affairs

- **Delhi-Meerut Namu Bharat Corridor Inaugurated** PM Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS), the 82 km Delhi-Meerut Namu Bharat Corridor. The corridor operates at 160 kmph with four commissioned stations, creating India's first integrated intercity-intra-city rapid transit model. The 21 km Meerut Metro operates at 120 kmph, with both systems sharing the same platform from Sarai Kale Khan station.
- **Cabinet Approves Kerala Renaming to Keralam** The Union Cabinet approved the proposal to rename Kerala as Keralam under Article 3 of the Constitution, following unanimous resolutions by the Kerala Legislative Assembly. The change requires modification of the First and Fourth Schedules of the Constitution and must be passed by Parliament with Presidential assent.
- **PRAHAAR: India's National Counter-Terrorism Policy** The Ministry of Home Affairs launched PRAHAAR, India's comprehensive counter-terrorism policy with seven pillars: Prevention, Response, Aggregating capacities, Human Rights & Rule of Law, Attenuating radicalization conditions, Aligning global efforts, and Recovery & resilience. The policy adopts a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach combining intelligence agencies, law enforcement, and community participation.
- **Bonded Labour System Abolition Act 50th Anniversary** India marked the Golden Jubilee of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, which abolished bonded labour, cancelled debt bondage, and prohibited forced labour. The Ministry of Labour & Employment oversees implementation through District Magistrates and Vigilance Committees, having liberated over 3 lakh bonded labourers since 1976.

- **ESIC Celebrates 75th Foundation Year** The Employees' State Insurance Corporation marked its platinum jubilee with expansion from 2 lakh beneficiaries (1952) to 15+ crore currently, operating 166 hospitals, 17 medical colleges, and 1,600+ dispensaries. Commemorative coins and coffee table books were released, with new MoUs signed for healthcare integration with Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY.
- **E20 Petrol Mandate from April 1, 2026** The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas mandated the sale of E20 petrol (20% ethanol blend) with minimum RON 95 across all states from April 1, 2026. This supports India's Ethanol Blended Programme (launched 2003), reduces crude oil imports, lowers carbon emissions, and supports agricultural economy through biofuel integration.
- **Parliamentary Friendship Groups with 64 Nations** Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla constituted Parliamentary Friendship Groups with 64 countries, comprising 11 members each from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. This initiative enables direct interaction among lawmakers, facilitates legislative experience sharing, and promotes cooperation on trade, technology, culture, and global challenges.
- **India Removes MFN Clause from France Tax Treaty** The India-France Double Taxation Avoidance Convention (originally signed 1992) was amended, removing the Most Favoured Nation clause. Capital gains from share sales now taxable in company residence country; dividend taxation revised to 5% (10%+ shareholding) and 15% (others); new Service PE concept introduced for taxable service activities.
- **Skill India Digital Hub Campaign Launch** Union MoS Jayant Chaudhary launched "Badhna Hai Toh Yahan Judna Hai" campaign with Amitabh Bachchan as brand ambassador. The Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) platform has onboarded 1.5+ crore candidates offering AI-enabled, industry-aligned courses in 21 Indian languages with personalized recommendations.
- **PM Modi Receives Knesset Medal** PM Narendra Modi became the first global leader to receive the Speaker of the Knesset Medal, becoming also the first Indian PM to address Israel's Knesset during a two-day state visit (Feb 25-26, 2026). High-level discussions covered defence, innovation, security, agriculture, and water management.
- **Madhya Pradesh Budget 2026-27: ₹4.38 Trillion** Finance Minister Jagdish Devda presented ₹4.38 trillion budget under GYANII model, with ₹1,27,555 crore women welfare allocation. Ladli Behna Yojana distributed ₹52,304 crore since 2023 (₹1,500/month to 1.25 crore women). ₹3,600 crore allocated for Simhastha Kumbh 2028 infrastructure.
- **Jharkhand Budget 2026-27: ₹1.58 Lakh Crore** Finance Minister Radhakrishna Kishore presented "Abua Dishom" budget (₹13,000 crore increase from previous year). Social sector received ₹67,459.54 crore; Gender budget ₹34,211.27 crore (232 schemes); Education ₹18,000 crore; Healthcare ₹7,990.30 crore; Agriculture ₹4,884.20 crore.
- **Meghalaya Budget 2026-27: ₹32,023 Crore** CM Conrad K. Sangama presented 9th consecutive budget with ₹32,023 crore outlay and ₹2,672 crore fiscal deficit (3.5% GSDP). CapEx allocation ₹10,211 crore (seven-fold since 2017-18). State targeting sustained ~10% GSDP growth; key allocation to Education ₹3,347 crore, Power & IT ₹1,272 crore.
- **Uttar Pradesh: IBM AI GovTech Centre Inaugurated** CM Yogi Adityanath inaugurated IBM's AI GovTech Innovation Centre in Lucknow to design AI-based governance solutions. IBM signed two MoUs: with IT & Electronics for AI applications across departments; with School Education to introduce AI literacy (Classes 6-12). UP advancing in AI, Robotics, Drone Technology, and Quantum Computing.
- **Punjab Launches Meri Rasoi Scheme** CM Bhagwant Mann announced "Meri Rasoi" scheme providing free food kits to ~40 lakh blue card holder families for 3 months. First phase (Apr-Jun 2026): 2kg chana dal, 2kg sugar, 1kg salt, 200g turmeric, 1L mustard oil per family. Aims to address nutritional gaps and reduce malnutrition.
- **Delhi Approves 20% Agniveer Quota in Police** Lt. Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena approved 20% reservation for ex-Agniveers in Delhi Police constable (executive) posts with 3-5 year age relaxation beyond 25-year limit and exemption from Physical Efficiency Tests. Addresses post-service employment pathways for Agniveers under Agnipath framework.
- **Delhi's Rah-Veer Scheme Implementation** Delhi government implemented Rah-Veer Scheme offering ₹25,000 cash incentive plus certificate for helping seriously injured road accident victims reach hospital within "golden hour." National recognition awards ₹1 lakh to 10 outstanding Rah-Veers annually. Good Samaritan provisions under Motor Vehicles Act protect helpers legally.
- **Assam: 10th Police Battalion Headquarters Foundation Laid** Union Home Minister Amit Shah laid foundation stone for Assam Police 10th Battalion HQ in Kamrup across 124 bighas. Will accommodate 750 male and 450 female personnel with barracks, hospital, training centre, firing range, and surveillance facilities. Represents expanded police infrastructure amid strict anti-infiltration measures.

States in the News

- **Gujarat Budget 2026-27: ₹4.08 Lakh Crore** Finance Minister Kanu Desai presented Gujarat's largest-ever budget (5th consecutive by him) with ₹4.08 lakh crore outlay. Key allocations: ₹5,096 crore tourism (2026 declared Tourism Year), ₹1,571 crore police housing (20,444 homes), ₹1,286 crore green buses (500 e-buses, 500 mini-buses), ₹1,278 crore sports for 2030 Commonwealth Games.

- **West Bengal: Banglar Yuva Sathi Scheme** CM Mamata Banerjee announced "Banglar Yuva Sathi" scheme commencing April 1, 2026, providing ₹1,500 monthly stipend (via DBT) for up to 5 years to unemployed youth (aged 21-40, passed Madhyamik). Registration held Feb 15-26, 2026 through Assembly constituency camps.
- **Rajasthan: Homestay Scheme 2026** Rajasthan government introduced homestay scheme allowing local families to host domestic and international tourists, promoting rural tourism and livelihood diversification.
- **Haryana: CM Shri Schools** Haryana announced CM Shri Schools adopting PM Shri model with CBSE curriculum and 25% RTE reserved seats for economically weaker sections.

International Affairs

- **India Joins Pax Silica Coalition (12th Member)** India formally joined the US-led Pax Silica Coalition (launched Dec 12, 2025, Washington DC) as 12th member alongside USA, Japan, ROK, Singapore, UK, Israel, Australia, Greece, Qatar, UAE, Netherlands. India contributes engineering talent, 2-nm chip design, 10 semiconductor plants under development, and 8.52 MT rare earth reserves aligned with National Critical Mineral Mission.
- **India-Israel Elevate to Special Strategic Partnership** During PM Modi's historic 2026 state visit, India and Israel elevated bilateral relations to "Special Strategic Partnership" with discussions on defence cooperation, innovation, cybersecurity, high-tech manufacturing, agriculture, and services.
- **India-Israel FTA Negotiations Commence** First round of India-Israel Free Trade Agreement negotiations began Feb 23-26, 2026 in New Delhi covering trade in goods, services, Rules of Origin, SPS/TBT measures, customs procedures, IPR. Total merchandise trade stood at USD 3.62 billion (FY24-25).
- **India-GCC FTA Negotiations Begin** India and GCC signed Joint Statement for comprehensive FTA marking economic integration deepening. GCC accounts for ~15% of India's global trade with bilateral trade valued USD 178.56 billion (FY25). Focus areas: tariff reduction, market access, services (IT, finance, healthcare, education).
- **India-Kenya Launch DigiLocker Pilot** India and Kenya signed Implementation Framework Agreement to launch DigiLocker pilot enabling secure digital document storage and real-time verification for Kenya. India's DigiLocker serves 500+ million users with 9+ billion documents across 2,000+ services, demonstrating Digital Public Infrastructure success.
- **India-Sweden AI Cooperation Pact** India and Sweden signed Statement of Intent at India AI Impact Summit 2026 to launch SITAC AI corridor strengthening bilateral AI cooperation and innovation collaboration.
- **India-Nepal Environmental Cooperation MoU** Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change signed MoU with Nepal's Ministry of Forests & Environment (Feb 25, 2026) for joint efforts in forest protection, wildlife conservation, biodiversity, and climate change addressing transboundary ecosystems in Himalayan and Terai regions.
- **South Korea: Ex-President Yoon Life Imprisonment** Former South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol sentenced to life imprisonment for 2024 martial law imposition (deployed military around National Assembly Dec 3, 2024; lasted 6 hours before lawmakers voted repeal). First former president sentenced to life since Chun Doo-hwan (1996).
- **Saudi Arabia Poultry Import Ban** Saudi Arabia banned poultry meat and table egg imports from 40 countries including India, Bangladesh, China, UK, Germany, South Korea over Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and Newcastle disease concerns. Partial restrictions on 16 countries; heat-treated certified products exempt.
- **Brazil State Visit: India-Brazil Ties** Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva visited India (Feb 18-22, 2026) announcing bilateral trade target USD 30 billion by 2030 (current USD 15.21 billion). Multiple MoUs signed in MSMEs, postal services, pharmaceuticals, rare earths, steel, digital trade (e-COO), education, cinema preservation. Tourist/business visas extended 5 to 10 years.
- **Netherlands: Rob Jetten Youngest PM at 38** Rob Jetten (Democrats 66) sworn in as Netherlands' youngest-ever Prime Minister at 38, becoming first openly gay head of government. Leads minority coalition (66/150 seats) with CDA and VVD, requiring opposition support for legislation.
- **Peru Interim President: Jose Maria Balcasar** Congress elected 83-year-old Jose Maria Balcasar as interim president after Jose Jeri's impeachment.
- **Switzerland to Host 2027 AI Summit** Switzerland announced hosting 2027 AI Summit in Geneva; UAE set for 2028 edition. Switzerland coordinates with India, South Korea, France, Sweden on inclusive AI governance frameworks.
- **Japan's Cherry Blossom Festival Cancellation** Japan cancelled decade-old Arakurayama Sengen Park Cherry Blossom Festival in Fujiyoshida due to overtourism causing traffic, littering, trespassing, and defecating in private gardens. Festival operated since 2016; Japan received 43 million tourists in 2025.
- **EU Legal Migration Gateway Office in New Delhi** European Union launched European Legal Gateway Office in New Delhi as first such office in partner country, facilitating safe/legal migration of Indian students, researchers, professionals to EU member states. Provides mobility pathway information, qualification standards across 27 EU states via digital platform.

- **Poland Withdraws from Anti-Personnel Mine Treaty** Poland's withdrawal from 1997 Ottawa Convention took legal effect; plans to deploy anti-personnel and anti-tank landmines along eastern borders as "Eastern Shield" (Tarcza Wschód) defence strategy. Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Ukraine followed suit citing security concerns.
- **US Board of Peace Gaza Reconstruction Meeting** President Trump's Board of Peace (27 member countries) held first meeting in Washington, D.C. discussing Gaza reconstruction. 9 member countries pledged USD 7 billion collectively; US pledged USD 10 billion additional. India attended as observer, balancing engagement with strategic autonomy.

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- **World Bank MIGA Guarantee for SBI Solar** Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (World Bank) issued USD 197.67 million 5-year guarantee to Citibank for SBI non-shareholder loan refinancing Grid-connected Rooftop Solar Photovoltaic systems. Original IBRD financing (USD 500 million, 2016); transaction frees lending capacity for additional World Bank financing to India.
- **GIFT City-AJNIFM MoU: Finance Education** GIFT City signed MoU with Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management (AJNIFM), Faridabad promoting postgraduate/executive programmes, collaborative research, and academic exchanges in international finance and FinTech. 5-day industry immersion programme launched for MBA students.
- **ICIRA and NLU Jodhpur: Infosec Chair Established** IIRIS Consulting and National Law University Jodhpur signed MoU establishing India's first dedicated Chair in Information Security and Forensic Science at law university. Joint Certificate Programme on Cyber-Led Forensic Investigation & Diligence (CLFID) launching under theme "Bridging Legal Theory & Investigative Practice in Digital Age."

- **NDMA-AcSIR-CSIR-NIScPR: Disaster Management** National Disaster Management Authority, Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research, and CSIR-NIScPR signed MoU strengthening disaster management research and response. PhD programme launching in disaster risk reduction; joint research, policy studies, and capacity-building in disaster resilience.
- **TEC and IIT Kharagpur: Telecom Research** Telecommunication Engineering Centre and IIT-Kharagpur signed MoU for advanced telecom research and global standardization. Focus areas: 6G architecture, AI-based EMF monitoring, satellite systems, integrated networks for emergency connectivity. Strengthens India's ITU role.
- **Food Corporation of India-World Food Programme** Food Corporation of India and World Food Programme signed 5-year MoU supplying 2 lakh metric tonnes rice annually (₹2,800/quintal until March 31, 2026). Partnership reinforces India's Zero Hunger commitment under SDG 2, supporting global humanitarian operations.
- **L&T Vyoma-Gujarat: 250 MW Data Centre** L&T Vyoma and Gujarat government signed MoU for feasibility study on 250 MW green AI-ready data centre at Dholera Special Investment Region (₹25,000 crore investment, operational 2028). Strengthens digital infrastructure for AI, advanced analytics, cloud computing.
- **NIPER-Boehringer Ingelheim: Pharma Education** National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education & Research Raebareli and Boehringer Ingelheim India signed MoU enhancing pharmaceutical education, research collaboration through guest lectures, expert interactions, training workshops. AMRITVA Cohort 2 launched with 5 innovators (3 faculty-led, 2 scholar-led projects) for research commercialization.
- **Kempegowda Airport-Frankfurt Airport: Cargo** Kempegowda International Airport Bengaluru and Frankfurt Airport Germany signed MoU strengthening air cargo connectivity between India and Europe. Focus on digital cargo corridor, pharma integrity standards, knowledge exchange during Air Cargo India 2026 (Feb 25-27).
- **Indo-French AI Health Centre Inauguration** Union Health Minister JP Nadda and French President Emmanuel Macron jointly inaugurated Indo-French Centre for Artificial Intelligence in Health at AIIMS New Delhi. Partnership with IIT Delhi, Sorbonne University, Paris Brain Institute. Focus on AI in healthcare, brain health, neuroscience, clinical decision support, responsible health data use.
- **India-Israel Defence MoU** India and Israel signed defence MoU for joint seminars, industrial collaboration, technology sharing. SIBAT (Israel Defence Directorate) facilitated B2B meetings between 30 Indian and 26 Israeli defence companies. Discussion on DAP 2026 modernizing defence procurement.



- **Embraer-Mahindra: C-390 MRO Facility** Brazilian aerospace manufacturer Embraer and Mahindra Group announced collaboration for Maintenance, Repair & Overhaul facility in India for C-390 Millennium military transport aircraft (subject to IAF selection under MTA procurement). Strategic Cooperation Agreement (Oct 2025) supports Make in India; MRO provides base/heavy maintenance, structural inspection, component repair, avionics support, training.
- **Tata Consumer-CSIR-NIIST: Food Tech Transfer** Tata Consumer Products formalized transfer of two food technologies from CSIR-National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science & Technology: "Smarter Rice" (nutritionally enhanced, lower GI, improved micronutrients) and "Coffee Crema Technology" (enhanced crema stability, aroma retention). Sponsored research agreement for Low-Sodium Salt Innovation targeting reduced sodium intake without taste compromise.
- **NIELIT-Andhra Pradesh: Quantum AI University** National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT) and Andhra Pradesh government signed MoU establishing India's first Quantum and Artificial Intelligence University campus in Amaravati. Focus on Quantum Computing, AI/ML, Quantum Communication & Cybersecurity, High Performance Computing, AI-Quantum Convergence.
- **ICRA Projects GDP Growth 7.2% Q3 FY26** ICRA Limited projected India's GDP growth easing to 7.2% in Q3 FY26 (Oct-Dec 2025) from 8.2% Q2. Services sector slowdown to 7.8% (from 9.2%), agriculture decline to ~3% (from 3.5%), industrial activity rise to 8.3% (highest 6 quarters). Moderation driven by unfavourable base effects, government capex contraction 23.4%, subdued state spending, weak merchandise/services exports.
- **RBI Raises Acquisition Financing Limit to 20%** Reserve Bank increased aggregate exposure limit for acquisition financing by banks from 10% to 20% of Tier-1 capital. Banks now finance up to 75% acquisition value (25% own funds required); aggregate CME capped 40% eligible capital. Eligible unlisted companies require minimum ₹500 crore net worth, 3-year profitability, investment-grade rating (BBB- or above).
- **RBI Issues NBFC Amendment Directions 2026** Reserve Bank issued NBFC Amendment Directions effective April 1, 2026 introducing "Unregistered Type I NBFC" category for entities with <₹1,000 crore assets without public funds/customer interface. Existing eligible NBFCs can apply deregistration via PRAVAAH portal until Sept 30, 2026. Exemption applies only registration requirements; RBI supervision and AML/PMLA compliance unchanged.
- **RBI Revises Lead Bank Scheme** Reserve Bank revised Lead Bank Scheme introducing 3-tier structure (Block Level Bankers Committee, District Consultative Committee, District Level Review Committee). One commercial bank designated Lead Bank per district with Lead District Manager. Banks maintain 60% CD Ratio for rural/semi-urban branches; below 40% CD reviewed by DCC with corrective action.
- **RBI Proposes Stricter Loan Recovery Agent Norms** Reserve Bank issued draft amendment directions standardizing loan recovery practices. Recovery agents must complete IIBF certification training; carry valid ID, authorization letters, loan notices; contact borrowers only 8AM-7PM; provide receipts for all collections. New framework effective July 1, 2026, enhancing consumer protection and ethical banking.
- **RBI Revises Kisan Credit Card Guidelines** Reserve Bank issued draft revised KCC guidelines expanding agricultural financing coverage. Crop seasons standardized 12 months (short-duration) and 18 months (long-duration); loan tenure extended 6 years; additional 20% credit limit for technology-driven agriculture (soil testing, weather forecasting, organic certification). Marginal farmers (<1 hectare) eligible; collateral waived for loans ≤₹2 lakh; crop hypothecation waived ≤₹3 lakh.

Books and Authors

- **Constitution Released in Tamil and Gujarati** Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan released updated Tamil and Gujarati editions of Indian Constitution on International Mother Language Day (Feb 21, 2026) at Rashtrapati Bhavan. Also launched 8th Edition Legal Glossary (English-Hindi) to simplify legal terminology. Constitution now available in Bodo, Dogri, Santhali, Nepali, and other languages—empowering citizens understanding rights and duties in mother tongues.
- **"Atal Bihari Vajpayee: The Eternal Statesman" Book Launch** Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan released coffee table book honoring Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Publication covers political journey and personal dimensions, highlighting commitment to dialogue, consensus-building, and democratic values. Three core pillars emphasized: dialogue over confrontation, democracy as foundation, development as priority.

Banking/Economy/Business News

- **RBI Launches Secure Data Centre in Odisha** Reserve Bank of India launched highly secure second data centre in Bhubaneswar, Odisha at Info Valley-II, Khordha (18.55 acres). Tier IV design certification facility managing currency supply, inter-bank digital payments, payment settlement systems, financial data monitoring. Primary data centre in Kharghar, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra.

- **RBI Tightens Responsible Business Conduct Rules** Reserve Bank issued draft Responsible Business Conduct Amendment Directions 2026 strengthening financial product marketing and sales practices. Direct Selling Agents (DSA)/Direct Marketing Agents (DMA) require separate application forms per product clearly specifying features, risks. Mis-selling results in full refund plus customer loss compensation per bank policy. Framework effective July 1, 2026.
- **World Bank GDP Projection** World Bank projects India's GDP growth maintaining strength through consumption-led economic expansion.
- **Ministry of Commerce: Merchandise Trade Indices Base Year** Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S) revised merchandise trade indices base year from 2012-13 to 2022-23. Revision recommended by committee headed by Nachiketa Chattopadhyay (ISI, Kolkata). Updated series includes monthly/quarterly/annual indices, PC classification-wise, SITC-wise, BEC-wise indices, bilateral region-wise indices (top 20 export-import partners), Terms of Trade indicators (Gross/Net/Income). Used by NAD-MoSPI for GDP deflators.
- **Union Finance Minister Launches NMP 2.0** Nirmala Sitharaman launched National Monetisation Pipeline 2.0 (NMP 2.0) targeting ₹16.72 lakh crore monetisation potential (FY25-26 to FY29-30) including ₹5.8 lakh crore private sector investment. NMP 1.0 achieved ~90% of ₹6 lakh crore target. Initiative recycles productive public assets, enables capex funding, reduces budgetary pressure supporting Viksit Bharat @2047.
- **New India Co-operative Bank Removed from Scheduled Banks List** New India Co-operative Bank Limited (Mumbai) removed from RBI Act 1934 Second Schedule effective Feb 2026 following voluntary amalgamation with Saraswat Co-operative Bank (approved Aug 2025) after misappropriation scam. Removal eliminates scheduled bank status, RBI refinance facility access, monetary policy participation, liquidity support mechanism eligibility.
- **RBI Releases REIT Lending Guidelines** Reserve Bank released draft amendment directions permitting banks lending to SEBI-registered REITs subject to prudential safeguards. Banks lend only SEBI-registered, 3-year+ operational REITs with positive net distributable cash flows (2-year history), no adverse regulatory action (3-year history). Aggregate exposure to REIT/SPVs/Holdcos cannot exceed 49% REIT asset value unless Board prescribes stricter limits.
- **RBI Issues REIT Lending Framework** Reserve Bank released regulations allowing banks to provide finance to Real Estate Investment Trusts with prudential safeguards ensuring financial stability and safe infrastructure financing channels in banking system.
- **Ministry of Finance Revokes CPR Registration** Ministry of Home Affairs revoked Foreign Contribution Regulation Amendment Act 2020 registration of Centre for Policy Research (New Delhi) alleging FCRA violations, affecting the public policy research institution.
- **IRFC Secures USD 400 Million ECB from Japanese Banks** Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited signed loan agreement with consortium (Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation and MUFG Bank through GIFT City branches) for USD 400 million External Commercial Borrowing. 5-year ECB benchmarked to Overnight TONAR as unsecured facility. Second overseas borrowing in FY26 (previous Dec 2025 USD 300 million).
- **NSE IX Launches Global Access Platform** National Stock Exchange International Exchange launched NSE IX Global Access platform for Indian retail investors and NRIs directly trading USA-listed stocks, debt, ETFs. Initial phase provides USA access with expansion to 30+ international markets (3-6 months). LRS framework (RBI) permits USD 250,000 annual overseas investment; investors transfer INR to NSE IX-designated bank account converted to USD for global investing. Regulated by IFSCA, complies LRS guidelines.
- **Amazon Overtakes Walmart: World's Largest by Revenue** Amazon surpassed Walmart becoming world's largest company by annual revenue (USD 717 billion vs Walmart USD 713.2 billion). Amazon Web Services cloud computing division critical to ascendance; without AWS, Amazon 2025 revenue USD 588 billion. Walmart operates 10,000+ physical stores globally; Amazon records 7 billion monthly website/app visits. Nvidia holds most valuable company position (USD 4.5 trillion market cap).
- **Hindustan Oil Exploration Company CEO Transition** Hindustan Oil Exploration Company Board approved Baroruchi Mishra as new Chief Executive Officer effective April 1, 2026. Senior upstream oil/gas executive with operational management, strategic planning experience. Appointment aims strengthening production efficiency, exploration portfolio, shareholder value creation in India's energy landscape.
- **RBI Allows Banks Direct REIT Lending** Reserve Bank allowed banks direct lending to Real Estate Investment Trusts with prudential safeguards deepening credit access for real estate sector, facilitating infrastructure financing.
- **Slice Small Finance Bank Appoints Rajan Bajaj MD & CEO** Slice Small Finance Bank appointed founder Rajan Bajaj as Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer effective Feb 17, 2026 (RBI approved). Bajaj founded Slice 2016 (fintech startup, digital lending); 2024 merger with North East Small Finance Bank created regulated SFB. Bank raised USD 250+ million (Tiger Global, Insight Partners, Advent International); serves 20+ million registered users, employs 3,000+. Previous: Flipkart product team; Slice Executive Director; 2019 established Quadrillion Finance NBFC (merged into Slice banking entity).

- **Asian Development Bank USD 108 Million Financing** Asian Development Bank signed senior secured debt financing package (USD 108 million/₹983 crore) with Aavas Financiers Limited expanding affordable housing and MSME lending in underserved states. USD 8 million concessional debt via CANPA (Canadian Climate Nature Fund). USD 150,000 technical assistance strengthening capacity and green housing awareness.
- **FSIB Recommends Hitesh Joshi as GIC Re CMD** Financial Services Institutions Bureau recommended Hitesh Rameshchandra Joshi for Chairman-cum-Managing Director position, General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re). ACC will confirm final appointment. Joshi is Insurance Institute fellow with extensive corporate experience, currently serving as GIC Re Executive Director (July 9, 2024) and additional charge as CMD (Oct 1, 2025) following Ramaswamy Narayanan superannuation.

Appointments/Resignations

- **Nidhi Chhibber Additional Charge as NITI Aayog CEO** IAS officer Nidhi Chhibber given additional charge as Chief Executive Officer, NITI Aayog (Feb 24, 2026) following B.V.R. Subrahmanyam tenure completion. Currently serving as Director General, Development Monitoring & Evaluation Office at NITI Aayog. Previously led Central Board of Secondary Education, served Additional Secretary NITI Aayog, Officer on Special Duty Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
- **Sachin Tendulkar Appointed UN Global Road Safety Champion** Legendary Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar designated Global Champion for Road Safety by United Nations. Released video promoting safe practices under UN-JCDecaux #MakeASafetyStatement campaign. Jean Todt (UN Special Envoy Road Safety) launched campaign promoting seatbelts, helmets, speed limit compliance, no mobile use driving, no drunk driving, pedestrian/cyclist respect. Digital billboards in New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru.



- **Prof. B. Ravindran Appointed UN AI Panel** Professor B. Ravindran (Indian Institute of Technology Madras) appointed to United Nations Independent International Scientific Panel in Artificial Intelligence announced by UN Secretary-General António Guterres at India AI Impact Summit 2026. Represents India and Global South among 40 global experts. Currently Head Wadhvani School of Data Science & AI (WSAI); founding head Centre for Responsible AI (CeRAI) at IIT-M; 30+ years AI experience in responsible AI, deep reinforcement learning.
- **Abhinav Bindra Completes IOC Athletes Commission Term** Abhinav Bindra (India's first individual Olympic gold medallist, 10-metre Air Rifle 2008 Beijing) completed 8-year tenure (2018-2026) as Vice-Chair, International Olympic Committee Athletes Commission on Feb 23, 2026. Succeeded by Humphrey Kayange (Kenya, rugby) as Second Vice-Chair during Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics. Bindra's IOC membership continues until 2028. Major honours: Arjuna Award (2000), Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna (2002), Padma Bhushan (2009); won 7 Commonwealth Games medals, 3 Asian Games medals; published autobiography "A Shot at History" (2011).

Defence News

- **Strela-10 Air Defence Missile Test Success** Indian Army's Konark Corps conducted high-intensity live firing test of Strela-10 Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) at Pokhran Field Firing Range (Rajasthan desert sector, Feb 2026). Successfully demonstrated precision targeting aerial targets, enhanced crew coordination, validated firing standards, reinforced air defence preparedness challenging terrain. Seamless coordination demonstrated target surveillance, acquisition systems, missile deployment. Strela-10 counters low-altitude threats (helicopters, low-flying aircraft, UAVs); 6-10 km engagement range.
- **Exercise DHARMA GUARDIAN 7th Edition Begins** 7th edition India-Japan Joint Military Exercise DHARMA GUARDIAN commenced Foreign Training Node, Chaubattia, Uttarakhand (Feb 24-Mar 9, 2026). Annual bilateral exercise held alternately India-Japan. 120-member contingent each: Indian Army (Ladakh Scouts high-altitude/rugged terrain expertise); Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (32nd Infantry Regiment). Aims strengthen military cooperation, enhance interoperability, improve combined operational capabilities semi-urban environments. Tactical activities: temporary operating bases, cordon/search operations, heliborne missions, house intervention drills, mobile vehicle check posts.

- **Exercise VAJRA PRAHAR 16th Edition Begins** 16th India-USA Joint Special Forces Exercise VAJRA PRAHAR commenced Special Forces Training School, Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh (Feb 23-Mar 15, 2026). Strengthen combined capabilities joint Special Forces operations mountainous terrain. Indian Army: 45 personnel special forces units. USA: 12 Green Berets personnel. Exchange advanced special operations tactics, techniques, procedures between nations.
- **Exercise Agni Varsha Conducted** Indian Army's Southern Command conducted Exercise Agni Varsha at Pokhran Field Firing Ranges (Feb 24, 2026) validating coordinated combined arms, precision long-range firepower, network-enabled command/control. Combat elements: T-90 Main Battle Tanks, Infantry Combat Vehicles, K-9 Vajra self-propelled howitzers, Sharang/Bofors artillery, Rocket artillery, Advanced Light Helicopter weapon-integrated, Apache attack helicopters, UAS/drones, networked surveillance counter-drone systems. Emphasized technology infusion, indigenization defence capabilities, network-centric command/control, multi-domain warfare readiness.
- **DRDO Strela-10 Qualification Test Success** Defence Research and Development Organisation successfully conducted qualification-level load test of Drogue Parachute (Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme) at Rail Track Rocket Sled facility, Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory, Chandigarh (Feb 18, 2026). Test validated qualification-level loads exceeding maximum flight loads demonstrating design safety margin. Drogue parachute stabilizes/decelerates crew module before main parachute deployment during re-entry/recovery operations. Gaganyaan mission sending 3-member Indian crew Low Earth Orbit (400 km) 3-day mission with safe re-entry/recovery Indian Ocean.
- **Exercise MILAN 2026: Multilateral Naval Exercise** Indian Navy hosted Exercise MILAN 2026 (biennial multilateral naval exercise) at Visakhapatnam (Feb 19-25, 2026) theme "Camaraderie, Cooperation, Collaboration." Inaugural addressed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. Alongside International Fleet Review 2026 (Feb 18, off Visakhapatnam) presided President Droupadi Murmu, Supreme Commander Armed Forces. 9th Indian Ocean Naval Symposium Conclave held Feb 20, Visakhapatnam. India assuming IONS Chairmanship 2026-2028 (second tenure since forum launch 2008). Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi (Chief Naval Staff) assumed Chairmanship from Royal Thai Navy.
- **INS Sudarshini Historic Egypt Visit** Indian Navy's Sail Training Ship INS Sudarshini arrived Safaga, Egypt Lokayan-26 deployment covering 1,832 nautical miles in 16 days (Salalah to Safaga). Welcomed by Egyptian Navy officials, Indian Embassy representatives. Commanding Officer met Rear Admiral Ramy Ahmed Ismail Mohamed (Base Commander Red Sea/Safaga Naval Base) strengthening naval cooperation. Professional exchanges, sail training best practices sharing, community outreach promoting bilateral goodwill. Transit Gulf of Aden/Red Sea navigated challenging weather, dense shipping traffic showcasing seamanship skills. Supports "Bridges of Friendship" initiative reinforcing India-Egypt maritime cooperation.
- **INS Anjadip Commissioning Scheduled** Indian Navy to commission INS Anjadip (3rd Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft of 8-ship ASW-SWC project) Feb 27, 2026, Chennai Port under Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi (Chief Naval Staff) presiding. Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata built 77-metre vessel using water-jet propulsion (25 knots maximum speed). Designed "Dolphin Hunter" detecting/tracking/neutralizing enemy submarines coastal regions. Equipped indigenous Hull Mounted Sonar Abhay, Lightweight Torpedoes, ASW Rockets; capable Coastal Surveillance, Low-Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO), Search Rescue. Named Anjadip Island near Karwar coast. Commissioning strengthens maritime security, supports "Builder's Navy" vision indigenous defence manufacturing.
- **Bharat RanBhoomi Darshan Expedition Flagged In Army** Chief General Upendra Dwivedi flagged in Bharat RanBhoomi Darshan Expedition National War Memorial, 3,400-km expedition Dwarka, Gujarat covering key battlefields/border areas Gujarat-Rajasthan before New Delhi conclusion. Led Regiment of Artillery honoring India's war heroes, preserving military heritage, highlighting border infrastructure development, promoting national integration. 35-member contingent: Regiment Artillery, Indian Navy, Border Security Force. Homage paid major war memorials/historic battle sites Western Front. Engagement activities: Veer Naris/Viranganas, veterans, NCC cadets, students, border village residents. Showcased enhanced border connectivity, infrastructure development forward areas reinforcing operational preparedness.
- **Kalari Leap Maritime Exercise Conducted** Southern Air Command conducted Kalari Leap high-tempo joint maritime exercise Lakshadweep/Minicoy archipelago validating rapid force projection capability, joint operational planning, precision strikes complex maritime conditions. Tested IAF rapid response emerging maritime threats Arabian Sea region. 120-member contingent: Armed Forces Special Operations Division (AFSOD) specialized mission simulations. Indian Coast Guard: ships, Gemini boats, Dornier 228 aircraft maritime surveillance/search-rescue. IAF: anti-ship strike simulations, operational air support. Conducted anti-ship strike drills demonstrating hostile naval asset neutralization capability maritime zones. Validated maritime SAR operations coordinated humanitarian response sea emergencies. Showcase integrated defence readiness, interoperability air/maritime/special forces units, India's island territory/strategic sea lane safeguarding capability.

Awards and Recognitions

- Vasai Cathedral UNESCO Asia-Pacific Award** Our Lady of Grace Cathedral, Vasai (Maharashtra), 475 years old, received Award of Merit, UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation 2025 (announced Bangkok Feb 2026). Sole Indian religious site receiving recognition 2025 edition. 10 projects 6 countries honoured (China, India, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, Vanuatu). Award of Distinction jointly conferred Sihang Warehouse (Shanghai, China), Iwami Ginza Library (Oda, Japan). Nepal secured two Awards of Merit. 90 entries 16 countries assessed seven-member international jury.
- Boong Wins BAFTA 2026 Historic Victory** Manipuri-language film "Boong" became first Indian film winning Best Children's & Family Film category 79th BAFTA Awards (Royal Festival Hall, London). Debutant director Lakshmi Priya Devi production (Farhan Akhtar, Ritesh Sidhwani, Excel Entertainment). Competed international titles "Arco," "Lilo & Stitch," "Zootopia 2." Stars Gugun Kipgen, Bala Hijam; follows young boy reuniting father with mother traversing Manipur childhood innocence, identity, longing, hope themes. Previous screenings: Toronto International Film Festival 2024, Warsaw International Film Festival 2024, International Film Festival India, MAMI Mumbai Film Festival 2024, Indian Film Festival Melbourne 2025.
- Shashi Tharoor Honorary Doctorate** Shashi Tharoor (MP Thiruvananthapuram) conferred Honorary Doctor of Letters (Honoris Causa), St Xavier's University Kolkata, 7th convocation. Tharoor called recognition "deeply special" as first honorary doctorate India, former Xaverian. 1,052 undergrad/postgrad students awarded degrees; 25 PhD scholars felicitated; 17 gold medallists honoured (majority women). Tharoor addressed combining skill/sensitivity, success/service; emphasized education beyond information to formation, beyond competence to conscience. Recalled Jesuit education values: intellectual curiosity, mental rigour, hard work respect, self discipline, moral questioning. Studied St Xavier's Collegiate School Kolkata (1969-1971).
- Mangaluru Airport 2025 ASQ Best Arrivals Award (2nd Consecutive)** Mangaluru International Airport (Karnataka) honoured 2025 Airports Service Quality Customer Experience Award "Best Airport at Arrivals" category, second consecutive win. Organized Airports Council International with SITA gold sponsorship. Indian airports dominated: Arrivals category (6 global winners)—4 from India: MIA (Mangaluru), CCS International Airport (Lucknow, UP), Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (Hyderabad, Telangana), Kempegowda International Airport (Bengaluru, Karnataka). Departures category (40M+ passengers/year): Mumbai CSI, New Delhi IGI airports recognized; Lucknow CCS topped 5-15M segment. Categories: Best Departures (88 airports), Most Dedicated Staff (23), Easiest Airport Journey (26), Most Enjoyable Airport (23), Cleanest Airport (29).
- Stefanos Sakellariadis Delhi Open 2026 Champion** Greece's Stefanos Sakellariadis (21-year-old) won maiden ATP Challenger Singles title defeating Oliver Crawford (Great Britain) 7-5, 5-6, 7-6 (final match tiebreak 8-6) Delhi Open 2026. India's Siddhant Banthia-Alexander Donski (Bulgaria) won doubles, defeating Niki Kaliyanda Poonacha-Pruchya Isaro (Thailand). Delhi Open forms ATP Challenger Tour (2nd-highest international men's tennis tier after ATP Tour). Indian singles champion history: Somdev Devvarman (2014, 2015) sole Indian winner; Saketh Myneni-Sanam Singh (2015), Yuki Bhambri-Mahesh Bhupathi (2016) doubles champions.
- Norway Winter Olympics 2026 Record Gold Medals** Norway created history winning 17 gold medals (highest single Winter Games), breaking previous 16 gold record (Beijing Winter Olympics). Johannes Dale-Skjevdal achieved gold men's 15-km biathlon mass start perfect 20/20 shooting, 39:17.1 winning time. Silver Sturla Holm Laegreid (10.5 seconds behind, fifth medal 2026 Games). Bronze Quentin Fillon Maillet (25.6 seconds behind, ninth Olympic medal overall). Biathlon mass start includes 30 athletes, five 3-km loops, four shooting rounds (two prone, two standing), penalty laps missed targets. Norway all-time medal tally: 405 (148 gold, 134 silver, 123 bronze). USA 2nd (330 total: 114 gold, 121 silver, 95 bronze). Germany 3rd (267 total: 105 gold, 97 silver, 65 bronze).
- India Guinness World Record AI Responsibility Pledges** India created Guinness World Record collecting 2,50,946 valid pledges responsible Artificial Intelligence use within 24 hours (Feb 16-17, 2026). Announced Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw India AI Impact Summit 2026 Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. Significantly exceeded 5,000 initial pledge target. Campaign launched India AI Mission collaboration Intel India. Participants pledged ethical, inclusive, responsible AI use through online platform; received digital certificates, AI learning resources access. 5+ lakh students, educational institutions actively participated. Highlights India's emphasis responsible AI governance, public awareness, ethical technology adoption.



Summits and Conferences News

- **India AI Impact Summit 2026 Concludes** AI Impact Summit 2026 concluded New Delhi (Feb 16-23, 2026) New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact endorsed 89 countries, international organizations. Declaration outlines seven pillars action: democratizing AI resources, promoting economic growth/social good, ensuring secure trusted AI, advancing scientific research, expanding social empowerment access, strengthening human capital development, building resilient energy-efficient AI systems. Guided Sanskrit principle "Sarvajan Hitaya, Sarvajan Sukhaya" (welfare/happiness all), declaration emphasizes AI benefits equitable global distribution. Youngest summit speaker: 8-year-old Ranvir Sachdeva (coding age 3, machine learning studies). Interacted Sundar Pichai (Google CEO), Sam Altman (OpenAI CEO). Emphasized AI accessibility common citizens, not experts corporations; India leading ethical, responsible, inclusive AI development.
- **India AI Impact Summit: Blockchain India Challenge** MeitY launched Blockchain India Challenge promoting startup-driven blockchain solutions digital governance. Implemented Centre for Development Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Hyderabad, support MeitY. Prize pool ₹8.80 crores: Prototype Stage ₹1.5 lakh (40 participants), MVP Stage ₹4 lakh (30 participants), Deployment Stage ₹10 lakh (20 participants). Top 10 use case categories compete ultimate ₹50 lakh/category prize. Governs domains: e-procurement, supply chain, Public Distribution System, education, healthcare, agriculture, power, IoT, land records, environment/sustainability. Startups propose innovative beyond-listed sectors collaboration government departments.
- **7th All India GRP Chiefs Conference Concludes** 7th All India Conference Government Railway Police Chiefs concluded Vigyan Bhawan presided Railway Protection Force Director General Sonali Mishra. Attended DGPs, ADGPs, senior GRP officers states/UTs. Railway Board Chairman Satish Kumar, Members participated. Objective: develop coordinated action plan strengthen railway passenger, infrastructure security. Key security concerns: organized crime, drug trafficking, vandalism/stone pelting, sabotage threats, crowd management challenges. Officials emphasized holistic technology-driven security framework considering vast Indian Railways geographical spread, open-access nature. Narcotics Control Bureau presented narcotics smuggling curbing strategies railway networks. Conference emphasized mock drills, scenario-based emergency training, strengthened first response/evacuation protocols, enhanced State Police-RPF coordination, community outreach vulnerable areas. Recommended strict legal action, deterrent measures address stone pelting, sabotage. Outcomes expected strengthen India's railway security architecture, resilience, responsiveness, technology-drivenness.

- **Brazil President State Visit India** Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva visited India (Feb 18-22, 2026). President Droupadi Murmu received at Rashtrapati Bhavan, hosted state banquet. PM Modi held bilateral talks Hyderabad House covering trade, technology, strategic cooperation. Lula announced target increasing bilateral trade USD 30 billion 2030 (current USD 15.21 billion, India maintains USD 1.5B trade surplus). ApexBrasil office inaugurated New Delhi promoting Brazil-India trade/investment. India-Brazil Economic Forum discussed defence, renewable energy, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, technology, AI cooperation. Multiple MoUs signed MSMEs, postal services, pharmaceuticals, trade promotion, R&D, rare earths/critical minerals, steel, digital trade (e-COO), education, cinema, heritage preservation. Tourist/business visas extended 5-year 10-year. Reinforced India-Brazil cooperation emerging technologies, AI, Global South partnerships.
- **National Arogya Fair 2026 Inaugurated** President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated National Arogya Fair 2026 (Feb 25-28) Shegaon, Buldhana district (Maharashtra) organized Ministry of Ayush, All India Ayurvedic Congress. Free consultations, health check-ups, medicines under Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa, Homoeopathy. Yoga demonstrations, expert lectures, therapy showcases, exhibitions reputed Ayush institutions. Special session "Ayurvedic Farming: Production, Value Addition, Marketing" (Feb 27) focusing medicinal plant cultivation, agroforestry, post-harvest management, market linkages. Strengthens Vidarbha region farmer diversification medicinal crops, Ayush supply chain. Convergence platform public healthcare services, knowledge sharing, rural livelihood enhancement reaffirming Ayush public health improvement, economic development role.

Ranks and Reports

- **World Bank Women, Business Law 2026 Report** World Bank Group released 11th Women, Business Law (WBL) 2026 report "Benchmarking Laws Jobs Inclusive Growth" assessing legal frameworks 190 economies shaping women's economic opportunities, private sector development. Key findings: legal frameworks globally average 67/100; enforcement perceptions 53 (women's rights partly held, no economy >90); supportive frameworks 47 (lowest pillar). Even fully enforced laws, women access 2/3rds (66.66%) men's legal rights. Only 4% women globally live economies providing nearly full legal equality. Report highlights gender equality workplace persistent gaps, women's economic opportunity legal framework enforcement.

- **Indira Gandhi International Airport 5th Busiest Asia-Pacific 2025** Delhi Airport ranked 5th busiest Asia-Pacific region 2025 (46.18 million one-way departing seats) per OAG data, rising 9th position 2019 pre-COVID pandemic. Marked India's strong aviation growth, rising domestic air travel demand, sustained airline capacity expansion. Surpassed Singapore Changi (42.57M seats), Suvarnabhumi (39.49M), Incheon (43.40M) airports. Improvement reflects structural shift Asia-Pacific aviation trends post-pandemic, India emerging high-growth aviation market. IndiGo expansion (fleet size, new routes, connectivity) major growth contributor; rising middle-class income, affordable airfares, improved infrastructure, enhanced tier-2/3 city connectivity strengthened aviation demand.

Sports News

- **2026 Winter Olympics Milano Cortina Concluded XXV** Winter Olympic Games (Milano Cortina 2026) held Feb 6-22, 2026 Lombardy, Northeast Italy (Milan, Cortina d'Ampezzo, Bormio, Val di Fiemme) first time two cities officially co-hosted. Norway topped medal tally (18 gold, 12 silver, 11 bronze = 41 total) followed USA (12 gold, 12 silver, 9 bronze = 33), Netherlands 3rd (10 gold, 7 silver, 3 bronze = 20). Four venues clusters: Milan (ice events), Cortina d'Ampezzo (women's alpine/sliding), Valtellina/Livigno (freestyle/snowboard), Val di Fiemme (Nordic). Organized IOC presidency Kirsty Coventry (first Olympics leadership). Sixteen winter sports featured (Alpine Skiing, Biathlon, Cross-Country, Snowboarding, Freestyle Skiing, Ski Jumping, Figure Skating, Speed Skating, Short Track, Ice Hockey, Curling, Bobsleigh, Skeleton, Luge, Nordic Combined, Ski Mountaineering). Host Italy finished 4th (10 gold, 6 silver, 14 bronze = 30 total), best-ever Winter Olympic performance. India fielded 2-member contingent: Arif Mohammad Khan (Alpine Skiing, nation's best men's slalom finish), Stanzin Lundup (Cross-Country Skiing); no medal secured. Dutch short-track skater Xandra Velzeboer won gold 500m, 1000m setting world record 500m semi-finals.
- **Belgium's Hanne Vandewinkel ITF W100 Bengaluru Champion** Belgium's Hanne Vandewinkel (World No. 124, seeded 3rd) won KPB Family Trust ITF W100 Bengaluru Women's Singles (Feb 16-22, SM Krishna Tennis Stadium, Bengaluru) defeating India's Vaishnavi Adkar 6-0, 6-1 final. Vandewinkel earned 100 WTA ranking points, USD 15,239 prize. Adkar (World No. 690) earned 65 ranking points, USD 8,147; became first Indian woman since Sania Mirza (2009) reaching ITF W100 final. Adkar's achievement historic Indian women's tennis milestone.

- **Harmanpreet Kaur Most-Capped Women's Cricket** India captain Harmanpreet Kaur created history becoming most-capped player women's international cricket (356 matches), surpassing New Zealand's Suzie Bates (355 matches) during 2nd T20I Australia Canberra. Format-wise: 6 Test, 161 ODI, 189 T20I. Scoring: 4,409 ODI runs (140 innings, 37.05 average), 3,820 T20I runs; 8 centuries, 38 half-centuries across formats. Under captaincy, India won 2025 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup.

Schemes and Committees News

- **Ministry of Home Affairs Constitutes DigiLocker Committee** MeitY constituted high-level committee harmonizing DigiLocker regulatory framework headed Ajay Sawhney (former MeitY Secretary), including legal experts, technology specialists, industry representatives. Simultaneously launched Blockchain India Challenge supporting startup-driven blockchain digital governance solutions.
- **Delhi Implements Rah-Veer Scheme** Delhi government implemented Rah-Veer Scheme incentivizing citizens helping seriously injured road accident victims. ₹25,000 reward plus certificate (per accident, maximum ₹25,000 multiple victims saved). 10 outstanding Rah-Veers receive annual ₹1 lakh national award. Targets reducing fatalities, promoting public participation, responsible citizen behaviour emergencies. Motor Vehicles Act 2019 Good Samaritan provisions protect helpers legally.
- **Guinness World Record Verified AI Pledges** India's record-breaking 2,50,946 responsible AI pledges (24-hour collection Feb 16-17, 2026) verified Guinness World Records adjudicator India AI Impact Summit 2026. Campaign launched India AI Mission Intel India collaboration. Over 5 lakh students, educational institutions participated. Initiative highlights India's responsible AI governance, public awareness, ethical technology adoption emphasis.



- **RBI Revises NBFC Registration Norms** Reserve Bank issued NBFC Amendment Directions 2026 (effective April 1) introducing "Unregistered Type I NBFC" category (asset size <₹1,000 crore, no public funds/customer interface). Existing eligible NBFCs can apply deregistration through PRAVAAH portal until Sept 30, 2026. Registration exemptions don't affect RBI Act supervision, AML/PMLA compliance, penalties.

Science and Technology News

- **ISRO Liquid Methane Plant Planned Mahendragiri** Indian Space Research Organisation plans establishing liquid methane production plant Mahendragiri Propulsion Complex, Tamil Nadu supporting next-generation rocket propulsion. Plant produces liquid methane from Liquefied Natural Gas, focusing cost efficiency, low wastage, optimal processes. Liquid methane powers NGLV methalox propulsion systems (methane + liquid oxygen). Next Generation Launch Vehicle (Project Soorya) 3-stage, heavy-lift, partially reusable launch vehicle replacing PSLV/GSLV (30-tonne LEO payload capacity, human spaceflight support). NGLV features first-stage recovery/reuse improving cost efficiency. EoI invited design, manufacturing, testing, supply, erection, commissioning liquid methane production plant (8 MT/day capacity, high-purity liquid methane, LNG raw material). Vendors must established cryogenic production plant (liquid nitrogen/oxygen/hydrogen/methane) preceding 7 years or executed cryogenic systems contracts (double-walled tanks, pipelines, instrumentation control). Initiative supports National Space Vision, green cost-effective propulsion technologies future space exploration commercial activities.
- **AuraML Unveils AuraSim Robotics Simulation** Indian AI startup AuraML launched AuraSim, India's first multimodal world simulation model robotics, India AI Impact Summit 2026 New Delhi. Built Nvidia Omniverse Cosmos infrastructure, enabling physics-ready 3D simulation environments using text descriptions, 2D floor plans, video walkthroughs, depth maps, point clouds. Supports simulations humanoid robots, autonomous mobile robots (AMRs), stationary robotic arms shared virtual environments. Reduces training time, cost autonomous robotic systems creating high-fidelity digital twins pre-hardware deployment. Enables agentic automation running thousands scenario variations without human intervention, rapid edge-case stress-testing simple text prompt modifications. AuraML launching Global Physical AI & Robotics Cohort NVIDIA Inception, eight-week mentorship training programme robotics engineers, AI researchers, developers limited seats. Foundation world models next-generation robotics using generative AI, physics-based simulation focus.

- **UIDAI AI-Enabled Biometric Deduplication Platform** Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) launched "Invisible Shield," AI-enabled biometric deduplication and document verification platform strengthening digital security framework, improving Aadhaar authentication accuracy. Multi-layered AI digital defence system performing crores high-speed computations using accelerated computing technology protecting citizen data privacy, trust. UIDAI operates world's largest biometric deduplication system ensuring one unique identity per resident cross-checking Aadhaar enrolment/update transactions entire database. Developed indigenous AI models fingerprint, face, iris biometric modalities collaboration International Institute Information Technology (IIIT), Hyderabad. System runs NVIDIA DGX High-Performance Computing Infrastructure enabling secure population-scale biometric processing. Each deduplication transaction involves billions computations improving biometric matching accuracy, system efficiency. Enhanced deduplication deployment completed several states; nationwide implementation continuing months. Fraud prevention uses AI-based document metadata extraction, verification DigiLocker APIs checking document authenticity. Platform uses NVIDIA AI inference infrastructure semantic document analysis, identity verification. Expected reduce enrolment turnaround time, improve service delivery quality, enhance authentication reliability Aadhaar number holders. Strengthens India's Digital Public Infrastructure, promotes secure, scalable, trustworthy digital identity systems.
- **Fractal AI Vaidya 2.0 Healthcare AI Model** Fractal AI launched Vaidya 2.0, next-generation healthcare reasoning AI model, India AI Impact Summit 2026. Integrates healthcare decision-making actions raw clinical data improving real-world medical diagnosis support, patient care workflows. Platform provides healthcare use cases Emergency Assist (rapid patient triage, critical medical decision support emergency time windows). Fractal AI claims Vaidya 2.0 first AI model scoring above 50 OpenAI's HealthBench (Hard) Benchmark (specifically 50.1), outperforming GPT-5, Gemini Pro 3. Model supports AI-driven healthcare innovation, clinical data analysis, digital medical intelligence systems improved healthcare delivery efficiency. Launch strengthens India's healthcare AI technology development, medical digital transformation.
- **SUJVIKA AI Product Data Portal Launch** Union MoS Dr. Jitendra Singh launched SUJVIKA, Artificial Intelligence-driven biotech product data portal, marking Department of Biotechnology (DBT) 40th foundation day (Feb 24, 2026). Portal developed collaboration Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises (ABLE). Trade Statistics Digital Intelligence Platform creating comprehensive searchable database biotechnology products developed India. Covers sectors healthcare/biopharma, agricultural biotechnology, industrial biotechnology, environmental biotechnology. Simultaneously launched revamped DBT website aligned Government India Digital Brand Identity Manual (DBIM) Framework.

- Indian Mountaineers Summit Mount Aconcagua** Six-member team Nehru Institute of Mountaineering (NIM), Uttarkashi, Jawahar Institute Mountaineering Winter Sports (JIM&WS), Pahalgam, successfully summited Mount Aconcagua Argentina (Feb 2026). Expedition formally flagged off Union Minister Rajnath Singh, Ministry Defence (Feb 5, 2026). Led Colonel Hem Chandra Singh (NIM, JIM&WS Principal). Scaled Mt. Bonete Peak (5,050m altitude) before Aconcagua summit. Faced extreme weather (strong winds, -20 to -30°C temperatures). Mount Aconcagua: highest South America, 2nd-highest world peak outside Asia (6,967.15m above sea level). Known "Stone Sentinel"; highest Southern/Western Hemispheres. Seven Summits include Everest (Asia), Aconcagua (South America), Denali (North America), Kilimanjaro (Africa), Elbrus (Europe), Vinson (Antarctica), Kosciuszko (Australia).
- Teacher App 2.0 AI-Integrated Launch** Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched Teacher App 2.0, powered Artificial Intelligence, New Delhi. Developed Bharti Airtel Foundation collaboration CK-12 Foundation (California nonprofit). Aims accelerate AI adoption India's K-12 ecosystem, aligned National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, Viksit Bharat @2047. Integrates 45+ AI-enabled tools lesson planning, personalised learning, pedagogy, classroom management. Platform provides 2,500+ training hours, including Foundational Literacy Numeracy (FLN), collaborative Teachers' Lounge. Supports 2 lakh+ educators India free-for-life platform, helping enhance classroom teaching, reduce preparation time, improve learning outcomes. Draws insights Satya Bharti Schools; plans integration Indian Large Language Models (BharatGen, Sarvam) launched AI Summit 2026. Version 1.0 (Nov 2024) one-stop pedagogy guidance, lesson planning resources platform.
- IBM AI GovTech Centre Lucknow** Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath inaugurated IBM's AI GovTech Innovation Centre Lucknow strengthening technology-driven governance. Centre collaborates IBM designing scaling AI-based governance solutions. IBM signed MoUs Department IT Electronics (AI applications government departments), Directorate School Education (AI literacy Classes 6-12). UP advancing AI, Robotics, Drone Technology, MedTech, Quantum Computing with budget provisions Robotics, Drone Technology Centres Excellence; IIT Kanpur MedTech sector collaboration.
- DigiLocker Integration Expanding** UIDAI partnering Google mapping 60,000+ authorized Aadhaar Centres nationwide improving citizen accessibility digital services.
- Tata-OpenAI Data Centre Partnership** Tata Group partnered OpenAI establishing India's first large-scale AI-ready data centre under global Stargate initiative. TCS HyperVault data centre business: initially 100 MW capacity, scalable 1 GW, green energy powered, AI-optimised hardware large-scale AI training/inference. Tata Group investing USD 7 billion 1 GW data centre capacity FY25-30 Stargate (USD 500 billion global AI infrastructure initiative). Tata deploying OpenAI ChatGPT Enterprise organization-wide (hundreds thousands employees coming years). OpenAI expanding AI certification India, TCS first organization outside USA participating. OpenAI establishing offices Mumbai, Bengaluru 2026, strengthening India's AI ecosystem, global technology collaboration.
- NATO Arctic Sentry Mission Launch** North Atlantic Treaty Organization launched "Arctic Sentry" mission strengthening security, surveillance, military coordination Arctic High North. Mission integrates member ongoing operations multi-domain defence operations (land, sea, air, cyber, intelligence surveillance) under Joint Force Command Norfolk leadership. Initiative responds geopolitical tensions Greenland strategic crisis, concerns Donald Trump Arctic strategic dominance, security interests. Strengthens collective defence Arctic capabilities, enhances maritime/aerial monitoring, improves strategic preparedness polar regions against rising Russian, Chinese activity.

Important Days News

- World Scout Day – February 22** World Scout Day celebrated Feb 22 globally paying tribute scouts worldwide remarkable service world changing lives. Baden-Powell 1907 maintained testing centre Brownsea Island, Poole, Dorset; fetched 22 boys training supervision. 1908 "Scouting for Boys" published Baden Powell exceptional book deal. Boys formed Scout Patrols autonomously. Training camp led organization formation. Youth influenced starting training society service. "Scouting for Boys" translated multiple languages. Scout Troops developed across countries; 1908 office established scout movement queries. Scouting spread British Commonwealth, different countries; youth training eventually famous. 1920 first global Scout Jamboree Olympia, London. Powell unanimously lauded Chief Scout World. Third World Scout Jamboree (1929) welcomed car "Jam-Roll"; obtained Eccles Caravan. Played major role youth education improvement, free mind/mentality facilitating. Provided scouting movement cue. 1939 estimation 3.3 million scouts worldwide.

- **World Thinking Day – February 22** World Thinking Day 2026 observed Feb 22 celebrated Girl Scouts, Girl Guides 153 countries promoting international friendship, sisterhood, empowerment girls, women. Feb 22, 2026 marked centenary (100th anniversary) WTD. Theme "Our Friendship." 1926 Girl Guide, Scout organisation delegates worldwide 4th WAGGGS World Conference USA decided establishing Thinking Day special girls' guides, scouts. 1999 Dublin, Ireland 30th World Conference renamed 'World Thinking Day.' Organized annually WAGGGS. Feb 22 chosen marking Lord Robert Baden-Powell (Boy Scout Movement Founder, first Chief Scout World) birthday, wife Olave Baden-Powell (World Chief Guide) birthday. Movement's fundamental contributions, profound impact, independent organizations impact world celebrated, honored, recognized.
- **International Mother Language Day – February 21** United Nations International Mother Language Day (IMLD) annually observed globally Feb 21 promoting linguistic diversity, preserving cultural heritage, encouraging multilingual education highlighting mother tongues role cultural identity, inclusion, peace, sustainable development. Feb 21, 2026 marked 27th IMLD observance. Theme "Youth voices multilingual education." UNESCO declared Feb 21 IMLD Nov 17, 1999. First IMLD observed Feb 21, 2000. UN General Assembly formally recognised observance through Resolution 56/262 2002.
- **World Pangolin Day – February 21** World Pangolin Day observed third Saturday February celebrating pangolins (scaly anteaters), raising conservation awareness. 2026 World Pangolin Day Feb 21 marking 15th observance. 2012 first-ever World Pangolin Day celebrated earning global recognition animal welfare, wildlife enthusiasts. 2025 Conservation Status, Trade Enforcement Efforts Pangolins report revealed 530,978 pangolins involved 2,222 illegal trade seizures 2016-2024 (half million+).
- **Chakra Excise Day Observed February 24** Central Excise Day commemorated the Central Excise Act, 1944 (signed February 24), honoring the Central Board of Excise & Customs' role in tax administration. CBEC handles 1000+ excise duty items, focusing post-GST (2017) on petroleum and liquor taxation.
- **Central Excise Day – February 24** Central Excise Day celebrated Feb 24 honouring Central Board Excise & Customs (CBEC) service, tax administration, revenue collection. Central Excise Department one oldest India departments established 1855 British Raj. "Central Excise Act"/"Central Excise Salt Act" regulated 1944 first-ever Central Excise Day celebrated 1996 acts changes. Central Excise Officers "Power Arrest" given 1973; 2013 given

Service Tax Matters. 1944 67 excise duty items mentioned; ~1000 currently. Post-2017 July GST appearance Central Excise Department focuses Petroleum, Liquor products tax perfect assurances. Recognition laws establishment CBEC celebrated Central Excise Day since Salt Act passing signed law Feb 24, 1944.

- **National Protein Day – February 27** National Protein Day annually observed India Feb 27 educating people crucial protein role maintaining health, supporting growth development, promoting diverse protein-rich dietary options. Feb 27, 2026 marks 7th National Protein Day observance India. 2020 National Protein Day launch India with "Right Protein" (RTP) campaign national-level public health initiative raising adequate protein consumption awareness. First-ever National Protein Day observed Feb 27, 2020. RTP Campaign led United States Soybean Export Council (USSEC) promotes plant-based proteins, nutrition, public health awareness globally.
- **World NGO Day – February 27** World NGO Day 2026 observed Feb 27 recognizing, celebrating, honouring fundamental contributions, profound impact independent organizations worldwide. NGO acronym non-governmental organization day set aside honour all, nonprofit organisations recognizing impact world. Founded 2009 Marcis Liors Skadmanis (social entrepreneur). First observed Feb 27, 2014. Official 2010 declaration 12 Baltic Sea NGO Forum member countries recognised Council Baltic Sea States partner. International recognition 2014 European Union, United Nations, international organisations.

Obituaries News

- **Bengali Novelist Mani Shankar Mukhopadhyay Passes Away** Renowned Bengali novelist/writer Mani Shankar Mukhopadhyay (Shankar) passed away Feb 20, 2026, age 93 Kolkata, West Bengal. Born Dec 7, 1933 Jessore (present Bangladesh). 2021 honoured Sahitya Akademi Award autobiographical work 'Eka Eka Ekashi.' Writing spanned novels, short stories, biographies, philosophical works combining sharp observation, rich characterization, ordinary people empathy. Debut semi-autobiographical 'Kato Ajanare' (The Many Unknowns) drawing clerk experience. Works include 'Chowringhee' (1962), 'Samrat O Sundari' (1961), 'Charan Chhuey Jai' (1960), 'Simabadhya' (1971), 'Jana Aranya' (1975) Satyajit Ray Calcutta Trilogy film adaptations portraying urban struggles moral compromises. 'Chowringhee' adapted film (1968) Pinaki Bhusan Mukherjee starring Uttam Kumar. Final major project research-based Swami Vivekananda book. Executive power company Kolkata ~50 years.

- Former Union Railway Minister Mukul Roy Passes Away**
Former Union Minister Mukul Roy (founding All India Trinamool Congress member) passed away Feb 23, 2026, age 71 Kolkata, West Bengal. Born April 17, 1954 Kanchrapara, WB. B.Sc. Calcutta University, Master's Madurai Kamaraj University. Youth Congress began career; founding TMC member 1998 Mamata Banerjee Indian National Congress split. 2006 first Rajya Sabha elected; subsequent term served TMC Rajya Sabha Leader (2009-2012). UPA II government PM Manmohan Singh, served Minister State (MoS) Shipping (2009-2011); 32nd Union Railway Minister 2012 Dinesh Trivedi resignation rolled back proposed railway fare hike. July 2011 removed Railways portfolio Assam train derailment PM directive failing follow. Political career challenged Saradha chit fund case, Narada 2015 sting operation alleged links. September 2017 TMC resigned; 6-year suspension; Rajya Sabha resignation subsequent BJP Nov 2017. Won 2021 West Bengal Assembly Election BJP Krishnanagar Uttar; June 2021 TMC rejoined. Jan 2022 WB Assembly Speaker plea disqualify Anti-Defection Law rejected. Nov 2025 Calcutta High Court cancelled MLA membership grounds defection; order subsequently Supreme Court stayed Jan 2026.
- Steel Industry Veteran Jatinder Mehra Passes Away**
Jatinder Mehra, Essar Group Vice Chairman Metals & Mining, steel industry veteran 60+ years experience, passed away Feb 25, 2026, age 86 New Delhi. Born March 3, 1939 Lahore (present Pakistan). Career spanned six decades playing vital role India's steel industry growth, modernization across public, private sectors. Executive Director Steel Authority India Limited (SAIL), Ministry Steel contributing production systems strengthening, operational efficiency, long-term expansion planning. Became Chairman-Managing Director (CMD) Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), Ministry Steel. Leadership accelerated capacity expansion, improved operational productivity, implemented strategic modernization initiatives. Served Vice Chairman Metals & Mining Division Essar Group. 2022 honoured Lifetime Achievement Award Indian Steel Association (ISA) recognition steel sector impact.
- Ricky Andrew J Syngkon Shillong MP Passes Away**
Ricky Andrew J Syngkon, Member Parliament (MP) Shillong Lok Sabha constituency (Meghalaya), passed away Feb 23, 2026, age 54 Shillong. Born Jan 6, 1972 Shillong, Meghalaya. Served Assistant Professor Economics North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU) before entering politics. Began political career Voice People Party (VPP), Meghalaya-based regional party focused local issues, community development, grassroots empowerment. 2024 General Elections contested Shillong Lok Sabha constituency defeated Vincent H. Pala Indian National Congress (INC). Entered 18th Lok Sabha first-time MP. Parliamentary priorities included connectivity development, tribal welfare, youth empowerment, inclusive governance.

- CPI Leader R Nallakannu Passes Away**
Veteran Communist Party India leader R Nallakannu passed away Feb 25, 2026 Chennai age 101.

Miscellaneous News

- 8-Year-Old Ranvir Sachdeva Youngest India AI Summit Speaker**
Eight-year-old Ranvir Sachdeva became youngest speaker India AI Impact Summit 2026 Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. Started coding age 3; began studying machine learning models young age. Delivered keynote address inclusive, ethical Artificial Intelligence. Core message: AI built everyone. Interacted Sundar Pichai (Google CEO), Sam Altman (OpenAI CEO) gaining widespread attention. Emphasized AI accessibility common citizens, not limited experts corporations; India leading ethical, responsible, inclusive AI development. Participated international technology forums; promotes combining Indian philosophical values AI development.
- Gujarat Legislative Assembly Passes Shops Establishments Amendment Bill 2026**
Gujarat Legislative Assembly unanimously passed Gujarat Shops Establishments Amendment Bill 2026 allowing night shifts women, increasing daily working hours 10 hours, raising overtime limit 144 hours. Bill introduced Labour Skill Development Employment Minister Kunvarji Bavaliya replacing Dec 2025 ordinance. Amendment permits night shifts women 9pm-6am mandatory safety, welfare safeguards. Written woman employee consent required night employment. Employers provide rest rooms, separate ladies toilets, night creche, sexual harassment protection, workplace residence transportation. Daily working hour limit increased 9 to 10 hours; weekly limit 48 hours. Continuous work beyond 6 hours prohibited without mandatory 30-minute break. Overtime limit raised 125 to 144 hours 3-month period. Overtime wages paid twice ordinary rate. State Government retains authority prohibiting/regulating night-time women employment public interest. Formally replaces Dec 2025 ordinance passed unanimously.
- India Creates Guinness World Record AI Responsibility Pledges**
India created Guinness World Record collecting 2,50,946 valid responsible Artificial Intelligence use pledges 24-hour period (Feb 16-17, 2026). Achievement announced Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw India AI Impact Summit 2026 Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. Pledges recorded officially verified Guinness World Records adjudicator venue. Campaign launched India AI Mission collaboration Intel India. Participants pledged commitment ethical, inclusive, responsible AI use through online platform. Pledge campaign included data privacy, transparency, accountability, misinformation combating awareness. Completing pledge citizens received digital certificate, AI learning resources access. 5+ lakh students, educational institutions actively participated. Initiative highlights India's emphasis responsible AI governance, public awareness, ethical technology adoption.

- Delhi Airport Ranked 5th Busiest Asia-Pacific 2025** Indira Gandhi International Airport ranked 5th busiest airport Asia-Pacific region 2025 (46.18 million one-way departing seats) per OAG data, dramatic jump 9th position 2019 pre-COVID pandemic. Ranked increased reflecting India's strong aviation growth, rising domestic air travel demand, sustained airline capacity expansion. Airport surpassed Singapore Changi (42.57 million seats), Suvarnabhumi (39.49 million), Incheon (43.40 million) airports. OAG ranking released strictly scheduled airline seat supply

actual passenger footfall. Improvement reflects structural shift Asia-Pacific aviation trends post-pandemic, India emerging high-growth aviation market. Rising middle-class income levels, affordable fares, improved airport infrastructure, enhanced connectivity tier-2/3 cities strengthened aviation demand. IndiGo expansion (fleet size, new routes, international operations strengthening) significantly boosted scheduled seat capacity. Latest ranking underscores India's growing influence, strategic importance Asia-Pacific aviation market.

Static Takeaways

Name	Type	Key Details
UCO Bank	Bank	HQ: Kolkata • MD & CEO: Shri Ashwani Kumar
Gujarat	Indian State	Governor: Acharya Devvrat • CM: Bhupendra Patel • Dy CM: Harsh Sanghvi • Capital: Gandhinagar
Madhya Pradesh	Indian State	Governor: Mangubhai Patel • CM: Mohan Yadav • Finance Minister: Jagdish Devda • Capital: Bhopal
Switzerland	Country	Capital: Bern • Currency: Swiss Franc
Israel	Country	Capital: Jerusalem • Currency: Israeli New Shekel
DRDO	Defence Org	Founded: 1958 • HQ: New Delhi • Chairman: Dr. Samir V. Kamat
Indian Navy	Defence Force	Established: 1950 • CNS: Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi • Motto: Sam no Varunah
Assam	Indian State	CM: Himanta Biswa Sarma • Governor: Lakshman Prasad Acharya • Capital: Dispur
Power Finance Corporation Ltd. (PFC)	PSU	Established: 1986 • HQ: New Delhi • CMD: Parminder Chopra
REC Limited	PSU	Founded: 1969 • CMD: Jitendra Srivastava
Food Corporation of India	PSU	Established: 1965 • Food Procurement & Distribution
World Food Programme	UN Agency	Established: 1961 • HQ: Rome
Slice Small Finance Bank	Bank	HQ: Guwahati • Established: 2016
UIDAI	Statutory Body	Aadhaar Act 2016 • Chairman: Neelkanth Mishra • CEO: Bhuvnesh Kumar • HQ: New Delhi

Name	Type	Key Details
Uttar Pradesh	Indian State	CM: Yogi Adityanath • Governor: Anandiben Patel • Capital: Lucknow
Punjab	Indian State	CM: Bhagwant Mann • Governor: Gulab Chand Kataria • Capital: Chandigarh
South Korea	Country	Capital: Seoul • Currency: Won
Kenya	Country	Capital: Nairobi • Currency: Kenyan Shilling
Poland	Country	President: Karol Nawrocki • PM: Donald Tusk • Capital: Warsaw • Currency: Złoty
Jharkhand	Indian State	CM: Hemant Soren • Governor: Santosh Gangwar • Capital: Ranchi
Delhi	UT	CM: Rekha Gupta • LG: Vinai Kumar Saxena • Capital: New Delhi
Netherlands	Country	Capital: Amsterdam • Currency: Euro
NATO	Military Alliance	Established: 4 April 1949
Andhra Pradesh	Indian State	CM: N. Chandrababu Naidu • Governor: S. Abdul Nazeer • Capital: Amaravati
Maharashtra	Indian State	CM: Devendra Fadnavis • Governor: Acharya Devvrat • Capital: Mumbai
Saudi Arabia	Country	Capital: Riyadh • Currency: Saudi Riyal • King: Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud

