

Weekly One Liners 09th to 15th of March 2026

India Defeat New Zealand, Clinch T20 World Cup 2026 Title

The ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 ended in spectacular fashion as the India national cricket team defeated the New Zealand national cricket team by 96 runs in the final at the Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad. With this victory, India secured back-to-back T20 World Cup titles, cementing their dominance in world T20 cricket.

India's Explosive Batting Sets Massive Target

After New Zealand won the toss and opted to bowl, India delivered a spectacular batting display and posted 255/5 in 20 overs, one of the highest totals in a T20 World Cup final.

Key Performers for India

- **Sanju Samson** led the charge with a brilliant **89 runs off 46 balls**, smashing **5 fours and 8 sixes**.
- **Abhishek Sharma** gave India a blazing start with **52 off 21 balls**.
- **Ishan Kishan** continued the assault with **54 runs from 25 balls**.
- **Shivam Dube** finished the innings strongly with **26 runs off just 8 balls**.

India dominated the powerplay, scoring **92 runs in the first six overs**, putting New Zealand under immediate pressure.

New Zealand Bowled Out for 159

Chasing a huge target of **256**, New Zealand struggled against India's disciplined bowling attack and were bowled out for **159 in 19 overs**.

Top Scorers for New Zealand

- **Tim Seifert** – 52 (26)
- **Mitchell Santner** – 43 (35)

Despite their efforts, New Zealand could not keep up with the required run rate.

India's Bowlers Seal the Victory

India's bowlers delivered a dominant performance to secure the title.



Bowling Highlights

- **Jasprit Bumrah** – **4 wickets for 15 runs** in 4 overs
- **Axar Patel** – **3 wickets for 27 runs**
- **Hardik Pandya** – 1 wicket
- **Varun Chakaravathy** – 1 wicket
- **Abhishek Sharma** – 1 wicket

Bumrah's brilliant spell dismantled New Zealand's middle order and ensured India stayed firmly in control throughout the chase.

Match Summary

Team	Score
India	255/5 (20 overs)
New Zealand	159 all out (19 overs)
Result	India won by 96 runs

Key Highlights of the Final

- India scored **255/5**, one of the highest totals in a T20 World Cup final.
- **Sanju Samson** was the top scorer with **89 runs**.
- **Jasprit Bumrah** starred with the ball, taking **4 wickets**.
- New Zealand were bowled out for **159 runs**.
- India won the final by **96 runs**.
- India secured **back-to-back T20 World Cup titles**.

National Affairs

- **Cabinet Extends Jal Jeevan Mission Till 2028 with Enhanced Outlay** The Union Cabinet approved the extension of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) until December 2028 with an enhanced outlay of **₹8.69 lakh crore**, increasing central assistance from ₹2.08 lakh crore to **₹3.59 lakh crore**. The mission will shift focus from infrastructure creation to sustainable service delivery and drinking water governance, introducing "Sujalam Bharat" digital framework to map rural water supply chains.
- **Cabinet Amends FDI Framework for Land Border Countries** The Union Cabinet approved amendments to India's Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) framework governing investments from **seven land border countries** (China, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Afghanistan), permitting non-controlling stakes up to **10%** through automatic route while introducing **60-day decision timeline** for investment proposals in specific sectors.
- **Cabinet Approves ₹4,474 Crore Railway and Infrastructure Projects** The Cabinet approved **₹4,474 crore railway multitracking projects** spanning five districts across West Bengal and Jharkhand, expanding Indian Railways network by **192 km**; additionally approved ₹3,630.77 crore for Greenfield road connectivity to Noida International Airport (Jewar) and ₹3,839.42 crore for four-laning NH-752D in Madhya Pradesh.

- **Cabinet Approves Madurai Airport as International Airport** The Union Cabinet granted international airport status to **Madurai Airport** in Tamil Nadu, marking a major infrastructure upgrade for the region under the Pradhan Mantri Gati Shakti National Master Plan (PMGS-NMP).
- **Government Issues Green Ammonia and Green Methanol Standards** The Government of India notified standards for **green ammonia** (maximum **0.38 kg CO₂ eq per kg**) and **green methanol** (maximum **0.44 kg CO₂ eq per kg**) under the National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM) on 27 February 2026, promoting decarbonisation across industries and enabling global trade of green hydrogen derivatives.
- **RBI Issues 2026 Prudential Norms for Commercial Bank Dividends** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued revised dividend framework capping maximum dividend payout for banks at **75% of Profit After Tax (PAT)** and linking dividend declaration to **Common Equity Tier 1 (CET-1) ratio**, with banks having CET-1 at or below **8%** barred from declaring dividends; framework effective from FY27.
- **RBI Revises Counterparty Credit Risk Rules Aligned with Basel Norms** The RBI released the Third Amendment Directions 2026 revising capital adequacy framework for commercial banks, introducing clearer guidelines for calculating and maintaining capital to cover **counterparty credit risk (CCR) exposures** and revising add-on factors for calculating **Potential Future Exposure (PFE)** for derivative contracts.
- **Reserve Bank Strengthens Customer Protection in Digital Banking Transactions** The RBI issued Third Amendment Directions 2026 for customer protection in electronic banking transactions (effective 1 July 2026), mandating **SMS alerts for transactions above ₹500**, providing **zero liability protection** on fraud due to bank negligence, and establishing **30-day complaint resolution timeline** with compensation up to **₹25,000** (85% of net loss) funded 65% by RBI.
- **UIDAI Launches First Structured Bug Bounty Program for Aadhaar Security** The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) launched a structured bug bounty program engaging **20 cybersecurity researchers** to identify vulnerabilities in major Aadhaar platforms including **myAadhaar portal** and **Secure QR Code application**, with financial rewards based on severity of issues identified.
- **Government Suspends TRP Ratings for TV News Channels for Four Weeks** On 7 March 2026, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting directed the Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) to suspend **Television Rating Points (TRP)** reporting for TV news channels for **four weeks** amid concerns about sensational coverage of Israel-Iran conflict in West Asia.
- **Indian Railways Launches SHINE App for Workplace Harassment Reporting** Indian Railways launched the **SHINE (Sexual Harassment Incident Notification for Empowerment)** app on International Women's Day (8 March 2026), enabling women employees and other individuals to confidentially report workplace sexual harassment through the Human Resources Management System (HRMS).
- **NCB Dismantles Pan-India Drug Trafficking Network "Team Kalki"** The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) dismantled a major drug trafficking network named "Team Kalki" that had allegedly dispatched **over 1,000 drug consignments** since January 2025 using darknet marketplaces, encrypted messaging app **Session**, and courier services, resulting in seizure of **13 domestic** and **2 international parcels** from Netherlands.
- **Maharashtra Passes Land Revenue and Stamp Amendment Bills** The Maharashtra Legislative Assembly passed the **Land Revenue Code Amendment Bill** permitting use of unused grazing land (gairan) totalling **~14,700 hectares** for public development projects, and the **Stamp Amendment Bill 2026** decentralizing stamp duty refund approvals with District Collectors now authorized for **₹20 lakh** refunds.
- **Mizoram Assembly Passes Resolution for Mizo Language in Eighth Schedule** The Mizoram Legislative Assembly unanimously passed a resolution seeking inclusion of the **Mizo language** in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, reflecting strong political consensus to preserve and promote the language while maintaining Scheduled Tribe status of the Mizo community.
- **Chhattisgarh Cabinet Approves Freedom of Religion Bill 2026** The Chhattisgarh Cabinet approved the draft **Freedom of Religion Bill 2026** aimed at preventing illegal religious conversions carried out through force, inducement, fraud, or undue influence, to be introduced in the state Legislative Assembly for approval.
- **India Becomes Largest Cotton Products Exporter to United States in 2025** India overtook China to become the largest exporter of cotton products to the **United States** in 2025, exporting **0.6 million tonnes** compared to China's **0.5 million tonnes**, driven by US tariffs on Chinese goods (10-125%) encouraging supply chain diversification.
- **Uttar Pradesh Launches Project GANGA for Rural High-Speed Internet Connectivity** Uttar Pradesh Government launched **Project GANGA** to provide high-speed internet connectivity to **20 lakh+ rural households** over 2-3 years through partnership with **One OTT Entertainment Limited** (Hinduja Group subsidiary), creating **8,000-10,000 Digital Service Providers** with ~50% women participation.

- **India Plans to Increase Inter-Regional Power Transmission Capacity to 143 GW by 2027** India announced expansion of inter-regional power transmission capacity from current ~120 GW to **143 GW by 2027** and **168 GW by 2032** to support expected peak electricity demand of ~388 GW by 2032, with transmission network expanding to **6.48 lakh circuit kilometres**.
- **New Delhi Deploys India's First Microalgae-Based PureAir Tower for Air Purification** New Delhi deployed **India's first microalgae-based PureAir Tower** along Aerocity highway corridor using photosynthetic microalgae technology to absorb pollutants (CO₂, particulate matter, NO_x), with each tower providing air purification effect comparable to **15 mature trees**, developed by **C P Arora Private Limited** and **Carbelim Pvt Ltd**.
- **India Sends 1,000 Metric Tons of Rice to Malawi as Humanitarian Assistance** India dispatched **1,000 metric tons of rice** to Malawi as humanitarian assistance to address food shortages caused by severe **El Niño drought**, shipped from **Nhava Sheva Port** in Maharashtra, reflecting India's commitment to **South-South cooperation**.
- **Cheetah Population in India Reaches 53 After Cubs Born at Kuno National Park** The cheetah population in India reached **53** after Cheetah Jwala (Namibian cheetah) gave birth to **5 cubs** at **Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh**, bringing Indian-born cheetah cubs to **33**, marking the **10th successful litter** born in India under **Project Cheetah**.
- **GeM Celebrates Seven Years of SWAYATT Initiative** The Government e-Marketplace (GeM) celebrated the **7th anniversary** of SWAYATT initiative on **6 March 2026**, highlighting that women entrepreneurs' cumulative order value increased from **₹1,265.62 crore (FY2019)** to **₹83,323 crore (FY2026)** while startup orders rose from **₹497.24 crore to ₹54,005.8 crore**.
- **PM Modi Launches ₹24,000 Crore Projects in Assam:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid foundation stones for development projects worth over ₹24,000 crore, including the **Kopili Hydro Project** and railway electrification during his two-day Assam visit.
- **Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 Extended till 2028:** The Government of India extended Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 until December 2028 with an increased outlay of ₹8.69 lakh crore to ensure safe drinking water for every rural household.
- **FSSAI Licences Receive Perpetual Validity:** The government approved perpetual validity for FSSAI licences and increased the turnover limit for basic registration from ₹12 lakh to ₹1.5 crore to improve ease of doing business.
- **Campaign Against Child Marriage Intensified:** The government strengthened the "Bal Vivah Mukta Bharat" campaign, reaching over 11.81 crore people and recording more than 40 lakh pledges against child marriage.

- **Common Incubation Centre Inaugurated at Tezpur University:** Union Minister Chirag Paswan inaugurated a food processing incubation centre under the PMFME scheme with ₹2.35 crore support to promote micro food enterprises.

States in the News

- **New Delhi Inaugurates India's First Ring Metro Corridor** PM Narendra Modi inaugurated **India's first fully operational Ring Metro corridor** in Delhi, completing the **12.3 km Majlis Park–Maujpur–Babarpur section** of Pink Line with **10 new stations**, making the Pink Line span **71.56 km** and enabling circumnavigation without central interchanges. The PM also inaugurated **9.9 km Magenta Line extension** (Deepali Chowk–Majlis Park) adding **7 stations**, bringing Magenta Line length to **49 km**.
- **PM Modi Inaugurates Metro Projects and Lays Foundation for Phase-V Corridors in New Delhi** PM Modi laid foundation stones for **three new metro corridors** under Delhi Metro Phase-V (A): **Central Vista Corridor** (913 m underground, Ramakrishna Ashram Marg to Indraprastha), **Golden Line Extensions** to Indira Gandhi International Airport Terminal-1 and Kalindi Kunj, connecting major landmarks like India Gate, Central Secretariat, War Memorial-High Court, and Bharat Mandapam.
- **PM Modi Inaugurates Development Projects Worth ₹16,450 Crore in Kerala and Tamil Nadu** PM Modi inaugurated projects worth **₹10,800 crore** in Ernakulam, Kerala including **₹5,500 crore Polypropylene Unit** at **BPCL's Kochi Refinery** (400 KTPA capacity), and **₹5,650 crore** projects in Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu including **₹3,680 crore City Gas Distribution network** for **Nilgiris and Erode districts** (8.8 lakh household PNG connections, 201 CNG stations).
- **PM Modi Inaugurates Development Projects Worth ₹5,600 Crore in Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu** PM Modi inaugurated **Lube Blending Plant** of Indian Oil Corporation (Chennai), largest global lubricant facility; laid foundation for **₹3,700 crore City Gas Distribution network** (Nilgiris-Erode districts), inaugurated **370 km of rural roads** under **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana**, laid foundation for highway bypass near Gangaikonda Cholapuram Temple (UNESCO heritage site), and flagged off train services to Nagercoil, Coimbatore, Rameswaram, Tirunelveli, Mayiladuthurai, and Karaikkudi.
- **Goa CM Pramod Sawant Presents ₹30,195 Crore Budget for FY27** Goa CM Pramod Sawant presented his **7th budget** worth **₹30,195 crore** for FY27, projecting **₹1.31 lakh crore GSDP**, with **fiscal deficit of 2.9% of GSDP** (within FRBM limits); major allocations include Health ₹2,217 crore, Roads ₹1,237 crore, Drinking Water ₹1,009 crore, Tourism ₹385 crore.

- Punjab FM Harpal Singh Cheema Presents ₹2,60,437 Crore Budget for FY27** Punjab FM presented **FY27 budget** worth ₹2,60,437 crore with **10% GDP growth** projected at ₹9,80,635 crore, allocating ₹18,304 crore for **women welfare** (including ₹9,300 crore **Mukh Mantri Mawan Dhiyan Satkar Yojana** providing ₹1,000/month to women, ₹1,500 to Dalit women), ₹19,279 crore for education (7% increase), ₹15,377 crore for agriculture (6% increase).
- Punjab Budget 2026-27: Mukh Mantri Mawan Dhiyan Satkar Yojana Announced** The Punjab Budget 2026-27 introduced the **Mukh Mantri Mawan Dhiyan Satkar Yojana** providing ₹1,000 per month to women and ₹1,500 to Dalit women, expected to cover **97% of state's women** with ₹9,300 crore allocation, excluding government employees, pensioners, income tax payers, MPs, and MLAs but including current social security pensioners.
- Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhama Presents ₹1,11,703 Crore Budget for FY27** Uttarakhand CM presented **FY27 budget** of ₹1,11,703 crore (10.41% increase over FY26), allocating ₹64,989 crore revenue expenditure and ₹46,713.73 crore capital expenditure, with focus on **GYAN model** (Garib, Yuva, Annadata, Nari Shakti); major allocations include Education & Sports ₹11,871 crore, Agriculture ₹1,113 crore, Infrastructure ₹2,501 crore.
- Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah Presents ₹4.48 Lakh Crore Budget for FY27** Karnataka CM presented **FY27 budget** of ₹4.48 lakh crore (13.3% increase over FY26), with **fiscal deficit of 2.95% GDP** (₹97,449 crore); proposed **social media ban for children under 16**, allocated ₹94,663 crore for **women programmes** (Gruhalakshmi Scheme ₹2,000/month), ₹5,300 crore for Shakti Free Bus Travel, ₹2,000 crore for **4,000 electric buses**, ₹233 crore for new Science City.
- Karnataka Proposes Social Media Ban for Children Under 16 in Budget 2026** The Karnataka Government proposed a **ban on social media usage for children below 16 years** in Budget 2026-27, making Karnataka potentially the **first Indian state** with age-based social media restrictions, with similar proposals being considered by **Andhra Pradesh** and discussions ongoing at **national level** with Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.
- Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis Presents ₹7.69 Lakh Crore Budget for FY27** Maharashtra CM presented **FY27 budget** of ₹7,69,467 crore with **fiscal deficit of 2.7% GDP** (₹1,50,491 crore), allocating ₹60,000 crore to three **flagship welfare programmes** including **Punyashlok Ahilyabai Holkar Farmers' Loan Waiver Scheme** (crop loans up to ₹2 lakh waived), declared FY27 as "**Year of Social Equality and Harmony**".
- Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Passes Land Revenue Code Amendment Bill** The Maharashtra Assembly passed the **Land Revenue Code Amendment Bill** permitting municipal corporations and councils to utilize unused grazing land (gairan land) for public development projects with estimated **7,700 hectares in municipal corporations, 4,000 hectares in municipal areas, and 3,000 hectares in municipal councils**.
- Maharashtra Celebrates International Women's Day with Guinness World Record Lezim Dance** Maharashtra celebrated **International Women's Day 2026** with **9,111 women and girls** performing traditional **Lezim dance** simultaneously at **Savalaram Maharaj Sports Complex** in Dombivli, breaking previous record of **7,338 participants**; Deputy CM Eknath Shinde launched **HPV vaccination campaign** (Gardasil-4 vaccine free for girls ≤14 years in Latur and Nanded districts).
- Uttarakhand Ranks First Nationally in Implementing New Criminal Laws** Uttarakhand secured **first position nationally** in implementing **Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) 2.0**, scoring **93.46** on **CCTNS Progress Dashboard** (data up to January 2026) released by **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)**, attributed to CM Pushkar Singh Dhama's leadership in implementing three new criminal laws (BNS, BNSS, BSA) and implementing "**One Data, One Entry**" mechanism for seamless data sharing.
- Gujarat Launches 'Lake and Air Watch' Initiative** The Gujarat Government launched '**Lake and Air Watch**' initiative to monitor air quality and lake health in urban areas across the state through air quality monitoring systems in **17 municipal corporations and 152 municipal areas**, using satellite technology to monitor lake health with estimated budget of ₹10 crore.
- Kerala Introduces Cyber Safety Protocol 2026 for Schools** The Government of Kerala introduced **Cyber Safety Protocol 2026**, developed by KITE (Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education), to create safe digital learning environments protecting students from AI-generated misinformation, deepfakes, digital grooming, and cyber fraud, with **13 major objectives** and **25 cyber safety guidelines** for students, **16 recommendations** for parents, and **17 responsibilities** for school heads.

★ Topper's Choice



Test Prime

**ALL EXAMS
MOCK TESTS**

SUBSCRIPTION

- **Maharashtra Celebrates International Women's Day 2026 with Guinness World Record** Maharashtra celebrated **International Women's Day 2026** with **9,111 women and girls** from Dombivli and Kalyan performing traditional **Lezim dance** simultaneously, breaking previous **Guinness World Record** of **7,338 participants** at **Savalaram Maharaj Sports Complex**.
- **Assam Infrastructure and Inland Waterway Projects Launched:** An elevated road corridor linking Pandu Port to NH-27 and cruise terminals at Biswanath Ghat and Neamati were launched to boost logistics and river tourism in Assam.

International Affairs

- **Finland President Alexander Stubb Visits India (March 4-7, 2026)** Finland President **Alexander Stubb** paid **4-day State Visit** to India (4-7 March 2026) at PM Modi's invitation, elevating bilateral ties to **Strategic Partnership for Digitalisation and Sustainability**; President Stubb held bilateral discussions, met President Droupadi Murmu, VP C.P. Radhakrishnan, and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar; attended **11th Raisina Dialogue 2026** as Chief Guest and keynote speaker with theme "**Samskara – Assertion, Accommodation, Advancement**".
- **India and Finland Establish Strategic Partnership for Innovation and Sustainability** India and Finland elevated bilateral relations to **Strategic Partnership for Innovation and Sustainability**, focusing on **Digital Technologies, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Quantum Computing, Green Hydrogen, and 6G Technology**, marking Finland President Alexander Stubb's first visit to India in his current capacity.
- **Romania Ratifies International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement** Ambassador of Romania **Sena Latif** submitted **Instrument of Ratification** to **Ministry of External Affairs** on **14 March 2026**, confirming Romania's ratification of **International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework Agreement**, making Romania officially an ISA member after signing as **118th member country** in December 2023.
- **India and Uzbekistan Launch Pharma-Nutraceutical Corridor for Eurasian Market** India and Uzbekistan jointly launched **Indo-CIS Pharma-Nutraceutical Corridor** (March 2026) designed to access **CIS and Eurasian healthcare market** valued at **USD 7-10 billion**, formalized through partnership between **Uzbekistan's Ministry of Health, Nutrifly Today** (Bengaluru-based nutraceutical platform), and **Pharma Eurasia** (Tashkent-based platform); commercial launch scheduled for **Pharma Eurasia 2026** (20-22 May 2026, Tashkent).
- **USA Announces First New Oil Refinery in 50 Years with Reliance Investment** President **Donald Trump** announced **USD 300 billion** investment from **Reliance Industries Limited** to build first new major oil refinery in nearly **50 years** at **Port of Brownsville, Texas** (last major refinery in 1977), developed by **America First Refining (AFR)**, designed to process **1.2 billion barrels of US shale oil** (valued at USD 125 billion) and produce **50 billion gallons** of refined petroleum (worth USD 175 billion).
- **World Health Organization Confirms Chile as First Country in Americas to Eliminate Leprosy** The **World Health Organization (WHO)**, in collaboration with **Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)**, verified that **Chile** eliminated leprosy as public health problem, making Chile **1st country in Americas** and **2nd globally** (after Jordan) to achieve this milestone, with **61st country globally** eliminating at least one **Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD)**.
- **Mobile World Congress 2026 Concludes in Barcelona** The **Mobile World Congress (MWC) 2026** held in Barcelona (2-5 March 2026) featured theme "**The IQ Era**" highlighting **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** integration with advanced connectivity; India's participation led by **Union Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia** (Ministry of Communications), who launched **TJ1600-D3 Hyper-scalable Data Center Interconnect (DCI) Platform** by **Tejas Networks Limited** (Bengaluru-based).
- **United States and South Korea Begin "Freedom Shield" Joint Military Exercise** The **United States and South Korea** commenced large-scale joint military exercise "**Freedom Shield 2026**" on **9 March 2026** involving **~18,000 South Korean troops** and unconfirmed US troops, running until **19 March 2026**, focusing on counter-threats and operational coordination in **Korea Theater of Operations**.
- **NATO Commences Biennial Arctic Military Exercise "Cold Response 2026"** NATO launched biennial Arctic military exercise "**Cold Response 2026**" on **9 March 2026** across **Northern Norway and Finland** (until 19 March 2026), involving **~25,000 troops from 14 NATO countries** (including **4,000 from USA** and Denmark), focusing on civilians' role in military operations and Arctic Sentry presence.
- **World Health Organization Certifies Denmark as First EU Country to Eliminate Mother-to-Child HIV Transmission** The **World Health Organization (WHO)** certified **Denmark** as **first European Union country** to eliminate mother-to-child transmission (EMTCT) of **HIV and syphilis**, maintaining very low transmission rates and **95% testing and treatment coverage** for pregnant women, joining **22 other countries and territories** with EMTCT validation.

- **India and Seychelles Launch Joint Military Exercise LAMITIYE-2026** The Indian Armed Forces and Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF) commenced 11th edition of Joint Military Exercise "LAMITIYE-2026" (9-20 March 2026) at Seychelles Defence Academy, Victoria, marking first tri-service participation of Indian Armed Forces with Assam Regiment, INS Trikand (Talwar-class frigate), and IAF C-130 transport aircraft, focusing on Sub-Conventional Operations in Semi-Urban Environments and UN Peacekeeping Operations.
- **India-Japan Joint Military Exercise Dharma Guardian 2026 Concludes** The 7th edition of India-Japan joint military exercise Dharma Guardian 2026 concluded at Chaubattia (24 February - 8 March 2026), involving Indian Army and Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF), focusing on counter-insurgency (CI) and counter-terrorism (CT) operations with Exercise ASAHI SHAKTI (48-hour validation exercise with drone surveillance).
- **US Submarine Strikes Iranian Warship IRIS Dena Near Sri Lanka** A US submarine torpedoed the Iranian warship IRIS Dena off Sri Lanka coast, killing at least 80 sailors, occurring in Sri Lanka's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) while ship was returning from International Fleet Review and MILAN-2026 naval exercise hosted by India near Visakhapatnam, expanding US-Israel-Iran conflict into Indian Ocean region.
- **SIPRI Report 2025: India Remains World's 2nd Largest Arms Importer** The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released report 'Trends in International Arms Transfers, 2025' highlighting India remained 2nd largest global arms importer (2021-2025) with 8.2% of global imports after Ukraine (9.7%), followed by Saudi Arabia (6.8%); USA, France, Russia were top 3 exporters; India received 24% of France's exports and 48% of Russia's exports.
- **Iran Appoints Mojtaba Khamenei as New Supreme Leader** The Assembly of Experts appointed Mojtaba Khamenei as Supreme Leader of Iran following death of his father Ali Khamenei in airstrikes, making him 3rd Supreme Leader of Islamic Republic of Iran, succeeding interim Supreme Leader Alireza Arafii.
- **Rapper-Turned-Politician Balendra Shah Set to Become Nepal's Next Prime Minister** Balendra Shah (popularly known as Balen Shah), aged 35, is set to become Prime Minister of Nepal after his party Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) secured landslide victory, leading in 100+ constituencies and surpassing Communist Party of Nepal leader K.P. Sharma Oli; Shah defeated Oli with 68,348 votes against 18,734 votes in Jhapa-5 constituency.
- **José Antonio Kast Takes Oath as President of Chile:** Conservative leader José Antonio Kast assumed office as Chile's President on 11 March 2026, promising strong action on crime, immigration, and economic reforms.
- **US and South Korea Begin Freedom Shield Military Exercise:** The two allies launched the annual Freedom Shield exercise involving command-post simulations and field drills with around 18,000 South Korean troops.

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- **AIIMS and ISRO Sign MoU for Space Medicine Research** All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) signed MoU (March 2026) to enhance medical research related to human spaceflight and develop healthcare solutions for astronauts; signed by M. Srinivas (AIIMS Director) and Dinesh Kumar Singh (ISRO's Human Space Flight Centre Director), focusing on microgravity research, astronaut health monitoring, space radiation studies, psychological health assessments, and specialized medical training.
- **ISRO and ESA Sign Agreement for Earth Observation Missions** Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and European Space Agency (ESA) virtually signed "ESA-ISRO Arrangement concerning Joint Calibration and Validation Activities and Scientific Studies for Earth Observation Missions" (March 2026), signed by M. Ganesh Pillai (ISRO Scientific Secretary) and Simonetta Cheli (ESA Director of Earth Observation), supporting FLEX mission (Fluorescence Explorer satellite) for global vegetation health monitoring.
- **NITI Aayog and TEPL Partner for Electronics Manufacturing Growth** National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) collaborated with Tata Electronics Private Limited (TEPL) (March 2026), with Suman Bery (NITI Vice-Chairman) meeting Randhir Thakur (TEPL MD & CEO), focusing on scaling up electronics production, bolstering supply chains, and enhancing global value chain participation; Union Budget 2026-27 enhanced Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS) outlay to ₹40,000 crore.
- **DPIIT and Voltas Limited Sign MoU for Cooling and Smart Appliance Innovation** Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) signed MoU with Voltas Limited (Tata Enterprise) (March 2026) to promote industry-startup collaboration in cooling and smart appliance ecosystem, focusing on HVAC, advanced control systems, power electronics, AI/ML diagnostics, IoT-enabled appliances, with Bharat Startup Grand Challenge (BSGC) innovation challenges and hackathons for selected startups.

- **WHO Foundation and Novo Nordisk Partner to Combat Childhood Obesity in India** The WHO Foundation partnered with Novo Nordisk (Danish multinational pharmaceutical company) (March 2026) to address childhood obesity in India through **school-based health programme** in selected districts, integrating **health screening, lifestyle education, physical activity promotion, mental health support** aligned with **Ayushman Bharat – School Health and Wellness Programme**.
- **IIT Bombay and Honeywell Establish Centre of Excellence for Sustainability Skills** Indian Institute of Technology Bombay partnered with Honeywell to establish **IIT Bombay–Honeywell Centre of Excellence for Future Skills and Innovation** at **Powai Campus, Mumbai**, funded by **Honeywell Hometown Solutions India Foundation**, aiming to train **100,000+ students by 2030** in sustainability focusing on **sustainability reporting, sustainable finance, energy security, sustainable infrastructure, policy advocacy**.
- **BEL and Bellatrix Aerospace Sign MoU for VLEO Satellite Development** Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) signed MoU with **Bellatrix Aerospace** (Bengaluru-based space startup) (March 2026) to develop satellite systems and payloads for **Very Low Earth Orbit (VLEO)** altitudes (**150-450 km**), enabling higher-resolution imaging, faster communications, and improved atmospheric observations.
- **BEL and SASMOS Sign MoU for Indigenous Defence Manufacturing** Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) signed MoU with **SASMOS HET Technologies Limited** (March 2026) in presence of **Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** to enhance indigenous defence electronics manufacturing, focusing on **high-reliability photonics, fibre-optic systems, avionics, aerospace-grade interconnect solutions**, with demonstration of **naval radar communication network subsystem** developed within **6 months**.
- **BEL-Chennai and ALIMCO Sign MoU for Assistive Devices** Bharat Electronics Limited – Chennai Unit (BEL-Chennai) signed MoU with **Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO)** to provide assistive devices to **709 Persons with Disabilities (Divyaangans)** in **Ramanathapuram and Sivagangai districts, Tamil Nadu**.
- **IIT Guwahati Signs MoU with Coventry University Group for AI and Healthcare Research** Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IIT-G) signed MoU with **Coventry University Group (CUG), United Kingdom** to strengthen research collaboration in **Artificial Intelligence and Healthcare**, promoting **academic mobility, joint research, collaborative degree programmes**, focusing on "**Artificial Intelligence for One Health**" addressing human health, animal health, and environmental ecosystems.
- **ASSOCHAM and ICCC Sign MoU to Strengthen India-Canada Business Collaboration** Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) and **Indo Canada Chamber of Commerce (ICCC)** signed MoU during **India-Canada Business Roundtable** in New Delhi to enhance **trade, investment, and institutional cooperation**, promoting **policy cooperation, business collaboration, capacity building initiatives** including trade missions, business delegations, and exhibitions.
- **SBI and MUFG Bank Sign Strategic Partnership for India-Japan Financial Ties** State Bank of India (SBI) signed strategic partnership with **MUFG Bank, Ltd.** (leading Japanese global financial institution) (March 2026) to strengthen **cross-border capital flows** and expand financing opportunities, focusing on **M&A, aviation and real estate financing**, with MUFG acting as **Mandated Lead Arranger** for **USD 500 million social loan** for women's economic empowerment.
- **Jammu and Kashmir Bank Joins with NBFCs for Home and Gold Loan Business** Jammu and Kashmir Bank (J&K Bank) partnered with **Home First Finance Company India Limited** (home loans) and **IIFL Finance** (gold loans) through co-lending agreements to expand retail lending business, particularly outside **Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir**.



Banking/Economy/Business News

- **Bank of Baroda Raises ₹10,000 Crore Through Green Infrastructure Bonds** Bank of Baroda (BoB) became first bank in India to raise **₹10,000 crore** through **Series-I long-term Green Infrastructure Bonds** on **National Stock Exchange of India (NSE), Mumbai** (March 2026), with **7-year bonds** at **7.1% annual coupon rate**, base issue **₹5,000 crore** with equal greenshoe option, total bids **₹16,415 crore** (3x base size), holding '**AAA**' stable ratings from **CARE Ratings and ICRA**.

- **HDFC Bank and Swiggy Launch Two New Co-Branded Credit Cards** HDFC Bank Limited and Swiggy jointly launched **two new co-branded credit cards** (March 2026): **Swiggy BLCK HDFC Bank Credit Card** (10% cashback on Swiggy, max 5% on entertainment/travel/e-commerce, 3-month Swiggy One BLCK membership) and **Swiggy Ornge HDFC Bank Credit Card** (5% cashback on Swiggy, 12-month Swiggy One BLCK membership), both offering **max ₹48,000 annual savings** with instant discounts through partner platforms.
- **PhonePe Launches RuPay 'On-The-Go' National Common Mobility Card** PhonePe Limited launched **RuPay 'On-The-Go' Card** (National Common Mobility Card - NCMC) for contactless transit payments across **metro, buses, trains, toll plazas, parking facilities**, with **₹2,000 maximum balance** storing value directly on chip, supporting **offline transactions up to ₹500**, initially launched at **Hyderabad Metro** in partnership with **L&T Metro Rail (Hyderabad) Limited (LTMRHL)**, fully interoperable with **Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru** transport systems.
- **IRDAI Grants Final Approval to Allianz Jio Reinsurance and Kiwi General Insurance** The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** granted **Certificates of Registration (CoR)** to **Allianz Jio Reinsurance Limited (AJRL)** (50:50 JV between **Allianz Group** and **Jio Financial Services**) and **Kiwi General Insurance Limited** (backed by **WestBridge Capital** and former **Tata AIG CEO Neelesh Garg**) (March 2026) during **134th IRDAI Board Meeting, Hyderabad**; total general insurers in India increased to **35** including **7 Standalone Health Insurers**.
- **Nashik Municipal Corporation Lists Maharashtra's First ULB Green Municipal Bond on NSE** **Nashik Municipal Corporation (NMC)** achieved historic milestone by listing **Maharashtra's first Urban Local Body (ULB) Green Municipal Bonds** on **National Stock Exchange (NSE), Mumbai** (9 March 2026), with bell-ringing ceremony featuring **CM Devendra Fadnavis** and **NSE MD Ashishkumar Chauhan**; funds allocated to **renewable energy, waste management, clean transportation, sustainable water management, climate resilience** supporting India's **net-zero emissions by 2047** goal.
- **Federal Bank Launches 'Fed Wealth' Platform for Wealth Management** **Federal Bank** launched **'Fed Wealth'** platform (March 2026), inaugurating first **Wealth Hub** in **Kochi, Kerala**, offering investment solutions including **fixed income, equities, mutual funds, alternative investments, GIFT City opportunities**, with restructured partnership with **Equirus Capital Private Limited**, led by **Virendra Somwanshi** (experienced wealth management professional).
- **AU Small Finance Bank Relaxes NOFHC Requirement for Universal Bank Transition** The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** modified key condition for **AU Small Finance Bank's** transition into universal bank, relaxing requirement that promoter shareholding be held through **Non-Operative Financial Holding Company (NOFHC)** to only apply if bank establishes additional group financial services entity in future; **in-principle approval** valid for **18 months** from **7 August 2025**.
- **RBI Cancels Certificate of Registration of 36 NBFCs; 9 Voluntarily Surrender Licences** The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** cancelled **Certificate of Registration (CoR)** of **36 Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)** (16-24 February 2026), including **Excellence Broking & Finance Pvt Ltd, Gibraltar Traders Ltd, Bahubali Leasing Limited, Wintech Telecom Pvt Ltd**, while **9 NBFCs** voluntarily surrendered licences due to business exits, structural changes, mergers.
- **CRISIL Intelligence Projects India's GDP Growth at 7.1% for FY27** **CRISIL Intelligence** (March 2026) released report **"India Outlook: Wading through Squally Waters"** projecting India's **real GDP growth** to moderate to **7.1% in FY27** (from 7.6% in FY26); **retail inflation** projected to increase to **4.3%** (from 2.5% in FY26); **industrial CapEx** projected to increase **1.5 times** to **~₹9.1 lakh crore annually** (FY27-FY31).
- **Nomura Lowers India GDP Forecast to 7% in FY27** **Nomura Holdings Inc.** lowered India's **GDP growth projection** for **FY27 to 7%** (from previous **7.1%**) due to **West Asia conflict** risks to energy supplies; raised **inflation forecast** by **70 basis points** from **3.8% to 4.5%**; projected **Current Account Deficit (CAD)** at **1.6% of GDP** (from previous **1.2%**).
- **CRED Authorized by RBI as Payment Aggregator** The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** granted authorization to **CRED** (fintech platform by **Dreamplug Technologies Private Limited**) to operate as **Payment Aggregator (PA)** under **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007** (March 2026), enabling direct merchant onboarding and payment flow management; **CRED** now holds **RBI licenses** as **Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI)** operator and holds **IRDAI corporate agency licence, SEBI registered investment adviser licence, NPCI TPAP licence**.
- **HDFC ERGO General Insurance Appoints Parthanil Ghosh as MD & CEO** **HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company Limited** appointed **Parthanil Ghosh** as **Managing Director (MD)** and **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** (effective **16 April 2026**, subject to **IRDAI approval**), succeeding **Anuj Tyagi** (resigned 16 January 2026); Ghosh has **30+ years** financial services experience including **16+ years** in general insurance.

- **Yes Bank Names Vinay Muralidhar Tonse as MD & CEO**
Yes Bank appointed **Vinay Muralidhar Tonse** as **Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO)** (effective **6 April 2026**) for **3-year term** approved by RBI, succeeding **Prashant Kumar**; Tonse previously served as **Managing Director (Retail Business & Operations)** at **State Bank of India** (November 2023 - November 2025).
- **Yes Bank Introduces 'YES Essence' Salary Account for Women**
Yes Bank launched "**YES Essence Women's Salary Account**" ahead of **International Women's Day** offering **free locker facility (1 year)**, **₹5 lakh complimentary health insurance**, **complimentary annual preventive health check-up**, **Elegance Debit Card with 5% cashback up to ₹6,000/year**, for **Indian female residents aged 18+** as primary account holders.
- **Bank of Baroda Launches 'bob Women Sapphire Savings Account'**
Bank of Baroda (BoB) launched '**bob Women Sapphire Savings Account**' (March 2026) exclusively for women customers requiring **₹1 lakh Monthly Average Balance (MAB)**, offering **₹10 lakh cancer care coverage (ages 18-60)**, **complimentary online doctor consultations (6 family members)**, **15% medicine concession**, **20% pathology test concession**, **bob Bhoomi RuPay Select Debit Card with airport lounge access**, **complimentary gym membership**, **spa/salon services**, **OTT subscriptions**.
- **South Indian Bank Launches Digital Loan Against Mutual Funds (LAMF) Facility**
South Indian Bank (SIB) launched **digitally integrated Loan Against Mutual Funds (LAMF) facility** (March 2026) starting at **9.99% per annum** in partnership with **smallcase (fintech firm)**, enabling customers to access liquidity using mutual fund holdings as collateral without redeeming investments; features **fully digital end-to-end process** and **API-led integration** for fintech partners.
- **PayU and GoKwik Launch India's First Integrated C2C Stack**
PayU partnered with **GoKwik** (March 2026) to launch **India's first Integrated Conversion-to-Completion (C2C) stack**, integrating **GoKwik's conversion intelligence and checkout tools** with **PayU's digital payment infrastructure** enabling **Direct-to-Consumer (D2C) brands** to manage customer conversion and payments through single platform, addressing checkout drop-offs and payment failures.
- **Axis Max Life Insurance Partners with Saarathi Finance for MSME Credit-Linked Insurance**
Axis Max Life Insurance Limited entered strategic **Corporate Agent partnership** with **Saarathi Finance and Credit Private Limited** (March 2026) to integrate **Group Credit Life Secure (GCLS) insurance** with MSME loans, protecting loan obligations in case of unexpected events, aligning with India's **universal insurance coverage by 2047** objective.
- **India Expands Free Trade Agreement Network to 38 Countries**
India expanded **Free Trade Agreement (FTA) network** to **nine FTAs covering 38 countries** over past decade: **India-Mauritius CECTA (2021)**, **India-UAE CEPA (May 2022)**, **India-Australia ECTA (December 2022)**, **India-EFTA TEPA (1 October 2025)**, **India-UK CEEA (July 2025)**, **India-Oman CEPA (December 2025)**, **India-New Zealand FTA (22 December 2025)**, **India-EU FTA (27 January 2026)**, **India-USA interim trade agreement (7 February 2026)**, creating market access for Indian farmers, exporters, and entrepreneurs.
- **RBI Launches Digital Payments Awareness Program**: The Reserve Bank of India started a pilot awareness program in Maharashtra to educate about safe digital payments with participation from about 10 lakh people.
- **Parthanil Ghosh Appointed MD & CEO of HDFC ERGO**: HDFC ERGO General Insurance named **Parthanil Ghosh** as **Managing Director and CEO** effective **16 April 2026**, succeeding **Anuj Tyagi**.
- **Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen to Step Down**: Adobe CEO **Shantanu Narayen** announced plans to step down after more than 18 years, during which the company transitioned to the Creative Cloud subscription model.

Appointments/Resignations

- **RBI Approves Ketan Merchant as Interim CEO of Fino Payments Bank**
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved appointment of **Ketan Merchant**, **Chief Financial Officer (CFO)** of **Fino Payments Bank**, as **interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** (March 2026) for period not exceeding **4 months**, succeeding **Rishi Gupta** (arrested for alleged GST violations); **Anup Agarwal** appointed as **Interim CFO** for up to **4 months** (effective **6 March 2026**).
- **Justice Sushrut Arvind Dharmadhikari Appointed Chief Justice of Madras High Court**
President Droupadi Murmu appointed **Justice Sushrut Arvind Dharmadhikari** as **Chief Justice (CJ)** of **Madras High Court** (under **Article 217(1)** of Constitution), succeeding **Manindra Mohan Shrivastava** (retired 5 March 2026); oath administered by **Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi** at **Lok Bhavan, Chennai**; became **55th Chief Justice of Madras High Court** (established August 1862).
- **Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth Appointed Vice Chief of Army Staff**
The **Indian Army** announced appointment of **Lieutenant General (Lt Gen) Dhiraj Seth** (current **GOC-in-C of Southern Command**) as **Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS)** (to assume office **1 April 2026**), succeeding **Lt Gen P.P. Singh**; Lt Gen **Dhiraj Seth** is **Armoured Corps officer** commissioned **December 1986**, previously commanded **XXI Strike Corps** (Mathura, UP).

- **Phanindranath Kakarla Appointed CEO & MD of Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Limited (Arcil)** Phanindranath Kakarla assumed charge as **Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director (CEO & MD)** of **Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Limited (Arcil)** (effective **8 March 2026**), succeeding **Pallav Mohapatra** (led Arcil since March 2021); Kakarla joined Arcil as **President** (2 April 2025) under board-approved succession plan.
- **Rahul Bhatia Becomes Interim CEO of IndiGo** Rahul Bhatia, **billionaire entrepreneur and co-founder of IndiGo**, assumed charge as **interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** following resignation of **Pieter Elbers**, taking management responsibilities during transition as India's largest airline by market share faces operational challenges.
- **RM Nachammai Appointed First Woman Chief of Functional Nuclear Power Plant** RM Nachammai became **first woman** to head operations of functional nuclear power plant in India, appointed **Chief Superintendent of Kaiga Generating Station Units 3 and 4, Karnataka** (effective **15 March 2026**) under **Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL)**; holds **35+ years** nuclear plant operations experience and **Electrical and Electronics Engineering degree** from **University of Madras** (secured university rank 1990).
- **INS Tarangini Reaches Colombo After Conducting Sea Training for Sri Lanka Navy** The Indian Navy's sail training ship **INS Tarangini** arrived at **Colombo, Sri Lanka** after completing sail training deployment for **3 officers and 26 trainees** from **Sri Lanka Naval and Maritime Academy**, providing intensive training in **sail setting, navigation, watchkeeping**, enhancing **India-Sri Lanka maritime partnership and defence collaboration**.
- **Indian Army Central Command Hosts First Strategic Communication Conclave** The Indian Army's **Central Command** conducted **first-ever Strategic Communication Conclave** in **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh** with **~500 attendees** (senior military officers, diplomats, government communication experts, media professionals), focusing on strategic communication within India's **national security architecture** and discussing **weaponization of narratives and conflicts below war threshold** (information warfare, psychological operations).
- **US Submarine Strikes Iranian Warship IRIS Dena Near Sri Lanka** A **US submarine** torpedoed the Iranian warship **IRIS Dena** off **Sri Lanka coast**, killing at least **80 sailors**, occurring in **Sri Lanka's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)** while ship was returning from **International Fleet Review and MILAN-2026** naval exercise hosted by India near **Visakhapatnam**, expanding **US-Israel-Iran conflict** into Indian Ocean region.
- **DRDO Sanctions Rs 99.15 Lakh Research Project to Bharathiar University** The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** sanctioned research project '**Development of Novel Antidote(s) for Highly Toxic Organophosphorous Compounds**' with **₹99.15 lakh** funding to **Bharathiar University, Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu)** (March 2026) for **36-month duration**, conducted by **DRDO Industry Academia-Centre of Excellence (DIA-CoE)** under **Dr. N. Jayakumar** (Principal Investigator) and **Dr. S. Suja** (Co-PI).
- **Freedom Shield Exercise Strengthens Regional Security:** The **US-South Korea Freedom Shield** military drills include joint operations and training aimed at countering potential threats from **North Korea**.

Defence News

- **DRDO and Indian Navy Successfully Test Indigenous Air Droppable Container 'ADC-150'** **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and **Indian Navy (IN)** successfully conducted **four in-flight release trials** of indigenous **Air Droppable Container (ADC-150)** from **P-8I aircraft** (Boeing P-8I Poseidon) off **Goa coast** (21 February - 1 March 2026) under extreme conditions; **ADC-150** designed to deliver **150 kg payload** for rapid supply of critical materials to naval vessels operating far from coast.
- **IG Defence Unveils Indigenous Long-Range Strike Drone 'Project KAL'** **IG Defence** unveiled **Project KAL**, indigenous **long-range strike drone** designed for **deep-strike missions** with **1,000 km range, 3-5 hours endurance**, carrying **high-explosive payload** targeting logistics hubs, radar systems, strategic infrastructure; comparable to **Shahed-class drones**, offering **cost-effective option** for **precision strikes**.
- **Union Minister Rajnath Singh Releases 'Defence Forces Vision 2047'** **Roadmap** **Union Minister Rajnath Singh, Ministry of Defence (MoD)**, released '**Defence Forces Vision 2047: A Roadmap for a Future-Ready Indian Military**' (10 March 2026) at **South Block, New Delhi**, prepared by **Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS)**, outlining strategy to transform **Indian Armed Forces** into **modern, integrated, technologically-advanced, multi-domain military** by 2047, emphasizing **jointness among Army, Navy, Air Force, advanced technologies (AI, cyber defence)**, and **Aatmanirbharta** in defence.

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Test Prime

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SUBSCRIPTION

Awards and Recognitions

- **Bokaro Steel Plant Receives BIS Certification for Four New Steel Grades** Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL), unit of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), received Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) certification for four new steel grades – ISC 440 LA, ISC 470 LA, ISC 510 LA, ISC 550 LA (March 2026), enabling expansion of **High Strength Low Alloy (HSLA) cold-rolled steel** production under **IS 513 (Part 2)**; also produced **1,100 tonnes of 0.5 mm IS 18316 LS Grade Non-Grain Oriented (NGO) Electrical Steel** for first time, used in **electric motors, generators, transformers, hybrid/EV rotors**.
- **Rashmika Mandanna Wins Best Actress at Telangana Gaddar Film Awards** Rashmika Mandanna won **Best Actress** award at **Telangana Gaddar Film Awards** for her performance in Telugu film **"The Girlfriend"** (2025), portraying character **Bhooma Devi** (postgraduate student) exploring themes of **toxic relationships, emotional manipulation, personal self-realization**; film written and directed by **Rahul Ravindran**.
- **Mattel Launches Barbie Dream Team 2026 to Celebrate International Women's Day** Mattel launched **Barbie Dream Team 2026** during **International Women's Day** celebrations as **month-long global campaign** recognizing influential women who created history, creating **one-of-a-kind Barbie dolls** in likeness of selected global female role models including **Smriti Mandhana** (India - first Indian woman cricketer with centuries in Tests, ODIs, T20Is), **Serena Williams** (USA - 23 Grand Slam titles), **Kellie Gerardi** (USA - astronaut), **Regina Sirvent Alvarado** (Mexico - race car driver), **Chloe Kelly** (UK - footballer), **Helene Fischer** (Germany - pop artist), **Zoja Skubis** (Poland - youngest to summit Everest and Manaslu), **Stephanie Gilmore** (Australia - 8 World Surf League titles).
- **Shah Rukh Khan Debuts in Hurun Global Rich List 2026** Bollywood actor and entrepreneur **Shah Rukh Khan** made debut in **Hurun Global Rich List 2026** with estimated net worth of **USD 1.3 billion**, joining celebrity billionaires including **Michael Jordan** (USD 3.6 billion), **Jay-Z** (USD 2.8 billion), **Tiger Woods** (USD 1.9 billion), **Taylor Swift** (USD 1.6 billion), **Rihanna** (USD 1.5 billion); wealth derived from **Red Chillies Entertainment** (co-owned with Gauri Khan), brand endorsements, film distribution rights.
- **Hurun Rich List 2026: India Ranks Third Globally with 308 Billionaires** The **Hurun Rich List 2026** reported India has **308 billionaires**, ranking **3rd globally** after USA and China, adding **57 new billionaires** (27 dropped out = net **24 billionaire increase**); Indian billionaires' total wealth increased **10% year-on-year** to **₹112.6 trillion**; top 3: **Mukesh Ambani** (₹9.8 trillion, Chairman Reliance Industries), **Gautam Adani** (₹7.5 trillion, Adani Group), **Roshni Nadar Malhotra** (₹3.2 trillion, HCL Technologies); healthcare sector produced highest new billionaires (**53**); **Mumbai** largest billionaire hub with **95 billionaires**.

- **Amol Palekar to Receive META Lifetime Achievement Award 2026** Veteran actor and filmmaker **Amol Palekar** to receive **META Lifetime Achievement Award 2026** at **Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards (META)** (21st edition, 19-25 March 2026, New Delhi) recognizing his outstanding contributions to Indian theatre, cinema and storytelling through experimental performance formats in unconventional venues (parks, terraces, canteens, garages), known for **iconic middle-class roles** in Hindi cinema (**Chhoti Si Baat, Chitchor, Bhumika, Baaton Baaton Mein, Gol Maal**).

Summits and Conferences News

- **11th Raisina Dialogue Held in New Delhi (5-7 March 2026)** **11th Raisina Dialogue** held in **New Delhi** (5-7 March 2026), India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geo-economics, inaugurated by **PM Narendra Modi** with **Finland President Alexander Stubb** as **Chief Guest and keynote speaker**; organized by **Observer Research Foundation (ORF)** in collaboration with **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**; theme: **"Samskara – Assertion, Accommodation, Advancement"**; features **110+ countries** including Ministers, former Heads of State and Government, military commanders, industry leaders discussing **six thematic pillars** including **"Contested Frontiers: Power, Polarity, and Periphery"**, **"Repairing the Commons: New Groups, New Guardians, New Avenues"**, **"Trade in the Time of Tariffs: Recovery, Resilience, Reinvention"**.
- **Mobile World Congress 2026 Concludes in Barcelona** **Mobile World Congress (MWC) 2026**, world's largest mobile and technology event, held in **Barcelona** (2-5 March 2026) at **Fira Barcelona Gran Via** with theme **"The IQ Era"** highlighting **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** integration with advanced connectivity; India led by **Union Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia** (Ministry of Communications), who launched **TJ1600-D3 Hyper-scalable Data Center Interconnect (DCI) Platform** by **Tejas Networks Limited** (Bengaluru-based).

Ranks and Reports

- **NITI Aayog Releases Fiscal Health Index 2026; Odisha Ranks First** **NITI Aayog** released **second annual Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2026** evaluating fiscal performance of Indian states for **FY2023-24** (based on **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)** data); **Odisha** secured top rank with **FHI score of 73.1**, followed by **Goa** (54.7) and **Jharkhand** (50.5); **Front-Runner states** include **Gujarat, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, UP, Karnataka**; **Performer states** include **MP, Haryana, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan**; **Aspirational states** (**West Bengal, Kerala, AP, Punjab**) face fiscal deficits of **35-45% GSDP**.

- **Brand Finance Banking 500 Report 2026: ICBC Tops Global Banking Brand Ranking** According to **Brand Finance Banking 500 Report 2026**, combined brand value of world's top 500 banking brands reached ~USD 1.8 trillion (13% increase over 2025); **Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC)** ranked **1st globally** for **10th consecutive year** with **USD 90.9 billion brand value** and **AAA+ rating**; India has **19 banks** with combined brand value of **USD 47.8 billion** - **HDFC Bank** (31st globally, **USD 12.4 billion**), **State Bank of India** (56th globally, **USD 8.1 billion**, only Indian bank with **AAA+ rating**).
- **India Submits 7th National Report to Convention on Biological Diversity** India submitted **7th National Report (NR7)** to **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** assessing progress toward **23 National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs)** and **142 indicators** aligned with **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)** (first full assessment since KMGBF adoption December 2022); only **2 out of 23 targets** currently on track; report prepared by **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** with inputs from **33 central ministries, Wildlife Institute of India, National Biodiversity Authority**; highlights include **forest/tree cover 25.17%** (₹827,357 sq km, increased 1,445.81 sq km 2021-2023), **₹81.5 million tonnes forest carbon stock increase**, but **29.77% land degradation** remains major challenge.
- **SIPRI Report 2025: India Remains World's 2nd Biggest Arms Importer** **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)** released 'Trends in International Arms Transfers, 2025' highlighting India remained **2nd largest global arms importer (2021-2025)** with **8.2% of global imports** after **Ukraine (9.7%)**, followed by **Saudi Arabia (6.8%)**; India's arms imports declined ~4% compared to previous period (2016-2020); top exporters: **USA, France, Russia**; India received **24% of France's exports** and **48% of Russia's exports**; global arms transfers increased ~10% due to geopolitical tensions.

Sports News

- **India Won ICC Men's T20 World Cup Title 2026 by Defeating New Zealand by 96 Runs** The **India men's national cricket team** won **10th ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026** defeating **New Zealand by 96 runs** in final (8 March 2026) at **Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad (Gujarat)**; India scored **255/5** (highest T20 World Cup final total), with **Sanju Samson** scoring **89 runs** (Player of Series), **Abhishek Sharma 52, Ishan Kishan 54, Shivam Dube 26**; **New Zealand** managed **159/all out** in 19 overs with **Jasprit Bumrah** taking **4/15** (Player of Match); India won **3rd T20 World Cup title** (previous wins: 2007, 2024) becoming first

team to successfully defend title; tournament hosted by **BCCI and Sri Lanka Cricket** (7 February - 8 March 2026); prize pool **USD 13.5 million** with **India winning USD 3 million** (₹27.48 crore) and **New Zealand USD 1.6 million**.

- **BCCI Announces ₹131 Crore Cash Reward for Team India After ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 Victory** The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** announced **₹131 crore cash reward** for **Team India** after winning **ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026**, distributed among **players, coaching staff, support staff, selectors**; **₹6 crore higher** than **₹125 crore reward** after 2024 T20 World Cup victory; combined with **ICC prize money USD 2.34 million** (₹21.5 crore).
- **George Russell Won Australian Grand Prix 2026 for Mercedes** **George Russell** of **Mercedes-AMG Petronas Formula One Team** won **2026 Australian Grand Prix** at **Albert Park Circuit, Melbourne** (8 March 2026), marking **F1 2026 season opener** and beginning of **new technical regulation era**; **Russell led 1-2 finish** ahead of teammate **Kimi Antonelli** (full-season debut), with **Charles Leclerc** (Ferrari) finishing **3rd**; victory marked **Russell's 6th F1 Grand Prix win** and **Mercedes' 132nd Grand Prix victory** with **61st one-two finish**; **F1 2026 regulations** feature **50:50 power split** between **Internal Combustion Engine (ICE)** and **Electric Power Unit (EPU)**.
- **Jasprit Bumrah Completes 500 Wickets in International Cricket** **Indian fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah** completed **500 wickets in international cricket** during **ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 semifinal** against **England** at **Wankhede Stadium** (dismissing **Harry Brook**), taking **234 Test wickets** (52 matches), **149 ODI wickets** (89 matches), **117 T20I wickets** (94 matches); achieved milestone within **decade of international debut** (23 January 2016 vs Australia, Sydney), joining India's leading wicket-takers alongside **Anil Kumble** (953), **Ravichandran Ashwin** (765), **Harbhajan Singh** (707).
- **India Women's Hockey Team Qualifies for FIH Hockey World Cup 2026** **India women's national field hockey team** qualified for **FIH Hockey Women's World Cup 2026** before semifinals, securing dominant **4-1 victory** against **Wales** in **Pool B match** at **GMC Baloyogi Hockey Stadium, Hyderabad**; **Navneet Kaur** scored hat-trick (29th, 34th, 55th minutes), **Sakshi Rana** scored in **7th minute**; India finished **Pool B top** with superior goal difference.
- **Lakshya Sen Finishes Runner-up at All England Open 2026** **India's badminton star Lakshya Sen** finished **runner-up** at **All-England Open Badminton Championships 2026** (Birmingham, UK), losing to **Taiwan's Lin Chun-Yi** with scores **15-21, 20-22** in closely contested final; **Sen's 5th consecutive loss** to **Lin Chun-Yi** in international competitions; only **two Indian players** won **All-England men's singles title**: **Prakash Padukone** (1980), **Pullela Gopichand** (2001).

- **Shailesh Kumar Wins Gold in Men's High Jump T63 at World Para Athletics Grand Prix Indian para-athlete Shailesh Kumar won gold medal in men's high jump T63 at World Para Athletics Grand Prix, New Delhi, jumping 1.84 metres (personal best 1.91 metres); reigning world champion gradually returning from left knee injury, targeting Asian Para Games as main season focus.**
- **India and New Zealand Launch Centenary Sports Cooperation Programme 2026** India and New Zealand launched **India-New Zealand Centenary Sports Cooperation Programme 2026** marking **100 years of sporting relations** (beginning 1926 when **Indian Army hockey team toured New Zealand**); high-level meeting in **New Delhi** between **Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya** and **New Zealand sports delegation** (led by **Chris Bishop**, Associate Minister for Sport) identified priority sports: **rugby, rowing, canoeing, sailing, athletics, cycling**; planning **India-New Zealand Sports and Culture Week** celebrations.
- **India to Host Asia Cup Archery 2027 Second Leg in Delhi After 22 Years** **New Delhi** is set to host **second leg of Asia Cup Archery 2027**, marking **India's first international archery event in 22 years** (last: **Asian Archery Championships, Delhi, 2005**); decision finalized after **World Archery Asia President Kazi Rajib Uddin Ahmed Chapol** met **Archery Association of India Secretary General Virendra Sachdeva** in **Kolkata, West Bengal**; **Asia Cup Archery 2026**: opening leg in **Bangkok, Thailand** (21-26 March 2026), second leg in **Iraq**, final leg in **China**.
- **World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026 to be Held in New Delhi (11-13 March)** **Second World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026 – New Delhi** to be held (11-13 March 2026) featuring **~257 athletes from 8 countries** (**India, Russia, Nepal, Bhutan, Hong Kong, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt**); **India** fielding **~219 athletes**; featuring **Indian para-athletes: Mariyappan Thangavelu, Sumit Antil, Praveen Kumar** (Paralympic gold medallists), **Ajeet Singh, Devendra Singh Gurjar, Ankur Dhama, Simran (T12 sprinter), Preeti Pal** (bronze medals, Paris Paralympics 2024); includes **74 international classification slots** (39 physical impairments, 29 vision impairments, 6 intellectual impairments).
- **Cycling League of India Unveiled; World's First Professional Franchise-Based Road Cycling League** **Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya** unveiled official logo of **Cycling League of India**, **world's first professional franchise-based road cycling league** featuring **8 city/region-based franchises with 10 cyclists per team** (2 international, 2 junior, remaining professional riders), conducting **Criterium races, team time trials, mass start races** across **three stages** culminating in **grand finale**; aims

to develop cycling talent, attract international participation, enhance India's global cycling presence.

- **Chhattisgarh to Host First Edition of Khelo India Tribal Games 2026** **Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya** announced **Khelo India Tribal Games 2026** first edition to be hosted by **Chhattisgarh** (26 March - 6 April 2026) across **three cities (Raipur, Jagdalpur, Sarguja)**, featuring **7 medal sports: Athletics, Football, Hockey, Weightlifting, Archery, Swimming, Wrestling**, aimed at promoting sports participation among tribal communities and strengthening grassroots sports infrastructure.

Schemes and Committees News

- **Cabinet Approves ₹17-Member Committee for Larger Reforms in SEZ Policy** In March 2026, the **Government of India (GoI)** constituted **17-member committee** to suggest larger reforms in **Special Economic Zones (SEZs)** policy as policymakers seek to revive exports amid global trade uncertainty; committee composition includes representatives from **Commerce and Customs, NITI Aayog, DPIIT, CBIC, DGEP, export promotion council for SEZs, two development commissioners, Department of Economic Affairs**; will submit **concept paper within 6 months** with recommendations for **SEZ 2.0 policy**.
- **Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh Releases Report on Textile Waste Value Chain** **Union Minister Giriraj Singh, Ministry of Textiles (MoT)**, released report '**Mapping of Textile Waste Value Chain in India**' at **Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi** (March 2026), assessing **textile waste generation, recycling practices, recovery pathways, emerging technologies**; **India** generates **70.73 lakh tonnes** annually (42% from **Post-Consumer Textile Waste**, 58% from **Pre-Consumer Textile Waste**); **spinning sector** operates **near closed-loop system** reintegrating **100% soft waste**; **Panipat, Haryana** emerged as major hub for **mechanical textile recycling**; market projected to reach **USD 3.5 billion by 2030** creating **1 lakh green jobs**.
- **Union Minister Giriraj Singh Launches Bharat Tex 2026** **Union Minister Giriraj Singh, Ministry of Textiles (MoT)**, launched **Bharat Tex 2026** (11 March 2026), **India's flagship global textile event** expected to become **world's largest integrated textile fair**, positioned to position **India** as **reliable sourcing destination and investment hub** for global textile industry; event scheduled **14-17 July 2026** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**; organized by **Bharat Tex Trade Federation (BTTF)** (umbrella body of **11 textile-related Export Promotion Councils**) with **Ministry of Textiles** support; aligns with **PM's 5F Vision – Farm to Fibre, Fibre to Factory, Factory to Fashion, Fashion to Foreign markets** under **Make in India**.

- **Union Minister C.R. Patil Launches Jal Mahotsav 2026 in Gujarat** Union Minister Chandrakant Raghunath (C.R.) Patil, Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS), launched Jal Mahotsav 2026 (8 March 2026) from Rahej village, Gandevi Block, Navsari district, Gujarat, nationwide campaign by Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS); coincided with International Women's Day observed as 'Sujalam Shakti Diwas', highlighting women's role in rural water management; observed annually 8-22 March (culminating World Water Day) with campaign tagline "गाँव का उत्सव, देश का महोत्सव" (Village's Festival, Nation's Festival); structured across 4 administrative levels (National, State, District, Gram Panchayat); commenced with Jal Arpan Diwas symbolizing handing over rural drinking water assets to Gram Panchayats under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).
- **MoPSW Approves ₹117.54 Crore Renovation of Historic Bascule Bridge in Kolkata** Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW), approved ₹117.54 crore project for renovation of historic Bascule Bridge at Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (SMP), Kolkata, West Bengal (March 2026), originally constructed by Wagner-Biro Bridge Systems AG, undergoing structural strengthening and electro-mechanical upgrades; implemented by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) with construction awarded to M/s H & H Fressinet, Mumbai; receiving ₹41 crore financial assistance under Sagarmala Programme.
- **Ministry of Panchayati Raj Launches 'Say No To Proxy Sarpanch' Campaign** Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched "Say No To Proxy Sarpanch" campaign (8 March 2026 - 18 March 2026) on International Women's Day to address "Sarpanch Pati" practice (male relatives exercising authority on behalf of elected women sarpanches), encouraging citizens to support genuine women leadership in Gram Panchayats; proposing strict penalties for proxy governance cases with recommendations for helplines, women's watchdog committees, confidential complaint mechanisms, whistleblower rewards, and capacity-building programmes for elected women representatives.
- **Coursera Collaborates with Mission Karmayogi to Upskill Civil Servants** Coursera, global edtech platform, partnered with Government of India's Mission Karmayogi (March 2026) to provide advanced upskilling for civil servants and government officials through Integrated Government Online Training (iGOT) Karmayogi Digital Platform; partnership announced by Chhavi Bhardwaj, CEO of Karmayogi Bharat, focusing on courses in Emerging Technologies (AI), Infrastructure & Sustainability, Leadership & Governance, Public Welfare; Mission Karmayogi (also National Programme for Civil Services

Capacity Building - NPCSCB) launched September 2020 to build future-ready, citizen-centric, technology-enabled civil service.

Science and Technology News

- **ISRO and ESA Sign Agreement to Strengthen Cooperation in Earth Observation Missions** Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and European Space Agency (ESA) virtually signed agreement "ESA-ISRO Arrangement concerning Joint Calibration and Validation Activities and Scientific Studies for Earth Observation Missions" (March 2026), signed by M. Ganesh Pillai (ISRO Scientific Secretary) and Simonetta Cheli (ESA Director of Earth Observation Programmes); partnership began 1978, renewed 2002, expanded to Earth observation, navigation systems, ground station support, human spaceflight, Chandrayaan and Aditya missions, deep-space communications; specifically supports FLEX mission (Fluorescence Explorer - ESA Earth Explorer satellite measuring chlorophyll fluorescence for global vegetation health monitoring).
- **AquaAirX Unveils India's First Amphibious Surveillance Drone 'AVATAAR'** AquaAirX Autonomous Systems, deep-tech startup, introduced 'AVATAAR (Amphibious Vehicle for Autonomous Tactical Aerial & Aquatic Reconnaissance)' (March 2026), India's first amphibious drone operating in air and underwater for Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) missions in maritime and coastal environments; dual-domain operation transitioning between air and underwater within seconds; equipped with imaging sonar, Doppler Velocity Logger (DVL), acoustic communication modem, LED lights, cameras, Ultra-Short Baseline (USBL) navigation system; features AI-assisted navigation and mission control software; achieved Technology Readiness Level 6 (TRL-6) indicating functional prototype tested in operational environments.



- **IBM Opens Sangam Artificial Intelligence & Infrastructure Innovation Centre in Bengaluru International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) launched Sangam Infrastructure Innovation Center at India Systems Development Lab (ISDL) campus, Bengaluru, Karnataka (March 2026), strengthening India's position as global hub for advanced infrastructure engineering and AI development; functions as collaborative engineering hub bringing together IBM system architects, ISDL infrastructure specialists, Clients, Independent Software Vendors (ISVs), Global System Integrators (GSIs), Global Capability Centers (GCCs), creating secure, scalable, responsible enterprise AI solutions through hybrid cloud infrastructure integration.**
- **United States Successfully Tests Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missile United States Air Force Global Strike Command conducted successful test launch of LGM-30G Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) from Vandenberg Space Force Base, California (designated GT-255/Glory Trip 255), part of long-term reliability testing programme with 300+ similar tests over decades; unarmed missile equipped with two test reentry vehicles traveled ~4,200 miles before striking target zone near Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands; Minuteman III component of US nuclear triad (land-based missiles, submarine-launched missiles, strategic bombers), deployed 1970, operational range ~6,000 miles, travel speed exceeding Mach 23; ~400 Minuteman III missiles remain on alert in Montana, North Dakota, Wyoming.**
- **Researchers Develop Sunlight-Driven Method to Turn Plastic Waste into Acetic Acid Researchers at University of Waterloo, Canada, developed innovative method to convert plastic waste into acetic acid (vinegar's main component) using sunlight without extreme heat or toxic chemicals; photocatalysis system uses sunlight as primary energy source transforming plastic polymers at room temperature; tested on polyethylene (PE), polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polypropylene (PP), polyvinyl chloride (PVC), successfully producing acetic acid with PVC showing highest yield; global acetic acid production exceeds 17 million tonnes annually, primarily using fossil fuels (natural gas, coal).**
- **Union Minister Jitendra Singh Reviews Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion Plant in Lakshadweep Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Dr. Jitendra Singh, Ministry of Science & Technology, reviewed progress of India's first Integrated Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) plant at Kavaratti, Lakshadweep (March 2026); examined seawater intake system, deep-sea cold-water pipeline, turbine-generator unit, desalination modules; OTEC technology utilizes temperature difference between warm surface seawater and cold deep seawater generating electricity and potable water; project implemented by Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai; also reviewed Low Temperature Thermal Desalination (LTTD) plants across 8 Lakshadweep islands converting seawater to drinking water using deep-sea water from 350-400 metres depth; OTEC plant with 8 km high-density polyethylene pipeline drawing cold seawater from >1,000 metres depth expected 100 cubic metres/day desalination capacity operating independent of diesel-based electricity.**
- **Indian Institute of Science Partners with Pratiksha Trust for Brain Co-Processor Moonshot Project Indian Institute of Science (IISc) launched Moonshot Project on Brain Co-Processors funded by Pratiksha Trust (founded by Senapathy 'Kris' Gopalakrishnan and Sudha Gopalakrishnan), developing advanced technologies to enhance or restore brain function; integrates neuromorphic hardware and AI algorithms creating implantable and non-invasive brain co-processors decoding neural signals, processing via AI, sending feedback to brain; builds on IISc's Brain, Computation and Data Science initiative (20+ faculty members), focusing on cognitive rehabilitation of stroke survivors; first phase develops non-invasive neural co-processor for sensorimotor feedback in stroke survivors; second phase focuses on embedded, minimally invasive co-processor restoring sensorimotor coordination in chronic middle cerebral artery (MCA) stroke patients.**
- **SEBI Forms High-Level Panel to Develop Technology Roadmap for Securities Market Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) set up high-level expert working group (chaired by Dr D B Phatak, Professor Emeritus, IIT Bombay) to prepare short-term and long-term technology roadmaps for India's securities market ecosystem; SEBI developed internal tools: "SEBI Sudarshan" (real-time surveillance system monitoring unauthorized digital market activity) and "SEBI R(AI)DAR" (AI-based system reviewing securities market advertisements); strengthening supervisory frameworks for Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs) (stock exchanges, clearing corporations, depositories) with external independent performance evaluations.**

- **Forest Survey of India Halts Fortnightly Deforestation Alerts via AI-Based Anavaran Portal** Forest Survey of India (FSI), under Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, halted issuing fortnightly deforestation alerts through AI-based Anavaran portal (operational January 2024); Anavaran-Deforestation Alert System provided near-real-time alerts on forest cover loss using satellite imagery and machine learning, utilizing Google Earth Engine (data processing), Sentinel-2 optical imagery (forest cover detection), Sentinel-1 Synthetic Aperture Radar data (cloudy/monsoon monitoring); between January 2024 - October 2025, issued 12,351 deforestation alerts (averaging 561/month, higher November-March); states with highest alerts: Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Uttarakhand, Assam, Tripura; Anavaran functioned as pilot project with effectiveness currently under review.
- **ISRO Conducts Successful CE20 Cryogenic Engine Hot Test:** ISRO completed a 165-second sea-level hot test of the CE20 engine powering the LVM3 rocket, enhancing payload capacity for future missions.

Important Days News

- **International Women's Day 2026 – March 8 International Women's Day (IWD)** observed worldwide on 8 March 2026 to celebrate social, economic, cultural, political achievements of women; marks 51st year of UN's official observance (began 1975 as International Women's Year); 2026 Theme: "Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls"; UN hosting global commemoration at New York Headquarters alongside Commission on the Status of Women (CSW70) (9-19 March 2026), world's largest annual forum on gender equality and women's rights; celebrations in India included nationwide events in New Delhi with President Droupadi Murmu.
- **International Day of Women Judges 2026 – March 10 United Nations' International Day of Women Judges (IDWJ)** observed annually on 10 March to promote full and equal participation of women in judicial systems; 10 March 2026 marks 5th observance of IDWJ; 2026 Theme: "Women Judges on the Bench and Beyond: Protecting Access to Justice"; UNGA Resolution A/RES/75/274 (28 April 2021), introduced by Qatar, designated 10 March as IDWJ; acknowledged role of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and Global Judicial Integrity Network (GJIN) in promoting women's judicial representation; first IDWJ observed 10 March 2022.
- **CISF Raising Day 2026 – March 10 Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) Raising Day** observed annually on 10 March commemorating establishment of CISF in 1969; 10 March 2026 marks 57th CISF Raising Day; established

under Central Industrial Security Force Act, 1968 (Act No. 50), functions under Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA); CISF Bill passed Parliament 13 August 1968, received Presidential assent 2 December 1968, Act came into force 10 March 1969; in 2019, GoI decided to celebrate CISF Raising Day across India rather than only New Delhi.

- **World Kidney Day 2026 – March 12 World Kidney Day (WKD)** observed on second Thursday of March annually to raise kidney disease awareness and highlight kidney health importance; 12 March 2026 marks 20th anniversary of WKD; 2026 Theme: "Kidney Health for All – Caring for People, Protecting the Planet"; introduced by International Society of Nephrology (ISN) and International Federation of Kidney Foundations (IFKF); inaugural WKD launched 9 March 2006, fully inaugurated 8 March 2007; World Health Organization (WHO) adopted first-ever resolution on kidney health during 78th World Health Assembly (19-27 May 2025, Geneva).
- **Jan Aushadhi Diwas 2026 – March 7 Jan Aushadhi Diwas (Generic Medicine Day)** observed annually on 7 March to raise awareness about affordability and effectiveness of generic medicines and promote Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) ensuring access to quality medicines; 7 March 2026 marks 8th Jan Aushadhi Diwas; Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared 7 March as Jan Aushadhi Diwas on 7 March 2019; Jan Aushadhi Diwas Week observed 1-7 March annually with final day celebrated as Jan Aushadhi Diwas; first Jan Aushadhi Diwas observed 7 March 2019; organized by Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI) under Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (MoCF), GoI.
- **National No Smoking Day 2026 – March 11 National No Smoking Day 2026** observed on 11 March (2nd Wednesday of March annually) to encourage smokers to quit tobacco by providing support, resources, awareness about health benefits of quitting; 2026 Theme: "Unmasking the appeal – countering nicotine and tobacco addiction" (for World No Tobacco Day 2026); introduced 1984 in United Kingdom originally on Ash Wednesday, later adopted as annual event on 2nd Wednesday of March; widely associated with British Heart Foundation campaigns; approximately 1 in 10 smokers may attempt quitting on this day.
- **International Day to Combat Islamophobia Observed on 15 March:** The United Nations designated the day in 2022 to raise awareness against discrimination and hatred faced by Muslims worldwide.
- **Pi Day Celebrated Worldwide on 14 March:** Mathematics enthusiasts celebrate Pi Day on 14 March marking the value 3.14, while UNESCO recognizes it as the International Day of Mathematics.

Obituaries News

- **1965 India-Pakistan War Hero and Vir Chakra Awardee K.G. George Passed Away** Lance Havildar (retd) K.G. George, Vir Chakra (VC) awardee from 1965 India-Pakistan War, passed away in Kottayam, Kerala at age 95 (March 2026); born February 1931; served in Indian Army's Corps of Signals (established 15 February 1911), army's communication arm; during 1965 India-Pakistan War, risked life establishing vital communication link between Brigade Headquarters and forward battalions during enemy attack (especially night of 8-9 September 1965); awarded Vir Chakra, India's 3rd-highest wartime gallantry award, for exceptional courage and devotion to duty; retired as Lance Havildar.
- **Veteran Congress Leader and Former Union Minister Biren Singh Engti Passed Away** Veteran leader of Indian National Congress (INC) and former Union Minister of State (MoS) Biren Singh Engti passed away in Guwahati, Assam at age 81 (March 2026); born 2 March 1945 in Karbi Anglong, Assam; 5-time Lok Sabha MP from Diphu constituency (1977, 1984, 2009, 2014 twice); served as MoS in Rajiv Gandhi-led central government handling Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (MoPPG&P) and Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation (1986-1989); also served as Chief Executive Member (CEM) of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC); parliamentary career spanning 1970s made him prominent Assam politics figure.

Miscellaneous News

- **2,600-Year-Old Sealed Etruscan Tomb Unearthed in Central Italy** Archaeologists in central Italy uncovered sealed Etruscan tomb dating ~2,600 years ago at San Giuliano archaeological site (70 km northwest of Rome), providing rare insights into ancient civilization predating Rome; excavation part of San Giuliano Archaeological Research Project (SGARP) involving international universities, Virgil Academy, Italian heritage authorities; interior featured 4 skeletons on carved stone beds, suggesting deliberate positioning in ancient burial ceremonies; contained 100+ artifacts: ceramic vases, iron weapons, bronze ornaments, silver jewelry, hair accessories, reflecting Etruscan beliefs in usefulness of items in afterlife; exceptional preservation (sealed 2,000+ years) unlike many looted Etruscan tombs, allowing detailed study of 7th century BCE burial practices; preliminary examination suggests remains may belong to two male-female pairs, requiring further DNA testing and isotope analysis; Etruscan civilization flourished 8th-6th

centuries BCE primarily in present-day Tuscany, Umbria, Lazio, significantly influencing early Roman religion, architecture, urban planning.

- **Stenothoe lowryi, Rare Marine Amphipod, Found for First Time in Indian Waters** Marine science researchers from Berhampur University recorded presence of rare shrimp-like marine amphipod species in Indian waters for first time (March 2026); species identified as "Stenothoe lowryi", previously reported only from Malaysia with distribution largely unknown; discovered at Arjyapalli, Odisha's Ganjam district during field survey of rocky coastal habitats; research led by Shesdev Patro, Assistant Professor, Department of Marine Science, Berhampur University, under Mukhyamantri Research Innovation Extramural Programme (MRIEP) funded by Odisha State Higher Education Council (2024-25); collected 8 specimens from rocky coastal habitats at Arjyapalli, later confirmed as "Stenothoe lowryi", marking first recorded occurrence in Indian waters; findings published in "Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom"; species identified by distinctive large claws, preference for rocky marine environments, ~5 mm length; amphipods, small crustaceans related to shrimps, play important role in marine food web; earlier discoveries by Berhampur University include Grandidierella geetanjalae from Chilika Lagoon (January 2025), Parhyale odian from Barkul, Chilika Lake (November 2022).
- **Stenothoe lowryi: Rare Marine Species Discovery in Odisha** Berhampur University researchers discovered Stenothoe lowryi, a rare marine amphipod species, in Indian waters for the first time at Arjyapalli, Ganjam district, Odisha; previously found only in Malaysia; collected 8 specimens from rocky coastal habitats; research published in "Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom".

★ Topper's Choice



Test Prime

ALL EXAMS
MOCK TESTS

SUBSCRIPTION

Static Takeaways

Category	Entity	Key Information
Bank	YES Bank	<p>Founded: 2004</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HQ: Mumbai CEO: Prashant Kumar Tagline: Life Ko Banao Rich
State	Punjab	<p>CM: Bhagwant Mann</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governor: Gulab Chand Kataria Capital: Chandigarh Wildlife Sanctuaries: Abohar, Aishvan, Bir Bhadson, Bir Bunerheri, Bir Dosanjh
State	Karnataka	<p>Capital: Bengaluru</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CM: Siddaramaiah Governor: Thaawarchand Gehlot National Parks: Bandipur, Nagarhole, Kudremukh, Anshi (Kali), Bannerghatta Wildlife Sanctuaries: Dandeli, Bhadra, Ranganathittu, Brahmagiri, Pushpagiri, Cauvery
Country	Chile	<p>President: Gabriel Boric</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capital: Santiago Currency: Chilean Peso
Country	Spain	<p>Prime Minister: Pedro Sánchez</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capital: Madrid Currency: Euro
Country	Nepal	<p>Capital: Kathmandu</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currency: Nepalese Rupee
Bank	Federal Bank	<p>Founded: 1931</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HQ: Aluva, Kerala CEO: KVS Manian Tagline: Your Perfect Banking Partner
Financial Institution	NABARD	<p>Founded: 12 July 1982</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HQ: Mumbai Chairman: Shaji K V Apex body for RRBs & Cooperative Banks
Bank	State Bank of India	<p>Founded: 1955</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HQ: Mumbai Chairman: Challa Sreenivasulu Setty Slogan: The Banker to Every Indian
State	Maharashtra	<p>CM: Devendra Fadnavis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governor: Jishnu Dev Varma Capital: Mumbai National Parks: Tadoba, Sanjay Gandhi, Chandoli, Gugamal, Navegaon Wildlife Sanctuaries: Bhimashankar, Koyna, Karnala, Melghat, Radhanagari
State	Kerala	<p>CM: Pinarayi Vijayan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governor: Rajendra V. Arlekar Capital: Thiruvananthapuram National Parks: Eravikulam, Periyar, Silent Valley, Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuaries: Wayanad, Idukki
Country	Denmark	<p>PM: Mette Frederiksen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capital: Copenhagen Currency: Danish Krone

Category	Entity	Key Information
Organization	DRDO	<p>Founded: 1958</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HQ: New Delhi Parent Ministry: Defence Chairman: Dr. Samir V. Kamat
Bank	HDFC Bank	<p>Founded: 1994</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HQ: Mumbai CEO: Sashidhar Jagdishan Tagline: We Understand Your World
Bank	Jammu & Kashmir Bank	<p>Founded: 1938</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HQ: Srinagar CEO: Amitava Chatterjee Tagline: Serving to Empower
State	Uttar Pradesh	<p>CM: Yogi Adityanath</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governor: Anandiben Patel Capital: Lucknow National Park: Dudhwa Wildlife Sanctuaries: Katarniaghat, Kaimoor, Nawabganj, Hastinapur, Sur Sarovar, Chandraprabha, Mahavir Swami, Ranipur
Country	Romania	<p>President: Nicușor Dan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prime Minister: Ilie Bolojan Capital: Bucharest Currency: Romanian Leu
Country	Finland	<p>President: Alexander Stubb</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PM: Petteri Orpo Capital: Helsinki Currency: Euro
Country	Iran	<p>Capital: Tehran</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currency: Iranian Rial
PSU	BEL	<p>Founded: 1954</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HQ: Bengaluru CMD: Manoj Jain
Space Agency	ISRO	<p>Established: 15 Aug 1969</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HQ: New Delhi Chairman: V. Narayanan
Regulatory Body	IRDAI	<p>Founded: 1999</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HQ: Hyderabad Chairperson: Ajay Seth
FinTech	PhonePe	<p>Founded: 2015</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HQ: Bengaluru CEO: Sameer Nigam Products: UPI, Wallet, Insurance, Gold, Bharat BillPay
Country	Uzbekistan	<p>President: Shavkat Mirziyoyev</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PM: Abdulla Aripov Capital: Tashkent Currency: Uzbek Sum
State	Mizoram	<p>CM: Lalduhoma</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governor: Vijay Kumar Singh Capital: Aizawl National Park: Murlen Wildlife Sanctuaries: Dampa, Ngengpui, Tawi, Lengteng, Thorangtlang

Category	Entity	Key Information
State	Madhya Pradesh	CM: Mohan Yadav • Governor: Mangubhai Patel • Capital: Bhopal • National Parks: Kanha, Bandhavgarh, Pench, Panna • Wildlife Sanctuaries: Bori, Gandhi Sagar, Ken Gharial, Kuno
Organization	NATO	Founded: 4 April 1949 • HQ: Brussels • Secretary General: Mark Rutte • 32 Member Countries
Sports Body	BCCI	Founded: 1928 • HQ: Cricket Centre, Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai • Governing body of cricket in India
Regulatory Body	SEBI	Established: 1988 • Statutory powers: 1992 • HQ: Mumbai • Chairman: Tuhin Kanta Pandey
Bank	Bank of Baroda	Founded: 1908 • HQ: Vadodara • CEO: Debadatta Chand • Tagline: India's International Bank
Bank	South Indian Bank	Founded: 1929 • HQ: Thrissur • CEO: P.R. Seshadri • Slogan: Experience Next-Gen Banking
State	Chhattisgarh	CM: Vishnu Deo Sai • Governor: Ramen Deka • Capital: Raipur • National Parks: Indravati, Kanger Valley, Guru Ghasidas • Wildlife Sanctuaries: Achanakmar, Badalkhol, Udanti, Sitanadi
State	Gujarat	CM: Bhupendra Patel • Governor: Acharya Devvrat • Capital: Gandhinagar • National Parks: Gir, Blackbuck, Vansda, Marine • Wildlife Sanctuaries: Nal Sarovar, Velavadar, Kutch Desert, Barda, Purna
State	Tamil Nadu	CM: M.K. Stalin • Governor: Rajendra V. Arlekar • Capital: Chennai • National Parks: Mudumalai, Mukurthi, Gulf of Mannar, Indira Gandhi (Anamalai), Guindy • Wildlife Sanctuaries: Vedanthangal, Vettangudi, Kalakad, Sathyamangalam, Vallanadu, Megamalai, Point Calimere