

Advanced Educational Activities Pvt. Ltd.

CURRENT AFFAIRS CAPSULE (FEBRUARY 2025)

INTERNATIONAL

Switzerland to end development aid programs for Bangladesh, Albania, Zambia

The Swiss government is ending its development aid programmes for Bangladesh, Albania and Zambia. This decision comes after the Swiss parliament allocated less funding for foreign aid in December than the government had requested.

US President Donald Trump imposes tariffs on imports from Mexico, Canada, and China

US President Donald Trump imposed tariffs on imports from Mexico, Canada, and China. He signed three executive orders, issuing tariffs on the US' top three trading partners.

President Trump signs executive order withdrawing US from UNHRC

President Donald Trump has signed an executive order withdrawing the US from the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), prohibiting any future funding for the UN agency for Palestinian refugees.

Singapore passes new law to safeguard racial harmony

Singapore has passed a new law to safeguard racial harmony and protect against foreign interference. The legislation requires race-based groups, such as clan and business associations, to disclose foreign donations and empowers authorities to act against content that threatens racial harmony.

US President Trump signs executive order imposing sanctions on International Criminal Court

US President Donald Trump has signed an executive order imposing sanctions on the International Criminal Court accusing it of illegitimate and baseless actions targeting America and its close ally Israel.

UN says, nearly 3,000 people killed after rebels seize key city in DR Congo

Nearly 3,000 people have been killed in the city of Goma in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, according to the United Nations, after it was captured by rebels (M23 armed group) following days of fierce fighting with the Congolese army.

Panama pulls out of Chinese Belt and Road infrastructure program

Panama has formally pulled out of China's massive Belt and Road infrastructure program, following pressure from the United States to reduce Beijing's influence on the Panama Canal.

Malawian president orders withdrawal of troops from Congo

Malawian President Lazarus Chakwera has ordered Defence Force Commander Paul Valentino Phiri to begin preparations for the withdrawal of Malawian troops from the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

BIMSTEC Digital Conclave held in Colombo

A 2-day-long BIMSTEC digital conclave kicked in Colombo with the theme Building Digital Public Infrastructure for

Shared Prosperity. The conclave includes panel discussions in which eminent leaders and experts from digital economy sectors from the region share their insights.

Lebanon forms its first government in over two years

Lebanon has formed its first full-fledged government since 2022, ending a prolonged deadlock, with Nawaf Salam assuming the role of Prime Minister.

US: A Federal Judge blocks President Donald Trump's order to end birthright citizenship

A federal judge in Seattle has indefinitely blocked US President Donald Trump's executive order that seeks to end birthright citizenship.

Israel Releases 183 Palestinian Prisoners

Israel has released 183 Palestinian prisoners as part of a broader exchange for Israeli hostages held in Gaza. Israel has begun releasing Palestinian prisoners after Hamas freed three Israeli hostages.

India signs key pact with Panama for Quick Impact Projects

India has signed an important umbrella agreement with the central American country to implement, for the first time, Quick Impact Projects (QIP).

PM Modi Co-Chairs AI Action Summit with Macron

Prime Minister Narendra Modi co-chaired the AI Action Summit 2025 on February 10-11 alongside French President Emmanuel Macron. The event aims to shape global AI policies, ensuring innovation aligns with ethical responsibility.

3 Baltic nations disconnect their electricity systems from Russia's power grid

The three Baltic nations of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania have officially disconnected their electricity systems from Russia's power grid.

Ecuador Presidential Election Heads to Runoff

Ecuador's presidential election will go to a second round after a closely contested first-round result failed to produce an outright winner.

58 nations sign Paris joint statement on inclusive, sustainable AI

Fifty eight countries, including India, China, Brazil, France and Australia, signed a joint statement on Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet at the AI Action Summit in Paris on February 11, 2025, with more signatories possible after the summit ends.

US President Trump Pauses Anti-Bribery Law

US President Donald Trump has ordered a pause in the enforcement of a nearly half-century-old law that was used to go after the Adani Group under the previous Biden administration. The Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) bans firms and people with US ties from offering money or gifts to foreign officials to secure business overseas.

World Government Summit 2025 Opens in Dubai

The World Government Summit (WGS) 2025 opened in Dubai, UAE under the theme Shaping Future Governments, attracting record international participation.

FAO Launches \$95M Climate Resilient Agriculture Project in Somalia

The FAO in partnership Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Government of Somalia officially launched a seven-year project with Somalia that aims to enhance climate adaptation and resilience for vulnerable communities in the country.

Angola Reports 3,402 Cholera Cases, 114 Deaths

Angola has recorded 3,402 cholera cases and 114 deaths since the outbreak began in early January this year, Angola has been reporting more than 100 new cholera cases daily, peaking at 295 on February 8.

Saudi Arabia to host Arab summit on Trump's Gaza plan
Saudi Arabia will host the leaders of four Arab countries at a summit on February 20 to discuss President Donald Trump's proposal for a U.S. takeover of Gaza.

Cook Islands, China sign comprehensive strategic partnership

The Cook Islands signed a comprehensive strategic partnership deal with China, a move expected to raise concerns in New Zealand with which it has constitutional ties.

Brazil to host BRICS summit in Rio de Janeiro in July
The Brazilian government has announced that the next BRICS summit, featuring Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, and other member countries, will be held in Rio de Janeiro on July 6-7.

US flight carrying third batch of 112 Indian deportees lands in Amritsar

A United States plane carrying a third batch of 112 Indians, who were deported from America for illegally residing in the country, landed in Amritsar on Sunday night.

Congo: M23 armed group enters Bukavu capital of South Kivu Province

In Congo, the March 23 Movement (M23) armed group has announced that its fighters have entered Bukavu, the capital of South Kivu Province.

UN launches USD 6 billion humanitarian appeal for Sudan

The United Nations (UN) has launched a 6 billion dollar humanitarian appeal to assist nearly 26 million Sudanese affected by the ongoing conflict, both inside Sudan and in neighbouring countries.

Italy Drops Tax Investigation After Google Agrees to 326 million Euro Settlement

Italian prosecutors said they will seek to drop a tax evasion investigation against Google after the tech giant agreed to pay a 326 million Euro settlement. Milan prosecutors had opened an investigation against Google for failure to pay taxes on earnings in Italy from 2015-2019.

India Elected Vice President of International Association of Aids to Marine Navigation

India has been elected to the Vice Presidency of the International Association of Aids to Marine Navigation (IALA) at the ongoing first General Assembly of IALA in Singapore.

India will host the IALA Council meeting in December this year and the IALA Conference and General Assembly in September 2027 in Mumbai.

Brazil joins Opec+ oil producers' group

Brazil, the largest oil producer in South America, has officially joined the Opec+ group of more than 20 countries that attempts to manage global oil output. The participation formalises an initial announcement in November 2023.

Trump administration to fire 2,000 USAID workers

The Donald Trump administration is eliminating 2,000 posts at the U.S. Agency for International Development and placing all but a fraction of others worldwide on leave.

India sends humanitarian assistance to Honduras

India has dispatched humanitarian assistance of 26 tons to Honduras in the wake of the recent Tropical storm SARA.

India UK agree to resume free trade negotiations

India and the UK have agreed to resume free trade negotiations between the two countries. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said this while addressing the joint press conference along with the UK Secretary of State for Business and Trade Jonathan Reynolds in New Delhi.

UNSC adopts US-drafted resolution appealing for swift end to Ukraine conflict

The UN Security Council has adopted a US-drafted resolution appealing for a swift end to the Ukraine conflict and urging a lasting peace between Russia and Ukraine. The resolution received 10 votes in favour, none against and five abstentions including France, Britain, Denmark, Greece and Slovenia.

Ukraine, US agree on economic deal framework, including rare earth mineral extraction

Ukraine and the US have agreed on a framework for a broad economic deal, including the extraction of rare earth minerals. The agreement will help secure continued US military support, which Ukraine urgently needs.

US announces Gold Card Investor Visa Programme for wealthy immigrants

US President Donald Trump has announced a new gold card investor visa programme for wealthy immigrants, replacing the existing EB-5 visa. Trump said the companies can buy immigration Gold Cards on payment of 5 million dollars for highly talented employees to deal with the uncertainties of work visas and green cards

Denmark announces Green Transition Alliance India (GTAI) initiative

Denmark has announced its Green Transition Alliance India (GTAI) initiative to strengthen collaboration with India on sustainable energy solutions and accelerate its shared commitment to global carbon neutrality.

Austria is getting a new coalition government

Three parties have reached a deal to form a new centrist Austrian government, that excludes the far-right Freedom Party (FPÖ), five months after the FPÖ won the parliamentary election in September.

Kyrgyzstan to swap land with Tajikistan

Kyrgyzstan has announced that it would exchange territories disputed with Tajikistan since the fall of the Soviet Union, ending a decades-long spat between the Central Asian neighbours.

Framework Agreement on establishment of IBCA officially comes into force

The Environment Ministry announced that the Framework Agreement on the establishment of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) has officially come into force. The IBCA and its Secretariat have become a full-fledged, treaty-based, inter-governmental international organization and legal entity as of January 23.

India-Maldives Joint Military Exercise 'Ekuverin' Begins

The 13th edition of joint military exercise 'Ekuverin' between the Indian Army and the Maldives National Defence Force has commenced in the archipelago nation.

Centre expands Aadhaar authentication to boost good governance, ease of living

The Centre notified the Aadhaar Authentication for Good Governance (Social Welfare, Innovation, Knowledge) Amendment Rules, 2025. Aadhaar Authentication has been expanded to government and private entities for providing various services in the public interest, boosting innovation, knowledge, and public service enhancement.

India Adds 4 New Ramsar Sites

The Centre announced the addition of four new Ramsar sites in India, taking the tally to 89. Sakkarakottai Bird Sanctuary and Therthangal Bird Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu, Khecheopalri Wetland in Sikkim, and Udhwa Lake in Jharkhand have been included in the list of Ramsar sites in the country. Tamil Nadu becomes the state with the maximum number of Ramsar sites, with a tally of 20.

Indian Railways Launches 'SwaRail' SuperApp

The Ministry of Railways has introduced the SuperApp 'SwaRail', a one-stop solution offering comprehensive railway services to the public.

DRDO successfully conducts successive flight-trials of Very Short-Range Air Defence System.

Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully conducted three successive flight-trials of Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) from Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.

200 Vande Bharat, 100 Amrit Bharat, 50 Namo Bharat trains will be manufactured in next 2 to 3 years

Union Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw has said that 100 Amrit Bharat trains, 50 Namo Bharat trains and 200 Vande Bharat trains both sleepers as well as chair car variants will be manufactured in the next two to three years.

Tribhuvan Sahkari University Bill 2025 introduced in Lok Sabha

The Tribhuvan Sahkari University Bill 2025 was introduced in the Lok Sabha. The Bill seeks to establish the Institute of Rural Management Anand, as a University to be known as the Tribhuvan Sahkari University and to declare it as an institution of national importance.

Maharashtra to establish a country's first AI university

Maharashtra is set to establish the first Artificial Intelligence (AI) university in the country and a task force has been formed for the planning and implementation of the project.

MP to get India's first white tiger breeding centre

Central Zoo Authority (CZA) has given its green signal to India's first white tiger breeding centre in Madhya Pradesh's Rewa district, believed to be home to the last white tiger in the wild.

Over 3,232 km of India-Bangladesh Border Fenced

Over 3232 kilometres of the India-Bangladesh border have been covered with a fence out of over 4096 km of total length. Giving this information in a written reply in the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said.

Over 2,900 people killed due to hydro-meteorological disasters in 2024-25

More than 2,900 people were killed due to hydro-meteorological disasters in 2024-25, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) informed the Lok Sabha.

Home Ministry asks State governments to prevent misuse of State Emblem of India

The Union Home Ministry has asked State governments to prevent the misuse and improper depiction of the State Emblem Of India emphasising that the Lion Capital logo is incomplete without the motto — Satyameva Jayate — in Devanagari script.

e-NAM Expands with 10 New Commodities, Enhancing Agricultural Trade Opportunities

The e-NAM platform has expanded to boost agricultural trade with the addition of 10 new commodities and their tradable parameters. These commodities include dried tulsi leaves, besan, dragon fruit, and wheat flour.

Over 5.19 Cr Cases Pending in Indian Courts

Over 5.19 Cr cases are currently pending in different courts in the country, including nearly 83 thousand cases in the Supreme Court, as of the end of last month. Minister of State for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal provided this information in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.

Defence Ministry signs contracts worth ₹10,147 crore for Pinaka ammunition

The Union Defence Ministry signed contracts worth ₹10,147 crore for a variety of ammunition for the Army's Pinaka Multiple Rocket Launch Systems (MRLS). The ammunition also enhance the range of the Pinaka systems.

India's Renewable Energy Capacity reaches historic milestone of 100 GW in Solar Power

India has achieved a historic milestone by surpassing 100 Giga Watt (GW) of installed solar power capacity, reinforcing its position as a global leader in renewable energy. It marks a significant step toward realizing the ambitious target of 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based energy capacity by 2030, set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

32nd session of Indian Art History Congress held in Noida

The 32nd session of the Indian Art History Congress held in Noida. The conference aims to be a platform that brings together conversations on the various forms of artistic and performative representations of the epics. The theme for this year event is "Rendering of Indian Epics in Art and Culture".

BJP returns to power in Delhi after 27 years, defeating incumbent AAP

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has registered a decisive victory in the Delhi Assembly Election, returning to power after 27 years by defeating the incumbent Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). The BJP won 48 seats in the 70-member legislative assembly, while the AAP bagged 22 seats.

Defence Ministry inks contract with BEL

The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract with Bharat Electronics Limited for the procurement of 28 EON-51 systems for 11 New Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels and three Cadet Training Ships for the Indian Navy.

Joint military exercise 'Cyclone 2025' between India and Egypt to begin in Rajasthan

A joint military exercise named "Cyclone 2025", between India and Egypt will begin at the Mahajan Field Firing Range in Rajasthan. The 14 day exercise aims to enhance defence cooperation between India and Egypt by sharing professional skills and improving interoperability of special forces in desert environments.

Tamil Nadu CM inaugurates India's single largest solar cell, module manufacturing unit

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin had inaugurated the country's single largest solar cell and module manufacturing unit at the Gangaikondan SIPCOT Industrial Growth Centre. Set up by TATA Power's solar energy manufacturing arm, with an investment of ₹3,800 crore.

Rajnath Singh inaugurates Asia's biggest Aero India show in Bengaluru

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated 15th edition of Aero India at the Yelahanka Air Force Station in Bengaluru, Karnataka. Divided into five distinct zones, the exhibits give a panoramic view of Indian defense production and Research capabilities. 2025 year is being declared as the 'Year of Reforms' in the Ministry of Defence.

India launches its first indigenous Automated Bio Medical Waste Treatment Plant

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh launched India's first indigenous Automated Biomedical Waste Treatment Rig, named Srijanam, at AIIMS New Delhi. Developed by the CSIR National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology, NIIST, in Thiruvananthapuram, the rig is the first of its kind in the country.

Bharat Biotech's lumpy skin disease vaccine

Bharat Biotech's group company, Biovet, has launched the world's first-ever Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) vaccine, Biolumpivaxin, for cattle and buffaloes. The vaccine, which has received approval from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), is touted as the safest and most effective LSD vaccine with a unique DIVA marker concept.

Labour Ministry inks pact with FoundIt, to bring 10 lakh more jobs on National Career Service portal annually

Labour Ministry has announced the inking of an initial pact with FoundIt — a leading job portal — to enhance job creation and expand opportunities for young jobseekers by adding 10 lakh more opportunities annually.

Russia offers Su-57 E to India, including production and transfer of critical technology

Rosoboronexport, Russia's State-owned defence exports company, a participant in the ongoing Aero India 2025, has offered to partner with India on the Russian fifth generation fighter aircraft (FGFA), the Su-57E.

Bill introduced to resolve disputes involving aircraft, engines

Minister for Civil Aviation Ram Mohan Naidu has tabled the Protection and Enforcement of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025 in Rajya Sabha that seeks to recognise the international treaty on resolution of disputes related to recovery of aviation assets such as aircraft and engines.

Bharat TEX 2025, India's largest global textile event inaugurated.

Union Minister for Textiles Giriraj Singh inaugurated India's largest global textile event Bharat TEX 2025, at India Expo Mart in Greater Noida. The second edition of the Bharat Tex is taking place in two venues—at India Expo Mart, Greater Noida, from 12th to 15th of February and at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, from 14th to 17th of this month.

Bengaluru-based start-up unveils cargo drone

Scandron, a Bengaluru-based start-up, has unveiled the CargoMax 20KHC drone in the ongoing Aero India 2025. The company claimed that the CargoMax 20KHC drone is India's most powerful cargo drone with a 200kg payload capacity.

Union Minister S.P. Singh Baghel Releases Devolution Index Report

Minister of State for Panchayati Raj launched a devolution index report titled 'Status of Devolution to Panchayats in States – An Indicative Evidence-Based Ranking, 2024'. As per the report, devolution to rural local bodies increased from 39.9% to 43.9% between 2013-14 to 2021-22. Karnataka topped the Devolution Ranking; Kerala and Tamil Nadu bagged the second & third spot.

Jagdeep Dhankhar launches "I Am?" book compiled by Gopichand Hinduja

Vice President of India Jagdeep Dhankhar has launched a book titled "I Am?" compiled by the noted business tycoon and Chairman of the Hinduja Group, Gopichand P. Hinduja.

Mahakumbh in Prayagraj Sets World Record with Over 50 Crore Devotees

The Mahakumbh in Prayagraj has created history by becoming the first event in the world where more than 50 crore people are direct participants. Over 50 crore 4 lakh devotees have taken a holy dip at the Triveni Sangam so far, with 90 lakh devotees taking the holy dip today till 6 pm.

Lt Cdr Dilna K & Lt Cdr Roopa Script History As Sailing Vessel INSV Tarini Crosses Cape Horn

Lieutenant Commander Dilna K and Lieutenant Commander Rupa A of the Indian Navy have achieved a historic milestone by sailing INSV Tarini past Cape Horn, the southernmost tip of South America, during the third phase of the 'Sagar Parikrama II' expedition.

President Murmu inaugurates Aadi Mahotsav 2025

President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the Aadi Mahotsav 2025 in New Delhi. Aadi Mahotsav is being organised by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs from today to 24th February.

Over 29,500 registered drones in India: DGCA

According to the government's official data, more than 29,500 drones are registered in India, with the national capital having the maximum number at 4,882.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurates NAKSHA program

Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated the National Geospatial Knowledge-based Land Survey of Urban Habitations (NAKSHA) in 152 urban local bodies across 26 States and three Union Territories in Madhya Pradesh. The programme aims to create and update land records in urban areas to ensure accurate and reliable documentation of land ownership.

Centre approves continuation of integrated PM-AASHA Scheme during 15th Finance Commission Cycle

The Centre has approved the continuation of the integrated Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan – PM-AASHA Scheme during the 15th Finance Commission Cycle up to 2025-26. With this decision, the centre has also allowed the procurement of Tur, Urad and Masur pulses under the price support scheme, equivalent to 100 per cent of the production of the State for the procurement year 2024-25.

Matsya-6000: India's Fourth-Generation Deep-Ocean Submersible successfully Completes Wet Testing

India's Fourth-Generation Deep-Ocean Submersible 'Matsya-6000' has successfully completed wet testing at the harbour, paving the way for conducting shallow-water demonstrations at depths reaching up to 500 meters by the end of 2025.

Adani family commits ₹2,000 crore to provide quality education at affordable cost

The Adani Foundation has tied up with GEMS Education, which is into private K-12 education, to establish schools across the country to provide high quality education to students at affordable costs.

Madhya Pradesh unveils India's first dedicated GCC policy

Madhya Pradesh has become the first state in the country to bring a dedicated Global Capability Centre (GCC) policy that looks to position the state as a leading hub for global innovation and collaboration.

State visit of the Amir of Qatar to India

India, two agreements and five MoUs have been signed with India during the state visit of the Amir of Qatar. The first agreement is on the establishment of a bilateral strategic partnership. A revised double taxation avoidance agreement was also signed.

Mausam Bhawan Open-Air Art Wall Museum Inaugurated

To mark the 150th anniversary of the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), Minister for Earth Sciences Dr Jitendra Singh on February 18, inaugurated the Mausam Bhawan Open-Air Art Wall Museum in New Delhi.

PMFBY to continue till 2025-26

The Union Cabinet approved the continuation of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and restructured the Weather-Based Crop Insurance Scheme till 2025-26 with a total budget of over 69 thousand 515 crore rupees

The country's first vertical bifacial solar plant inaugurated

Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs and Power Manohar Lal, inaugurated the country's first vertical bifacial solar plant on a metro viaduct in New Delhi on February 18.

India, Argentina agree to strengthen cooperation in Lithium exploration and mining

India and Argentina signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen cooperation in Lithium exploration and mining.

PM Modi lauds inauguration of Inland Waterways Terminal in Assam

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has lauded the inauguration of the Inland Waterways Transport, IWT Terminal on the Brahmaputra, National Waterway-2 at Jogighopa in Assam.

MSDE, NSDC & Intel India Launch 'AI for Entrepreneurship'

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), and Intel India have joined hands to launch the "AI for Entrepreneurship" micro-learning module. This programme aims to make artificial intelligence (AI) easy to understand while

encouraging young minds to think like entrepreneurs. The goal is to train 1,00,000 learners across India by 2025.

Centre approves ₹1,554 crore additional assistance to 5 states affected by natural calamities

The High-Level Committee, under the Chairmanship of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, has approved additional Central assistance of over one thousand 554 crore rupees from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to five states affected by natural calamities such as floods, flash floods, landslides, and cyclonic storms during the past year.

India, Sri Lanka Finalize Plan to Train 1,500 Civil Service Officers

India's National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) and Sri Lanka's Institute of Development Administration (SLIDA) have finalised the modalities for the implementation of their Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to train 1,500 Sri Lankan civil service officers over five years.

Defence Ministry Signs ₹1,220 Cr Deal with BEL for Advanced Radios

The Defence Ministry has signed a contract worth over one thousand 220 crore rupees with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for the procurement of 149 Software Defined Radios for the Indian Coast Guard.

TRAI releases recommendations for new broadcasting services Act

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) released its recommendations for the Framework for Service Authorisations for provision of Broadcasting Services under the Telecommunications Act, 2023.

PM releases 19th instalment of Kisan Nidhi from Bihar

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the 19th installment of the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi on February 24 at a function to be held at Bhagalpur in Bihar. About 9.80 crore beneficiaries will receive ₹2,000 in their accounts for which the Centre has allocated ₹22,000 crore.

UP Assembly becomes India's first legislative body to introduce translation services

The Uttar Pradesh Assembly is set to make history as the first legislative body in the country to be equipped with a translation facility.

Indian Navy hands over Guldar ship to MTDC for underwater museum

In a landmark initiative, the Indian Navy has handed over decommissioned Landing Ship Tank INS Guldar to the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) for conversion into India's first underwater museum and artificial reef.

Indian Army to participate in India- Japan Joint Military Exercise, DHARMA GUARDIAN

The Indian Army contingent, comprising 120 personnel, departed for the 6th edition of India- Japan Joint Military Exercise, DHARMA GUARDIAN. The exercise is scheduled to be conducted in the East Fuji Maneuver Training Area of Japan from the 24th of February to the 9th of March.

PM Modi to be Guest of Honour at Mauritius National Day celebrations

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be the Guest of Honour at Mauritius' 57th National Day celebration next month. Mauritius Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam announced this while addressing Parliament.

100-Day TB Campaign Detects Over 5 Lakh Cases, Screens 10 Crore Individuals

The 100-day TB elimination campaign of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has detected over five lakh

tuberculosis (TB) patients across the country. In 455 districts involved in the campaign, over three lakh 57 thousand TB patients have been diagnosed.

ILO chief lauds India's social security network

Citing the "World Social Protection Report 2024-26", Director-General of the International Labour Organization, Gilbert F. Houngbo, said that the proportion of India's population covered under at least one branch of social protection has increased from 24% to 49%, almost doubling in a very short time.

USAID funded seven projects in India in FY24 but not related to 'voter turnout': Finance Ministry report

Amid a raging political controversy over the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)'s alleged role in influencing Indian elections, the latest annual report of the Finance Ministry has disclosed that the agency funded seven projects worth \$750 million in 2023-24.

Namita Gokhale talks about revisiting her stories with Life on Mars

Namita Gokhale's latest collection, Life on Mars: Collected Stories, assembles stories both old and new, some of which she revised with the help of longtime collaborator Ravi Singh.

India organizes 1st-ever Capacity Building Programme on UNSC Resolution 1540

The Central government, in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, is organizing the first-ever Capacity Building Programme on the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 and Strategic Trade Controls for Asia-Pacific in Andhra Pradesh, starting today.

Exercise 'Sagar Kavach' concludes along West Bengal coast

The Indian Coast Guard has completed a comprehensive two-day coastal security exercise named 'Sagar Kavach' along West Bengal's coastline. Multiple security agencies, including Navy, police, and paramilitary forces, collaborated to simulate potential maritime threats and validate existing security protocols.

PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana crosses milestone with more than 9.5 lakh installations

Union Minister Mr Pralhad Joshi informed that 'PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana' has crossed a milestone with more than 9.5 lakh installations.

First detailed map of moon's south pole area made from Chandrayaan data

The first ever detailed geological map of the moon's south polar region, where India's Chandrayaan-3 lunar module, Vikram, touched down on August 23, 2023 was ready. Researchers from the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) in Ahmedabad, Panjab University in Chandigarh, and the Laboratory for Electro-Optics Systems, Indian Space Research Organisation, Bengaluru, have created the map using data from the rover Pragyan.

India to host 12th Regional Circular Economy conference in Jaipur

India will host the 12th regional 3R (reduce, reuse, recycle) and Circular Economy Conference in Asia and the Pacific in Jaipur from March 3-5, Union Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal Khattar announced in New Delhi.

CAG signs MoUs with IIT Madras for improving audit skill sets, sustainable audit

The Comptroller and MoUs with the Indian IIT Madras on areas ranging from data security and governance to Artificial Intelligence-driven capacity building and research in environment audit, and the environmental, social and governance (ESG) framework.

VP Dhankhar attends 1st joint mega Nyokum Yullo Celebration in Arunachal Pradesh

Vice President, Jagdeep Dhankhar visited Arunachal Pradesh & participated in the first-ever joint mega Nyokum Yullo celebration at Boasimla under Kamporijo circle in Kamle district as chief guest. Nyokum is a festival celebrated by the Nyishi tribe of the state.

MoSPI to launch 'Innovate with GoStats' hackathon on MyGov platform

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation is set to launch a data-visualization hackathon named "Innovate with GoStats". The theme of this hackathon will be Data-Driven Insights for Viksit Bharat.

Mahakumbh 2025 concludes in Prayagraj with grand Mahashivratri dip

The Mahakumbh 2025 in Prayagraj successfully concluded last night with the final holy dip on the Mahashivratri. Over 66 crore 30 lakh devotees have taken the holy dip so far across the 45-day-long spiritual mega event.

Biological E. to make Bavarian Nordic's Chikungunya vaccine

Vaccine firms Biological E. and Bavarian Nordic have formed a strategic partnership to expand access to the latter's Chikungunya vaccine VIMKUNYA CHIKV VLP in low- and middle-income countries.

India's first hyperloop test track unveiled at IIT Madras

IIT Madras, with support from the Ministry of Railways, has now developed India's first hyperloop test track which is 422 meters long and allows a high-speed train to travel in a near-vacuum tube at speeds of more than 1,000 km/h.

DRDO & Navy carried out successful trial of Naval Anti-Ship missile

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Navy carried out successful flight trials of the first-of-its-kind Naval Anti-Ship missile (NASM-SR) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, Odisha.

Zydus launches vaccine for new strain of influenza virus

Zydus Lifesciences announced the launch of VaxiFlu-4, India's first quadrivalent influenza vaccine. A quadrivalent vaccine, by covering strains of both influenza A and influenza B, provides broader protection and significantly reduces the risk of vaccine mismatch.

BANKING & ECONOMY

Economic Survey: 8% growth needed to reach 'Viksit Bharat' goal by 2047

The Economic Survey 2024-25 report states that India's real GDP is estimated to grow by 6.4 percent in the financial year 2025, and the growth is likely to range between 6.3 and 6.8 percent in the financial year 2026. It further states that India needs to achieve an average growth rate of around 8 percent at constant prices for about a decade or two to realise its economic aspirations of becoming Viksit Bharat by 2047.

IRDAI Caps Senior Citizen Health Insurance Premium Hikes at 10% Annually

IRDAI has introduced a new regulation that caps annual premium increases for senior citizens' health insurance policies by a maximum of 10%.

UNION BUDGET 2025-2026

For FY 2025-26, the Union Finance Minister stated that the total receipts other than borrowings and the total expenditure are estimated at ₹34.96 lakh crore and ₹50.65 lakh crore respectively.

Revised Estimate 2024-25 of fiscal deficit is 4.8 per cent of GDP, while the Budget Estimates 2025-26 is estimated to be 4.4 per cent of GDP.

FDI limit for the insurance firms rised from 74 to 100 per cent, to be available for those companies that invest the entire premium in India.

Under the new income tax regime no income tax is needed to be paid for total income upto ₹12 Lakh per annum.

Budget announced 'Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana' in partnership with states covering 100 districts to increase productivity, adopt crop diversification, augment post-harvest storage.

Launch of a new scheme for 5 lakh women, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes first-time entrepreneurs. This will provide term loans up to ₹2 crore during the next 5 years. 50,000 Atal Tinkering Labs will be set up in Government schools in next 5 years.

Second Asset Monetization Plan 2025-30, to plough back capital of ₹10 lakh crore in new projects.

The Jal Jeevan Mission was extended till 2028.

Government will set up an Urban Challenge Fund of ₹1 lakh crore to implement the proposals for 'Cities as Growth Hubs', 'Creative Redevelopment of Cities' and 'Water and Sanitation'. Under the investment in Innovation, an allocation of ₹20,000 crore is announced to implement private sector driven Research, Development and Innovation initiative.

Proposed National Geospatial Mission to develop foundational geospatial infrastructure and data which will benefit urban planning.

US President Trump delays Canada, Mexico tariff hike by a month

U.S. President Donald Trump has announced a one-month delay in U.S. tariff hikes on Canada and Mexico after the two neighboring countries agreed to strengthen border security efforts. However, tariffs against China are still scheduled to go into effect.

SoftBank , OpenAI set up joint company SB OpenAI Japan to push AI services

Japanese technology giant SoftBank Group and OpenAI stepped up their AI partnership, setting up a 50-50 held company called SB OpenAI Japan.

Unemployment rate reduced to 3.2 % in country: Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje

The Centre has informed the Lok Sabha that the estimated unemployment rate has decreased from 6 per cent five years ago to 3.2 per cent during the last fiscal.

TVS Holdings completes acquisition of Home Credit India for ₹554 crore

TVS Holdings Ltd has completed the acquisition of 80.74% equity stake in Home Credit India Finance Private Ltd. for ₹554 crore.

India registers 47.9% growth in Foreign Tourist Arrivals during past 2 years

India has registered 47.9 per cent growth in Foreign Tourist Arrivals during the past two years. It witnessed arrival of 95.20 lakh foreign tourists during 2023, which is an increase of nearly 31 lakh compared to the previous year.

OpenAI chief Altman signs deal with South Korea's Kakao

OpenAI chief Sam Altman signed a deal with tech giant Kakao in South Korea as the U.S. firm seeks new alliances after Chinese rival DeepSeek shook the global AI industry.

China to launch an antitrust probe into Google

China will launch an investigation into Google over alleged antitrust violations. The country's State Administration for Market Regulation would initiate an investigation into the technology giant because of alleged violations of China's anti-monopoly law.

Iran's currency rial plunges to record low

Iran's currency plunged to a record low of 850,000 rials to \$1 after U.S. President Donald Trump ordered a restart to the "maximum pressure" campaign targeting Tehran.

IOB becomes signatory of Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials

Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has become a signatory of the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF). As part of this initiative, the bank will measure and disclose the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with its financed activities.

Sharan Hegde's 1% Club becomes first finfluencer-led company to get SEBI RIA license

The 1% Club, a financial advisory startup founded by internet personality Sharan Hegde & Raghav Gupta has become the first finfluencer-led company in India to secure a Registered Investment Adviser (RIA) license from the SEBI.

RBI reduces interest rates for first time in nearly 5 years

Almost after 5 years, the RBI has reduced the policy repo rate by 25 basis points, from 6.50 per cent to 6.25 per cent. Standing deposit facility (SDF) rate will be set at 6.00 per cent, while the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate will both remain at 6.50 per cent.

US: Unemployment rate drops to 4% in January

The United States Bureau of Labour Statistics (BLS) under Department of Labour reported that the unemployment rate edged down to 4 percent in January, lowest since May 2024.

India sets up EFTA desk to promote trade, investment, business facilitation

India is setting up a dedicated platform — EFTA (European Free Trade Association) desk — to promote trade, investment, and business facilitation between the two regions.

Sebi-registered non-bank brokers can directly access NDS-OM: RBI

The RBI said non-bank brokers registered with market-regulator Sebi can directly access NDS-OM, an electronic trading platform for secondary market transactions in government securities, on behalf of their clients.

RBI announces 'bank.in', 'fin.in' domains for banks, NBFCs to combat cyber fraud

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced the launch of exclusive internet domains 'bank.in' and 'fin.in'—for Indian financial institutions to tackle the increasing cyber threats, particularly phishing and other malicious activities that undermine the security of online transactions.

RBI to set up Working Group to review trading and settlement timings of markets

The RBI has established a 9-member Working Group to conduct a comprehensive review of the trading and settlement timings for financial markets.

Zomato to change parent company name to Eternal

In a letter to the company's shareholders, Zomato's company's founder and CEO Deepinder Goyal stated that its board has approved to rebrand itself as "Eternal Ltd". Eternal will comprise four major businesses (as of now) - Zomato, Blinkit, District and Hyperpure.

US to impose 25 percent tariffs on steel and aluminium imports

United States President Donald Trump has signed an order to impose 25 percent tariffs on steel and aluminium imports. The tariffs will apply widely to all US imports of steel and aluminium, including from Canada and Mexico, the country's top two foreign suppliers of the metals.

India clocks ₹1 lakh crore in iPhone exports

India clocked one lakh crore rupees in exports of iPhone for the first time this financial year. Electronic and Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw credited the government's Production Linked Incentive Scheme for achieving these figures.

Over 54 Cr Jan Dhan Accounts Opened; Women Hold 55% Share

Over 54 crore bank accounts have been opened in the country till January this year under PM Jan Dhan Yojana. In a written reply in the Lok Sabha, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said over 30 crore accounts belong to women, constituting over 55 percent.

Centre eyes completing IDBI Bank disinvestment by mid-2025

The Centre remains confident of completing the privatisation of IDBI Bank in the next financial year and expects the financial bids for the transaction to be invited by next month.

India's Net Direct Tax Collection Rises 14.69% to ₹17.78 Lakh Crore

India's net direct tax collection exhibited growth of 14.69 percent year on year to over 17 lakh 78 thousand crore in the current financial year.

Lam Research Announces ₹10,000 Crore Investment in India: Ashwini Vaishnaw

Electronics and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has said that Lam Research has announced a major investment of over 10 thousand crore rupees in India. Lam Research is an US based global supplier of wafer-fabrication equipment and related services to the semiconductor industry.

RBI eases the business restrictions imposed on Kotak Mahindra Bank.

After reviewing the bank's submissions and the remedial steps taken, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) lifted the business restrictions imposed on Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited.

RBI to issue new ₹50 Notes

The RBI has announced that it will soon issue ₹50 denomination banknotes in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series bearing the signature of Governor Sanjay Malhotra.

CPI inflation at a 5-month low in January

India's retail inflation eased to a five-month low of 4.31 per cent in January from 5.22 percent in December.

Industrial Production growth slows to 3.2 percent in December

India's industrial production growth, measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), slowed to 3.2 percent in December compared to 5.2 percent in November.

ADNOC Gas finalizes a major deal with IOC

Marking a significant expansion of energy cooperation between the UAE and India, ADNOC Gas has finalized a major long-term agreement to supply liquefied natural gas to Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.

SIDBI signs agreement with AFD for green finance for MSMEs

The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and AFD, France, have signed a \$ 100 million credit facility agreement to scale up green finance solutions for Indian Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

JioStar unveils JioHotstar platform

JioStar, the recently formed joint venture with the merger of Viacom18 and Star India, has announced the launch of JioHotstar, bringing together JioCinema and Disney+ Hotstar – two leading platforms for premium sports, and entertainment.

Adani Green withdraws from controversial renewable energy project in Sri Lanka

Adani Green withdrew from a controversial \$ 442-million renewable energy project in northern Sri Lanka, amid fierce opposition from locals and a legal battle over its approval and potential environmental impact.

Asia's 20 richest families: Mukesh Ambani leads

Reliance Industries' Chairman, Mukesh Ambani, has secured the top spot on Bloomberg's Asia's 20 Richest Families list with \$90.5 billion in wealth.

India's Forex Reserves Surge by \$7.65 Billion

According to the latest data released by RBI, India's foreign exchange reserves increased by over 7.65 billion dollars, reaching over 638.26 billion dollars in the week ending February 7.

RBI imposes several restrictions on New India Co-operative Bank

The RBI imposed several restrictions on New India Co-operative Bank, including on withdrawal of funds by depositors, amid supervisory concerns.

India's wholesale price index eases to 2.31 percent

India's wholesale price index (WPI) inflation eased to 2.31 per cent in January 2025, down from 2.37 per cent in December 2024.

Maaza becomes a billion-dollar brand

Maaza, a desi mango fruit-based drink owned by Coca-Cola, has touched the milestone of becoming a billion-dollar brand in 2024, its Chairman and CEO James Quincey has said. It has now become the company's "30th billion-dollar brand".

Bank of India raises ₹2,690 crore

Bank of India has raised 10 years Infrastructure Bonds of ₹2,690 crore @ 7.50% p.a, through NSE Electronic Bidding Platform.

Fish production in country doubles in last 10 years

The fish production in the country has doubled in the last ten years. Fish production has increased from 95 lakh tons in 2013-14 to over 184 lakh tonnes in 2023-24. India is the second-largest fish-producing country, with around eight percent share in global fish production.

India Aims to Triple Textile Exports to ₹9 Lakh Crore by 2030: PM Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that government aims to increase the textiles exports to nine lakh crore rupees by 2030 from the present three lakh crore rupees.

BSNL Q3 profit after 17 years at ₹262 crore

BSNL has posted a net profit of ₹262 crore for the December quarter, marking its return to profitability after almost 17 years.

SEBI launches RPT portal

SEBI has introduced industry standards for the minimum information that listed entities are required to provide to the audit committee and shareholders when seeking approval for the related party transactions (RPT). The new disclosure requirements will come into effect from April 1.

Nirmala Sitharama launches Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs

Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman launched the Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs in Mumbai. The scheme will facilitate loans up to 100 crore rupees to MSMEs for purchase of machinery or equipment without collateral.

Japan's economy grows more than expected

Japan's economy grew at a better-than-expected annual rate of 2.8% in October-December, underlined by steady exports and moderate consumption.

India's Exports Grow by 7.21% in April-Jan 2024-25

India's total exports during April-January 2024-25 logged growth of 7.21 percent as compared to the same period in last fiscal. On the other hand, total imports during April-January in current fiscal registered a growth of 8.96 percent.

Standard Chartered gets RBI nod to appoint PD Singh as India CEO

The RBI has given its approval to appoint corporate banking veteran and former JP Morgan India CEO Prabdev (PD) Singh as the CEO for Standard Chartered (StanC) in India and South Asia.

Centre likely to raise deposit insurance limit from ₹5 lakh

The Centre is mulling over increasing Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) insurance cover above ₹5 lakh for bank depositors.

Maersk signs MoU with Cochin Shipyard to explore ship building, repair in India

A.P. Moller - Maersk (Maersk) and Cochin Shipyard Ltd. (CSL) have signed a MoU to explore collaboration opportunities in ship repair, maintenance, and building activities in India.

India's GDP growth for Q3 FY25 at 6.2% to 6.3%

The Economic Department of State Bank of India (SBI) has pegged India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth for Q3 FY25 at 6.2% to 6.3%.

Infosys and Lufthansa Group announce a strategic, long-term collaboration

Infosys has announced a strategic, long-term collaboration with Lufthansa Group (LHG), a global aviation group, and Lufthansa Systems GmbH (LSY), a leading airline IT provider, to accelerate digital transformation and drive innovation in the aviation industry.

Reliance secures no. 2 spot in global FutureBrand Index 2024

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has been ranked No. 2 in the FutureBrand Index 2024, surpassing global technology giant Apple. Samsung secured the No. 1 position, climbing from No. 5 in 2023.

Google opens Ananta in Bengaluru, one of its largest offices outside America

Google, the California-headquartered tech major, announced the opening of Ananta, one of Google's largest offices globally, at Mahadevapura, in the outskirts of Bengaluru. The 1.6-million-sq-ft building, Ananta (infinite or limitless in Sanskrit) is built by Bagmane Tech Park over six years.

UAE's NMDC Group plans to invest ₹21,000 crore at Vadhvan Port

Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) has signed a MoU with NMDC Group PJSC for the construction of the Vadhvan Port Project Ltd. in Maharashtra. As per the MoU NMDC Group PJSC has proposed to invest an estimated ₹21,000 crore for the development of the Land Offshore of Vadhvan Coast.

Tesla picks showroom sites in New Delhi, Mumbai to start India sales

Tesla has selected locations for two showrooms in the Indian cities of New Delhi and Mumbai, moving closer to its long-delayed plans to sell its electric cars in the country.

S&P upgrades Kotak Mahindra Bank to 'BBB' after RBI lifts curbs

S&P Global has upgraded Kotak Mahindra Bank's credit rating to 'BBB' from 'BBB-' after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently lifted operational curbs. The outlook on the long-term rating remains positive.

Thomas Cook, SOTC, LTIMindtree, others build 'India's first GenAI advisor'

Thomas Cook, SOTC Travel, Fairfax Digital Services, LTIMindtree and Voicing AI have collaborated to build a multi-modal, multi-lingual, agentic voice-enabled, GenAI advisor 'Dhruv', touted to be India's first.

Fulcrum Digital to create 10,000 AI agents from India development centre

Fulcrum Digital, which is into enterprise Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital transformation, said it would scale up its AI ecosystem to 10,000 AI agents this year from the current 170, to power next-generation enterprise automation globally.

Karnataka Bank launches two new products on founders' day

Karnataka Bank celebrated its 101st founders' day on February 18, by launching two new products 'KBL Stri' and 'KBL One Family Banking Programme'.

Flipkart Ventures to back five early stage Indian start-ups

Flipkart Ventures, the investment arm of Flipkart, has chosen five early stage start-ups, Xportel, Factors.ai, Expertia.ai, Bharat Krushi Seva, and Visa2Fly, under the third cohort of its Flipkart Leap Ahead (FLA).

RBI to conduct USD-INR swap auction of \$10 bn for 3 years' tenor

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to inject Rupee liquidity for longer duration through long-term USD-INR Buy/Sell swap auction. Accordingly, the RBI will conduct a USD-INR Buy/Sell swap auction of \$10 billion for a tenor of three years.

Irdai sets up panel led by ex-SBI chairman implement amendments to insurance law

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India has set up a seven-member committee headed by former chairman of State Bank of India (SBI) Dinesh Khara to examine proposed amendments to the Insurance Act, 1938 and suggest a framework for its implementation.

Reliance is India's most valuable company: 2024 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 companies

Reliance Industries (RIL) is still India's most valuable company for the fourth year straight, according to the latest Burgundy Private and Hurun India 500 list. The total market capitalization of Reliance Industries at ₹17.5 lakh crore. TCS comes in second at ₹16.1 lakh crore.

Sri Lanka's Headline Inflation Drops to -4% in January

Headline inflation in Sri Lanka, as measured by the National Consumer Price Index, dropped to minus 4 percent in January. The year-on-year inflation was recorded at minus 2 percent in December.

RBI launches 'RBIDATA' app to offer access to economic, financial data

The Reserve Bank of India has launched mobile application 'RBIDATA' which will provide access to more than 11,000 different series of economic data related to the Indian economy.

BOI reports ₹226.84 cr loan fraud by Gupta Power Infrastructure

State-owned Bank of India (BOI) has reported a fraud of ₹226.84 crore by Odisha-based Gupta Power Infrastructure Ltd to the Reserve Bank.

Coal India and EDF's to form Renewable Energy Joint Venture

Coal India Ltd, a government-owned enterprise, has teamed up with France's EDF to develop renewable energy projects across South Asia.

The collaboration will primarily focus on pumped-storage hydropower and other sustainable energy solutions in India and nearby regions.

India's machinery imports from Germany increased by 2.2% in 2024

India's imports of machinery and equipment from Germany grew by 2.6% in 2024, reaching 4,298 million euros. India accounts for 2.2% of Germany's total machinery and equipment exports.

AMFI launches three initiatives to boost Mutual Fund accessibility, financial literacy, investment recovery
Industry body Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) has launched three initiatives — SIP for smaller investments, Tarun Yojana to encourage young investors and MITRA to help track and recover forgotten investments.

KKR buys controlling stake in Healthcare Global for \$400 million

Private equity firm KKR has signed definitive agreements to acquire a controlling stake in oncology hospital chain operator Healthcare Global Enterprises for \$400 million.

FDI from Japan has exceeded 43 billion dollars between 2000 and 2024:

Japan has been a key ally in India's economic growth and is the 5th largest source of foreign investment. Foreign Direct Investment from Japan has exceeded 43 billion dollars between 2000 and 2024.

FPIs withdraw ₹23,710 cr from equities in Feb

Foreign investors have pulled out over ₹23,710 crore from the Indian equity markets so far this month, pushing total outflows past ₹1 lakh crore in 2025 amid rising global trade tensions.

RBI launches Financial Literacy Week 2025 to focus on Women's Prosperity

The Reserve Bank of India has launched the Financial Literacy Week 2025. This year, the campaign runs from February 24 to 28, under the theme "Financial Literacy – Women's Prosperity".

IndusInd Bank partners with Professional Golf Tour of India

IndusInd Bank has announced its partnership with the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) as its official Banking Partner.

RBI allows withdrawals up to ₹25,000 per depositor from New India Co-operative Bank

Days after imposing several restrictions on New India Co-operative Bank, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed deposit withdrawals of up to 25,000 rupees per depositor, effective from 27th February 2025.

Govt plans National Green Financing Institution to achieve climate goals: NITI Aayog

The Union Government is working to set up a National Green Financing Institution to support its net-zero target by 2070, as current finance flows for climate initiatives remain much lower than the desired levels, NITI Aayog has said.

Tata group to invest in electronic manufacturing unit, green energy sector in Assam: Chandrasekaran

Tata group chairman Natarajan Chandrasekaran has said the company will invest around ₹25,000 crore in a large electronics manufacturing unit in Assam over the next few years.

India imports €49 billion worth of Russian oil in 3rd year of Ukraine invasion

India, the world's third largest oil consuming and importing nation, bought crude oil worth €49 billion from Russia in the third year of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, a global think tank said.

South Indian Bank Launches "SIB QUICKPL"

In a move to make personal financing faster and more accessible, South Indian Bank (SIB) has launched "SIB QUICKPL", an in-house Digital Personal Loan platform designed exclusively for new customers.

Reliance to invest ₹50,000 cr in Assam over next 5 years: Mukesh Ambani

Reliance Industries will invest ₹50,000 crore across five different verticals in Assam over the next five years, its chairman Mukesh Ambani said.

Vedanta Group to invest ₹50,000 crore over 3-4 years in oil and gas in Assam, Tripura

Mining major Vedanta Group chairman Anil Agarwal has announced that the firm will pump in ₹50,000 crore in the oil and gas sector in Assam and Tripura over the next 3-4 years.

RBI lowers risk weight of banks' exposure to NBFCs

In a major relief to non-banking finance companies (NBFCs), the RBI reduced the risk weights of bank loans to NBFCs by 25 percentage points depending on the ratings.

Centre inks pact with Paytm for mentorship

The Union government has inked an agreement with Paytm (One97 Communications Ltd) under which the company would provide mentorship, infrastructure support, market access, and funding opportunities to startups.

Tata Play, Airtel Digital TV near merger

Tata Group and Bharti Group are close to merging their satellite TV businesses, creating a nearly \$1.6 billion entity with the aim of tiding over the sustained migration of subscribers to digital streaming.

PSBs drive infra bond boom, raising 90% of ₹89,588 cr

Banks collectively raised ₹89,588 crore via infrastructure (infra) bond issuances in the first 11 months of the current financial year against ₹51,081 crore in the year ago period. Public sector banks (PSBs) accounted for 90 per cent of the total infra bond issuances.

Adani Group to invest ₹50,000 crore in Assam across various sectors

The Adani Group has announced a significant investment of ₹50,000 crore in Assam, spanning key infrastructure sectors such as airports, aero cities, city gas distribution, transmission, cement, and road projects.

Australia announces investment of 16 million dollars to boost commercial ties with India

Australia has launched a roadmap to strengthen and diversify its trade and investment ties with India. To jumpstart this plan, it is investing \$16 million in the Australia-India Trade and Investment Accelerator Fund.

Bank of Baroda unveils pilot to boost CBDC adoption

Bank of Baroda has announced the pilot launch of a new functionality for merchants built on the "Programmability" functionality of Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) – the "Merchant Loyalty/ Cashback Programme".

Botswana gets an improved 10-year deal with miner De Beers

The Botswana government signed a new diamond sales agreement crucial to its economy with the De Beers mining company after seven years of negotiations. Botswana is the biggest producer of diamonds by value and the second biggest by volume behind Russia.

Unilever CEO Hein Schumacher to step down

Unilever announced that Hein Schumacher is stepping down as the Chief Executive Officer and as a Board Director on March 1, 2025. He will be replaced by Fernando Fernandez who is currently Unilever's Chief Financial Officer and Executive Director, effective from 1 March 2025.

Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers eased
The All-India Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL) for January this year eased to 4.61 per cent as compared to 7.52 per cent in the same month the previous year.

AWARDS

Sachin Tendulkar honoured with Col. C.K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award

Sachin Tendulkar was honoured with the Col. C.K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award by the BCCI at Naman Awards 2025 in Mumbai.

Jasprit Bumrah, received the prestigious Polly Umrigar Award for Best International Cricketer (Men)

Indian Women's Team's vice-captain Smriti Mandhana won the Best International Cricketer Award (Women) for the fourth time.

Grammy award winners for 2025

The 67th Grammy Awards have been held in Los Angeles, with more than 90 prizes handed out.

Indian-American vocalist and entrepreneur Chandrika Tandon has won the Grammy award for the album 'Triveni' in the Best New Age, Ambient or Chant Album category.

Winners

Album of the Year: "Cowboy Carter" – Beyoncé

Record of the Year: "Not Like Us" — Kendrick Lamar

Song of the Year: "Not Like Us" – Kendrick Lamar, songwriter (Kendrick Lamar)

Best New Artist: Chappell Roan

Best Rap Album: "Alligator Bites Never Heal" — DoeChii

Best Country Album: "Cowboy Carter" — Beyoncé

Best Pop Duo/Group performance: "Die with a Smile" by Lady Gaga and Bruno Mars

Indian Students Win Bronze at Global Best M-Gov Award 2025 in Dubai

Three Indian computer science students comprising Sagar Teotia (team lead), Abhinav Mishra, and Anushka Singh from New Delhi have won the Bronze Award at the Global Best M-Gov Award 2025 during the World Government Summit (WGS) in Dubai.

Tata Sons Chairman Chandrasekaran gets U.K.'s honorary civilian award

Tata Group Chairman N. Chandrasekaran has been conferred with the United Kingdom's "The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (Civil Division)", a prestigious honorary civilian awards to foreign nationals.

Winners of BAFTAs 2025

The 78th edition of the British Academy Film Awards (BAFTA) was held at the Royal Festival Hall in London.

Best Film: Conclave

Leading Actress: Mikey Madison, Anora

Leading Actor: Adrien Brody, The Brutalist

Outstanding British Film: Conclave

Director: Brady Corbet, The Brutalist

Supporting Actress: Zoe Saldana, Emilia Perez

Supporting Actor: Kieran Culkin, A Real Pain

Original Score: Daniel Blumberg, The Brutalist

Film Not In The English Language: Jacques Audiard, Emilia Perez

NTPC Ltd. Wins Forward Faster Sustainability Award 2025

NTPC Ltd. received the Forward Faster Sustainability Award 2025 in the Water Resilience category. This prestigious award was presented during a ceremony organized by the UN Global Compact Network India (UN GCNI) in Chennai.

Bhaker named BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year

Olympic shooter Manu Bhaker has been named BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year for 2024 after a global public vote. Her fellow shooter Avani Lekhara was presented with the BBC ISWOTY Para-sportswoman of the Year award.

Archer Sheetal Devi won the Emerging Athlete Award after becoming India's youngest Paralympic medallist.

Mithali Raj was given the Lifetime Achievement Award for her record 18-year captaincy of the Indian women's cricket team.

Honorary Knighthood medal presented to Bharti chief Sunil Mittal

Sunil Bharti Mittal, Founder and Chairman of Bharti Enterprises, has received the insignia of the Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (KBE). He was presented the medal on February 22, 2025 for the award that was received last year.

India receives top global award for enhancing road safety standards

The Government of India has been honoured with the Prince Michael Decade of Action Road Safety Award, the highest accolade in the field. India shared this honour with Morocco, which was also recognised for its contributions to road safety.

Solar Powered Tricycle wins award at BRICS Industrial Innovation Contest

Andhra Pradesh MedTech Zone's (AMTZ) Solar Powered Tricycle has won the Outstanding Project Award at the BRICS Industrial Innovation Contest 2024. This breakthrough mobility solution was developed by the Assistive Technology Centre (ATC) at AMTZ.

Defence Minister confers gallantry, service medals to Indian Coast Guard personnel

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has conferred gallantry, distinguished service and meritorious service medals to personnel of the Indian Coast Guard at an investiture ceremony in New Delhi. A total of 32 medals were presented including six President's Tatrakshak Medals for Distinguished Service, 11 Tatrakshak Medals for Gallantry and 15 Tatrakshak Medals for Meritorious Service.

PERSONS IN NEWS (National and International)

Friedrich Merz

Friedrich Merz, chairman of the conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU), is set to become Germany's next chancellor. He will be the oldest chancellor since Konrad Adenauer

Bart De Wever

In Belgium, Bart De Wever has been sworn in as the country's new prime minister. The oath-taking ceremony took place before King Philippe of Belgium at the Royal Palace.

Tulsi Gabbard

Tulsi Gabbard has been confirmed as America's new Director of National Intelligence (DNI). Gabbard, got the much-awaited final Senate vote on her nomination to oversee and coordinate the work of America's different intelligence agencies.

Ilie Bolojan

Ilie Bolojan of the Centrist Liberal Party became Romania's interim President. Ilie Bolojan who was the senate speaker and a mayor and county council head, took over from centrist Klaus Iohannis, who resigned as President

Jotham Napat

Jotham Napat, president of the Leaders Party of Vanuatu, was elected the country's new prime minister. Napat was elected through a secret ballot in the parliament in Port Vila, capital of Vanuatu.

Constantine Tassoulas

Greece's parliament has elected its former speaker, Constantine Tassoulas, as the country's President. Constantine Tassoulas was elected to the largely ceremonial post by the 300-member parliament winning with 160 votes in the fourth round of voting.

Suresh K. Reddy

The Ministry of External Affairs has stated that Suresh K. Reddy was appointed as India's next Ambassador to Egypt. Ambassador Reddy who belongs to the 1991 batch of Indian Foreign Service (IFS) is presently serving as India's Ambassador to Brazil.

Rekha Gupta

BJP leader Rekha Gupta was sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Delhi at the iconic Ramlila Maidan in the national capital. Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena administered the oath of office and secrecy.

Kash Patel

United States President Donald Trump's loyalist Kash Patel has been elected as the 9th Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), which is America's premier federal law enforcement agency. The Senate narrowly voted to confirm Mr Patel's appointment.

Anantha Nageswaran

The Union government has extended the tenure of Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) V. Anantha Nageswaran for two years till March 2027. Dr. V. Anantha Nageswaran assumed charge as the Chief Economic Adviser in January 2022.

Shaktikanta Das

Former RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das has been appointed Principal Secretary-2 to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. His selection was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. Mr. Das is a former 1980-batch IAS officer of the Tamil Nadu cadre.

Tshego Gaelae

Tshego Gaelae, a 33-year-old model from South Africa, made history by becoming the first Black woman to win the prestigious Mrs World title at the 40th edition of the pageant, held in Las Vegas, USA.

Gyanesh Kumar

Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar has been appointed as the new Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), as the tenure of current chief Rajiv Kumar ends. CEC Gyanesh Kumar is a former IAS officer from the 1988 batch of the Kerala cadre. Dr. Vivek Joshi has been appointed as the new Election Commissioner.

Shubhanshu Shukla

Shubhanshu Shukla an Indian Air Force pilot is set to become the first Indian astronaut to travel to the International Space Station (ISS) on a private mission in 2025. He will board the SpaceX Dragon spacecraft from Kennedy Space Center in Florida as part of the Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4)

Sunita Williams

NASA astronaut Sunita Williams surpassed former astronaut Peggy Whitson's total spacewalking time of 60 hours and 21 minutes.

Klaus Iohannis

Romanian President Klaus Iohannis announced his resignation following mounting pressure from populist opposition groups. The announcement came two months after a top court annulled a presidential election. He will leave office on February 12.

Tuhin Pandey

The Union government has appointed Finance and Revenue Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey as the new chairman of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). He would replace Madhabi Puri Buch, who completes her three-year tenure on February 28, 2025.

Biren Singh

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh had resigned - two years after ethnic violence broke out in the state. The Chief Minister handed his resignation to the Governor.

Pope Francis

Pope Francis has remained in critical condition after blood tests showed early kidney failure. The 88-year-old pontiff battles pneumonia and a complex lung infection.

Navin Chawla

Former Chief Election Commissioner of India, Navin Chawla, passed away due to cardiac arrest. Chawla had joined the Indian Administrative Service in 1969. In 2005, he was appointed Election Commissioner. In April 2009 he took over as Chief Election Commissioner.

Aga Khan

The Aga Khan, who became the spiritual leader of millions of Ismaili Muslims at just 20 and dedicated his vast fortune to funding homes, hospitals, and schools in developing countries, passed away aged 88.

Prince Rahim Al-Hussaini

Prince Rahim Al-Hussaini has been named the new Aga Khan, the spiritual leader of Ismaili Muslims, following the death of his father. The 53-year-old Prince Rahim, designated as Aga Khan V in his father's will, becomes the 50th hereditary imam of the Ismailis.

Sam Nujoma

Namibia's founding father and the first President, Sam Nujoma has passed away at the age of 95. He served as the nation's first president from 1990 to 2005 and was a founding member of South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO).

Mayadhar Raut

Guru Mayadhar Raut, the last of the pillars of Odissi dance passed away. Mayadhar Raut was honoured with many awards, such as the Padma Shri (2010), Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (1985).

Gene Hackman

Two-time Oscar winner Gene Hackman and his wife Betsy Arakawa have been found dead in their home in Santa Fe, New Mexico, US. He won two Oscars - best actor for his role as Jimmy "Popeye" Doyle in The French Connection, and best supporting actor for playing Little Bill Daggett in Unforgiven.

SPORTS**Tejas Shirse wins silver & sets National record in Men's 60m Hurdles**

In the European Outdoor Championships, India's Tejas Shirse bagged the silver medal in the Men's 60-meter Hurdles at the Meeting Miramas Métropole in France. He also set a new national record with a time of 7.64 seconds.

World Pickleball League (WPL): Bengaluru Jawans emerged as the inaugural champions

In the World Pickleball League (WPL), Bengaluru Jawans were the inaugural champions, securing a 3-1 victory over Pune United in an intense showdown for the title.

R. Praggnanandhaa wins Tata Steel Masters 2025 title

In Chess, Indian Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa won the prestigious Tata Steel Masters 2025 title, defeating reigning World Champion D. Gukesh in a tiebreaker at Wijk aan Zee, the Netherlands.

India wins ICC Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup title

India has defended their ICC Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup title, beating South Africa by 9 wickets in the final match at the Bayuemas Oval in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Gongadi Trisha got the Player of the Match award.

Tennis: Simona Halep announces retirement

Two-time Grand Slam champion Simona Halep has announced her retirement from tennis at age 33 after a first-round loss at a tournament in her home country of Romania, ending an injury-filled comeback from a doping suspension.

Golf: Schniederjans seals International Series debut victory

International Series debutant Ollie Schniederjans made the most of his first visit to India with a merited victory at the \$2 million event presented by DLF in Gurgaon.

Hockey: Bengal Tigers emerge champions

Jugraj Singh scored a hat-trick as Shraichi Rarh Bengal Tigers won the men's Hockey India League title after beating Hyderabad Toofans 4-3 in the summit clash.

Trump signs executive order to bar transgender athletes from girls' and women's sports

U.S. President Donald Trump signed an executive order intended to ban transgender athletes from participating in girls' and women's sports.

9th Asian Winter Games Kick Off in Harbin

The Ninth Asian Winter Games (AWG) 2025 has begun at Harbin, the capital city of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province. A record 34 countries and regions are competing in the games.

India Dominates 2025 Para Archery Asia Cup, Tops Medal Table with 6 Golds

India ended their participation in the 2025 Para Archery Asia Cup in Thailand with six gold medals, finishing at the top of the medal table. On the final day of the competition, India won six medals, including two golds.

WTA Mumbai Open 2025: Jil Teichmann triumphs

Jil Teichmann of Switzerland added another WTA 125 title to her growing collection, defeating Mananchaya Sawangkaew of Thailand 6-3, 6-4 to win the L&T Mumbai Open in Mumbai, India.

Chennai Open ATP Challenger 2025: Jacquet defeats Ymer to claim title

Frenchman Kyrian Jacquet beat Swede Elias Ymer in the final to clinch the Chennai Open ATP Challenger title. With this win, he earned 22730 USD and 100 ranking points.

India wins the three-match ODI series 3-0

India beat England by 142 runs in the third of the three-match ODI series to win the series, 3-0. Earlier, put into bat, Men in Blue made 356 runs in the stipulated 50 overs. England had won the toss and opted to field.

Pankaj Advani wins his 36th overall national title

India's, Pankaj Advani, won his 36th overall national title at the Indian Snooker Championship and 10th men's snooker crown at the Yashwant Club in Madhya Pradesh.

Third edition of the Women's Premier League 2025 kicks off

The third edition of the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2025 started. The opening clash featured defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) taking on the Gujarat Giants in Vadodara.

38th National Games Concludes

The 38th National Games concluded in Haldwani, Uttarakhand, with a grand closing ceremony. The overall champions were the Services Sports Control Board, who dominated the event with 68 gold, 26 silver, and 27 bronze medals. The Home Minister announced that the 39th National Games will be held in Meghalaya.

Japanese pair of Imamura-Noguchi secure men's doubles title

In tennis, the Unseeded Japanese duo of Masamichi Imamura and Rio Noguchi clinched the Delhi Open Doubles title with a 6-4, 6-3 win over India's Niki Poonacha and Courtney Lock of Zimbabwe.

Ranchi to host the 4th South Asian Senior Athletics Championships

Ranchi will host the 4th South Asian Senior Athletics Championships at the Birsa Munda Athletics Stadium from May 3 to 5, 2025.

Uganda's Jacob Kiplimo Becomes First to Run Half-Marathon Under 57 Minutes

Jacob Kiplimo from Uganda has made history in the half-marathon. He became the first person to run the race in under 57 minutes.

Indonesia wins first Asia mixed team badminton title

Indonesia won its first gold at the Asia Mixed Team Badminton Championship defeating two-time defending champion China.

Argentina Open 2025: Joao Fonseca becomes first 2006-born player to win an ATP Tour title

Joao Fonseca defeated home favourite Francisco Cerundolo in straight sets in the Argentina Open final becoming the first 2006-born player to win a title on the ATP Tour.

Basketball: Curry wins MVP and leads Shaq's OGs to All-Star title

Steph Curry claimed the Kobe Bryant Most Valuable Player MVP trophy and led Shaq's OGs to the All-Star title at Chase Center in San Francisco.

23rd National Para Athletics Championship Kicks Off in Chennai

The 23rd National Para Athletics Championship has commenced at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Chennai. The event has attracted 1,476 para-athletes from across India, competing in 155 events under 30 teams.

ICC Champions Trophy 2025 begins

The ninth edition of the ICC Champions Trophy started on February 19, with defending champions Pakistan taking on New Zealand in their opening match in Karachi.

Pankaj Advani wins 14th Asian Snooker Gold in Doha

India's Pankaj Advani has won the 14th gold medal at the Asian Snooker Championship in Doha. With this latest win, he inches closer to an unprecedented achievement, winning the National, Asian, and World Snooker Championships in a single calendar year.

Basketball: Curry makes history as Warriors beat Kings
Stephen Curry became the first Golden State Warriors player in NBA history to reach 700 20-point career games after helping his side to a 132-108 win against the Sacramento Kings.

Gulveer Singh becomes first Indian to break 13-minute barrier in Men's 5000 m Indoor Race

In athletics, the Hangzhou Asian Games bronze medallist Gulveer Singh has made history by becoming the first Indian to break the 13-minute barrier in the men's 5000 metre indoor race.

Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan & Vijay Sundar Prasanth Win Pune ATP Challenger 100 Doubles Title

Indian duo, Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan and Vijay Sundar Prasanth have clinched the men's doubles title of the Pune ATP Challenger 100. They defeated the second-seeded Australian pair, Blake Bayldon and Matthew Romios.

Squash: Saurav Ghosal Wins PSA Challenger Title at Octane Sydney Classic

Indian squash player Saurav Ghosal has won the PSA Challenger title at the Octane Sydney Classic in Australia. He defeated Abdelrahman Nassar of Egypt in straight games 3-0 in the final clash.

ICC Champions Trophy: India Defeats Pakistan by Six Wickets

In the ICC Men's Champions Trophy, India defeated Pakistan by six wickets in Group A clash at the Dubai International Stadium. Chasing a target of 242 set by Pakistan, India made 244 for 4 in 42.3 overs.

Mohun Bagan Super Giant become ISL League winners

In the Indian Super League (ISL) Football, Mohun Bagan Super Giant became the League Winners after their 1-nil victory over Odisha FC at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan Stadium in Kolkata.

GM Iniyar finishes runner-up in La Grande International Open Chess Tournament

Indian Grandmaster P. Iniyar finished runner-up in the 41st Cappelle La Grande International Open Tournament after losing to IM Mahel of France in the tiebreaks in Dunkirk.

Mirra Andreeva, 17, becomes youngest player to win a WTA 1000 event

Russia's Mirra Andreeva became the youngest player to win a WTA 1000 title when the 17-year-old beat Clara Tauson in the Dubai Tennis Championships final. Andreeva has also become the first 17-year-old to be ranked in the Top 10 since Nicole Pietrangeli in 2007.

Asia Cup Archery: India tops medal tally with 8 medals, including 5 gold

India topped the medal standings at the first leg of the Asia Cup World Ranking Archery tournament, securing eight medals, including 5 gold, at the conclusion of competitions at Bangkok, Thailand.

Cristiano Ronaldo tops list of highest-paid athletes in 2024

Footballer Cristiano Ronaldo remained the highest-earning athlete in 2024, according to Sportico. He has earned a whopping \$260M last year (over ₹2,000 crore).

Six-member committee to review financial assistance to National Sports Federations

The Central government has constituted a six-member committee to revise the norms for providing financial assistance to National Sports Federations. According to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, the committee will be headed by Joint Secretary (sports).

MISCELLANEOUS

India ranks 96 out of 180 countries in Corruption Perceptions Index 2024

India was ranked 96 out of 180 countries in the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) for 2024. Denmark topped the list of being the least-corrupt nation, followed by Finland and Singapore. South Sudan and Somalia remained at the bottom of the index.

India Ranks 3rd In USGBC's Global List On Green Building Certification For 2023

India has been ranked third in the US Green Building Council's (USGBC) annual list of top 10 countries and regions in the world for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification in 2023. The list is topped by China.

New Delhi 6th among 44 cities globally in luxury home price rise: Knight Frank Report

New Delhi has jumped to the sixth position among 44 cities globally in price appreciation of luxury homes, according to Knight Frank 'Prime Global Cities Index Q4 2024' report. Seoul ranks first with 18.4% increase in average prices.

Forbes reveals list of top 10 most powerful nations in 2025

Forbes has released its 2025 list of the world's 10 most powerful countries, with the United States leading the rankings, followed by China in second place & Russia in third place. As of February 2025, India is ranked 12th among the world's most powerful countries.

India tops global list in passenger loads on domestic flights:IATA

India's domestic flights achieved a passenger load factor of 86.4 percent in 2024, the highest globally, surpassing the US (84.1 percent) and China (83.2 percent), which ranked second and third, respectively.

Meta announces 50,000 km Waterworth Subsea cable project

Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp parent company Meta has announced a new 50,000-kilometer undersea cable project, 'Waterworth,' aimed at enhancing digital connectivity between India and the US.

Microsoft unveils its first quantum chip Majorana 1

Microsoft introduced Majorana 1, the world's first quantum chip powered by a new Topological Core architecture that it expects will realize quantum computers capable of solving meaningful, industrial-scale problems in years, not decades.

Amazon launches Quantum computing chip "Ocelot"

Amazon Web Services (AWS) has launched Ocelot, its first quantum computing chip, designed to revolutionise error correction in quantum computing. Using 'cat qubits' to reduce computational errors, Ocelot could cut error correction costs by up to 90 per cent.

Australia, New Zealand register highest breast cancer rates globally

Australia and New Zealand have the highest rates of breast cancer incidence in the world. However, the study found that breast cancer risk is not evenly distributed throughout the world. It found that the age-standardised incidence rate (ASIR) of breast cancer in Australia and New Zealand in 2022 was 100.3 cases per 1 lakh people.

Australia injects additional 1.7 billion dollars in health sector to improve services

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has committed an additional 1.7 billion dollars in funding to strengthen Medicare and support public hospitals across the country.

South Korea blocks use of Chinese AI tool DeepSeek on official PCs

The South Korean foreign and trade ministries blocked access to the Chinese artificial intelligence tool DeepSeek on ministry computers connected to external networks.

Successful launch of a navigation satellite on its new flagship H3 rocket by Japan.

Japan's space agency, JAXA has successfully launched a navigation satellite on its new flagship H3 rocket. The satellite was launched as the country seeks to have a more precise location positioning system of its own.

India contributes \$37.64 million to UN regular budget for 2025

India has contributed 37.64 million US Dollars to the United Nation's Regular Budget for this year, securing its place among the 35 member states honoured for timely and full payment of their dues.

Global Justice Summit in Dubai to Host Peacekeepers & Nobel Laureates

Dubai city is preparing to host the inaugural Global Justice, Love & Peace Summit on April 12-13, 2025, at the Dubai Exhibition Centre, Expo City.

Chinese researchers find bat virus enters human cells via same pathway as COVID

Researchers at China's Wuhan Institute of Virology have identified a new coronavirus in bats that uses the same entry pathway into cells as the virus responsible for Covid-19. The virus has not been found in humans and was only detected in a laboratory. The virus, known as HKU5-CoV-2, does not enter human cells as easily as SARS-CoV-2 does.

Deepwater 'space station' in the South China Sea approved by China.

The construction of the first South China Sea deepwater 'space station', received Chinese approval. The facility, one of the deepest and most technologically complex underwater installations ever attempted is scheduled to be operational by around 2030.

A statue of noted Tamil poet and philosopher Thiruvalluvar unveiled in the Philippines.

As part of the celebrations to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and the Philippines, a statue of noted Tamil poet and philosopher Thiruvalluvar has been unveiled in the Philippines.

India Unveils World's Largest 10-Tonne Propellant Mixer for Rocket Motors

India has developed the world's largest 10-tonne propellant mixer for solid rocket motors. The mixer was designed by ISRO's Satish Dhawan Space Centre in collaboration with the Central Manufacturing Technology Institute in Bengaluru.

Gulfood 2025, one of the world's largest food and beverage trade exhibitions, commences.

Spanning 24 halls and 1.3 million square feet, Gulfood 2025, one of the world's largest food and beverage trade exhibitions, has commenced at the Dubai World Trade Centre, featuring over 5,500 exhibitors from 129 countries.

US Army to no longer allow transgender to enlist in military

The U.S. Army has officially announced that it will no longer allow transgender individuals to enlist in the military and will cease providing gender transition procedures.

BAPS inaugurates South Africa's largest Hindu Temple in Johannesburg

The Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS) has inaugurated the largest Hindu Temple of South Africa in Johannesburg.

Colombo Hosts First Bharat Rang Mahotsav

Colombo marked a historic cultural milestone as it hosted the Bharat Rang Mahotsav (BRM) for the first time, celebrating 25 years of the world's largest theatre festival. The inauguration took place at Tower Hall Theatre in Colombo.

Recent Wildfires in Los Angeles County Cause Estimated Losses of Up to \$164 Billion

In the United States, the two most recent largest wildfires that ravaged Los Angeles County are estimated to have caused total property and capital losses of as much as 164 billion dollars.

Indian Coast Guard Day: 1st February

Indian Coast Guard Day will be celebrated on February 1, 2025 to mark the 49th raising day of India's maritime Armed Force, the Indian Coast Guard.

World Wetlands Day: 2nd February.

World Wetlands Day is observed internationally every year on 2nd February. The theme for World Wetlands Day is "Protecting wetlands for our common future".

International Day of Women and Girls in Science, 11 February

The International Day of Women and Girls in Science, celebrated on 11 February. This year's celebration, which marks the 10th anniversary of this International Day, focuses on Unpacking STEM Careers: Her Voice in Science.

World Unani Day is celebrated on February 11

World Unani Day is observed on February 11 every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of social reformer and renowned Unani scholar Hakim Ajmal Khan, widely regarded as the pioneer of Unani medicine in India.

World Radio Day observed on February 13

World Radio Day is celebrated on February 13 every year to acknowledge and celebrate the significance of radio in shaping society and culture globally. Theme for World Radio Day 2025 is "Radio and Climate Change."

India remembers bravehearts day on Feb 14

Nation is remembering martyrs who lost their lives on February 14 in Pulwama attacks in 2019. The day marks the 6th year of horrific terror attacks in the Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir where 40 CRPF personnel were martyred.

The birth anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj observed

The Nation observed the 395th birth anniversary of the great Maratha Warrior-King Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj on February 19. Born on this day in 1630 at the Shivneri Fort in Pune district in Maharashtra, Chhatrapati Shivaji laid the foundation of the Maratha Empire and challenged the Mughal rule.

World Pangolin Day 2025: 15th February

World Pangolin Day, is observed every year on the third Saturday of February, will be celebrated on 15th February, 2025 to raise awareness about pangolins, the world's most trafficked mammals.

World Thinking Day: 22nd February

World Thinking Day is observed every year on 22nd February by the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS).

National Science Day on Feb.28

National Science Day is celebrated every year on 28th February to commemorate the discovery of the 'Raman Effect' made by the eminent physicist Sir C.V. Raman. For this discovery, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1930.