

**INTERNATIONAL****ISRAEL PASSED LAW IMPOSING DEATH PENALTY**

Israel's Parliament Knesset passed a law imposing the death penalty on Palestinians convicted of fatal attacks. The legislation makes the death penalty the default punishment for Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank found guilty of intentionally carrying out deadly attacks deemed acts of terrorism by a military court.

**IEA, IMF & WORLD BANK FORM GROUP ON ENERGY CRISIS**

International Energy Agency, International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank Group agreed to form a coordination group to address the energy and economic impact of the West Asia conflict.

**TRUMP ANNOUNCES 2-WEEK CEASEFIRE WITH IRAN**

US President Donald Trump says he has agreed to a proposed two-week ceasefire between the US and Iran if shipping traffic is allowed to move through the Strait of Hormuz.

**RUSSIA & CHINA VETO ON STRAIT OF HORMUZ**

Russia and China vetoed a UN Security Council resolution on reopening the Strait of Hormuz, a vital maritime chokepoint through which a fifth of the global oil passes.

**MADAGASCAR DECLARES STATE OF ENERGY EMERGENCY**

The Malagasy government declared a state of energy emergency across the entire territory for a period of 15 days to address a major energy supply crisis currently affecting the country.

**INDIA SWEEPS ECOSOC BODY ELECTIONS**

India swept unopposed the four elections to Economic and Social Council bodies of the United Nations. Former senior diplomat Preeti Saran was re-elected in her personal capacity to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

In addition, India secured seats in the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organisations, and the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

**US-IRAN TALKS HELD IN ISLAMABAD**

The United States and Iran held crucial peace talks in Islamabad, alongside Pakistan, to reduce tensions in West Asia. Key issues include a Lebanon ceasefire, release of Iranian assets, and the Strait of Hormuz

**UK PAUSES CHAGOS ISLANDS DEAL**

The United Kingdom put its plan to transfer the Chagos Islands to Mauritius on indefinite hold after the United States withdrew support.

**US & IRAN FAIL TO REACH PEACE AGREEMENT**

The peace talks between the United States and Iran concluded in Islamabad without an agreement, threatening a fragile two-week ceasefire and casting doubt on future stability.

**PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS HELD IN HUNGARY**

Hungarians have voted in a high-stakes Parliamentary election that could end Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's 16-year hold on power.

**US NAVY BEGINS BLOCKADE OF ALL IRANIAN PORTS**

The United States Navy has begun enforcing a full maritime blockade of Iranian ports, escalating tensions in West Asia after weekend peace talks in Pakistan collapsed without agreement.

**SAUDI PLEDGES SUPPORT TO PAKISTAN**

Saudi Arabia pledged an additional financial support of \$3 billion to Pakistan and also extended an existing \$5 billion facility for three years.

**N.KOREA BOOSTING NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPACITY**

IAEA chief Rafael Grossi said that North Korea has made very serious advances in its abilities to turn out nuclear weapons, with the probable addition of a new uranium enrichment facility.

**SPAIN TO LEGALISE UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS**

Spain approved a plan to give legal status to about 500,000 undocumented migrants, allowing them to be integrated formally into the workforce. The Spanish government's plan will offer a one-year renewable residence permit.

### **CEASEFIRE BETWEEN ISRAEL & LEBANON COMES INTO FORCE**

US President Donald Trump announced a 10-day ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon. The ceasefire temporarily halted hostilities and is aimed at creating space for diplomatic engagement.

### **UKRAINE RECEIVING DRONES FROM UK**

Ukraine started receiving drones from the biggest ever drone package announced by Britain. This year, Ukraine is expecting to get a total of One Lakh Twenty Thousand drones as part of the package, including strike, reconnaissance, logistics, and maritime models.

### **IRAN DECLARES STRAIT OF HORMUZ OPEN**

Iran declared the Strait of Hormuz is completely open to commercial traffic, coinciding with a 10-day ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon.

### **INDIA INVITED TO JOIN UK-FRANCE MARITIME INITIATIVE**

India was invited to take part in a maritime initiative led by the United Kingdom and France to protect transit through the Strait of Hormuz, widely regarded as a critical global chokepoint.

### **AUSTRALIA-JAPAN SIGN \$7 BILLION WARSHIP DEAL**

Australia and Japan signed a \$7 billion defence deal for supplying advanced warships. The agreement includes three Mogami-class frigates built in Japan and eight in Australia.

### **BULGARIA HOLDS EIGHTH PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS**

Bulgarians voted in the eighth Parliamentary election in five years after mass protests brought down the previous conservative-led government in December last year.

### **STRAIT OF HORMUZ WILL REMAIN CLOSED**

Iran said the Strait of Hormuz will remain closed until the US blockade on Iranian ports is lifted. It says the continuing US blockade is a breach of the ceasefire and warns that ships approaching the vital shipping channel will be targeted.

### **JAPAN ENDS BAN ON LETHAL WEAPONS EXPORTS**

Japan lifted its long-standing ban on lethal weapons exports, marking a major shift from its postwar pacifist policy. The move aims to strengthen regional security amid concerns over China and North Korea.

### **PARAGUAY TO ACCEPT NON-CITIZENS DEPORTED FROM US**

The government of Paraguay announced that it will accept non-citizens deported from the United States as part of President Donald Trump's mass deportation drive.

### **TRUMP ANNOUNCES TO EXTEND IRAN CEASEFIRE INDEFINITELY**

US President Donald Trump announced that he will indefinitely extend the ceasefire with Iran to allow the two countries to continue peace talks to end the war.

### **ISRAEL, LEBANON AGREE TO EXTEND CEASEFIRE BY THREE WEEKS**

Israel and Lebanon extended their ceasefire for three weeks at a meeting at the White House brokered by President Donald Trump.

### **TURKIYE TO RESTRICT SOCIAL MEDIA ACCESS FOR UNDER-15**

Turkish lawmakers passed a Bill that includes restricting access to social media platforms for children under the age of 15. The legislation is the latest in a global trend to protect young people from dangerous online activity.

### **UK PASSES BILL BANNING CIGARETTE SALES TO CHILDREN**

The UK Parliament passed Tobacco and Vapes Bill banning cigarette sales to anyone born on or after January 1, 2009, aiming to create a smoke-free generation and regulate vaping in public spaces.

### **INDIA SENDS MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO TANZANIA**

India delivered two tonnes of life-saving medical supplies to Tanzania. The consignment includes essential equipment such as oxygen concentrators, suction units, oximeters, microscopes, and stethoscopes, along with medical consumables like inhalers, syringes, gloves, bandages and wheelchairs.

### **PAKISTAN TESTS 'TAIMOOR' CRUISE MISSILE**

Pakistan announced the successful test of its indigenously developed 'Taimoor' air-launched cruise missile. The missile is designed to hit both land and sea targets and has a strike range of up to 600 kilometres.

### **UAE TO SHIFT GOVERNMENT SERVICES TO AI**

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) officially launched a groundbreaking initiative to transition 50% of its government services, sectors, and operations to autonomous Agent AI within the next two years.

### **IRAN OFFERS TO REOPEN STRAIT OF HORMUZ**

Iran offered to open the Strait of Hormuz in exchange for the US lifting its blockade on the country's ports and an end to the war. In a fresh offer to the Trump Administration, Tehran has proposed that discussions on the larger question of its nuclear program would come in a later phase.

### **TREATY ON NPT HELD IN NEW YORK**

The 11th Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) was held at the UN in New York from 27 April - 22 May 2026.

### **UAE LEAVES OPEC AND OPEC+**

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) announced that it will exit the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and the broader OPEC+ alliance, with the decision taking effect from 1 May 2026.

### **JORDAN JOINS INDIA-LED GLOBAL INITIATIVES**

Jordan formally confirmed its membership in three major global initiatives spearheaded by India — the International Solar Alliance (ISA), the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), and the Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA).

### **SCO MEET: INDIA CALLS ACTION AGAINST TERRORISM**

Speaking at the SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh called for a unified front to tackle terrorism, separatism and extremism by eliminating safe havens and rejecting any political exceptions.

## **NATIONAL**

### **PM MODI INAUGURATES SAMRAT SAMPRATI MUSEUM**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Samrat Samprati Museum in Koba, Gandhinagar, on the occasion of Mahavir Jayanti. The museum is dedicated to Jain history, the life of Samrat Samprati, his rule, and the message of non-violence.

### **GRSE DELIVERS FRONTLINE NAVAL PLATFORMS TO NAVY**

Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd. (GRSE) delivered three frontline Naval platforms – Dunagiri, Sanshodhak, and Agray to the Indian Navy.

### **DEFENCE MINISTRY SIGNS CONTRACT WITH BEL**

The Defence Ministry signed a ₹1,950 crore contract with Bharat Electronics Limited- BEL for the procurement of two Mountain Radars for the Indian Air Force in New Delhi.

### **PM MODI INAUGURATED THE KAYNES SEMICON PLANT**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Kaynes Semicon Plant at Sanand GIDC, Ahmedabad. With this the commercial production will commence at the facility.

### **INDIAN NAVY RECEIVES MALWAN**

The Indian Navy received Malwan, the second Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft, built by Cochin Shipyard Limited at Kochi.

### **INS SUNAYNA FLAGGED OFF**

Minister of State (Defence) Sanjay Seth flagged off INS Sunayna from Mumbai as part of the IOS SAGAR initiative. The mission includes naval personnel from India and 16 friendly foreign countries, promoting maritime cooperation.

### **PARLIAMENT PASSES JAN VISHWAS (AMENDMENT OF PROVISIONS) BILL, 2026**

The Parliament of India passed the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026, aimed at decriminalising minor offences and promoting ease of doing business and living.

The Bill amends 79 Central Acts, covering 784 provisions, of which 717 are decriminalised.

### **PATNAIK APPOINTED BRAND AMBASSADOR FOR CENSUS**

Sudarshan Pattnaik was appointed brand ambassador for Census 2027 by the Ministry of Home Affairs to promote participation in India's first digital census.

### **INS TARAGIRI COMMISSIONED**

INS Taragiri was commissioned at Visakhapatnam by Rajnath Singh. Built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited under Project 17A, the 6,670-tonne warship features over 75% indigenous content.

### **NCERT GRANTED DEEMED UNIVERSITY STATUS**

National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) was granted "Institution Deemed to be University" status under a distinct category on the advice of the University Grants Commission (UGC).

### **ISRO LAUNCHES 'MISSION MITRA' IN LADAKH**

Indian Space Research Organisation launched Mission MITRA in Leh Ladakh to study human performance in space-like conditions. Conducted at 3,500 metres, the mission will analyse physiological, psychological, and operational responses under hypoxia, cold, and isolation.

### **RAILWAYS APPROVES ₹398 CRORE OPTICAL FIBRE PROJECT**

Indian Railways approved a ₹398 crore Optical Fibre Cable Backbone Project across Ahmedabad and Ratlam divisions. The initiative will cover 1,929 route kilometres to strengthen communication infrastructure.

### **BIRAC-BIONEST INCUBATION CENTRE INAUGURATED**

Union Minister Jitendra Singh inaugurated the BIRAC-BioNEST incubation centre at Central Food Technological Research Institute in Mysuru, Karnataka to boost India's food and biotech innovation ecosystem.

### **RAJA RAVI VARMA'S 'YASHODA & KRISHNA' BECOMES COSTLIEST INDIAN ARTWORK**

Yashoda and Krishna by Raja Ravi Varma set a record by selling for ₹167.20 crore at a Mumbai auction, becoming the most expensive Indian artwork. The masterpiece was bought by Cyrus Poonawalla.

**INS ARIDHAMAN ENTERS INDIA'S NAVAL FLEET**  
Defence Minister Rajnath Singh presided over a brief ceremony to formally commission the country's third nuclear submarine, INS Aridhaman (S4), which is the third in the Arihant-class of SSBNs (Submersible Ship Ballistic Nuclear) at Visakhapatnam.

**INDIGENOUS 1000-KG AERIAL BOMB FOR IAF**  
The Ministry of Defence initiated the process for the indigenous design and development of a 1000-kg aerial bomb akin to Mk-84 for the IAF, aiming to boost India's 'Aatmanirbharta' in the sector.

**BHARAT TRIBES FEST 2026 CONCLUDES IN NEW DELHI**  
Bharat Tribes Fest 2026 concluded with a grand closing ceremony in New Delhi. The event marked the culmination of a 19-day celebration of tribal culture, craftsmanship, and enterprise.

**PRESIDENT APPROVES BILL MAKING AMARAVATI AS SOLE CAPITAL OF AP**  
President Droupadi Murmu given her assent to the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2026, officially declaring Amaravati as the sole and permanent capital of Andhra Pradesh.

**ARMY UNVEILS TECHNOLOGY ROADMAP FOR UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEM**  
The Indian Army unveiled a technology roadmap for Unmanned Aerial System and Loitering Munitions. This initiative is a significant step towards providing long term visibility of Indian Army's requirement in the field of Unmanned Aerial Systems.

**CENTRE RAMPS UP SALE OF 5-KG LPG CYLINDERS**  
The Union government stepped up sale of small 5-kg LPG cylinders which is available across-the-counter at LPG distributorships on showing valid ID proofs.

**PFBR IN TAMIL NADU'S KALPAKKAM ATTAINS CRITICALITY**  
India's indigenously designed and built Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu attained criticality. The 500 Megawatt electric Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor PFBR is operated by Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Ltd (BHAVINI).

**INDIA CELEBRATES 11 YEARS OF PMMY**  
India marks 11 years of the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) on 8 April 2026. This scheme was launched on 8th April 2015. It is the flagship programme of the centre aimed at funding the unfunded microenterprises and small businesses.

**8TH POSHAN PAKHWADA OBSERVED FROM 9-13 APRIL**  
The Women and Child Development Ministry commemorated the 8th edition of Poshan Pakhwada – 2026 from 9-13 April across the country. The theme for Poshan Pakhwada is "maximising brain development in the first six years of life".

**INDIA WITHDRAWS COP33 UNFCCC HOST BID**  
India withdrawn its proposal to host the 33rd Conference of the Parties (COP 33) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2028. The decision, reportedly due to a review of commitments for 2028 and a "busy calendar."

**CYCLONE-IV:INDIA-EGYPT JOINT SPECIAL FORCES EXERCISE**  
An Indian Army contingent participated in the fourth edition of the India-Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise, Cyclone-IV. The exercise was held at Anshas, Egypt.

**CABINET APPROVES TWO HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECTS IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH**  
The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved investing ₹26000 crore for the construction of Kamala Hydro Electric project, alongside an investment of ₹14000 crore to construct the Kalai-II hydro-electric project in Arunachal Pradesh.

**CABINET HIKES HPCL RAJASTHAN REFINERY PROJECT COST**  
The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved a hike of 84% in project cost of HPCL Rajasthan Refinery Ltd from ₹43,129 crores to ₹79,459 crore.

**INDIA'S SOLAR ENERGY CAPACITY CROSSES 150 GW.**  
India's installed solar power capacity crossed the 150 GW mark. This happened as the installations in March reached a record 6.65 GW. In the full year 2025-26, India's solar installations were 44.61 GW, taking the cumulative capacity to 150.26 GW.

**ISRO CONDUCTS SUCCESSFUL AIR DROP TEST**  
Indian Space Research Organisation successfully carried out the second Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-02) for the Gaganyaan mission at Satish Dhawan Space Centre.

**SINDHI VERSION OF CONSTITUTION RELEASED**  
Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan released the Sindhi version of the Constitution of India in Devanagari script in New Delhi. He termed it a major step toward inclusive governance.

### **INDIA-UZBEKISTAN JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE DUSTLIK HELD**

An Indian Army contingent comprising 60 personnel have participated at the 7th edition of the India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise, DUSTLIK.

### **RAILWAYS APPROVE 100 EXPANSION PROJECTS**

Ministry of Railways sanctioned 100 new infrastructure projects for FY 2025-26, involving a total investment of ₹1.53 lakh crore to expand the rail network by over 6,000 km.

### **INDIAN ARMY FLAGS OFF SAMUDRA SAHAS**

The Indian Army flagged off its first blue-water sailing expedition, Samudra Sahas, from Marve in Mumbai as part of the bicentenary celebrations of the Regiment of Artillery.

### **PM INAUGURATES DELHI-DEHRADUN EXPRESSWAY**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a six-lane Delhi-Dehradun expressway, a ₹12,000-crore highway project that is set to reduce travel time between the two cities from five-six hours to about 2-2.5 hours.

### **CENTRE PUSHES WOMEN'S RESERVATION, DELIMITATION BILLS**

Union Law Minister Arjun Meghwal introduced the Constitution (One Hundred and Thirty-First Amendment) Bill, 2026, and the Delimitation Bill, 2026, in Lok Sabha. Home Minister Amit Shah introduced the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026, in the House.

- ❖ The first proposed Constitutional Amendment Bill seeks to increase the number of seats in the Lok Sabha to 850, 815 seats for persons directly elected from the states and 35 seats for persons representing the Union Territories.
- ❖ The second proposed amendment seeks changes in the Union Territories Act, the J&K Reorganisation Act and the GNCT Delhi Act to allow for delimitation and changes in the number of assembly seats.
- ❖ The third bill proposes a new Delimitation Act to set up a Delimitation Commission of India to undertake the exercise.

### **INDIA & AUSTRIA EXCHANGE MULTIPLE AGREEMENTS**

India and Austria exchanged several agreements and documents including an MOU on Food Safety, a Letter of Intent (LOI) on Cooperation in Military Matters, and an LOI on Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism

### **FIU, PFRDA SIGN MOU**

The Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) and the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) signed a comprehensive MoU to enhance information sharing and coordination.

### **CONSTITUTION (131ST AMENDMENT) BILL DEFEATED IN LS**

The Constitution (One Hundred and Thirty-First Amendment) Bill, intended to implement one-third women's reservation in the Lok Sabha and the legislative assembly, failed to get the nod in the Lower House. The Bill fell short of the two-third majority of 352, out of the total 528 members present in the Lok Sabha.

### **NAVAL COMMANDERS' CONFERENCE 2026 CONCLUDES**

The first phase of the Naval Commanders' Conference 2026 concluded in New Delhi. The four-day conference served as a key platform for a comprehensive review of the Indian Navy's operational and material preparedness, infrastructure, logistics, and human resource initiatives.

### **CENTRE FORMS EXPERT PANEL TO SUPPORT AI GOVERNANCE**

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology set up the Technology and Policy Expert Committee (TPEC) to assist the AI Governance and Economic Group. The TPEC will provide expert inputs on AI policy, regulation, and global engagement, drawing from academia, industry, and digital policy.

### **OCI EXPANSION FOR INDIAN-ORIGIN TAMILS IN SRI LANKA**

India announced a significant expansion of the Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) scheme for Indian-origin Tamils in Sri Lanka, extending eligibility from the 4th to the 6th generation.

### **TEXTILES MINISTRY LAUNCHES 'VISHWA SUTRA'**

The Ministry of Textiles launched 'Vishwa Sutra – Weaves of India for the World' to promote Indian handlooms globally, merging traditional weaves with contemporary designs.

### **MEGHALAYA APPROVES KHASI, GARO AS OFFICIAL STATE LANGUAGES**

The Meghalaya cabinet announced the indigenous Khasi and Garo languages as the official languages of the state, in addition to English. Currently, all official business in the state is carried out in English.

### **G20 SATELLITE IS EXPECTED TO BE LAUNCHED IN 2027**

ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan stated that the G20 satellite, designed to study climate and air pollution and monitor weather, is expected to be launched in 2027.

### **INDIA-SOUTH KOREA SIGN KEY MOUS**

India & South Korea signed four MoUs covering sports, MSMEs, cultural industries, and industrial cooperation after talks between Narendra Modi and Lee Jae Myung. Both sides agreed to upgrade the CEPA and launched the India-Korea Digital Bridge, focusing on AI and semiconductors. .

### **SHEKHA JHEEL BIRD SANCTUARY DECLARED RAMSAR SITE**

Bhupender Yadav announced that Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh was designated a Ramsar Site. It becomes India's 99th Ramsar wetland and the state's 12th.

### **MAHARASHTRA'S AHILYANAGAR TOPS NATIONAL NUTRITION FORTNIGHT RANKINGS**

Ahilyanagar district in Maharashtra secured first rank nationwide for awareness activities under the eighth National Nutrition Fortnight campaign led by the Women and Child Development Department.

### **DRDO DEVELOPS 'PRAJNA' AI SATELLITE SYSTEM**

The Defence Research and Development Organisation developed the AI-powered satellite imaging system "Prajna" to strengthen India's internal security.

### **INDIA-JAPAN HOLD FIRST AI STRATEGIC DIALOGUE**

The inaugural India-Japan Artificial Intelligence Strategic Dialogue was held in Mumbai where both sides engaged in substantive discussions on strategic cooperation across the entire AI stack.

### **INDIA'S FIRST PETROGLYPH CONSERVATION PARK IN LADAKH**

In a landmark initiative to preserve Ladakh's ancient heritage, Lt Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena laid the foundation stone for India's first Petroglyph Conservation Park at Sindhu Ghat in Leh.

### **IIT ROPAR HAS LAUNCHED ANNAM.AI**

IIT Ropar launched ANNAM.AI (Alliance for Next-Gen Nourishment through Agriculture Modernisation), India's first fully integrated agricultural intelligence ecosystem, designed to modernize farming through data-driven insights.

### **INDIA LAUNCHES FIRST ADVANCED 3D GLASS CHIP UNIT**

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Majhi laid the foundation stone for the country's first glass substrate-based advanced chip packaging unit in Bhubaneswar. The facility, being set up by US-based 3D Glass Solutions Inc.

### **INDIA & EGYPT AGREE ON BILATERAL DEFENCE COOPERATION**

India & Egypt formalized a comprehensive bilateral defence cooperation plan for 2026-27 during the 11th Joint Defence Committee (JDC) meeting held in Cairo. This agreement marks a significant step in the Strategic Partnership established between the two nations in 2023.

### **BIODIVERSITY GOVERNANCE PROJECT LAUNCHED IN TAMIL NADU & MEGHALAYA**

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the National Biodiversity Authority launched a five-year biodiversity project in Tamil Nadu & Meghalaya with support from the Global Environment Facility and United Nations Development Programme.

### **DRDO UNVEILS ADVANCED ARMoured PLATFORMS**

Defence Research and Development Organisation Chairman Samir V Kamat unveiled advanced tracked and wheeled armoured platforms at a DRDO facility in Ahilyanagar, Maharashtra.

### **CENTRE RECONSTITUTES NITI AAYOG**

The Centre reconstituted NITI Aayog, appointing Ashok Kumar Lahiri as Vice Chairperson, replacing Suman K. Bery. New full-time members include Rajiv Gauba, K. V. Raju, Gobardhan Das, M. Srinivas, and Abhay Karandikar.

### **ASIA'S FIRST UNESCO CHAIR ON GENDER INCLUSION LAUNCHED AT PUNE**

Asia's first UNESCO Chair on Gender Inclusion and Skill Development was launched in April 2026 at Symbiosis Skills and Professional University (SSPU) in Pune. The initiative focuses on training women in high-growth "sunrise" sectors.

### **INDIA & NEW ZEALAND SIGN FTA**

India & New Zealand signed a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) on 27 April 2026. The FTA, signed will see New Zealand removing all tariffs on all goods imported from India, while India will remove or reduce tariffs on 95% of current imports from New Zealand. New Zealand committed to facilitating investments of 20 billion dollars into India over the next fifteen years.

### **FOSSIL BED DISCOVERED IN TAMIL NADU**

A Fossil Bed dating back to the Holocene period approximately 8,000 to 12,000 years ago was discovered at Panaiyur area in Tamil Nadu's Thoothukudi district. This discovery significantly enriches the Quaternary fossil record of the country.

### **RS CHAIRMAN APPROVES MERGER OF 7 AAP MPS WITH BJP**

The Rajya Sabha Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan has approved the merger of seven Aam Aadmi Party, AAP MPs with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). With this, the BJP's strength in the Rajya Sabha has now risen to 113.

### **MARATHI FILMS JEEV & APRIL MAY 99 SELECTED FOR CANNES**

Two Marathi films, Jeev – The Creature & April May 99, are selected for the film market section of the prestigious Cannes International Film Festival in France.

### **FOUNDATION STONE LAID FOR GOOGLE CLOUD INDIA AI HUB IN VISAKHAPATNAM**

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, along with Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw, laid the foundation stone for the Google Cloud India AI Hub in Visakhapatnam.

### **RIGHT TO SAFE TRAVEL ON NATIONAL HIGHWAYS PART OF RIGHT TO LIFE**

The Supreme Court of India declared that the safety of commuters against road accidents and the right to safe passage on highways are part of the fundamental right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution.

### **PM MODI INAUGURATES GANGA EXPRESSWAY**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 594-km-long Ganga Expressway in the Hardoi district of Uttar Pradesh. The Ganga Expressway, developed by the Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority, will connect the western, central, and eastern regions of Uttar Pradesh through a single high-speed corridor.

### **SC UPHOLDS MANDATORY ADMISSION OF STUDENTS UNDER THE RTE ACT**

The Supreme Court of India upheld the mandatory admission of students under the Right to Education Act, 2009, calling it a national mission. In a case, the apex court endorsed the Allahabad High Court's decision, pointing out that Schools, including the 'neighbourhood schools' are legally bound to follow the admission process prescribed by the State to provide 25% reservation for children from weaker and disadvantaged groups.

### **INDIA TO LAUNCH FIRST COMMERCIAL SEAPLANE SERVICE IN LAKSHADWEEP**

India is set to launch its first commercial seaplane service in Lakshadweep following SkyHop Aviation's receipt of a Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Air Operator Certificate (AOC) in April 2026.

## **BANKING & ECONOMY**

### **RBI POSTPONES IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW RULES ON CAPITAL MARKET EXPOSURE**

The RBI postponed the implementation of its new rules on capital market exposure by three months. The revised deadline is now July 1, 2026, instead of April 1.

### **INDIGO NAMES WILLIAM WALSH AS NEW CEO**

The board of InterGlobe Aviation Limited, IndiGo's parent company, has announced the appointment of William Walsh as Chief Executive Officer, subject to regulatory approvals.

### **MAGNUM ACQUIRES STAKE IN KWALITY WALL'S**

The Magnum Ice Cream Company (TMICC) completed the acquisition of 61.9% of the equity shares of Kwaliti Wall's (India) Limited (KWIL).

### **BOMBAY HC UPHOLDS PMLA SUPREMACY**

The Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court said that laws used by banks to recover money cannot override the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The court made it clear that the centre has the first right over properties linked to "proceeds of crime".

### **RBL BANK PLANS TO OPEN 200 BRANCHES IN FY27**

RBL Bank is planning to open 200 branches in FY27 to take its network to over 800 branches. The lender launched 23 new branches across many states recently to take its overall branch size to over 603.

### **GST REVENUE CLOCKS ₹2 LAKH CRORE IN MARCH**

India's gross goods and services tax (GST) collections rose to a 10-month high of Rs 2 lakh crore in March, up 8.8 percent from the year-ago period.

### **COINDCX LAUNCHES CYBERSECURITY NETWORK**

Crypto exchange CoinDCX announced the launch of a ₹100 crore Digital Suraksha Network (DSN), an initiative aimed at tackling cyber fraud and strengthening trust in India's digital finance ecosystem.

### **RBI CAPS LOANS AGAINST SHARES**

The RBI clarified that loans to individuals for purchase of shares and other eligible securities will be capped at Rs 1 crore per borrower across the entire banking system, while borrowing for subscribing to shares through initial public offerings, follow-on offers or employee stock option plans will be limited to Rs 25 lakhs per individual.

### **AROUND 12,000 ORACLE EMPLOYEES LAID OFF IN INDIA**

Around 12,000 employees in India are reportedly part of the 30,000 laid off by Oracle, a US-based tech giant, with another round of job cuts expected within a month. It has reportedly fired around 30,000 employees globally.

### **NEW INCOME TAX ACT 2025, COMES IN TO EFFECT**

With effect from April 1, 2026, the Income Tax Act, 2025 replaces the six-decades-old Income Tax Act, 1961. The objective is to enhance predictability, transparency, reduce compliance burden, and offer taxpayers a streamlined and simplified tax filing process.

### **INDIA BECOMES 3RD LARGEST RENEWABLE ENERGY MARKET IN 2025**

India emerged as the third-largest renewable energy market globally in 2025, after China and the United States. India added about 45 GW capacity, reaching 250.5 GW, driven mainly by solar and wind growth.

### **CENTRE GRANTS CUSTOMS DUTY EXEMPTION ON PETROCHEMICAL PRODUCTS**

Ministry of Finance has announced full customs duty exemption on key petrochemical products until June 30, 2026, amid supply disruptions due to the West Asia conflict.

### **RBI APPROVES EMIRATES NBD STAKE ACQUISITION IN RBL BANK**

The Reserve Bank of India approved UAE-based Emirates NBD to acquire up to 74% stake in RBL Bank for \$3 billion, marking the largest foreign investment in an Indian bank.

### **GUIDELINES FOR STARTUP INDIA FUND OF FUNDS 2.0**

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) released operational guidelines for the ₹10,000 crore Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0.

The scheme will channel investments through SEBI-registered Alternative Investment Funds into DPIIT-recognised startups. Small Industries Development Bank of India will implement and monitor the programme

### **BHARTI AIRTEL CROSSES 650 MILLION USERS**

Bharti Airtel surpassed 650 million customers worldwide, becoming the second-largest telecom operator globally by subscriber base, according to GSMA Intelligence.

### **IRDAI RETAINS LIC, NEW INDIA ASSURANCE & GIC AS D-SIIs**

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India retained Life Insurance Corporation of India, New India Assurance Company Limited, & General Insurance Corporation of India as Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs) for FY 2025–26.

### **MOODY'S CUTS INDIA'S FY27 GDP GROWTH ESTIMATES TO 6%**

Moody's Ratings cut India's economic growth estimates for the current fiscal to 6% from 6.8% earlier, saying the ongoing conflict in West Asia will moderate growth momentum and raise inflation risks.

### **AMUL CROSSES ₹1 LAKH CRORE MARK**

Amul, a dairy brand owner by Anand-based Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd. (GVMMF), crossed ₹1 lakh crore in turnover in 2025-26, registering an 11% increase over the previous financial year.

### **AIR INDIA CEO CAMPBELL WILSON RESIGNS**

Tata Group-owned Air India Chief Executive Officer Campbell Wilson resigned from the position. Mr. Wilson was appointed as Air India's CEO and MD in July 2022.

### **CBI CLAIMS OVER ₹73K CRORE BANK 'FRAUD' IN ANIL AMBANI GROUP PROBE**

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is probing bank loan frauds cumulatively worth ₹73,000 crore in seven cases registered against the Reliance Anil Ambani Group.

### **TONSE TAKES CHARGE AS CHIEF OF YES BANK**

Vinay Muralidhar Tonse has taken charge as Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of YES Bank Ltd (YBL) with effect from April 6, 2026 for three years.

### **RBI REVAMPS BC MODEL**

The RBI revamped the business correspondent model by creating a new layer. There would be three types of delivery points to boost customer services and expand financial inclusion. There will be branches, business correspondent-banking outlet (BC-BO) and business correspondent-banking touchpoint (BC-BT).

### **SARASWAT COOPERATIVE BANK CROSSES ₹1 LAKH CRORE ANNUAL TURNOVER**

Saraswat Cooperative Bank, India's largest urban cooperative bank, achieved a historic milestone by crossing ₹1 lakh crore in total business turnover in the 2025–26 financial year.

### **CENTRE PLANS ₹2.5 LAKH CR CREDIT GUARANTEE SCHEME**

The Central government is considering a ₹2.5 lakh crore credit guarantee scheme to support businesses, especially MSMEs impacted by the West Asia crisis. The guarantee on bank loans would be provided by the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC), a wholly owned subsidiary of the government.

### **RANVEER SINGH IS BRAND AMBASSADOR OF JINDAL STAINLESS**

Jindal Stainless Ltd (JSL) announced Bollywood superstar Ranveer Singh as its first-ever brand ambassador and nationwide celebrity endorser.

### **RBI CANCELS LICENCE OF SHIRPUR MERCHANTS' CO-OPERATIVE BANK**

The RBI cancelled the licence of The Shirpur Merchants' Co-operative Bank as the lender does not have adequate capital and earning prospects. Consequently, the bank ceases to carry on banking business, with effect from the close of business on April 6, 2026.

### **RBI MPC KEEPS REPO RATE UNCHANGED AT 5.25%**

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), voted unanimously to keep the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged at 5.25%. Consequently, the standing deposit facility (SDF) rate remains at 5% and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate remains at 5.50%.

The RBI projects inflation for FY27 to be at 4.6 percent, GDP at 6.9 percent.

### **RBI UNVEILS POLICY MEASURES COVERING REGULATIONS, SUPERVISION, PAYMENT SYSTEMS AND FINANCIAL MARKETS**

The RBI unveiled a set of developmental and regulatory policy measures covering regulations, supervision, payment systems and financial markets.

- ❖ It proposed easing norms for banks by removing the condition linked to the inclusion of quarterly net profits in the Capital to Risk-weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR).
- ❖ It has also proposed to do away with the Investment Fluctuation Reserve (IFR) requirement for commercial banks while revising norms for other bank categories.
- ❖ In the payment systems segment, it proposed to simplify the onboarding of MSMEs on the Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) by removing due diligence requirements.

### **WIPRO BAGS \$1 BILLION CONTRACT FROM OLAM GROUP**

Wipro secured an eight-year deal with Singapore-based food and agribusiness group Olam group, its largest contract to date. The agreement is expected to generate more than \$1 billion in total contract value, including a committed spend of \$800 million.

### **BOB LAUNCHES AI-POWERED MULTILINGUAL PLATFORM**

Bank of Baroda (BoB) unveiled its bob SAMVAD, an AI-powered multilingual conversational platform aimed at transforming customer interactions at its branches.

### **NO PERSONAL HEARING NEEDED BEFORE BANKS TAG LOAN ACCOUNTS AS FRAUD: SC**

The Supreme Court (SC) of India ruled that borrowers are not entitled to a personal hearing before banks classify their loan accounts as "fraud" under Reserve Bank of India (RBI) directions.

### **IRDAI FORMS PANEL TO REVIEW PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE FACETS**

Insurance regulator IRDAI constituted a sub-committee of the Insurance Advisory Committee to review the current landscape of private health insurance in India. Coverage, penetration, claims experience, product design, grievance redressal and consumer experience will form part of the review.

### **NTPC INKS MOU WITH ÉLECTRICITÉ DE FRANCE**

National Thermal Power Corp Ltd (NTPC) has inked a non-binding MoU with their French counterpart Électricité de France (EDF) to explore opportunities in India's nuclear power space.

### **WB RAISES INDIA'S FY27 GROWTH FORECAST TO 6.6%.**

The World Bank in its latest South Asia Economic Update has revised India's growth forecast for 2026-27 upward to 6.6 percent, from an earlier estimate of 6.3 percent.

### **SANJAY KHANNA APPOINTED BPCL CMD**

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the appointment of Sanjay Khanna as Chairman & Managing Director (C&MD) of State-run Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL).

### **RBI PROPOSES ONE HOUR DELAY FOR TRANSFERS ABOVE ₹10,000**

To curb a surge in fraud driven by customer manipulation, RBI has proposed a one-hour delay for account-to-account transfers above ₹10,000, along with additional authentication layers to tackle authorised push payment (APP) frauds, where users are tricked into initiating transactions themselves.

### **INDIA'S E-COM ECOSYSTEM TO REACH \$250 BN BY 2030: GOOGLE-DELOITTE RESEARCH.**

India's e-commerce ecosystem is undergoing a fundamental rewire to reach \$250 billion by 2030 from \$90 billion at present, according to a research jointly conducted by Google and Deloitte.

### **ANTHROPIC LAUNCHES PROJECT GLASSWING**

Anthropic announced an initiative Project Glasswing", with major technology companies, including Amazon.com, Microsoft and Apple, that lets partners preview an advanced model with cybersecurity capabilities developed by the AI startup.

### **RBI PROPOSES ₹1 TRILLION THRESHOLD FOR NBFC UPPER LAYER**

The Reserve Bank of India proposed classifying "upper layer" NBFCs based on size, setting a ₹1 trillion asset threshold. This move may expand the category to include large and state-owned NBFCs.

### **ADB RAISES INDIA'S FY27 GROWTH FORECAST TO 6.9%**

The Asian Development Bank has revised India's FY27 GDP growth forecast upward to 6.9%, citing strong domestic reforms, rising consumption, and investment.

### **INDIA TECH RANKS 4TH GLOBALLY**

According to Tracxn's India Tech Annual Funding Report 2026, India's tech start-ups raised \$11.7 billion in FY26, marking an 18 percent decline from \$14.3 billion in FY25. India ranked as the fourth-highest-funded country globally in FY26, behind the US, the UK and China, but ahead of Germany and France.

### **RBI UNVEILS 'UTKARSH 2029'**

The RBI plans to advance Project Sa-Mudra to modernise currency management systems and significantly expand the use of Central bank digital currency (CBDC) to enable more efficient cross-border payments as part of its medium-term strategy framework 'Utkarsh 2029'.

### **CSB BANK LAUNCHES 'SMART SAVE ACCOUNT**

Thrissur based private sector bank CSB Bank announced the launch of its 'Smart Save Account', marking its first retail offering following the successful upgradation of its core banking platform.

### **MUSE SPARK, THE FIRST AI MODEL FROM META**

Meta debuted its first major AI model, Muse Spark. Dubbed Muse Spark and originally code-named Avocado, the AI model announced is the first from the company's new Muse series developed by Meta Superintelligence Labs.

### **RAPIDO ENTERS FOOD DELIVERY BUSINESS IN BENGALURU**

Ride-hailing platform Rapido has launched a new standalone app, Ownly, for food delivery. The app takes no fees from restaurants and there are no hidden charges.

### **PIROJSHA GODREJ TO BE NEW CHAIRPERSON OF GODREJ INDUSTRIES GROUP**

Former Godrej Group Chairperson Adi Godrej's son Pirojsha Godrej was named as Chairperson Designate of the Godrej Industries Group. He will succeed his uncle Mr Nadir Godrej as Chairperson of the Godrej Industries Group and Godrej Industries Ltd.

### **INDIA RECEIVED HIGHEST NUMBER OF REGRESSIVE TAX RECOMMENDATIONS**

India received the highest number of regressive tax recommendations from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) between 2022 and 2024, according to an analysis by Oxfam.

### **SEBI UNVEILS THREE IT PLATFORMS**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) unveiled three advanced IT platforms SUPCOMS, e-adjudication portal and Cyber-Sec Audit Compliance (C-SAC) designed to enhance transparency and efficiency in the financial markets.

### **ANTHROPIC ADDS NOVARTIS CEO VAS NARASIMHAN TO ITS BOARD**

AI company Anthropic added Novartis' Chief Executive Officer Vas Narasimhan to its board of directors, making him the first executive from the pharmaceutical industry to join the AI startup's governing body.

### **OPENAI UNVEILS GPT-5.4-CYBER**

OpenAI unveiled GPT-5.4-Cyber, a variant of its latest flagship model fine-tuned specifically for defensive cybersecurity work, following rival Anthropic's announcement of frontier AI model Mythos.

### **AMAZON BUY GLOBALSTAR TO EXPAND SATELLITE NETWORK**

Amazon signed a deal to buy the U.S. telecoms satellite group Globalstar to expand its own space-based internet network and compete with Elon Musk's Starlink.

### **IMF CUTS GLOBAL GROWTH OUTLOOK**

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) lowered its global economic growth forecast as tensions between the United States and Iran have driven up energy and food costs globally. It expected the global economy to grow by 3.1 percent this year.

### **CARLOS IS INFOSYS BRAND AMBASSADOR**

IT services company Infosys has signed up seven-time Grand Slam Champion Carlos Alcaraz as its global brand ambassador.

### **AMAZON LAUNCHES AI RESEARCH TOOL**

Amazon's cloud unit launched Amazon Bio Discovery, an AI application designed to speed early-stage drug discovery by allowing scientists to run complex computational workflows without writing code.

### **CHINA IS INDIA'S LARGEST TRADING PARTNER**

China overtaken the US to emerge as India's largest trading partner in 2025-26, with bilateral trade reaching USD 151.1 billion, while India's trade deficit with Beijing widened to USD 112.16 billion during the period.

### **RBI ALLOWS NBFCs TO OPEN BRANCHES WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL**

The Reserve Bank of India decided to allow non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), including gold loan companies and microfinance institutions, to open branches without its prior approval in a bid to provide them operational flexibility.

### **SUSHANTA IS ED OF BANK OF MAHARASHTRA**

Sushanta Kumar Mohanty took charge as Executive Director (ED) of Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) with effect from April 15, 2026.

### **GOLD LOANS SOAR IN INDIA**

Gold loans in India have expanded fourfold since March 2022, emerging as the second-largest segment in the retail credit portfolio after housing loans, with an outstanding value of ₹16.8 lakh crore.

### **INDIA AMONG WORLD'S MOST ADVANCED AI USERS**

India ranks among the world's most advanced AI markets, particularly in coding, data analysis, and complex reasoning, but adoption here is 3-times more concentrated in top cities than in comparable nations, OpenAI said.

### **INDIA IN 6TH SPOT IN IMF GDP RANKINGS**

According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for 2025–26, India slipped to the 6th spot in global GDP rankings, after briefly holding the 4th largest economy tag. However, the drop in ranking is not due to any major economic reason but is largely statistical.

### **OVER 55,000 STARTUPS RECOGNISED IN 2025-26**

The Centre recognised more than 55 thousand startups during Financial Year (FY) 2025-26, marking the highest number of startups recognised in a single year since the launch of the Startup India initiative.

### **RBI CONDUCTS VRRR AUCTION**

With surplus liquidity in the banking system topping the ₹5 lakh crore mark, the RBI conducted a Variable Rate Reverse Repo (VRRR) auction on April 17, 2026, to suck out a portion of the surplus.

### **INDIA STRENGTHENS AML FRAMEWORK**

The Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND) and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) signed a comprehensive MoU to strengthen intelligence sharing, coordinate enforcement, and upgrade Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) capabilities across market entities.

### **INDIA'S PATENT FILINGS RECORD 1.43 LAKH IN FY26**

India registered 1,43,729 patent filings in FY26, up from 1,10,375 in FY25. Notably, domestic filings accounted for more than 69 percent of the total, rising to 98,771 from 68,201 in the previous year, indicating strong indigenous innovation.

Among states, Tamil Nadu led the chart with 22,995 filings.

### **GOVT ALLOWS SBI, HDFC, AXIS BANK & 12 OTHERS TO IMPORT GOLD, SILVER**

The central government allowed 15 major banks, including State Bank of India, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank and Bank of India, to import gold and silver from April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2029.

### **BLOOMBERG BILLIONAIRES INDEX 2026**

According to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Gautam Adani moved ahead of Mukesh Ambani to become the richest individual in Asia. The rankings released show Adani, Founder-Chairman, Adani Group, now placed 19th in the global list with a net worth of \$92.6 billion.

On the global stage, Elon Musk continues to dominate the rankings.

### **CABINET APPROVES BHARAT MARITIME INSURANCE POOL**

The Union Cabinet approved the creation of the Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool with a ₹12,980 crore sovereign guarantee to ensure uninterrupted maritime insurance coverage.

### **NASSCOM INDUCTS 33 HIGH POTENTIAL START UPS**

Nasscom announced the fourth cohort of its GenAI Foundry programme, inducting 33 high potential generative AI startups and marking the continued expansion of one of India's most focused platforms for building globally competitive GenAI ventures.

### **SEBI LOWERS MINIMUM INVESTMENT FOR SOCIAL IMPACT FUNDS**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India reduced the minimum investment in social impact funds from ₹2 lakh to ₹1,000 to boost retail participation in the Social Stock Exchange.

### **TIM COOK TO STEP DOWN AS APPLE CEO**

Tim Cook will step down as CEO of Apple on September 1, 2026, after 15 years, transitioning to Executive Chairman. John Ternus will take over as CEO.

### **SINGAPORE TOP FDI SOURCE IN INDIA**

Singapore was the top source of foreign direct investment (FDI) equity inflows in April-December FY26 at \$17.6 billion, with a 37% share of the total.

India received \$47.87 billion of FDI equity inflows in April-December FY26.

### **RBI ISSUES E-MANDATE FRAMEWORK FOR DIGITAL PAYMENTS**

The Reserve Bank of India issued the 'Digital Payments – E-mandate Framework, 2026,' whereby customers opting for e-mandates must complete a one-time registration process that requires additional factor authentication (AFA), and issuers will be required to send a pre-transaction notification at least 24 hours before a charge/ debit and a post-transaction notification.

## **ANNUAL GROWTH DROPS IN EIGHT CORE INDUSTRIES INDEX IN MARCH**

According to data released by the Commerce and Industry Ministry, the growth of the combined Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) contracted in March this year, falling to 0.4% on an annual basis.

## **PAY POINT INDIA, FIRST FINTECH TO JOIN RBI'S CPS**

Pay Point India become the first private fintech player to receive direct access to the RBI's Centralised Payment System (CPS), a privilege historically limited to banks and a select group of core financial institutions.

## **HSBC DOWNGRADES INDIAN EQUITIES TO 'UNDERWEIGHT'**

HSBC downgraded Indian equities to "underweight" from "neutral" - its second cut in less than a month as it expects surging energy prices triggered by the Middle East war to threaten the durability of the country's earnings recovery.

## **MPHISIS ACQUIRES TAP**

Mphasis announced its acquisition of Theory and Practice Business Intelligence Inc, (TAP). Theory and Practice is a technology company that developed Continuum AI, a Decision Intelligence platform.

## **JIO FINANCIAL, ALLIANZ GROUP FORM JV**

Jio Financial Services (JFSL) and Allianz Group (Allianz), entered into a binding agreement to form a 50:50 primary insurance joint venture (JV) covering general insurance and health insurance.

## **INDIA APPROVES ₹30 BILLION FIRST WITHDRAWAL FOR MALDIVES**

India approved the first withdrawal of ₹30 billion for Maldives under the SAARC Currency Swap Framework. The assistance is part of the 2024–2027 SAARC Currency Swap Framework initiated between the RBI and the Maldives Monetary Authority.

## **RBI CANCELS BANKING LICENCE OF PAYTM PAYMENTS BANK**

The Reserve Bank of India cancelled the banking licence issued to Paytm Payments Bank Limited & prohibited it from conducting any business with immediate effect.

## **FM URGES BANKERS TO PREPARE FOR AI THREATS**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman convened a high-level meeting with heads of banks to assess emerging cybersecurity risks linked to advanced artificial intelligence models, amid global concerns over Anthropic's Claude Mythos system and its potential implications for financial data security.

## **INDIA RANKS SIXTH GLOBALLY IN ULTRA-WEALTH POPULATION**

According to the Knight Frank report, India ranks sixth globally with 19,877 ultra-high net worth individuals (UHNWIs) in 2026. Mumbai accounts for 35.4% of the Ultra-high Net Worth Individuals population in India.

## **META SLASHES 8,000 JOBS**

Meta is laying off about 8,000 workers, or about 10% of its workforce, as it continues to fasten up spending on artificial intelligence infrastructure and highly paid AI-expert hires.

## **CENTRE EXTENDS TENURE OF BANK OF INDIA, BANK OF BARODA MDS**

The Centre extended the tenure of Managing Directors of Bank of India (BoI) and Bank of Baroda (BoB) for three years beyond their current terms. The centre extended the term of Rajneesh Karnatak, MD and CEO of BoI, for three years, effective April 2026. It also approved the extension of Debadatta Chand, MD and CEO of BoB, for three years, effective July 2026.

## **CENTRE FORMS PANEL UNDER SBI CHIEF**

The Central government formed a panel under SBI Chairman C.S Setty to assess risks emanating from AI platform Mythos and come up with mitigating measures. Anthropic's AI model Mythos raised a global debate over vulnerability in the financial system as the model has the capability to find weaknesses in their operating system and launch a potential cyber-attack.

## **THREE INDIANS NAMED IN TIME'S 100 MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE OF 2026**

Google CEO Sundar Pichai, Bollywood superstar Ranbir Kapoor, and renowned chef Vikas Khanna have earned spots in Time Magazine's prestigious 2026 list of the 100 most influential people.

## **MOBIKWIK GETS RBI NOD FOR NBFC LICENCE**

Financial Technology company One MobiKwik Systems received an approval from the Reserve Bank of India for a non-banking financial company (NBFC) licence, paving the way for the launch of its in-house lending business.

## **RBI TIGHTENS BAD LOAN RULES**

RBI rejigged the rules governing classification of bad loans, definition, and recovery, to align with globally-accepted standards, effective 1 April 2027. According to the new rule, if one loan of a borrower with many loans is considered Non-Performing Asset, all the loans will also be considered NPA.

### **KVB REAPPOINTS RAMESH BABU AS MD & CEO**

The Reserve Bank of India approved the reappointment of B Ramesh Babu as MD & CEO of Karur Vysya Bank for a third term of two years. His current term is scheduled to end on July 28, 2026.

### **SUN PHARMA TO ACQUIRE U.S. FIRM ORGANON**

Sun Pharmaceutical Industries entered into a definitive agreement under which it will acquire all outstanding shares of Organon for \$14.00 per share in an all-cash transaction with an enterprise valuation of \$11.75 billion.

### **ONGC APPROVES JOINT VENTURE WITH MRPL, OPAL**

State-owned oil explorer ONGC approved the formation of a joint venture company with subsidiaries Mangalore Refinery Pvt Ltd (MRPL) and ONGC Petro additions Ltd (OPal), integrating petrochemical marketing division of the companies.

### **INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT REGISTERS 4.1% IN MARCH**

Growth in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) slowed to a five-month low of 4.1% in March 2026, down from 5.2% in February 2026.

### **RBI LAUNCHES MISSION SAKSHAM**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched Mission SAKSHAM for capacity building of the Urban Co-operative Banking sector. It aims to enhance managerial and operational capabilities, improve compliance culture, and strengthen institutional resilience across UCBS.

### **EU TELLS GOOGLE TO OPEN ANDROID TO AI RIVALS**

The European Commission (EU) outlined draft measures requiring Google to improve interoperability on Android as part of ongoing proceedings under the Digital Markets Act.

### **OIL INDIA STRIKES NEW OIL, GAS DISCOVERY**

Indian Oil Corporation & Oil India Limited have announced a new oil and gas discovery in Libya's Ghadames Basin as part of an international consortium, strengthening India's overseas energy footprint.

### **RBI RELEASED GUIDELINES FOR ECL FRAMEWORK**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released final guidelines for an Expected Credit Loss (ECL) framework, effective 1 April 2027, transitioning banks from an "incurred loss" to a forward-looking, risk-based provisioning model.

### **EPFO TO LAUNCH DIGITAL PLATFORM E-PRAAPTI**

Employee Provident Fund Organisation-EPFO is set to launch a dedicated digital platform E-PRAAPTI to facilitate identification, tracking, Universal Account Number (UAN) linking and activation of old EPF accounts.

### **MOSPI PROPOSES GST-BASED INDEX TO TRACK SERVICES SECTOR**

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) proposed using aggregated GST data to monitor the progress of the services sector, as part of a new Index of Service Production (ISP) for the formal economy.

### **SEBI OPERATIONALISES PARRVA**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) operationalised the Past Risk and Return Verification Agency (PaRRVA), aimed at enhancing transparency and investor protection in the financial markets.

CARE Ratings Limited has been granted recognition as the PaRRVA, while the National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE) will function as the PaRRVA Data Centre (PDC).

### **FLIPKART, AXIS BANK, PAYU ROLL OUT BIOMETRIC CARD PAYMENTS**

Flipkart, in partnership with Axis Bank and PayU, introduced biometric authentication for card payments, allowing users to approve transactions using fingerprint or facial recognition instead of one-time passwords (OTPs).

## **AWARDS**

### **GOLDMAN ENVIRONMENTAL PRIZE 2026**

The Goldman Environmental Prize, often called the "Green Nobel," recognised six women leaders in 2026—the first all-women group since the award began in 1989.

#### **WINNERS**

- ❖ Iroro Tanshi—Nigeria
- ❖ Borim Kim—South Korea
- ❖ Sarah Finch—the United Kingdom
- ❖ Theonila Roka Matbob—Papua New Guinea
- ❖ Alannah Acaq Hurley—the United States
- ❖ Yuvelis Morales Blanco—Colombia

### **LAUREUS AWARDS 2026**

The 2026 Laureus World Sports Awards often called the "Oscars of sport," was held in Madrid, Spain.

#### **LIST OF WINNERS**

- ❖ World Sportsman of the Year Award: Carlos Alcaraz
- ❖ World Sportswoman of the Year Award: Aryna Sabalenka

- ❖ World Team of the Year Award: Paris St Germain
- ❖ World Breakthrough of the Year Award: Lando Norris
- ❖ World Comeback of the Year Award: Rory McIlroy
- ❖ World Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability Award: Gabriel Araujo
- ❖ World Action Sports person of the Year Award: Chloe Kim
- ❖ World Young Sports person of the Year Award: Lamine Yamal
- ❖ Laureus Sporting Inspiration Award: Toni Kroos
- ❖ Laureus Lifetime Achievement Award: Nadia Comaneci
- ❖ Laureus Sport for Good Award: Futbol Mas

#### 2026 WISDEN CRICKETERS' ALMANACK AWARDS

- ❖ Mitchell Starc was named as the Leading Men's Cricketer.
- ❖ Deepti Sharma is the Leading Women's Player.
- ❖ Abhishek Sharma was named the Leading T20 Cricketer.
- ❖ The Wisden Trophy award for the best performance in a single Test match went to Shubman Gill.
- ❖ India captain Shubman Gill, Ravindra Jadeja, Rishabh Pant, and Mohammed Siraj were all part of the prestigious quintet, along with Nottinghamshire captain Haseeb Hameed.

#### SAYANI GUPTA NAMED PERSON OF THE YEAR

Bollywood Actress Sayani Gupta was named as the 2026 Person of the Year by the Harvard South Asian Association in recognition of her outstanding contribution to film, storytelling, and representation.

#### SANTOSH KUMAR HONOURED AS "GLOBAL GREEN ICON"

Former Rajya Sabha MP Joginipally Santosh Kumar was conferred the title of 'Global Green Icon' at the World Climate Leaders Conclave, held at the historic House of Lords. The honour recognises his pioneering leadership in advancing large-scale afforestation & ecological restoration.

#### GUNTUR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION WINS UNIDO'S 4TH GEM AWARD

The Guntur Municipal Corporation (GMC) secured the 4th Gender Equality Mobilisation (GEM) Award, presented by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) at the International Day of Women in Industry 2026 celebrations in Vienna.

#### N. ALIM YUSUF WINS WWF AWARD

N. Alim Yusuf, a botany researcher who developed an AI-powered mobile application NeophyteID to identify invasive plant species in Kerala was awarded the WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) National Award.

### PERSONS IN NEWS (National and International)

#### PETER MAGYAR & VIKTOR ORBÁN

Péter Magyar, leader of the center-right opposition Tisza party won the Hungary's election. Meanwhile, Veteran Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán accepted defeat, ending his 16 years in power.

#### SAMRAT CHOUDHARY

Samrat Choudhary took the oath of office on 15 April 2026, to become the first Chief Minister of Bihar from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

#### MIN AUNG HLAING

Min Aung Hlaing was sworn in as Myanmar's President, extending military dominance since the 2021 Myanmar coup that ousted Aung San Suu Kyi.

#### UCHRAL NYAM-OSOR

Mongolia's parliament appointed Uchral Nyam-Osor as the new Prime Minister, following the resignation of Zandanshatar Gombojav amid political tensions.

#### ISMAIL OMAR GUELLEH

President of Djibouti Ismail Omar Guelleh was re-elected for a sixth term with 97.81% of the vote, extending his rule of over two decades.

#### NIZAR AMEDI

The Iraqi parliament elected Kurdish politician Nizar Amedi as the country's new President, following parliamentary elections held in November last year.

#### RUMEN RADEV

Rumen Radev won a decisive mandate in Bulgaria's parliamentary elections, with his Progressive Bulgaria coalition securing nearly 45% of the vote. He defeated Boyko Borissov of GERB.

#### TO LAM

Vietnam's Communist Party's Secretary General To Lam was unanimously elected by its parliament as the country's President for a five-year term, making him the most powerful Vietnamese leader in decades.

#### LEE JAE MYUNG

President of South Korea Lee Jae Myung paid a state visit to India from 19th to 21st April 2026. This was President Lee's first visit to India.

### **HARIVANSH**

Harivansh was re-elected unopposed as the Rajya Sabha deputy chairman for a third consecutive term. President Droupadi Murmu had nominated him to the House following a vacancy created by the retirement of former CJI Ranjan Gogoi. Mr. Harivansh's second term as a Rajya Sabha member ended on April 9.

### **GENERAL UPENDRA DWIVEDI**

India's Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi was inducted into the International Hall of Fame of the US Army War College in Pennsylvania, becoming the third Indian head of the army to receive such honour after General V K Singh and General Bikram Singh.

### **JAY SHAH**

The chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC), Jay Shah, was named to the Young Global Leaders Class of 2026 by the World Economic Forum, which recognised his role in shaping the future of global cricket.

### **DIVYA SINGH**

Divya Singh, from Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, made history by becoming the first Indian woman to reach the Mount Everest Base Camp (EBC) on a bicycle.

### **RODRIGO DUTERTE**

Former Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte will face trial at the International Criminal Court (ICC) after judges confirmed charges of crimes against humanity over his so-called "war on drugs."

### **YOON SUK YEOL**

A South Korean appeals court sentenced ousted President Yoon Suk Yeol to seven years in prison for resisting arrest and bypassing a legitimate Cabinet meeting before his brief imposition of martial law in December 2024.

### **VASU SHROFF**

Veteran Indian businessman Vasu Shroff, widely known as Dubai's textile king, died. Shroff was among the early generation of entrepreneurs who witnessed and contributed to the UAE's transformation from the Trucial States to a global commercial hub.

### **CHANDRIKAPERSAD SANTOKHI**

Suriname's former President, Chandrikapersad Santokhi died. He was the chairman of Suriname's Progressive Reform Party and also served as his country's justice minister from 2005 to 2010.

### **MOHSINA KIDWAI**

Veteran Congress leader and former Union minister Mohsina Kidwai, who held key ministerial portfolios under former Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi, died.

### **ASHA BHOSLE**

Legendary singer and Padma Vibhushan awardee Asha Bhosle died. She was widely regarded as one of the greatest vocalists in modern Indian music, with a career spanning several decades. She recorded over 12,000 songs in different Indian languages

### **RAMACHANDRAN**

Former Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President N. Ramachandran died. Ramachandran, who had a long and distinguished career as a sports administrator, headed the IOA from 2014 to 2017 after previously serving as treasurer.

### **OSCAR SCHMIDT**

Oscar Schmidt, one of basketball's greatest scorers, died. A 2013 Hall of Fame inductee, he enjoyed a 30-year career and represented Brazil in five Olympics and four World Cups.

### **NADENDLA BHASKAR RAO**

Former Chief Minister of combined Andhra Pradesh Nadendla Bhaskar Rao died. He was among the founding members of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). Bhaskar Rao served as Chief Minister for one month in 1984.

### **RAGHU RAI**

Raghu Rai, one of India's most celebrated photographers, died. Known for documenting modern India through his lens, he captured historic moments such as the Bhopal Gas Tragedy and the Bangladesh Liberation War.

### **MUNI NARAYANA PRASAD**

Swami Muni Narayana Prasad, a renowned scholar and head of the Narayana Gurukula died. He was a prolific writer in Malayalam and English. He won the Kerala Sahitya Akedemi award in 2015. He was conferred Padma Shri in 2024.

### **VIJAY KUMAR**

Veteran Indian golfer Vijay Kumar died. A winner of the 2002 Indian Open and a four-time Order of Merit champion, Vijay was widely regarded as one of the most accomplished and respected figures in Indian professional golf.

## **SPORT**

### **ITALY FAILED TO QUALIFY FOR A THIRD CONSECUTIVE FIFA WORLD CUP**

Italy failed to qualify for a third consecutive FIFA World Cup after losing 4-1 on penalties to Bosnia and Herzegovina in a dramatic 2026 playoff final following a 1-1 draw.

### **GOLF:WOODLAND WINS THE HOUSTON OPEN**

Gary Woodland won the Houston Open, his first victory in seven years. He finished the tournament at 21-under par, five shots ahead of Denmark's Nicolai Hojgaard.

### **ABHAY & ANAHAT RECEIVE ASIAN SQUASH FEDERATION HONOURS**

India's Abhay Singh was declared as the outstanding Men's Player of the Year 2025 by the Asian Squash Federation (ASF), while Anahat Singh was selected for the top honours in the girls section (juniors).

### **KHELO INDIA TRIBAL GAMES CONCLUDES**

The Khelo India Tribal Games concluded in Chhattisgarh. Karnataka emerged overall champion with 23 gold medals, followed by Odisha and Jharkhand.

### **INDIA TOPS GLOBAL DOPING SUSPENSION LIST**

Athletics Integrity Unit reported that India has the highest number of suspended track and field athletes (148) for doping violations, surpassing Kenya and Russia.

### **INDIA TOPS WORLD ARCHERY PARA SERIES**

India dominated the World Archery Para Series in Bangkok topping the medal table with 16 medals (7 gold, 5 silver, 4 bronze).

### **CHINA DOMINATES TT WORLD CUP 2026**

Chinese paddlers have dominated the top prizes at the ITTF World Cup 2026 in Macau with Sun Yingsha and Wang Chuqin bagging the women's and men's titles respectively.

### **INDIAN FOOTBALL TEAM LOST SAFF U20 FINAL**

The Indian football team suffered a 3-4 defeat to Bangladesh on penalties in the final of the SAFF Men's U20 Championship at the National Stadium in the Maldives.

### **VLASIC NAMED AMBASSADOR FOR TCS 10K**

Double Olympic medallist Blanka Vlasic will feature as the international event ambassador for the Tata Consultancy Services World 10K Bengaluru 2026.

### **PALAK, MUKESH WIN GOLD MEDAL**

Indian shooters Palak Gulia and Mukesh Nelavalli won a gold medal with a new junior world record in the 10m air pistol mixed team event at the ISSF World Cup at Granada in Spain.

### **ASIAN BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS: INDIA SHINES WITH 16 MEDALS**

India delivered an impressive performance at the 2026 Asian Boxing Championships in Ulaanbaatar, finishing with 16 medals (5 gold, 3 silver, 8 bronze), securing second place overall.

### **SAMSON & AMELIA NAMED AS PLAYERS OF THE MONTH FOR MARCH**

India opener Sanju Samson was named the ICC Player of the March Month for his match-winning performances at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 while New Zealand all-rounder Amelia Kerr's consistent performances in both ODIs and T20Is in March helped clinch her third women's award.

### **INDIA'S ATIQA MIR, TOP-RANKED FEMALE IN FIA KART RANKING**

Indian racing prodigy Atiqa Mir emerged as the highest-ranked female in the latest FIA International Kart Ranking (IKR) in her category. She is placed in seventh overall position in the International OK-NJ class (age 12-14), making her the highest-ranked female racer in the rankings.

### **ASIAN WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS: INDIA WINS 17 MEDALS**

India concluded the 2026 Asian Wrestling Championships in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, with a total of 17 medals securing a strong position in the team rankings.

### **BADMINTON ASIA CHAMPIONSHIPS: AYUSH SHETTY SECURES SILVER MEDAL**

India's Ayush Shetty won silver medal at the Badminton Asia Championships 2026 in Ningbo, China. Ayush finished as runner-up after losing to China's Shi Yuqi in the final.

### **CHRISTO POPOV WINS EUROPEAN BADMINTON TITLE**

Christo Popov won the men's final at the European badminton championships. He claimed his first European singles title by beating two-time champion Anders Antonsen of Denmark in their singles decider.

### **GOLF: RORY MCILROY WINS MASTERS 2026**

Rory McIlroy won his second straight Masters Tournament— joining Tiger Woods, Jack Nicklaus and Nick Faldo as the only golfers who've won the sport's most prestigious tournament two years in a row.

### **VIKTOR AXELSEN ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT**

Denmark's Viktor Axelsen, a two-time Olympic & World Champion, announced his retirement from professional badminton at the age of 32. Axelsen first came into the limelight in 2010 when he became the Junior World Champion.

### **VAISHALI WINS FIDE WOMEN'S CANDIDATES**

India's R. Vaishali won the FIDE Women's Candidates Tournament 2026 in Cyprus. She defeated Russia's Kateryna Lagno in the final round, finishing with 8.5 points out of 14 to clinch the title.

### **SHUBHANKAR WINS BOULDERS CLASSIC**

Shubhankar Sharma fired a five-under 67 to secure his seventh DP World PGTI title at the inaugural Boulders Classic in Hyderabad.

### **INDIA'S FIRST MEDAL AT ASIAN JUDO CHAMPIONSHIPS IN 13 YEARS**

Takhellambam Inunganbi won a bronze medal in the women's-70kg division at the Asian Judo Championships 2026 in Ordos City, China. She ended India's 13-year-wait for a podium-finish at the continental event.

### **AGARKAR TO CONTINUE AS CHAIRMAN OF SENIOR SELECTION COMMITTEE**

Ajit Agarkar will continue as chairman of the senior selection committee, with the BCCI extending his contract by one year. The decision comes with a focus on preparations for the 2027 ODI World Cup.

### **ARONYAK GHOSH BECOMES INDIA'S 95TH GRANDMASTER**

Aronyak Ghosh secured his final GM norm at the Bangkok Chess Club Open 2026, becoming India's 95th Grandmaster. The Kolkata-based player scored 7/9 to finish joint first.

### **FIDE JOINS INTERNATIONAL WORLD GAMES ASSOCIATION**

The International Chess Federation officially joined the International World Games Association. The move raises IWGA membership to 40 federations and broadens the World Games sports portfolio.

### **ATHLETICS: SABASTIAN SAWE MAKES HISTORY**

Kenya's Sabastian Sawe made history at the London Marathon by becoming the first athlete to run a sub-two-hour marathon in a competitive race. He crossed the line to win in one hour 59 minutes 30 seconds

### **ALEX MARQUEZ WINS SPANISH MOTOGP**

Gresini Racing's Alex Marquez won the Spanish Grand Prix for a second straight year, while his brother and pole sitter Marc Marquez crashed out of the race on lap two. Marco Bezzecchi finished second.

### **BWF APPROVES NEW SCORING SYSTEM**

The Badminton World Federation (BWF) officially approved a transition from the current 3x21 rally-point system to a 3x15 format, scheduled to take effect on 4 January 2027.

### **INDIA TOPS ISSF JUNIOR WORLD CUP 2026 IN CAIRO**

Indian shooters topped the ISSF Junior World Cup 2026 standings in Cairo with 16 medals including five gold, six silver and five bronze.

### **INDIA WINS GOLD & SILVER IN KABADDI**

The Indian women's kabaddi team won the gold medal at the Asian Beach Games 2026 in Sanya, China, while the men settled for a second consecutive silver.

### **PV SINDHU GETS VOTING RIGHTS**

Indian shuttler PV Sindhu started her term as a voting member of the BWF Council after being elected as Chair of the BWF Athletes' Commission, starting her governance role. She assumed a full voting position after completing the formal vetting process.

### **MURALI SREESHANKAR WINS AT SIMBINE CLASSIC**

Indian long jumper Murali Sreeshankar won the Simbine Classic in Pretoria with a best effort of 8.12 metres. Divan Manuel of the host nation was the only other jumper to clear the 8-metre mark.

### **FIFA ALLOWS AFGHAN WOMEN'S FOOTBALL TEAM TO COMPETE**

The FIFA Council approved the Afghanistan women's football team's return to international competitions after amending its Governance Regulations in coordination with the Asian Football Confederation.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **INDIA, A GLOBAL LEADER IN ISSUING IRCCS**

India emerged as the global leader in issuing Internationally Recognized Certificates of Compliance, (IRCCs), under the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS). It issued 3,561 IRCCs out of a total of 6,311 worldwide.

### **UNESCO ADDS 12 NEW GLOBAL GEOPARKS**

UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) added 12 new sites to its Global Geoparks network which are located in China, France, Greece, Ireland, Japan, Malaysia, Portugal, Russia, Tunisia and Uruguay. With the new addition, the total number of Global Geopark sites is now 241.

### **INDIA RANKS 157 IN FREEDOM INDEX 2026**

India dropped to 157th place out of 180 countries in the 2026 World Press Freedom Index, released by Reporters Without Borders (RSF). Norway holds the top spot for the tenth consecutive year, while Eritrea comes in last (180) for the third year in a row.

### **5 INDIAN AIRPORTS MAKE SKYTRAX WORLD AIRPORT AWARDS 2026 TOP 100 RANKINGS**

Five Indian airports featured in the global top 100 of the Skytrax World Airport Awards 2026. Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport leads the country at 28th position. Singapore's Changi Airport was named the world's best airport again.

### **NASA LAUNCHES ARTEMIS MISSION**

NASA launched Artemis II on a historic crewed mission to the moon. Four astronauts blasted off from Kennedy Space Center in Florida on a monumental 10-day mission to circumnavigate the moon.

### **STATUE OF SWAMI VIVEKANANDA UNVEILED IN SEATTLE**

City of Seattle has become the first city government in the United States to host a life-size statue of Swami Vivekananda at Westlake Square Park.

### **ARTEMIS II MISSION MAKE FIRST-EVER 'SHIP TO SHIP' CALL TO ISS**

NASA's Artemis II mission completed the first-ever ship to ship call between a human moon mission and the International Space Station. This was the first time people traveling near the Moon communicated directly with people in a spacecraft orbiting Earth.

#### **WB GROUP LAUNCHES WATER FORWARD**

The World Bank Group, in partnership with multilateral development banks, development finance institutions and key partners, launched Water Forward, a global platform to help improve water security for 1 billion people by 2030.

#### **NASA UNVEILS NANCY GRACE ROMAN SPACE TELESCOPE**

The US space agency NASA unveiled the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope, designed to capture unprecedented panoramic images of the universe. The telescope will study planets, galaxies, and cosmic phenomena to advance understanding of dark matter, dark energy, and exoplanets.

#### **ARTEMIS II CREW RETURNS TO EARTH**

The four astronauts of Artemis II safely returned to Earth with a Pacific splashdown after a landmark journey. Led by Reid Wiseman, alongside Victor Glover, Christina Koch, and Jeremy Hansen, the crew achieved a record-breaking lunar flyby.

#### **ODISHA DAY CELEBRATED ON 1 APRIL**

Odisha Day, also known as Utkala Dibasa, is celebrated annually on 1 April to commemorate the formation of the state as a separate province on 1 April in 1936, based on linguistic identity.

#### **WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY ON 2 APRIL**

World Autism Awareness Day is observed annually on 2 April. The theme for this year is "Autism and Humanity – Every Life Has Value,".

#### **INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR MINE AWARENESS ON 4 APRIL**

The International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action is observed annually on 4 April. The 2026 theme, "Invest in Peace; Invest in Mine Action," highlights the need to eliminate landmines and explosive remnants of war.

#### **WORLD HEALTH DAY ON 7 APRIL**

World Health Day was celebrated across the globe on 7 April 2026 to raise awareness about good health practices. The theme for this year is "Together for health. Stand with science".

#### **NATION OBSERVED SHAURYA DIWAS ON 9 APRIL**

Shaurya Diwas is observed every year on 9 April to commemorate the exceptional courage and bravery displayed by security forces during the 1965 India-Pakistan conflict.

#### **NATIONAL SAFE MOTHERHOOD DAY 2026**

National Safe Motherhood Day observed on 11 April highlights maternal health, safe pregnancy, and quality childbirth. The 2026 theme, "Equity in Maternal Healthcare," stresses equal access to services, especially in rural areas.

#### **WORLD HOMOEOPATHY DAY ON 10 APRIL**

World Homoeopathy Day is observed annually on April 10 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr. Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann, the founder of Homeopathy. The theme for World Homoeopathy Day 2026 is "Homoeopathy for Sustainable Health".

#### **NATIONWIDE FIRE SAFETY WEEK 2026 ON MAY 4-10**

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in coordination with the Ministry of Home Affairs, observed Nationwide Fire Safety Week from 4–10 May 2026. This year's Fire Safety Week will be observed under the theme "Safe School, Safe Hospital and Fire Safety Aware Society – Together for Fire Prevention."

#### **AMBEDKAR JAYANTI OBSERVED ON 14 APRIL**

Ambedkar Jayanti, also known as Bhim Jayanti, was observed on 14 April to commemorate the memory of BR Ambedkar, Indian politician and social reformer.

#### **WORLD HERITAGE DAY ON APRIL 18**

World Heritage Day, also known as the International Day for Monuments and Sites, is celebrated annually on 18 April to encourage the protection and conservation of historical sites. The theme for this year is "Emergency Response for Living Heritage in Contexts of Conflicts and Disasters,".

#### **NATIONAL CIVIL SERVICES DAY 2026**

Observed on April 21, National Civil Services Day recognises the dedication of India's civil servants in governance and public administration.

#### **EARTH DAY OBSERVED ON 22 APRIL**

Observed on 22 April, Earth Day promotes awareness about climate change, pollution, and biodiversity conservation. The 2026 theme is "Our Power, Our Planet,".

#### **NATIONAL PANCHAYATI RAJ DAY ON 24 APRIL**

National Panchayati Raj Day is observed annually on 24 April commemorating the establishment of the Panchayati Raj system as a formal structure of local self-governance.

#### **WORLD IMMUNIZATION WEEK 2026 ON 24-30 APRIL**

World Immunization Week, celebrated in the last week of (24-30) April, aims to promote the life-saving power of immunization to protect people of all ages against vaccine-preventable diseases.

This year's World Immunization Week theme is "For every generation, vaccines work",.