

Advanced Educational Activities Pvt. Ltd.

CURRENT AFFAIRS CAPSULE (FEBRUARY 2026)

INTERNATIONAL

South Korea, Japan to Resume Naval Rescue Exercise After Nine Years

South Korea and Japan have agreed to resume their bilateral naval search and rescue exercise for the first time in nine years, aiming to strengthen military exchanges and trust.

BLA Announces Second Phase of 'Operation Herof' in Balochistan

The Baloch Liberation Army has announced the launch of the second phase of Operation Herof across Balochistan, describing it as decisive resistance against Pakistani military and administrative structures.

US witnesses widespread protests

In the US, protesters across the country are calling for 'no work, no school, no shopping' as part of a nationwide strike, to oppose the Trump administration's immigration crackdown.

US to cut tariffs on India to 18%

U.S. President Donald Trump has announced a trade deal with India that slashes U.S. tariffs on Indian goods to 18% from 50% in exchange for India halting Russian oil purchases and lowering trade barriers.

Spanish govt plans to ban social media for children below 16

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez has announced that his government plans to ban accessing social media platforms for children under the age of 16, citing concerns about online safety and harmful digital content.

India Joins UN Honour Roll by Paying 2026 Dues Early
India has joined the United Nations Honour Roll after promptly paying its 2026 dues of USD 35.187 million within 30 days,

US and Russia Exit New START Treaty

The United States and Russia are no longer bound by the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START), which expired on February 5, raising global security concerns. The pact, signed in 2010 and extended to 2026, limits deployed nuclear warheads and strategic delivery systems.

Trump signs executive order to impose tariffs on countries trading with Iran

US President Donald Trump has signed an executive order renewing the national emergency on Iran and creating a new tariff system targeting countries that buy goods or services from Tehran.

Russia & US agree to re-establish high-level military dialogue after a gap of four years

The United States and Russia have agreed to re-establish high-level military dialogue for the first time in more than four years. High-level military communication was suspended in late 2021.

Canada & France open Greenland consulates

France & Canada have opened consulates in Greenland's capital Nuuk, in a show of support for their NATO ally Denmark amid renewed demands from US President Donald Trump to acquire the Arctic territory.

South Korean & US commences joint aerial exercise 'Buddy Squadron'

The South Korean and the United States' air forces have held a joint aerial exercise at Osan Air Base in Pyeongtaek. The "Buddy Squadron" exercise is aimed at enhancing interoperability and integrated tactical capabilities between the two allies.

2,034 candidates contest Bangladesh's 13th Jatiya Sangsad election on February 12

In Bangladesh, a total of 2,034 candidates, including 275 independents, have contested the 13th Jatiya Sangsad (National Parliament) Election and Referendum scheduled for the 12th of this month.

European Parliament Clears €90 Billion Support Package for Ukraine

The European Parliament has approved a €90 billion loan package to support Ukraine during 2026-27, as the conflict with Russia enters its fifth year.

UK Pledges Fresh Air Defence Support for Ukraine

Britain has pledged hundreds of millions of dollars in air defence assistance to Ukraine to counter Russian attacks on energy infrastructure. Around \$200 million will go to a NATO-backed scheme to procure U.S. weaponry, while the UK will also supply 1,000 British-made lightweight missiles worth over \$500 million.

BNP to Form Government After Landslide Win in Bangladesh

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party is set to form the next government after securing a sweeping victory in the 13th parliamentary elections, crossing the two-thirds majority mark.

US and Taiwan Finalise Major Trade Agreement

The Trump administration has concluded a trade deal with Taiwan under which Taipei will remove or reduce 99 percent of its tariff barriers.

US Deploys Aircraft Carrier to Middle East Amid Iran Tensions

US President Donald Trump has confirmed the deployment of the world's largest aircraft carrier, USS Gerald R. Ford, from the Caribbean to the Middle East to bolster American military presence.

Cyclone Gezani kills 59 in Madagascar

Cyclone Gezani has killed at least 59 people in Madagascar and forced more than 16 thousand residents from their homes.

U.S. and Uzbekistan sign critical minerals pact

The U.S. government has signed an agreement "Joint Investment Framework" with Uzbekistan to secure better access to the Central Asian country's critical minerals.

U.S. Supreme Court rejects Trump's global tariffs

The U.S. Supreme Court has struck down President Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs that he pursued under a law meant for use in national emergencies.

Venezuela's Legislature Approves Amnesty Bill Amid Rights Concerns

Venezuela's National Assembly has passed an amnesty bill aimed at freeing people detained for political reasons, and interim President Delcy Rodríguez signed it into law.

The measure is seen as a step toward reconciliation and has already led to hundreds of releases under the new law.

US President Hikes Global Tariffs from 10% to 15% After Court Setback

US President Donald Trump has raised the global tariffs from 10 percent to 15 percent after a big setback in the Supreme Court.

Japan to deploy missile systems on island near Taiwan by 2031

Japan's Government plans to deploy surface-to-air missiles on one of its remote western islands near Taiwan by March 2031, the country's Defence Minister said.

It is the first time Japan has specified the timing of the deployment.

Bangladesh: President Summons First Session of 13th Parliament on 12 March

President Mohammad Shahabuddin has summoned the first session of the 13th Parliament for 12th March, nearly a month after the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) formed the government following its victory.

U.S. and South Korean Militaries will have joint drills in March

The U.S. and South Korean Militaries will conduct their annual springtime exercises Freedom Shield from March 9-19, 2026 to bolster their countries' combined defence capabilities against a backdrop of a deepening diplomatic freeze with nuclear-armed North Korea.

Pakistan declares war against Afghanistan

Pakistan has declared an open war against Afghanistan after the Taliban administration said that its forces killed and captured several Pakistani soldiers during a cross-border offensive.

NATIONAL

Patna Bird Sanctuary and Chhari-Dhand Added to India's Ramsar Sites List

Patna Bird Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh's Etah district and Chhari-Dhand wetland in Gujarat's Kutch district have been added to India's Ramsar network

39th India International Leather Fair Begins in Chennai

The 39th India International Leather Fair begins in Chennai, showcasing leather products, accessories, machinery, and advanced technologies such as AI, additive manufacturing, and augmented reality.

Rashtrapati Bhavan to get Rajagopalachari's statue

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that a statue of British architect Edwin Lutyens in Rashtrapati Bhavan will be replaced by that of C. Rajagopalachari, the first Indian governor-general of independent India.

Vice-President releases updated Constitution editions in Tamil and Gujarati

Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan has released the updated versions of the Constitution of India in Tamil and Gujarati languages,

Centre Mandates Central Deputation Experience for IPS Promotions

The government has made two years of Central deputation mandatory for IPS officers at the Superintendent of Police and Deputy Inspector General levels to be eligible for posting as Inspector General of Police with the Union Government.

World Wetlands Day: India's Ramsar Sites Grow from 26 to 98

India has made significant progress in wetland conservation, with the number of Ramsar sites increasing from 26 in 2014 to 98 at present.

Gujarat Becomes India's No. 1 Renewable Energy Contributor With 16.5% Share

Gujarat has emerged as the largest contributor to India's renewable energy capacity, accounting for 16.50 per cent of the national total, with the state's installed renewable power reaching 42.583 GW as of December 2025.

India and Kyrgyzstan's joint military exercise KHANJAR held in Assam

The 13th edition of the joint military Exercise KHANJAR between India and Kyrgyzstan was held at Misamari in Sonitpur district of Assam. The 14-day-long military exercise aims to enhance interoperability between the Special Forces of both nations.

India Joins BRICS Centre for Industrial Competencies to Support Manufacturing and MSMEs

India has joined the BRICS Centre for Industrial Competencies (BCIC) to provide integrated support services to manufacturing companies and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises across BRICS countries.

PLASTINDIA 2026 Begins in New Delhi

PLASTINDIA 2026, one of the world's leading plastics exhibitions, begins in New Delhi. Over 2,000 international exhibitors will showcase innovations in machinery, raw materials, and circular economy solutions.

Amit Shah Launches India's First Cooperative Ride-Hailing Platform 'Bharat Taxi'

Union Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah launched Bharat Taxi, India's first cooperative-based ride-hailing platform, in New Delhi. Operating on a zero-commission, surge-free model, Bharat Taxi ensures direct profit sharing and provides social security benefits, including insurance and retirement savings, with special initiatives such as Bike Didi promoting women's participation.

Jitendra Singh launches first open call under RDI Fund for high-risk technology commercialisation

Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh has launched the first open call of the Technology Development Board (TDB) under the Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund, marking a major step towards strengthening India's innovation ecosystem through structured, long-term financing for indigenous technologies.

India-U.S. interim trade framework

The United States and India have agreed on an interim trade pact framework, aiming to lower tariffs and boost economic cooperation. Under the interim trade agreement, tariffs on New Delhi will be reduced to 18%. As part of the deal, the US has withdrawn the additional 25 per cent duty it had imposed on Indian imports.

India successfully test-fires Agni-III intermediate-range ballistic missile

India has successfully test-fired the Agni-III intermediate-range ballistic missile from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur in Odisha. The launch was conducted under the supervision of the Strategic Forces Command.

Centre lays down eligibility criteria for 'deep tech' start-ups

The Centre has revised the startup recognition framework to further strengthen the Startup India Action Plan. Under the revised framework, a startup will be defined as an entity that is up to 10 years from the date of incorporation or registration and has recorded a turnover not exceeding Rs 200 crore in any financial year since incorporation. For entities recognised as 'Deep Tech Startups', the eligibility window has been extended to 20 years, while the turnover ceiling has been raised to ₹300 crore for any such financial year.

Amaravati to Become India's First Quantum Valley

Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh said Amaravati will soon emerge as India's first Quantum Valley. He, along with Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, laid the foundation stone for the Amaravati Quantum Valley project in the state capital.

Pulse Self-Reliance Mission Launched to Boost Production and Exports

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the nationwide Pulse Self-Reliance Mission in Sehore district of Madhya Pradesh. The mission focuses on cluster-based production, seed villages, setting up 1,000 pulse mills.

India, Malaysia ink key pacts

During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two-day visit to Malaysia, both nations have agreed to strengthen bilateral ties in areas such as trade, defence, energy, advanced manufacturing and semiconductors.

VOC Port Authority Becomes India's First Port to Initiate Anti-Drone Security System

In a landmark step towards strengthening maritime and coastal security, V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority has become the first port in India to initiate the implementation of an advanced Anti-Drone System, marking a significant milestone in the protection of critical port infrastructure.

India announces 175-million-dollar Special Economic Package for Seychelles

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced a Special Economic Package of 175 million dollars for the Seychelles. Mr Modi said that this package will support Social Housing, E-Mobility, Vocational Training, Health, Defence, and Maritime Security.

India Launches iLive Connect, World's 1st Doctor-led AI Healthcare Ecosystem

India has officially launched iLive Connect, heralded as the world's first doctor-led AI healthcare ecosystem designed to bring continuous clinical monitoring and early-intervention care directly into patients' homes.

First BRICS Sherpa Meeting begins in New Delhi under India's Chairship

The first meeting of BRICS Sherpas and Sous Sherpas under India's Chairship was held from 9-10 February 2026 in New Delhi. During the meeting, India presented the priorities for its Chairship in 2026 under the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability."

INSA, CSIR-NIScPR Sign MoU to Strengthen Science Policy Research

The Indian National Science Academy and CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research signed an MoU in New Delhi to enhance collaboration in science communication and evidence-based science, technology and innovation policy research.

National Productivity Week Begins with Focus on MSME Growth

The National Productivity Council will celebrate its 68th Foundation Day on 12 February 2026 and observe National Productivity Week till 18 February across India.

The theme, "Clusters as Growth Engine: Maximizing Productivity in MSMEs,".

Centre Issues Fresh Guidelines on Rendering of 'Vande Mataram'

The Centre has issued detailed guidelines on the observance of the National Song Vande Mataram. The Home Ministry clarified that whenever the National Song and National Anthem are performed together, the full six-stanza official version of Vande Mataram must be rendered first.

DRDO, CSIR Join Hands for Research on Extreme Environment Technologies

The DRDO has signed an agreement with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research to strengthen collaboration in research, technology development and resource sharing. The partnership aims to enhance human sustenance and performance in extreme environments.

Balaghat Chosen as Pilot District under World's Largest Grain Storage Plan

Balaghat district in Madhya Pradesh has been selected as the pilot district under the World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in the cooperative sector. A 500 MT godown has been constructed at a PACS in Parswada and inaugurated by the Prime Minister in February 2024.

Ayushman Sahakar Scheme to Boost Cooperative Healthcare

The National Cooperative Development Corporation has launched the Ayushman Sahakar Scheme to promote affordable and inclusive healthcare through cooperative societies.

IAF to Showcase Combat Readiness in Exercise Vayushakti-26

The Indian Air Force will demonstrate its combat prowess during Exercise Vayushakti-26 at the Pokhran Air-to-Ground Range, Jaisalmer, on 27 February 2026.

The exercise will showcase full-spectrum air operations, including fighter, transport and helicopter platforms, advanced weapon systems and day-to-night missions.

VOC Port Sets Green Benchmark with IGBC Platinum Rating

V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority has become India's first Major Port to receive the IGBC Platinum Rating for its Administration Building.

Operating on 100% renewable energy, the building features solar power, water-efficient systems and inclusive design.

Indian Navy Takes Charge of Multinational CTF 154

The Indian Navy has assumed command of Combined Task Force 154, a key training-focused multinational task force under the Combined Maritime Forces.

Assam to Inaugurate Northeast's First Emergency Landing Facility

Assam will witness a landmark development with the inauguration of an Emergency Landing Facility on the Moran bypass in Dibrugarh district.

DAC Clears ₹3.6 Lakh Crore Defence Procurement Proposals

The Defence Acquisition Council has approved proposals worth nearly ₹3.6 lakh crore to strengthen the capabilities of India's Armed Forces. Acceptance of Necessity was accorded for key acquisitions, including Multi Role Fighter Aircraft (Rafale), combat missiles and advanced systems for the Air Force, Army, Navy and Coast Guard.

Bharat Bodhan AI Conclave 2026 Concludes in New Delhi

The Bharat Bodhan AI Conclave 2026, organised by the Ministry of Education, concluded in New Delhi after bringing together policymakers, educators and technology leaders.

India Inaugurates Waterjet Production Facility in Goa
Indian Coast Guard Director General Paramesh Sivamani inaugurated a Waterjet Production and Testing Facility in Goa, marking a major milestone in defence manufacturing. With this facility, India becomes the third country after the US and South Korea to host such advanced infrastructure.

PM Modi Launches PM RAHAT Scheme for Road Accident Victims

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the launch of the PM RAHAT Scheme to provide cashless treatment to road accident victims across India. Under the scheme, eligible victims will receive free medical care up to ₹1.5 lakh for seven days from the date of the accident.

CCEA Approves Major Rail and Highway Infrastructure Projects

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved key rail and road infrastructure projects worth over ₹48,000 crore to boost connectivity and logistics efficiency. Three railway multitracking projects spanning 389 km across four states will enhance capacity and create large-scale employment.

BIRAC RDI Fund Launched to Boost Deep-Tech Biotechnology Innovation

Science and Technology Minister Dr Jitendra Singh has launched the BIRAC–Research, Development and Innovation Fund in New Delhi to promote deep-tech innovations and indigenous manufacturing in biotechnology and allied areas.

Centre Clears India's First Underwater Road-Cum-Rail Tunnel in Assam

The Centre has approved India's first underwater twin tube road-cum-rail tunnel under the Brahmaputra River in Assam. Cleared by the CCEA, the ₹18,662 crore project includes a 15.79-km tunnel as part of a 33.7-km four-lane greenfield corridor connecting Gohpur and Numaligarh.

India Records Highest-Ever Power Capacity Addition in FY26

India added a record 52,537 MW of electricity generation capacity across all sources in the current financial year till January 31, the Power Ministry said. This marks the highest-ever annual addition, surpassing the previous record of 34,054 MW in FY25.

Amit Shah Launches India's First CBDC-Based Digital Food Currency Pilot

Home Minister Amit Shah has launched India's first Central Bank Digital Currency–based Digital Food Currency pilot in Gujarat. Under the initiative, RBI-issued programmable digital currency (e₹) coupons will be credited to beneficiaries, enabling them to redeem foodgrains at ration shops through digital vouchers.

NGT clears Great Nicobar Island mega-infrastructure project

The National Green Tribunal has cleared the decks for the Rs 81,000-crore Great Nicobar mega infrastructure project, refusing to interfere with its environmental clearance.

Union Agriculture Minister Launches AI-Based Farmer Platform 'Bharat-VISTAAR' in Jaipur

Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, has launched a new digital companion, "Bharat-VISTAAR," for farmers across the country in Jaipur. VISTAAR stands for Virtually Integrated System to Access Agricultural Resources.

Union Cabinet clears 'Urban Challenge Fund' for cities

The Union Cabinet has approved the launch of the 'Urban Challenge Fund' (UCF), a new Centrally sponsored scheme of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, with a total Central assistance of ₹1 lakh crore.

India and France exchange 21 agreements and documents

India and France have agreed to upgrade the India-France relationship to a Special Global Strategic Partnership. There were a total of 21 outcomes, partnership and Horizon 2047 Roadmap. Both nations agreed to the launch of the India-France Year of Innovation and the India-France Innovation Network.

First Indigenous Cadet Training Ship Launched at L&T Kattupalli in Chennai

The first of three indigenous Cadet Training Ships, being built by M/s L&T Shipyard for the Indian Navy, was launched at L&T, Kattupalli, Chennai. The primary role of the Cadet Training Ship is to provide basic sea training to Naval Cadets.

India signs Mutual Legal Assistance Agreement with Nepal

An agreement has been reached between India and Nepal on mutual legal assistance on criminal matters. The agreement is expected to formally pave the way for cooperation and exchange of matters such as the collection and exchange of evidence during the investigation, prosecution, and judicial proceedings of criminal cases between them.

Google Announces \$15 Billion 'America-India Connect' Subsea Cable Initiative

GoogleCEO, Sundar Pichai has unveiled "India-America Connect Initiative", outlining plans to deploy new subsea cable routes aimed at strengthening artificial intelligence (AI) connectivity between the two countries and multiple locations across the Southern Hemisphere.

Sarvam AI unveils indigenously-built 30B and 105B LLM models

Indian artificial intelligence (AI) startup Sarvam AI launched two indigenous large language models (LLMs) named 'Vikram' at the India-AI Impact Summit 2026 specifically trained on Indian languages.

GalaxEye to launch Mission Drishti in 2026

Space tech start-up GalaxEye has announced its upcoming satellite mission, 'Mission Drishti', scheduled to launch in 2026. The Mission Drishti satellite will feature NVIDIA's Jetson Orin GPU architecture and will run advanced AI workloads directly in orbit, helping in better processing, interpretation and customer delivery of Earth observation data.

NHAI to develop first-of-its-kind 'Bee Corridors' along National Highways

National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has announced a first-of-its-kind initiative to develop pollinator or bee corridors along National Highways. Different varieties of trees, shrubs, herbs, and grasses that are beneficial to pollinators will be planted.

PM Modi unveils MANAV vision promoting ethical, inclusive AI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled the MANAV vision for artificial intelligence (AI) at the inaugural session of the AI Impact Summit 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, Delhi, outlining India's approach to AI as ethical, sovereign, inclusive, and globally oriented.

Indo-U.K. offshore wind task force launched

India and the United Kingdom have launched the India–UK Offshore Wind Taskforce under the India-UK Vision 2035 and the 4th Energy Dialogue to accelerate cooperation in offshore wind energy development.

India and Kenya sign Implementation Framework Agreement for DigiLocker pilot project

India and Kenya signed the Implementation Framework Agreement for a DigiLocker pilot project in Kenya. This will enable secure digital storage and real-time verification of official documents, reduce paperwork, and enhance access to public services for citizens, students and businesses.

BioAsia 2026 Summit held in Hyderabad

The 23rd edition of the BioAsia 2026 international summit was held on February 17–18, 2026, at the HITEX Exhibition Centre in Hyderabad, India. The summit focuses on the theme "TechBio Unleashed: AI, Automation & the Biology Revolution".

FCI Signs MoU with WFP to Supply 2 Lakh Metric Tonnes of Rice for Global Hunger Relief

Food Corporation of India (FCI) and the World Food Programme (WFP) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the supply of rice in support of global humanitarian operations aimed at combating hunger.

India AI Impact Summit 2026 concludes

India AI Impact Summit 2026 Concludes at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi with Strong Global Endorsement of India's Responsible AI Vision. There were a lot of investment pledges, which have crossed 250 billion dollars for the infra-related investments and about 20 billion dollars for the VC deep tech investments which have been committed by investors.

India and Brazil sign multiple agreements in digital, minerals, MSME and coastal sectors

India and Brazil have exchanged several agreements in different areas including digital partnership, cooperation in rare earth and critical minerals, MSME, and coastal sector in New Delhi.

NDMA, AcSIR and CSIR-NIScPR sign MoU to promote disaster-resilient India

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR) and CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research signed a MoU to establish a collaborative framework for academic programmers.

AuraML launches India's first multimodal world simulation model for robotics

Indian AI start-up AuraML has unveiled AuraSim, billed as India's first multimodal world simulation model for robotics, built on NVIDIA's Omniverse and Cosmos infrastructure.

India AI Impact Summit 2026 Adopts New Delhi Declaration

The India AI Impact Summit 2026 concluded with the adoption of the New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact, endorsed by 85 countries and 3 international organisations. Guided by the principle of "Sarvajana Hitaya, Sarvajana Sukhaya," the Declaration emphasises equitable sharing of AI benefits.

JP Nadda Launches Indigenous Tetanus–Diphtheria Vaccine at Kasauli

Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda launched the indigenous Tetanus and Diphtheria vaccine at the Central Research Institute (CRI), Kasauli, in Himachal Pradesh.

Vice President C P Radhakrishnan Releases Coffee Table Book on Atal Bihari Vajpayee

Vice-President C P Radhakrishnan released the coffee table book titled Atal Bihari Vajpayee: The Eternal Statesman in New Delhi authored by Vijay Goel. He said the book celebrates Vajpayee's inspiring life and leadership, beyond photographs.

India–Brazil Deepen Cooperation in Pharma Regulation and MSME Development

India and Brazil have exchanged two key MoUs in New Delhi to strengthen bilateral cooperation in pharmaceutical regulation and MSME development. The agreements were signed in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

India, France sign Amending Protocol to revise India-France DTAC

India and France signed an Amending Protocol to revise the India-France Double Taxation Avoidance Convention (DTAC). Under the amended provisions, full taxing rights on capital gains arising from the sale of shares will be granted to the country where the company is a resident.

LS Speaker Om Birla constitutes Parliamentary Friendship Groups with over 60 countries

In a significant step to widen the country's inter-parliamentary engagement with the world, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has constituted Parliamentary Friendship Groups with more than 60 countries.

Centre launches new national counter-terrorism policy & strategy 'PRAHAR'

The Ministry of Home Affairs has introduced the nation's first comprehensive counter-terrorism policy, titled 'PRAHAR', establishing a structured national framework to address evolving and complex security threats, including cross-border terrorism, drone-based attacks, cyber-enabled threats, and organised terror networks.

Centre to roll out free HPV vaccine drive for 14-year-old girls nationwide

The centre is set to launch a nationwide immunisation drive against Human Papillomavirus (HPV), a landmark step towards eradicating cervical cancer, which claims thousands of lives annually. Vaccinations will be free, voluntary and target girls aged 14.

'Badhna Hai Toh Yahan Judna Hai' campaign launched

Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Jayant Chaudhary has launched a nationwide campaign titled 'Badhna Hai Toh Yahan Judna Hai' to accelerate India's digital skilling movement through Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH).

Cabinet approves renaming State of Kerala to Keralam

The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal for the alteration of the name of the State of Kerala to Keralam, the name used in the Malayalam language.

India, Nepal sign MoU to promote bilateral cooperation

India and Nepal have signed a MoU to promote bilateral cooperation in the areas of forests, wildlife, environment, biodiversity conservation and climate change.

Indian Navy concludes MILAN 2026 Maritime Exercise on INS Vikrant

The Indian Navy's major multilateral maritime exercise MILAN 2026 was concluded with a closing ceremony held onboard the aircraft carrier INS Vikrant off the coast of Visakhapatnam. MILAN 2026 was held under the theme 'Camaraderie, Cooperation, Collaboration'.

India, Israel exchange multiple MoUs in several areas

India and Israel exchanged multiple MoUs on several areas, including cultural exchange, geophysical exploration, fisheries and aquaculture, UPI and advancing education through the use of Artificial Intelligence. An agreement has been reached for the use of UPI in Israel.

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw unveils Rail Tech Policy, Portal

The Union Minister for Railways has unveiled the third reform, the Rail Tech Policy, stating that its objective is to promote the large-scale adoption of technology in the Railways. Mr Vaishnaw also unveiled the Rail Tech Portal for innovation by engaging Innovators, Startups, Industry and Institutions.

Dharma Guardian exercise held in Chaubatia

Dharma Guardian, a joint military exercise between India and Japan was held at Chaubatia in Uttarakhand's Almora district.

Indian Air Force demonstrates combat strength in Exercise Vayu Shakti

The Indian Air Force has demonstrated its combat prowess and firepower capabilities during Exercise 'Vayu Shakti' at the Pokhran Field Firing Range in western Rajasthan.

BANKING & ECONOMY

Nirmala Sitharaman tables the Union Budget 2026-27

Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman tabled the Union Budget 2026-27 in the parliament. Presenting the Yuva Shakti-driven Budget which emphasizes on Government's 'Sankalp' to focus on poor, underprivileged and the disadvantaged.

The first Budget prepared in Kartavya Bhawan, is inspired by 3 kartavyas:

- First kartavya is to accelerate and sustain economic growth.
- Second kartavya is to fulfil aspirations of people and build their capacity.
- Third kartavya, aligned with vision of Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas.

Budget Estimates & Announcements

- Non-debt receipts and the total expenditure are estimated as ₹36.5 lakh crore and ₹53.5 lakh crore respectively.
- Net tax receipts are estimated at ₹28.7 lakh crore.
- Gross market borrowings are estimated at ₹17.2 lakh crore.
- Fiscal deficit in BE 2026-27 is estimated to be 4.3 percent of GDP.
- Debt-to-GDP ratio is estimated to be 55.6 percent of GDP in BE 2026-27.
- Union Budget allocated a record ₹7.85 lakh crore to defence services, marking the highest-ever outlay for the sector.
- Announced a record capital expenditure (capex) of Rs 12.22 lakh crore for FY27.
- Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin), or VB-G RAM G, has been allocated the highest share for rural employment, with a central provision of ₹95,692.31 crore.
- No changes in the income tax slabs and income tax rates.
- Raised STT (Securities Transaction Tax) on Futures to 0.05 percent from present 0.02 percent.
- Announced a one-time foreign asset disclosure scheme for small taxpayers like students, tech professionals, and relocated Non-Resident Indians (NRIs).
- The rate of final tax will be reduced to 14 percent from the current Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) rate of 15 percent.
- Gives 20-year tax holiday to foreign firms using local data centres

FM Nirmala Sitharaman launches second phase of asset monetisation pipeline

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the second phase of the asset monetisation pipeline of Central ministries and public sector entities in New Delhi. The second phase of the pipeline has been developed by NITI Aayog, in consultation with infrastructure line ministries. The National Monetisation Pipeline 2.0 estimates aggregate monetisation potential of 16.72 lakh crore rupees.

Union Budget 2026-27 Allocates Record ₹2.78 Lakh Crore for Railways

Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has said that a record budget of 2 lakh 78 crore rupees has been allotted for Railways in the Union Budget 2026-27.

GST Collections Rise 6.2% to ₹1.93 Lakh Crore in January 2026

India's gross GST collections increased by 6.2 per cent to over ₹1.93 lakh crore in January 2026, compared to ₹1.82 lakh crore in January 2025.

GOI, RBI in talks with Alipay+ to integrate its instant payment systems

India's government and central bank are in talks with Ant International about allowing Alipay+ to be linked with India's instant payments system for cross-border transactions.

SBI launches CoE for growth sectors

State Bank of India has launched CHAKRA, a Centre of Excellence (CoE) aimed at strengthening financing for sunrise sectors.

UPI transactions soar to record at Rs 28.33 lakh crore in January

According to data released by the NPCI, transactions through the popular Unified Payments Interface (UPI) have touched a record Rs 28.33 lakh crore and 21.70 billion in value and volume terms, respectively, in January.

India may raise foreign investment cap in state-run banks to 49%

The Indian government is actively conducting inter-ministerial discussions to increase the FDI ceiling in state-owned banks from the current 20% to 49%.

16th FC recommends 41% tax devolution to States

The Sixteenth Finance Commission has recommended that the Central Government retain the 41% share of tax devolution to the States that had been implemented since 2021. An amount of ₹1.4 lakh crore to the States for the FY 2026-27 will be offered as Finance Commission Grants.

India's real GDP estimated to grow by 7.4% in current fiscal

The Finance Ministry has highlighted that India's real GDP is estimated to grow by 7.4% in 2025-26, with nominal GDP growth at 8%. In the Union Budget, nominal GDP is projected to grow by 10% over the First Advance Estimates of 2025-26.

Miniratna Category-I Status to Yantra India Limited

Defence Ministry has approved the grant of Miniratna Category-I status to Yantra India Limited (YIL). YIL manufactures key defence products including carbon fibre and glass composites, aluminium alloys, and assembly products for ammunition, armoured vehicles, artillery guns.

World Bank Approves \$830m Programme to Modernise India's Skills Training Institutes

The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors has approved an \$830 million financing programme to overhaul India's network of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs).

Tripura Gramin Bank launches first-ever co-branded 'RuPay Credit Card'

Tripura Gramin Bank (TGB) has launched its first-ever co-branded 'RuPay Credit Card' in collaboration with its sponsor bank, Punjab National Bank (PNB).

India, Nepal in talks to enable bulk Digital Transfers of Indian Rupee between banking systems

The Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are engaged in high-level talks to allow the unrestricted, bulk transfer of Indian currency (INR) between the banking systems of India and Nepal.

Former SBI Chief Dinesh Kumar Khara joins Truhome Finance

Mortgage lender Truhome Finance has announced the appointment of former State Bank of India chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara as its chairperson for a five-year term.

Vinay Tonse to Take Over as Yes Bank MD & CEO

Vinay Muralidhar Tonse, will assume charge as Managing Director and CEO of Yes Bank, succeeding Prashant Kumar. A former SBI banker, Tonse retired in November 2025 as SBI MD overseeing retail operations.

RBI raises GDP growth projection of Q1, Q2 of FY27

The RBI has revised upwards GDP growth forecast for the first quarter of the next fiscal year to 6.9% and 7% for the subsequent three months on the back of trade deals, GST rationalisation, and robust farm output.

SBI raises \$1 billion from MUFG via social loan

State Bank of India has raised \$1 billion (about Rs 9,100 crore) through a five-year loan from Japan's, Mitsubishi UFG Financial Group (MUFG), in the first social loan of its kind raised by a bank in the country.

Blackstone gets RBI approval for 9.99% stake purchase in Federal Bank

Federal Bank said the RBI has approved private equity firm Blackstone to acquire an up to 9.99 per cent stake in it.

India and GCC sign Terms of Reference for a Free Trade Agreement

India & the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have signed the Terms of Reference for a Free Trade Agreement in New Delhi. Currently, the trade between India and GCC stands at 170 billion dollars, and around 10 million Indians live and work in GCC nations.

Anthropic unveils new AI model

AI company Anthropic has released its latest high-performing artificial intelligence model, Claude Opus 4.6 escalating its challenge to OpenAI and Google in the intensifying AI race.

LIC Q3 net up 17% to ₹12,958 crore

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) reported standalone net profit for the December quarter increased more than 17% to ₹12,958.22 crore from ₹11,056.47 crore a year earlier.

RBI keeps policy repo rate unchanged at 5.25 percent

Announcing the sixth and final bi-monthly monetary policy for the current fiscal, the RBI has decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at 5.25 percent. Consequently, other rates will also be unchanged.

It also revised the GDP growth rate higher at 7.4% and retail inflation at 2.1% as against 2 % in FY 2026.

RBI raises loan limits for small businesses

The RBI has announced measures to boost credit to small businesses and the real estate sector to improve access to formal financing and strengthen last-mile lending. It also proposed doubling the limit on collateral-free loans for small enterprises to ₹2 million from ₹1 million.

RBI proposes compensation for small-value digital frauds

The RBI will introduce a new framework to compensate customers for small-value digital frauds, offering relief of up to Rs 25,000 per case.

Boards of Power Finance Corporation and Rural Electrification Corporation approve merger

The boards of Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) informed the stock exchanges that they have accorded in-principle approval for a merger with each other.

Reliance Consumer acquires majority stake in Australia's Goodness Group Global

Reliance Consumer Products Limited (RCPL) has acquired majority stake in Australia's popular 'Better-For-You' beverage business Goodness Group Global Pty. Limited (GGG) for an unspecified amount.

Toyota names Kon Kenta as new CEO

Toyota Motor has named a new chief executive. Operating Officer Kon Kenta will be the new president and CEO with effect from April 1, 2026. Current CEO Sato Koji will become vice chairman.

Draft Rules for New Income Tax Act, 2025 Released

The Income Tax Department has released draft rules and forms under the new Income Tax Act, 2025, aimed at simplifying provisions and reducing compliance burden.

The new Act will replace the Income Tax Act of 1961 and come into effect from April 1.

SBI Q3 FY26 Net Profit Jumps 24.5% to ₹21,028 Crore

State Bank of India reported a 24.5% year-on-year rise in standalone net profit to ₹21,028 crore in Q3 FY26, driven by a 9.04% increase in net interest income.

AAI Partners with Bharat Taxi to Launch Passenger-Friendly Cab Services at Airports

The Airports Authority of India has signed an MoU with Bharat Taxi, India's first cooperative-based ride-hailing platform, to introduce regulated and transparent cab services at select airports.

Kotak Mahindra Bank issues India's first fully digital FPI licence

Kotak Mahindra Bank has become the first custodian in India to issue a foreign portfolio investor (FPI) licence and complete the entire account-opening process using electronic signatures, marking a key step in fully digital onboarding for overseas investors.

India signs DPI cooperation agreements with 23 countries

India has signed MoUs and agreements with 23 countries to share and cooperate on its Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI). The agreements aim to facilitate the replication and adoption of India's digital platforms under the India Stack framework.

RBI frees branch expansion for large gold-loan NBFCs

Non-banking financial companies that offer gold loans are expected to benefit as the RBI allows them to open branches freely. The RBI has removed the prior approval requirement for these companies, allowing them to focus more on credit delivery and risk management.

RBI to let lenders open up credit lines to REITs

The RBI has said that it would permit banks to lend directly to real estate investment trusts (REITs) at the trust level, making financing access cheaper for the sector that now owns about a fifth of all institutional and rent-yielding real estate.

Moody's projects India's GDP to grow 6.4% in FY'27

Moody's Ratings has projected India's GDP to grow at 6.4% in the next fiscal, the fastest pace among G-20 economies, driven by strong domestic consumption, policy measures, and a stable banking system.

Indian Army and IDFC FIRST Bank sign MoU

Indian Army and IDFC FIRST Bank have signed a MoU to provide specialised banking services and enhanced insurance benefits to serving and retired Army personnel. The MoU has been signed for three years till February 2029.

RBI proposes exempting NBFCs from registration to ease compliance

The RBI has proposed exempting non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) with asset sizes below ₹1,000 crore from registration requirements with the central bank.

Public sector banks post 18% growth in profit to record ₹52,603 cr in Q3

Public sector banks have logged a record cumulative profit of ₹52,603 crore in the third quarter of the current fiscal, reflecting an 18% year-on-year growth. SBI alone contributed 40% to the total earnings of ₹52,603 crore.

RBI tells banks not to insist on collateral security for loans up to ₹20 lakh for MSEs

The RBI has asked banks not to insist on collateral security for loans up to ₹20 lakh extended to units in the micro, small enterprises (MSE) sector. Banks are also advised to extend collateral-free loans up to Rs 20 lakh to all units financed under the Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) administered by KVIC.

RBI approves R. Vijay Anandh's appointment as MD & CEO of City Union Bank

City Union Bank Limited said the RBI has approved the appointment of R. Vijay Anandh as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the bank. Anandh is currently serving as the Executive Director of the bank.

Ministry of Steel signs MoUs for 85 projects with investments of over 11000 crore

Ministry of Steel has signed MoUs for 85 projects with investments of more than 11 thousand crore rupees in New Delhi. MoUs have been signed with 55 companies under the third round of Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme 1.2.

Gross NPAs of SCBs hit a historic low of 2.15% as of Sept. 2025: FinMin

The gross non-performing assets (NPA) ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) for domestic operations, were at a historic low of 2.15% as of 2025 end (provisional data), which is lower than 2010-11 level.

NRIs hold 0.6% of all NSE listed companies

According to data from Prime Database, as of the third quarter of fiscal 2025-26, NRIs owned just 0.62% of the shares of NSE-listed companies.

Centre to sell up to 5% in BHEL

The Union government will sell up to 5% stake in Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) via an offer for sale (OFS) beginning on February 11, 2026 at a floor price of ₹254 a share.

Deloitte to unveil fully India-developed AI platform

Deloitte became the first amongst the Big Four to announce its fully-India developed global readiness for AI with GenW.AI, its next-generation open source, Java-based, low-code enterprise platform.

RBI proposes to allow UCBs to double share of unsecured assets to 20%

The RBI has released draft amendment lending norms, proposing to allow urban cooperative banks to double the share of unsecured assets to 20 percent.

Citi India names Ankur Khurana as commercial banking head

Citigroup has appointed Ankur Khurana as head of Citi Commercial Bank in India. Khurana brings over two decades of experience advising Indian firms across corporate and investment banking, including senior leadership roles at Standard Chartered and Credit Suisse.

India's Outward FDI Slips to \$3.42 Billion in January 2026

India's outward foreign direct investment stood at \$3.42 billion in January 2026, marginally lower than \$3.44 billion a year ago and down from \$4.07 billion in December 2025.

Retail Inflation at 2.75% in January

Retail inflation stood at 2.75% in January 2026 under the new Consumer Price Index series with 2024 as the base year.

RBI Proposes Strict Curbs on Harsh Loan Recovery Practices

The RBI has issued draft guidelines to curb harsh loan recovery practices by banks and recovery agents. The proposed rules prohibit abusive language, excessive calls, intimidation, public humiliation and misleading claims.

India-Malaysia Enable UPI-Based QR Payments

NPCI International Payments Ltd has signed an agreement with Malaysia's Payments Network Malaysia (PayNet) to enable QR-based merchant payments between the two countries.

RBI Digital Payments Index Rises to 516.76

The Reserve Bank of India's Digital Payments Index increased to 516.76 in September 2025 from 465.33 a year earlier, highlighting rapid growth in digital payments adoption.

India's Trade Surplus with US May Cross \$90 Billion: SBI Report

India's trade surplus with the United States could exceed \$90 billion annually following the new trade deal, according to an SBI research report.

RBI Approves Reappointment of Sanjay Agarwal as AU SFB CEO

AU Small Finance Bank has received RBI approval for the reappointment of Sanjay Agarwal as Managing Director and CEO for a three-year term starting 19 April 2026.

Reliance Gets US Nod to Import Venezuelan Crude

Reliance Industries Limited has received a general licence from the United States to buy Venezuelan oil, signalling easing sanctions on Caracas.

BHIM Emerges as Sixth-Largest UPI App

Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) has climbed to become the sixth-largest UPI app, surpassing platforms like Cred, Amazon Pay and WhatsApp.

DLGs in Credit Loss Provisions

The RBI has allowed non-banking financial companies to factor in default loss guarantees provided by lending apps while computing provisions under the Expected Credit Loss framework. Effective immediately, the move applies across all stages of loan default.

RBI Proposes 60% CD Ratio Norm for Rural Banking Expansion

The Reserve Bank of India has issued draft revised guidelines to strengthen the Lead Bank Scheme (LBS) and deepen financial inclusion in rural areas. State-level convener banks have been asked to identify and regularly update lists of unbanked rural centres and display them on SLBC websites to guide branch expansion.

Uday Kotak Appointed Chairman of GIFT City

The Gujarat government has appointed banker Uday Kotak as the new Chairman of Gujarat International Finance Tec (GIFT) City, with immediate effect. He succeeds former bureaucrat Hasmukh Adhia, who served as non-executive chairman since June 2023.

BSE Gets Sebi Nod to Launch Derivatives on Focused Midcap Index

The Bombay Stock Exchange has received Sebi's approval to introduce derivative contracts on the BSE Focused Midcap Index, expanding its derivatives basket beyond Sensex and Bankex.

Credit Growth Picks Up to 14.6% in Late January: RBI Data

Bank credit growth accelerated to 14.6% year-on-year in the fortnight ended January 31, 2026, while deposit growth remained strong at 12.5%. Total bank credit stood at ₹204.75 trillion and deposits at ₹248.81 trillion.

RBI Proposes Allowing Bank Lending to REITs with Safeguards

The RBI has proposed permitting banks to lend to SEBI-registered Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), with strict safeguards. Aggregate bank exposure to a REIT and its SPVs will be capped at 49% of the REIT's asset value.

Global Tech Giants Launch Trusted Tech Alliance

Anthropic, Microsoft, Google Cloud, AWS, Jio Platforms and Ericsson, have launched the Trusted Tech Alliance at the Munich Security Conference.

NPCI extends 'UPI One World' wallet service to visitors from 40 countries to AI Summit

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has announced the extension of the UPI One World wallet services for international visitors from over 40 countries attending the India AI Impact Summit 2026 from 16–20 February in New Delhi.

Alibaba unveils new Qwen3.5 model for 'agentic AI era'

Alibaba has unveiled a new artificial intelligence model Qwen 3.5 designed to execute complex tasks independently, with big improvements in performance.

Magnum Icecream to acquire 26% stake in Kwaliti Walls

Magnum Ice-cream Holdings, the Netherlands-based ice-cream seller is set to acquire 26% stake in Kwaliti Walls Ltd.

India's January trade deficit widens

India's merchandise trade deficit widened to a three-month high of \$34.68 billion in January, marking the final month impacted by around 50% U.S. tariff on Indian exports.

Unemployment in India rises slightly to 5% in January

The rate of unemployment in India among persons aged 15 years and above rose slightly to 5% in January this year from 4.8% in December 2025.

Wholesale price inflation rises to 1.81% in Jan

Wholesale price inflation extended upward momentum for the third straight month, at 1.81% in January, driven by an uptick in prices of food, non-food articles, and manufactured items on a month-on-month basis.

ICAI names Prasanna Kumar D as 74th president

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has announced the election of its new president and vice-president for the 2026–27 term. CA Prasanna Kumar D has been elected as President and CA Mangesh Pandurang Kinare as Vice-President.

India's overall exports increased by 13.17% in January

India's overall exports, merchandise and services combined, increased by 13.17% year-on-year to 80.45 billion dollars in January this year compared with 71.09 billion dollars in January last year.

Adani pledges \$100 billion to build renewable-powered AI data centres by 2035

The Adani Group has unveiled one of the world's largest integrated energy-and-compute investments, committing USD 100 billion to develop renewable-energy-powered, hyperscale AI-ready data centres by 2035.

RBI releases draft Directions on Foreign Exchange Dealings of Authorised Persons

The RBI has proposed greater flexibility to authorised persons to undertake foreign exchange transactions for hedging their exposures, balance sheet management and market-making, as well as to ease reporting obligations, after a review of the current regulations.

Eternal announces strategic collaboration with OpenAI

Eternal Ltd and OpenAI have entered into a strategic collaboration to advance AI capabilities across Eternal's businesses. This includes platforms such as Zomato, Blinkit, District, Hyperpure and its AI-native venture, Nugget.

Dabur elevates Mohit Malhotra to global CEO

Indian consumer goods maker Dabur has elevated its group chief executive Mohit Malhotra to the role of global CEO and appointed Herjit Bhalla as CEO for its India business.

Nissan launches Gravite in India

Nissan Motor India has launched the Gravite at an introductory price of ₹5.65 lakh (ex-showroom), marking the brand's first new model launch since the Nissan Magnite debuted five years ago.

British International Investment's climate commitments surpass \$1 billion in India

British International Investment (BII) has exceeded its commitment to invest \$1 billion in climate finance in India. BII has exceeded its ambitious commitment to invest \$1 billion in climate finance in India during the 2022–2026 strategy period.

IOB unveils online death claim settlement portal

Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has launched the Online Death Claim Settlement Portal, providing a simplified and time-bound solution through digital mode for families and legal heirs.

India's taxpayer base more than doubled in the last decade

Between Assessment Year (AY) 2013-14 and AY2024-25, the total number of taxpayers in India, defined as persons who either filed a return of income or in whose case tax was deducted at source, increased from 5.26 crore to 12.13 crore.

HUL tops Hurun India Impact 50 list

According to the Perpetual Capital Hurun India Impact 50 – 2026, over ₹8,000 crore was spent on corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities by top 50 companies in the country last year. Hindustan Unilever topped the list followed closely by HCL Technologies and Grasim Industries.

Seven PSBs roll out 32 generative AI use cases under EASE 8.0 programme

Seven public sector banks (PSBs) have rolled out 32 generative AI use cases as part of the government's reform push under the EASE 8.0 programme. The initiatives are aimed at improving operational efficiency, sharpening credit appraisal, and reimagining business models by leveraging India's Digital Public Infrastructure.

Fixed-price ATM pacts are the new normal for banks

Leading private and public sector lenders such as ICICI Bank, Bank of Baroda, Bank of India, Yes Bank, and IDFC First Bank are increasingly moving to fixed-price contracts for ATM management, replacing the earlier transaction-based outsourcing model.

Tata group and OpenAI enter multi-year partnership

The Tata Group, Tata Consultancy Services' (TCS) HyperVault unit and OpenAI have agreed to a multi-year partnership to develop AI infrastructure in India. TCS will develop an AI infrastructure with 100MW capacity, with an option to scale to 1 GW to power next-generation AI workloads.

NPCI collaborates with NVIDIA

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has announced its collaboration with NVIDIA to scale and advance its sovereign AI model capabilities purpose-built for India's payments ecosystem.

IICA Constitutes High-Level Advisory Group on Ease of Doing Business

The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), functioning under the aegis of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), has constituted a high-level Advisory Group (AG) on Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) under the Chairmanship of Shri Gyaneshwar Kumar Singh, Director General & CEO, IICA.

Federal Bank to receive Rs 686 crore tax refund after tribunal ruling

Private sector Federal Bank will receive a tax refund of Rs 686 crore following the successful resolution of a long-standing tax matter. The refund pertains to assessment years 2012–13 and 2013–14, including interest.

PhonePe launches AI-powered natural language search

PhonePe has launched an AI-powered natural language search feature built using Microsoft Foundry, allowing users to navigate, pay and track transactions on the app through simple voice or text commands.

Power Ministry forms panel to monitor PFC-REC merger progress

The Power Ministry has created a three-member high level committee to monitor the progress of the proposed merger between PFC and REC, which will create a power sector financing behemoth capable of funding large ticket projects including AI-enabled data centres.

Novartis AG to sell 71% stake in Indian subsidiary
Swiss drugmaker Novartis AG has entered into an agreement to sell its entire 70.68 percent in Novartis India to WaveRise Investments Limited, ChrysCapital Fund X and Two Infinity Partners, for a consideration of about ₹1,446 crore.

Net FDI into India negative for fourth straight month
According to the RBI data, net FDI remained negative for the fourth consecutive month in December 2025, coming in at - \$1.6 billion, due to repatriation by foreign companies in India and outward investments by Indian companies exceeding the amount of direct investment entering the country.

Asha Sharma named EVP and CEO, Microsoft Gaming
Microsoft has named Indian-origin executive Asha Sharma as the executive vice president and CEO of its gaming division, marking a milestone in the leadership front of Xbox's history. Asha Sharma will replace long-time head Phil Spencer

LIC raises holding in Cipla to 9%
Life Insurance Corporation of India's has increased its holding in drugmaker Cipla from 7% to 9% in less than three months. LIC has acquired more than 1.64 crore shares.

IFSCA, IICA Sign MoU to Strengthen Corporate Governance at GIFT City
The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) and the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) signed an MoU at GIFT City to enhance India's IFSC ecosystem. The agreement focuses on capacity building, policy research and knowledge partnership.

SBI actively investing in startup-focused funds to strengthen MSME ecosystem
State Bank of India (SBI) is actively investing in startup-focused funds and financial market infrastructure through direct equity participation as part of its MSME strategy.

IDFC FIRST Bank discloses ₹590 crore fraud at Chandigarh branch
IDFC FIRST Bank Ltd, a private sector bank has reported ₹590 crore fraud at one of its branches in Chandigarh. The aggregate amount under reconciliation across the identified accounts at the above mentioned Branch is approximately ₹590 crore.

India's Forex Reserves Hit Record 725.727 Billion Dollars
India's foreign exchange (forex) reserves surged by 8.663 billion dollars to an all-time high of 725.727 billion dollars during the week ended February 13, 2026.

Qualcomm, Tata Electronics partner to manufacture Qualcomm Automotive Modules in India
Tata Electronics will serve as a manufacturing partner for Qualcomm Automotive Modules to support the growing global demand for modular automotive platforms. Qualcomm Technologies will manufacture the products in India at Tata Electronics' upcoming semiconductor assembly and test (OSAT) facility in Jagiroad, Assam.

India revises base year of merchandise trade indices to FY23
The Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has revised the base year of India's Merchandise Trade Indices to FY2022-23 (2022-23=100) from FY2012-13 to better reflect the current trade structure and global patterns.

RBI builds secured data centre in Odisha
The Reserve Bank of India has built a high-security data centre in Odisha, strategically located well away from potential cross-border threat zones and high seismic-risk regions, as part of efforts to safeguard critical financial infrastructure and strengthen continuity of core systems.

Bharti Airtel to invest ₹20,000 cr for scaling up newly formed NBFC arm
Bharti Airtel will infuse ₹20,000 crore over the next few years into Airtel Money, its newly incorporated non-banking finance company (NBFC), to power its next growth engine amidst further diversification.

Coal India's Gevra block in Chhattisgarh to become the world's top mine by next year

Coal India's Gevra mine will become the world's top coal-producing mine next year by achieving the output of 63 million tonnes, surpassing the US mines. Gevra mine, operated by South Eastern Coalfields Ltd (SECL), a subsidiary of Coal India, is India's largest opencast coal mine.

India's Economy Likely Grew 8.1% in Q3: SBI
India's economy is estimated to have grown by 8.1% in the third quarter of the current financial year. This has been stated in a research report released by State Bank of India.

IDFC First Bank pays ₹583 crore to Haryana
IDFC First Bank has transferred Rs 583 crore to the Haryana government after a fraud was found at its Chandigarh branch.

Haryana sets up high-level panel to probe unauthorised fund transfers
The Haryana government has constituted a high-level committee to examine the unauthorised transfer of funds from IDFC First Bank and AU Small Finance Bank and to review the state's banking policy.

Amazon inaugurates second-largest office in Asia in Bengaluru
Amazon has inaugurated its new office in North Bengaluru, which is also its second largest in Asia. The campus, located about 15 km from Kempegowda International Airport, spans 1.1 million square feet across 12 floors on a five-acre site. It can accommodate over 7,000 employees

Suzlon appoints former Ambuja Cements MD Ajay Kapur as Group CEO
Wind turbine maker Suzlon Energy Ltd has announced a major leadership restructuring, appointing former Ambuja Cements Limited Managing Director Ajay Kapur as Group Chief Executive Officer

Top 100 private cos clock valuation of ₹28.5 lakh crore
According to the JM Financial Hurun India Unlisted Gems report, the top-100 unlisted companies in India command a valuation of ₹28.5 lakh crore. India's private firms together generated ₹8.9 lakh crore in revenue in 2025.

Reliance Retail emerged as the country's largest unlisted company, with revenue of ₹2.7 lakh crore.

FM asks banks to focus on core business, stop mis-selling
Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has asked commercial banks to focus on their core business of lending and deposit mobilisation and stop mis-selling of insurance products which has reached alarming proportions.

Swiggy's affordable food delivery app Toing expands in Delhi-NCR
Toing, the affordable food delivery app by Swiggy, has expanded in the Delhi NCR region. The app, which was launched six months ago, has a presence across 11 cities in India.

Hitesh Joshi recommended for top post at GIC Re by FSIB
The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) has recommended the name of Hitesh Rameshchandra Joshi for the position of Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) at GIC Re.

India's e-commerce expected to more than double to \$200 billion by 2030: Mckinsey & Company
India's e-commerce sector is expected to nearly double in the range of \$180 billion-\$200 billion by 2030 from \$70-80 billion in 2024, fuelled by rising incomes and demand from Tier-2 and Tier-3 locations.

Canara Bank to raise ₹5,000 cr. via bonds

Canara Bank has announced plans to raise ₹5,000 crore in bonds to strengthen its capital base and support future growth plans.

Tata Sons board defers Chandrasekaran's reappointment

The Tata Sons board has deferred the decision to reappoint Tata Sons' Chairman N Chandrasekaran for a third term, after some board members, including Noel Tata, expressed their reservations.

Yes Bank flags \$0.28 million forex card fraud

Yes Bank has disclosed that its internal investigation has revealed that fraudulent transactions aggregating about USD 0.28 million on its multi-currency prepaid forex card in a Latin American country in the early hours of February 24, 2026.

NSE IX launches 'Global Access' platform

The NSE International Exchange (NSE IX) has soft launched a Global Access platform, enabling Indian investors to directly trade in equities, debt and exchange-traded funds (ETFs).

Facebook Overseas acquires 30% stake in RIL firm

Reliance Industries said its step-down subsidiary Reliance Enterprise Intelligence has allotted shares worth ₹596.6 crore to Reliance Intelligence and shares worth ₹256.6 crore to Facebook Overseas.

RBI to conduct ₹25,000 crore switch auction

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced that it will conduct a switch auction of government securities worth ₹25,000 crore on March 2, 2026. This is the third switch auction announced by the RBI this month.

CBI registers second 'bank fraud' case against RCom and Anil Ambani

The Central Bureau of Investigation has conducted searches on the premises of businessman Anil Ambani after registering a second case against him and Reliance Communications Limited for allegedly cheating the Bank of Baroda of ₹2,220 crore.

TVS Motor Company re-enters South Africa market

TVS Motor Company has announced its re-entry into the South African market. It has entered into a partnership with The Nexus Collective, a specialised distributorship backed by the Bidvest Group Ltd, South Africa's largest automotive distributor.

RBI greenlights SBI Mutual Fund's plan to buy up to 9.99% in Bandhan Bank

The Reserve Bank of India has approved a proposal by SBI Mutual Fund to acquire an aggregate holding of up to 9.99% in Bandhan Bank. This approval comes with specific conditions and timelines. SBI Mutual Fund must complete the acquisition within one year.

HDFC Bank, SBI dominate India's credit card market

India's credit card spending is increasingly concentrated among legacy lenders, with HDFC Bank and State Bank of India together controlling nearly half of the total transaction value as of January 2026

HDFC Bank's share edged up to 28.4%, while SBI saw a sharp rise from 19.3% to 24.7%, collectively absorbing over five percentage points from competitors.

India's GDP grows by 7.8% in third quarter

Indian economy grew at 7.8% in the third quarter of the current financial year. The growth rate in Real GDP during 2025-26 is estimated at 7.6% as compared to 7.1% in 2024-25.

Paramount to acquire Warner Bros

Paramount Skydance announced that it will acquire Warner Bros. Discovery in a deal valuing the combined company at \$110 billion, after beating Netflix.

Google Launches Nano Banana 2

Google launched Nano Banana 2, the latest version of its popular artificial intelligence (AI) image generation model. Powered by real-time information and images from web search, the new model can create more realistic images than its predecessor and will be the default option in the Gemini app for its Fast, Thinking, and Pro modes.

MSME Ministry NSIC to 'Schedule A' CPSE

The Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises has announced the upgradation of the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) from a Schedule 'B' to a Schedule 'A' Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)

SEBI Mandates Registered Name, Number Disclosure on Social Media

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has directed all entities regulated by it to prominently disclose their registered name and registration number while posting securities market-related content on social media platforms. The new norms will come into effect from the 1st of May.

Apple in talks with ICICI, HDFC & Axis Bank to start payment service in India

Apple is in talks with ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank and Axis Bank, along with Visa and Mastercard, to launch Apple Pay in India around mid-2026.

Perplexity unveils 'Perplexity Computer,'

Perplexity AI has announced the launch of "Perplexity Computer," a new platform designed to move artificial intelligence beyond answering questions and into executing complex, multi-step tasks on behalf of users.

AWARDS

2026 Grammy Awards: The 68th Grammy Awards have taken place in Los Angeles.

Important Grammy Award Winners

Song of the year: Billie Eilish – Wildflower

Record of the year: Kendrick Lamar feat SZA – Luther

Album of the year: Bad Bunny - Debí Tirar Más Fotos

Best Pop Solo Performance-Messy, Lola Young

Best new artist: Olivia Dean

Best Pop Duo/Group Performance-Defying Gravity, Cynthia Erivo & Ariana Grande

Best Pop Vocal Album-Mayhem, Lady Gaga

Best Dance Pop Recording: "Abracadabra," Lady Gaga
Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama claimed a Grammy win for **Best Spoken Word Album**.

Veerabhadran Ramanathan Wins Prestigious Crafoord Prize In US

Indian-origin climate scientist Veerabhadran Ramanathan has been awarded the 2026 Crafoord Prize in Geosciences by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. This award is often described as the "Nobel of Geosciences".

Rouble Nagi wins Global Teacher Prize 2026

Indian teacher Rouble Nagi has won the Global Teacher Prize 2026, receiving the one-million-dollar award at the World Government Summit in Dubai. She was chosen from over 5,000 nominations from 139 countries.

India conferred with 'Country of the Year' at BIOFACH 2026

India has been conferred the prestigious 'Country of the Year' honour at BIOFACH 2026, the world's leading trade fair for organic products, held in Nuremberg, Germany.

BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year Awards

- World Cup-winning cricketer Smriti Mandhana has been named BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year for 2025.
- Chess champion Divya Deshmukh was named BBC Emerging Player of the Year after winning the Women's World Cup at the age of 20.
- Preethi Pal was named BBC Para Sportswoman of the Year after winning two medals at the 2025 World Championships in New Delhi.
- Shooter Anjali Bhagwat was given the BBC ISWOTY Lifetime Achievement award.

Defence Minister presents Isha Foundation's inaugural Bhavya Bharat Bhushan Awards

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has presented the inaugural Bhavya Bharat Bhushan Awards to a group of distinguished nation-builders.

- Among the prominent recipients of the 2026 awards in the science and technology category were Nambi Narayan and Kiran Kumar.
- In the field of arts and culture, the honours were conferred upon classical dancer Alamel Valli, legendary violinist N Rajam, and historian Vikram Sampath.
- Badminton icon Saina Nehwal was also recognised for her achievements in sports.
- A special recognition was extended to the Indian Armed Forces for their service in Operation Sindoor.

79th British Academy Film Award Winners

One Battle After Another' has dominated the 79th British Academy Film Awards, popularly known as the BAFTAs, winning six awards including Best Film.

Winners

Best Film: One Battle After Another

Best Director: Paul Thomas Anderson (One Battle After Another)

Best Leading Actor: Robert Aramayo – I Swear

Best Leading Actress: Jessie Buckley – Hamnet

Best Supporting Actor: Sean Penn – One Battle After Another

Best Supporting Actress: Wunmi Mosaku – Sinners

Best Original Screenplay: Ryan Coogler – Sinners

Best Film Not in the English Language: Sentimental Value

Best Documentary: Mr. Nobody Against Putin

Best Animated Film: Zootropolis 2 (Zootopia 2)

Best Original Score: Sinners — Ludwig Göransson

Best Editing: One Battle After Another — Andy Jurgensen

Best Children and Family Film: Boong (Indian Manipuri Film)

Vasai Cathedral gets UNESCO award

The iconic Our Lady of Grace Cathedral in Vasai in Palghar district of Maharashtra has been conferred with the 2025 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation.

PM Modi conferred with highest honour of Israeli Parliament – 'Speaker of the Knesset Medal'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been conferred with the 'Speaker of the Knesset Medal' in recognition of his exceptional contribution to strengthening strategic relations between India and Israel.

Mangaluru International Airport wins Global 2025 ASQ Award for Best Airport at Arrivals

Airports Council International (ACI) World has named Mangaluru International Airport the winner of 2025 Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Award for the Best Airport at Arrivals – Globally.

SAIL earns great place to work certification for third consecutive time

Steel Authority of India Limited has earned the coveted Great Place to Work certification for the period from February 2026 to February 2027. It is the third consecutive time the company has received the certification.

5 stations under Northeast Frontier Railway awarded 'Eat Right Station' certification

Five stations under the Northeast Frontier Railway have been awarded the prestigious 'Eat Right Station' certification by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). These include Dimapur Railway Station, Alipurduar Railway Station, Kokrajhar Railway Station, Golakganj Railway Station and New Mal Junction Railway Station.

PERSONS IN NEWS (National and International)

Borge Brende

The President and CEO of the World Economic Forum, Borge Brende has resigned over his relationship with late U.S. sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

Alois Zwinggi

World Economic Forum's Managing Director Alois Zwinggi will serve as interim president and CEO, and the forum's Board of Trustees would oversee the leadership transition, including a plan to identify a permanent successor.

Kim Jong Un

North Korea's ruling Workers' Party re-elected leader Kim Jong Un as general secretary on the fourth day of its party congress meetings. The meeting also elected members of the party Central Committee and adopted revisions to the party rules.

Rob Jetten

Rob Jetten has become the youngest and first openly gay prime minister of the Netherlands. He took the oath of office on February 23 to lead a minority three-party ruling coalition.

Bill Gates

American tech entrepreneur Bill Gates has apologised to the staff at the Gates Foundation over his ties with convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. The Microsoft co-founder also admitted that he had two affairs with Russian women, while insisting he didn't participate in Epstein's crimes.

Antonio Jose Seguro

Centre-left candidate Antonio Jose Seguro has scored a convincing win over far-right rival Andre Ventura in Portugal's Presidential election held on February 8, 2026, with the run-off vote held after days of devastating storms.

Anutin Charnvirakul

Thailand's Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul's Bhumjaithai Party has won a major victory in general election, raising the prospect that a more stable coalition may now succeed in bringing an end to a period of prolonged political instability.

Mia Mottley

Barbadian Prime Minister Mia Mottley has won a historic third election victory, with her Barbados Labour Party sweeping all seats of the island nation's House of Assembly. Mottley's BLP won all 30 seats available in the lower house of parliament.

Tarique Rahman

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party Chairman, Tarique Rahman, took oath as the new Prime Minister of Bangladesh. Rahman is the son of former President Ziaur Rahman and former prime minister Khaleda Zia.

Sheikh Hasina

A Dhaka special court has sentenced former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to 10 years' imprisonment and her niece, British MP Tulip Siddiq, to four years in two corruption cases linked to irregularities.

Sunetra Pawar

Sunetra Pawar has taken the oath of office as deputy chief minister of Maharashtra, becoming the first woman to hold this position in the history of the states. She succeeds her husband Ajit Pawar who died in a plane crash.

Sanae Takaichi

Japan's Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi has led her ruling coalition to a landslide win in a snap winter election. Takaichi's Liberal Democratic Party won 316 seats, well above the 261 needed for a majority in the 465-member lower house.

Albin Kurti

Kosovo's Parliament has approved a new government headed by Prime Minister Albin Kurti, ending a year-long political impasse. Kurti's Cabinet won 66 votes in the 120-member Assembly, shortly after Parliament convened following December's snap elections.

PM Narendra Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has crossed the historic milestone of 100 million followers on Instagram, becoming the first world leader and politician to achieve this feat on the platform. He has more than twice as many followers as US President Donald Trump on Instagram.

Sunetra Pawar

The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) has unanimously elected Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Sunetra Pawar as party's National President. The decision was taken at NCP's National Convention 2026 held in Worli, Mumbai.

Droupadi Murmu

President Droupadi Murmu has undertaken a sortie in the indigenous Light Combat Helicopter PRACHAND at Air Force Station Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. The mission was conducted as a two-aircraft LCH formation.

Nidhi Chibber

Senior bureaucrat & 1994 batch Indian Administrative Service officer Nidhi Chibber was given additional charge of Niti Aayog's chief executive officer. He is currently working as director general, development monitoring and evaluation office, NITI Aayog. Incumbent CEO B V R Subrahmanyam completed his tenure.

Yumnam Khemchand Singh

President's Rule in Manipur has been revoked, and BJP MLA Yumnam Khemchand Singh was sworn in as the new Chief Minister. The swearing-in ceremony was held at Lok Bhavan in Imphal, where Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla administered the oath.

Jimmy Lai

Hong Kong media tycoon Jimmy Lai was sentenced to a total of 20 years in jail on three charges comprising two counts of conspiracy to collude with foreign forces and one count of publishing seditious materials.

Jose Jeri

Peru's Congress impeached interim President Jose Jeri, the Latin American country's seventh head of state in 10 years and only the latest toppled over graft claims.

Mark Carney

The Prime Minister of Canada, Mark Carney, paid an official visit to India from 27 February to 2 March 2026. This will be Prime Minister Carney's first official visit to India.

Aditya Pandya

17-year-old Aditya Pandya has become India's youngest male analog astronaut after taking part in a lunar-habitat-inspired space mission in the white plains of Dholavira in Gujarat's Kutch region.

Sanae Takaichi

Japan's lower house had formally reappointed Sanae Takaichi as Prime Minister on February 18, 2026, 10 days after her historic landslide election victory. Ms. Takaichi, became Japan's first woman premier in October.

Yoon Suk Yeol

A Seoul court has sentenced former South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol to life in prison for his failed bid to impose martial law in 2024.

Sanjay 'Hardy' Sharma

Sanjay Sharma, Head of Motorsport and Corporate Communications at JK Tyres, passed away. He was a towering figure in Indian motorsport and played a pivotal role in shaping the careers of Formula One drivers Narain Karthikeyan and Karun Chandhok, as well as rally champion Gaurav Gill.

Puneet Agrawal

The Ministry of External Affairs has announced the appointment of Puneet Agrawal, a 1997-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, as the next Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Thailand.

Andre Beteille

Renowned sociologist and writer Andre Beteille died due to age-related illness. For decades he taught at the prestigious Delhi School of Economics. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 2005 for his contribution in literature and education.

Prof. J. Philip

Professor J. Philip, the Founder and Chairman of Xavier Institute of Management & Entrepreneurship (XIME) passed away. Prof. J. Philip was very much the country's leading expert in the field of management education.

Shankar

A towering figure in Bengali literature, Mani Shankar Mukhopadhyay, better known as Shankar, passed away. He received several honours during his career, including the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2021.

Mukul Roy

Former railway minister Mukul Roy, a founding member of West Bengal's ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC), died. He served as the minister of state for shipping and the railway minister during the second Congress-led United Progressive Alliance government (2009-2014).

Robert Carradine

Robert Carradine, known for his roles in The Long Riders, Revenge of the Nerds and the television series Lizzie McGuire, has died at the age of 71.

Catherine O'Hara

Catherine O'Hara, the Emmy-winning Canadian-American actor, popular for her comic roles, passed away at her home in Los Angeles following a brief illness. O'Hara was best known for her starring roles in the Home Alone and Beetlejuice films.

El Mencho

Unrest has erupted in at least 20 Mexican states since the killing of drug lord Nemesio Oseguera Cervantes – better known as "El Mencho" – died in custody shortly after being captured by Mexican special forces.

Jatinder Mehra

Jatinder Mehra, a stalwart of India's steel and metals sector with a career spanning more than six decades, passed away. He was 86. At the time of his death, Mehra was serving as Vice Chairman of the metals and mining division at Essar Group.

SPORTS**Rybakina Clinches Maiden Australian Open Title**

Elena Rybakina produced a powerful performance to defeat Aryna Sabalenka in the women's singles final at Melbourne Park, winning her first Australian Open title.

India Seal T20I Series 4–1 Over New Zealand

India has won the five-match T20I series against New Zealand 4–1 after defeating the Black Caps by 46 runs in the final match at Thiruvananthapuram.

Carlos wins maiden Australian Open Men's title

Spain's Carlos Alcaraz has won the Australian Open, completing the career Grand Slam and thwarting Novak Djokovic's bid for a record 25th major title.

Devika Sihag Wins Maiden BWF Super 300 Title

Indian shuttler Devika Sihag has won her maiden BWF Super 300 crown after Malaysia's Goh Jin Wei retired midway through the women's singles final of the Thailand Masters at Bangkok.

Pro Wrestling League 2026: Haryana Thunders win championship title

In Wrestling, Haryana Thunders were crowned champions of the Pro Wrestling League 2026 after a gripping, back-and-forth final against Delhi Dangal Warriors at the Noida Indoor Stadium.

Squash: Anahat Singh wins maiden PSA Bronze title

India's Anahat Singh has produced a stunning performance to upset top seed and World No. 10 Georgina Kennedy of England and clinch her maiden PSA Bronze-level title at the Squash On Fire Open in Washington

Chess: Abdusattorov wins Tata Steel Masters 2026

Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan has won the Tata Steel Masters 2026 title in Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands, finishing clear on top of the standings with nine points.

Esha Singh Wins Gold at Asian Rifle and Pistol Championship

Olympian Esha Singh clinched the gold medal in the women's individual 10m air pistol event on the opening day of the Asian Rifle and Pistol Championship in Delhi.

RCB wins second Women's Premier League title 2026

Royal Challengers Bengaluru has won their second Women's Premier League title 2026, defeating the Delhi Capitals by six wickets in Vadodara.

India wins U19 Cricket World Cup title

India have won the ICC U19 Cricket World Cup title for a record sixth time, beating England by 100 runs in the final of the U-19 World Cup 2026 in Harare, Zimbabwe.

India Clinch SAFF U-19 Women's Football Title

India defeated Bangladesh 4–0 in the final to win the SAFF Under-19 Women's Championship at Pokhara Rangasala Stadium in Nepal.

Asian Rifle/Pistol Championship 2026: India's Arjun Babuta and Elavenil Valarivan win gold

In Shooting, India's Arjun Babuta and Elavenil Valarivan have set a world record and a Championship record on their way to winning gold in the 10m air rifle mixed team event at the Asian Rifle/Pistol Championship 2026 in New Delhi.

Football: Services win Santosh Trophy 2025-26

Abhishek Pawar has scored in extra-time as Services beat Kerala 1-0 in the Santosh Trophy 2025-26 final at the Dhakuakhana Football Stadium in Assam. It was the eighth Santosh Trophy title for Services

Asian Indoor Athletics Championships ,China: India's Tejaswin Shankar wins gold medal

India wrapped up its campaign at the Asian Indoor Athletics Championships in Tianjin, China, finishing with five medals and securing sixth place in the overall medal standings. Tejaswin Shankar delivered the standout performance for India by winning the Men's heptathlon event to clinch the country's only gold medal.

Asian Rifle/Pistol Championship: Esha Singh, Manu Bhaker & Rhythm Sangwan wins gold medal

The Indian trio of Esha Singh, Manu Bhaker, and Rhythm Sangwan have won a gold medal in the women's 25m pistol team event at the Asian Rifle/Pistol Championship in New Delhi.

Open Masters Games Abu Dhabi 2026 Kicks off in Abu Dhabi

The Abu Dhabi Masters 2026, officially known as the Open Masters Games Abu Dhabi 2026, has officially commenced, marking the West Asia's largest-ever mass participation multi-sport event dedicated to athletes aged 30 and above.

Pakistan reverses boycott, To play India in T20 World Cup

Pakistan has withdrawn its decision to boycott and confirmed to play against India in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup match scheduled for February 15. The Pakistan government announced that it would reverse its earlier decision and allow the team to take the field.

India Finish Asian Shooting Championships 2026 with 33 Medals

India concluded their Asian Shooting Championships 2026 campaign in New Delhi with a strong final-day performance, adding seven medals to finish with 33 in senior rifle and pistol events.

Pramod Bhagat Wins SL3 Gold at BWF Para World Championships

India's Pramod Bhagat won the men's SL3 gold medal at the BWF Para World Championships in Bahrain with a straight-games win over Indonesia's Muhammad Al Imran.

Klaebo Sets Winter Games Record with Ninth Gold

Norway's Johannes Hoesflot Klaebo created history at the Milan Cortina Winter Olympics by winning his ninth gold medal in cross-country skiing.

Magnus Carlsen wins first FIDE Freestyle World Championship

Norway's Magnus Carlsen is the 2026 FIDE Freestyle Chess World Champion. A draw in the fourth and final game against Fabiano Caruana (USA) was enough to seal a 2.5–1.5 match victory in Weissenhaus, Germany.

T20 World Cup: Rashid Khan becomes first cricketer to take 700 wickets in T20s

Afghanistan spinner Rashid Khan became the first player to achieve 700 T20 wickets during Afghanistan's group-stage match against the United Arab Emirates (UAE), being played at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in Delhi.

Jammu and Kashmir enter maiden Ranji Trophy final

Sixty seven years after their maiden appearance, Jammu and Kashmir has stormed into the Ranji Trophy finals for the first time upstaging two-time former champions Bengal by six wickets in the semifinals.

Keely Hodgkinson smashes world indoor 800m record

Keely Hodgkinson has smashed the women's world indoor 800 metres record set by Slovenia's Jolanda Ceplak. Hodgkinson, clocked 1:54.87 at the World Athletics Indoor Tour Gold meeting in Lievin, France

Pankaj Advani wins Liber Win Champions Cup

Pankaj Advani has claimed the inaugural Liber Win Champions Cup 2026, defeating Kamal Chawla 6-3 in a commanding best-of-11 final at the Karnataka State Billiards Association (KSBA), Bengaluru.

India Clinch Women's T20I Series Against Australia

India defeated Australia by 17 runs in the third and final Women's T20I at the Adelaide Oval to clinch the three-match series 2–1.

Tennis: Pegula win Dubai WTA 1000 title

Jessica Pegula has won her fourth WTA 1000 crown with a comfortable 6-2, 6-4 victory over Elina Svitolina in the Dubai final.

India A wins Women's Asia Cup Rising Stars 2026 Title

In Women's cricket, India A Women has won the title at the Women's Asia Cup Rising Stars 2026, defeating Bangladesh by 46 runs in Bangkok, Thailand.

Tennis: Stefanos Sakellariadis lifts Delhi Open 2026 singles title

Greece's Stefanos Sakellariadis has lifted the Delhi Open 2026 men's singles title after defeating Great Britain's Oliver Crawford in the final.

MISCELLANEOUS**UN reports over 5,000 women and girls killed in Ukraine since Russia's 2022 invasion**

The United Nations has said more than 5,000 women and girls have been killed in Ukraine since Russia launched its full-scale invasion in February 2022. Another 14 thousand women and girls have been injured during the nearly two-year conflict.

Third international AYUSH conference concludes in Dubai

The third international AYUSH conference and expo was concluded at the Dubai World Trade Centre. Held under the theme "Evidence-based AYUSH interventions for mind body health".

World Government Summit held in Dubai

The World Government Summit 2026 has opened in Dubai under the theme "Shaping Future Governments", bringing together global leaders, policymakers and business executives to examine how innovation, sustainability and technology are reshaping public policy.

Global Mental Health Study: India's Young Adults Rank 60th

According to the Global Mind Health 2025 report, India's young adults rank 60th globally in mental well-being, with an MHQ score of 33.

Dubai to Launch High-Speed Underground 'Dubai Loop' Transport System

Dubai will become the second city after Las Vegas to introduce the Dubai Loop, an underground transport system developed by The Boring Company.

New York City joins UN health network after Trump's withdrawal from WHO

New York City has joined a United Nations health network in the wake of the United States leaving the World Health Organization (WHO). It is the first municipal health department in the US to join this worldwide network of public health organizations after the U.S. withdrew from the WHO in January 2026

Abu Dhabi to deploy exaflop-scale AI infrastructure to India

Abu Dhabi technology group G42 and AI chipmaker Cerebras have announced plans to establish a national-scale AI supercomputer in India with a peak compute capacity of 8 exaflops.

India Ranks Third Globally in AI Vibrancy: Stanford HAI Report

India has ranked third worldwide in global AI vibrancy, after the US and China, according to a Stanford Institute for Human-Centred AI-based assessment.

UAE Announces Major Prisoner Releases to Mark Ramadan 2026

In a compassionate gesture marking the start of the holy month of Ramadan, the United Arab Emirates' leadership has ordered the release of thousands of prisoners across the country.

India placed at 45th rank on the Network Readiness Index 2025

India has improved its position by four slots and is now placed at 45th rank as per the Network Readiness Index 2025 (NRI 2025) report. USA has topped the Network Readiness Index 2025.

World Wetlands Day 2026 observed on February 2

World Wetlands Day 2026 observed on February 2. This year's theme for Wetlands Day is "Wetlands and traditional knowledge: Celebrating cultural heritage"

World Cancer Day 2026 on Feb.4

World Cancer Day is observed on the 4th of February every year to raise cancer awareness and encourage its prevention, detection, and treatment. This year is being observed under the theme – "United by Unique".

Sri Lanka celebrates 78th National Day on Feb.4

Sri Lanka celebrated its 78th National Day on February 4. The official celebrations were held at Independence Square in Colombo, featuring a military parade, cultural performances.

National Opera Day: 8th February

National Opera Day is celebrated every year on February 8 to honour the rich cultural heritage of opera, an art form that blends singing, drama, music, and visual spectacle.

International Day of Women and Girls in Science: 11th February

International Day of Women and Girls in Science is observed annually on 11 February to encourage equal participation of women in STEM fields.

World Radio Day: 13th February

World Radio Day is observed on 13 February to mark the establishment of United Nations Radio in 1946. The 2026 theme, "Radio and Artificial Intelligence: AI is a tool, not a voice,".

International Childhood Cancer Day: 15th February

International Childhood Cancer Day is being observed on 15th February to raise awareness and support children with cancer, survivors and their families.

World Day of Social Justice Being on Feb.20

The World Day of Social Justice is being observed on February 20. This year it is commemorated under the theme "Renewed Commitment to Social Development and Social Justice."

International Mother Language Day: 21st February

International Mother Language Day is observed every year on 21 February to promote linguistic and cultural diversity worldwide. The 2026 theme, "Youth voices on multilingual education,

National Science Day 2026 on Feb.28

National Science Day is observed every year on the 28th of February to commemorate the discovery of the 'Raman Effect' by the eminent physicist Sir C.V. Raman. The theme for this year is "Women in Science: Catalysing Viksit Bharat."