

THE HINDU REVIEW

- **Monthly capsule**
 - **Current Affairs**
- (हिन्दी)

**Economy | Appointment | Awards | Ranking
Government Scheme | Summit | Partnership | GDP
Banking & Financial | Defence | Sports |
Book and Author | Science and technology**

STRAIT OF HORMUZ

- The Strait of Hormuz is a narrow sea passage that connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.
- It lies between Iran (north) and Oman & United Arab Emirates (south).
- It is about **39-96 km** wide.
- Around **20-25%** of the world's oil trade passes through this strait.
- It is one of the most important shipping routes for global energy supplies.



GLOBAL OIL TRADE



The Hindu Review (April 2026)

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Chapter 1: Appointment (National, International)

(National)

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Person</u>
<p>Appointed as the part-time Chairman of IndusInd Bank</p> <p><i>About IndusInd Bank</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Founded - 1994</i> • <i>Founder - S.P. Hinduja</i> • <i>Headquarters - Mumbai, Maharashtra,</i> • <i>Tagline - We Make You Feel Richer</i> 	<p>Arijit Basu (Updated 1 April)</p>
<p>United Spirits Ltd (Diageo India) has launched a new campaign for Johnnie Walker Luxe Blended Water, featuring former Indian cricket captain</p>	<p>Virat Kohli (Updated 2 April)</p>
<p>Appointed as the chief of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)</p>	<p>Senior bureaucrat Vir Vikram Yadav (Updated 2 April)</p>
<p>IndiGo has appointed as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO)</p>	<p>William Walsh (Willie) (Updated 3 April)</p>
<p>Appointed as the Director of BRIC-NCCS (Biotechnology Research Innovation Council–National Centre for Cell Science), Pune</p>	<p>Dr Thomas Pucadyil (Updated 3 April)</p>
<p>Power Grid Corporation of India Limited appointed as its new Chairman & Managing Director (CMD)</p>	<p>Burra Vamsi Rama Mohan (Updated 3 April)</p>
<p>Taken charge as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff</p>	<p>Lieutenant General Dhiraj Seth</p>

	(Updated 3 April)
Appointed as the Municipal Commissioner of Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)	Ashwini Bhide (Updated 4 April)
Taken additional charge as Chairman and Managing Director of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) About Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Founded - 24 January 1973</i> • <i>Headquarters - New Delhi</i> • <i>CMD - Krishna Kumar Singh (replace Amarendu Prakash)</i> • <i>Ownership - Ministry of Steel</i> 	Krishna Kumar Singh (Updated 7 April)
The Centre appointed as the new Information and Broadcasting Secretary, while Sanjay Jaju was shifted to the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region	Chanchal Kumar (Updated 7 April)
Appointed as Tourism Secretary	Bhuvnesh Kumar (Updated 7 April)
Appointed Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs	Srivatsa Krishna (Updated 7 April)
Appointed as Secretary, Department of Rural Development	Rohit Kansal (Updated 7 April)
Elected as President of Myanmar by a pro-military parliament About Myanmar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Capital- Naypyidaw</i> • <i>Currency- Myanmar Kyat</i> • <i>Official language- Burmese</i> 	Min Aung Hlaing (Updated 7 April)

<p>Appointed as the International Event Ambassador for the World 10K Bengaluru 2026</p>	<p>Croatia High Jumper Blanka Vlašić (Updated 9 April)</p>
<p>Become India's first openly queer Member of Parliament, taking oath as a Rajya Sabha MP</p>	<p>Menaka Guruswamy (Updated 9 April)</p>
<p>NASSCOM Foundation has appointed as its new Chairperson</p>	<p>U B Pravin Rao (Updated 11 April)</p>
<p>The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment as the new Chairman and Managing Director (C&MD) of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)</p> <p><i>About Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) is an Indian central public sector undertaking under the ownership of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India.</i> • <i>BPCL is India's second-largest government-owned downstream oil producer.</i> • <i>It operates three refineries in Bina, Kochi, and Mumbai.</i> • <i>Founded - 24 January 1976</i> • <i>Headquarters - Mumbai</i> • <i>CMD - Sanjay Khanna</i> 	<p>Sanjay Khanna (Updated 12 April)</p>
<p>Appointed as the Managing Director & CEO of the Indian Digital Payment Intelligence Corporation (IDPIC), Mumbai, Maharashtra</p>	<p>K. Satyanarayana Raju (Updated 14 April)</p>

Appointed as Managing Director Designate of Cholamandalam MS General Insurance (Chola MS)	Rajive Kumaraswami (Updated 14 April)
Appointed as the MD & CEO of Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)	Vibhor Jain (Updated 14 April)
Took oath as Bihar's new Chief Minister at Lok Bhavan, Patna About Bihar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formation – 22 March 1912 • Capital – Patna • Chief Minister – Samrat Choudhary • Governor – Lieutenant General (Retired) Syed Ata Hasnain 	Samrat Choudhary (Updated 15 April)
Agilitas Sports has signed a brand endorsement deal for its premium sportswear brand One8	Smriti Mandhana (Updated 16 April)
The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has appointed as its new Secretary General	Anant Swarup (Updated 17 April)
Will continue as Chairman of the Senior Selection Committee, as the Board of Control for Cricket in India has extended his contract for one more year	Ajit Agarkar (Updated 21 April)
C. P. Radhakrishnan has appointed as Secretary in the Rajya Sabha Secretariat	K. S. Somashekhar (Updated 21 April)
Appointed as India's High Commissioner to Bangladesh	Dinesh Trivedi (Updated 22 April)
HDFC Life Insurance Company has approved the extension as Managing Director & CEO	Vibha Padalkar (Updated 23 April)

<p>The Government of India has approved a 3-year extension as MD & CEO of Bank of Baroda, ensuring leadership continuity</p>	<p>Debadatta Chand (Updated 25 April)</p>
<p>NASSCOM has appointed as its new Chairperson</p> <p><i>About National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Founded - 1988</i> • <i>Headquarters - Noida</i> • <i>Chairperson - Srikanth Velamakanni</i> 	<p>Srikanth Velamakanni (Updated 26 April)</p>
<p>The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved appointment as Whole-time Director (Executive Director) of AU Small Finance Bank</p> <p><i>About AU Small Finance Bank Limited</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Founded - 1996</i> • <i>Founder - Sanjay Agarwal</i> • <i>Headquarters - Jaipur, Rajasthan</i> • <i>Tagline - Chaloo Aage Badhein</i> 	<p>Vivek Tripathi (Updated 26 April)</p>
<p>ecome the Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog, while scientist Gobardhan Das will be appointed as a member</p> <p><i>About NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Founded - 1st January 2015</i> • <i>Preceding - Planning Commission (15th March 1950)</i> • <i>Headquarters - New Delhi</i> • <i>Chairperson - Narendra Modi</i> • <i>Vice Chairperson - Ashok Lahiri (replace Suman K Bery)</i> • <i>CEO - Nidhi Chhibber (replaec B. V. R. Subrahmanyam)</i> 	<p>Ashok Lahiri (Updated 26 April)</p>

<p>Noida International Airport has appointed as the interim CEO, replacing Christoph Schnellmann</p>	<p>Nitu Sarma (Updated 27 April)</p>
<p>The Reserve Bank of India approved the reappointment as MD & CEO of Karur Vysya Bank</p> <p><i>About Karur Vysya Bank</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Founded- 1916</i> • <i>Founders- M. A. Venkatarama Chettiar, Athi Krishna Chettiar</i> • <i>Headquarters- Karur, Tamil Nadu</i> 	<p>B. Ramesh Babu (Updated 28 April)</p>
<p>PM Narendra Modi has reconstituted NITI Aayog, appointing as the new Vice-Chairman</p> <p><i>NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Founded - 1st January 2015</i> • <i>Preceding - Planning Commission (15th March 1950)</i> • <i>Headquarters - New Delhi</i> • <i>Chairperson - Narendra Modi</i> • <i>Vice Chairperson - Ashok Lahiri (replace Suman K Bery)</i> • <i>CEO - Nidhi Chhibber (replaec B. V. R. Subrahmanyam)</i> • <i>NITI Aayog comes under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry</i> 	<p>Ashok Lahiri (Updated 28 April)</p>

(International)

<u>Organization / Country</u>	<u>Person</u>
<p>Elected as the new Prime Minister of Mongolia</p> <p><u>About Mongolia</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital - Ulaanbaatar • Currency - Mongolian Tugrik 	<p>Uchral Nyam-Osor (Updated 3 April)</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President - Ukhnaagiin Khürelsükh • Continent - Asia 	
<p>Elected as Vietnam's President for a five-year term by the National Assembly</p> <p>About Vietnam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital - Hanoi • Currency - Vietnamese dong • Official language - Vietnamese 	<p>To Lam</p> <p>(Updated 10 April)</p>
<p>Re-elected to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for the term 2027–2030</p>	<p>Preeti Saran</p> <p>(Updated 13 April)</p>
<p>Elected as the new President of Iraq by parliament</p> <p>About Iraq</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital- Baghdad • Currency- Dinar • President - Nizar Amedi 	<p>Nizar Amedi</p> <p>(Updated 16 April)</p>
<p>Djibouti President re-elected for Sixth Term</p>	<p>Ismail Omar Guelleh</p> <p>(Updated 16 April)</p>
<p>Infosys has announced a multi-year partnership with world No. 1 tennis player, appointing him as its Global Brand Ambassador</p>	<p>Carlos Alcaraz</p> <p>(Updated 17 April)</p>
<p>Australia appointed Lieutenant as the first woman to lead its Army</p> <p>About Australia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital - Canberra • Currency - Dollar • President - Anthony Albanese 	<p>General Susan Coyle</p> <p>(Updated 17 April)</p>
<p>Apple Inc. announced that will transition to the role of Executive Chairman of the Board of Directors</p>	<p>Tim Cook</p> <p>(Updated 23 April)</p>

Appointed as India's next High Commissioner to Bangladesh	Former Union Minister Dinesh Trivedi (Updated 29 April)
Appointed as a member of the Badminton World Federation (BWF) Council with voting rights.	P.V. Sindhu (Updated 30 April)

Chapter 2: Awards (National, International)

(National)

<u>Award</u>	<u>Person/Organization</u>	<u>Purpose/ Field</u>
The Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award 2025	Zafar Iqbal	He was a key member of India's Moscow 1980 Olympic gold-winning hockey team
The World Archery 'Para Archer of the Year 2025'	India's Sheetal Devi	Recognising her exceptional achievements in international archery
Men's Player of the Year 2025 by the Asian Squash Federation	Abhay Singh	The Indian boys' team received the Men's Team Award after winning bronze at the World Junior Team Championships 2025.
Top honours in the Deen Dayal Upadhyay and Nanaji Deshmukh Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar 2025	Three Panchayats of Tripura (Sepahijala ,Kanchabari and Baikunthapur)	Sepahijala district was ranked the best District Panchayat, while Kanchabari topped in the Health-Friendly category and Baikunthapur secured third place in the Women-Friendly category.
The prestigious President's Police Colour	Odisha Police	The recognition was given after evaluation by the Ministry of Home

		Affairs for excellence in crime prevention, anti-Maoist operations, technology adoption, and citizen-centric policing initiatives.
Person of the Year 2026 by the Harvard South Asian Association	Sayani Gupta	For her contribution to film, storytelling, and representation
WWF National Award	N. Alim Yusuf	For developing the AI-based mobile app "NeophyteID" to detect invasive plant species.
Miss India 2026	Sadhvi Satish Sail	Sadhvi Satish Sail was crowned by Nikita Porwal and will represent India at the Miss World 2027.

(International)

<u>Award</u>	<u>Person/Organization</u>	<u>Purpose/ Field</u>
The title of Mrs International World Classic 2026	Geetanjali Om Parkash	This victory marks the first time India has secured this prestigious international crown.
The 2026 Goldman Environmental Prize	Iroro Tanshi (Nigeria), Borim Kim (South Korea), Sarah Finch (UK), Theonila Roka Matbob (Papua New Guinea), Alannah Acaq Hurley (USA), and Yuvelis Morales Blanco (Colombia).	For their grassroots efforts to combat climate change and protect biodiversity.
Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year at the Laureus World Sports Awards 2026	Carlos Alcaraz and Aryna Sabalenka	

<p>The International Hall of Fame of the US Army War College in Pennsylvania.</p>	<p>Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi</p>	<p>He is only the third Indian Army Chief to receive this honour, after General V.K. Singh and General Bikram Singh.</p>
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Awards 2026: Complete winners list

Hockey India Awards 2025 winners

- *Hockey India Baljit Singh Award for Goalkeeper of the Year- Bichu Devi Kharibam*
- *Hockey India Pargat Singh Award for Defender of the Year Winner- Sanjay*
- *Hockey India Ajit Pal Singh Award for Midfielder of the Year Winner- Sumit*
- *Hockey India Dhanraj Pillay Award for Forward of the Year Winner- Sukhjeet Singh*
- *Hockey India Asunta Lakra Award for Upcoming Player of the Year (Women-U21) Winner- Sakshi Rana*
- *Hockey India Jugraj Singh Award for Upcoming Player of the Year (Men-U21) Winner- Prince Deep Singh*
- *Hockey India Balbir Singh Sr. Award for Player of the Year (Women) Winner- Navneet Kaur*
- *Hockey India Balbir Singh Sr. Award for Player of the Year (Men) Winner- Hardik Singh*
- *Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award Winner- Zafar Iqbal*

Alcaraz, Sabalenka Named Laureus Sports Persons of the Year; PSG Wins Best Team Award

- **Carlos Alcaraz and Aryna Sabalenka** were named **Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year** at the **Laureus World Sports Awards 2026** held in Madrid.
- Paris Saint-Germain won the Laureus World Team of the Year after securing their first UEFA Champions League title in the 2024–25 season.
- Nadia Comaneci received the Lifetime Achievement Award and is known for scoring the first perfect 10.0 in Olympic gymnastics.

Award Category	Winner
Laureus World Sportsman of the Year	Carlos Alcaraz
Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year	Aryna Sabalenka
Laureus World Team of the Year	Paris Saint-Germain

Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year	Lando Norris
Laureus World Comeback of the Year	Rory McIlroy
Laureus World Sports person of the Year with a Disability	Gabriel Araújo
Laureus World Action Sports person of the Year	Chloe Kim
Laureus World Young Sports person of the Year	Lamine Yamal
Laureus Sporting Inspiration Award	Toni Kroos
Laureus Lifetime Achievement Award	Nadia Comăneci
Laureus Sport for Good Award	Fútbol Más

Chapter 3: Government Scheme/ campaign

SCHEME	PURPOSE
The Mukhyamantri Annapurna Yojana (MAPY) (Odisha)	To strengthen food security for over 10 million vulnerable families .

Chapter 4: Summit/ Conference

Summit/Conference	Location	About
The IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings	Thailand	Theme of the 2026 meetings: " Thailand's New Horizons: Empowering People, Building Resilience ".
The 33rd Conference of the Parties (COP 33) under the UNFCCC in 2028	India	India had officially proposed hosting COP 33 in 2028 , with Prime Minister Narendra Modi announcing the bid during his special address at the COP 28 High-Level Segment (2023, UAE) .
the 1st BRICS Health Working Group (HWG) Meeting 2026	New Delhi	As BRICS Chair 2026, India is guided by the theme " Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability ", emphasizing

		a people-centric approach and stronger global health collaboration.
The first edition of the biannual Naval Commanders' Conference 2026	Nausena Bhawan in New Delhi	During the conference, the Indian Navy Maritime Security Strategy (INMSS-2026) was officially released to strengthen maritime security framework and operational preparedness.
The Fourth India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-IV)	New Delhi, India	The event aims to strengthen India–Africa relations, focusing on cooperation in areas like trade, investment, development, and strategic partnerships.

Chapter 5: Partnership/ Agreement

Partnership/ Agreement	Aim
The Government of India signed a working arrangement with the European Union	To enhance aviation manufacturing and safety standards
Easy Trip Planners Limited partnered with National Skill Development Corporation, Sanatan AI, and Bhagva platform	To launch an entrepreneurship initiative in India's spiritual services sector.
The Meghalaya government signed a Letter of Intent with Starlink	To pilot satellite-based internet connectivity in remote hill regions.
The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, in collaboration with the United Nations Resident Coordinator Office, has developed the India SDG Dashboard	The dashboard is a centralized platform designed to monitor and track India's progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
Razorpay has partnered with OpenAI to enable developers	To integrate payments directly into AI applications within minutes.
Tata Power has partnered with the Centre of Renewable Energy (CORE), the training arm of POWERCON Group	To upskill its workforce in wind turbine Operations and Maintenance (O&M).

The Punjab government has partnered with IIT Ropar	To develop an AI-based system for real-time crime tracking and analysis to strengthen policing efficiency.
CheQ has partnered with AU Small Finance Bank	To launch India's first co-branded LED-powered credit card named "CheQ AU Credit Card" , offering an innovative digital banking experience.
Karnataka Bank has partnered with Pine Labs, a Point-of-Sale (PoS) solutions provider	To strengthen digital payment services for customers.
Jio Financial Services has partnered with Germany-based Allianz	To form a 50:50 joint venture for expanding insurance business in India, covering general and health insurance.
India and New Zealand have signed a historic Free Trade Agreement (FTA)	Marking a significant boost to bilateral economic relations.
Punjab National Bank has partnered with Kiwi	To enable credit-based UPI payments for its customers.

Chapter 6: Ranking Index

Chapter 7: Mergers and Acquisitions

Merger Company	About
Reserve Bank of India has approved Emirates National Bank of Dubai to acquire up to 74% stake in RBL Bank, potentially converting it into a foreign bank	The approval (granted on April 1, 2026, valid for one year) requires ENBD to hold at least 51% shareholding , while its voting rights are capped at 26% under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
Amazon has announced plans to acquire satellite communications firm Globalstar in a deal worth \$11.57 billion.	Globalstar operates a network of satellites, and the acquisition will strengthen Amazon's satellite initiative, Project Kuiper (Amazon LEO).

Chapter 8: Loan

Organization/Bank	Loan Amount	To which country	Purpose
The World Bank	USD 225 million loan	Rajasthan	For the Rajasthan Highway Modernisation Project to enhance road efficiency, resilience, and safety across the state.
The Government of India	₹460 Crore Loan	-	To Alliance Air to restore grounded aircraft and revive its operations.
Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC)	₹13,615 crore loan	Telangana government	For taking over the Hyderabad Metro Rail project.
Export-Import Bank of India	\$100 million (approx ₹830 crore) loan (Extended)	Africa Finance Corporation (AFC).	The loan will support development of critical infrastructure and industrial projects across Africa

Chapter 9: App/Website/Portal

App/ Website/Portal	Company / Department	Purpose
Bhu Bharati Portal	Government of Telangana	The Bhu Bharati portal, an integrated land record management system aimed at simplifying land registration and related services.

Chapter 10: Important MoU

MoU	Between Which Countries
To develop the national capital into a global hub for media and entertainment	The Delhi Government with Prasar Bharati
Signed an MoU to promote skill development in the construction sector	The National Council for Cement and Building Materials (NCB) with UltraTech Cement Ltd
Signed an MoU to train youth in aviation fields such as Aviation Engineering and Aviation Management	Directorate General of Civil Aviation with Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya

Signed an MoU to establish an AI Skill Centre at Chandigarh University's Mohali campus in Punjab	Microsoft with Chandigarh University
Signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Dhruva Space for collaboration in solar panel development.	NewSpace India Limited with Dhruva Space
The MoU aims to set up an indigenous aviation security equipment testing centre to strengthen India's aviation security ecosystem	The Government of India announced a collaboration between the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security and Rashtriya Raksha University
Signs MoU to Explore Cooperation in Nuclear Power Projects in India	NTPC with EDF
Signed an MoU to strengthen cooperation in tackling cyber frauds and financial crimes	Financial Intelligence Unit-India and Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre
Signed an MoU to enhance financial access for sellers	Punjab National Bank with the Government e-Marketplace
Signed an MoU to advance applied artificial intelligence	Deakin University and Telangana Govt
Signed MoUs to enhance employment opportunities via the National Career Service (NCS) portal	The Ministry of Labour & Employment with Porter and Gigin Technologies
Signed an MoU to preserve and promote India's democratic and national heritage jointly	India Post and the Prime Minister Museum and Library
Signed an MoU to establish an Indo-Taiwan Industrial Park in the Sanand-Dholera region to boost industrial development	Gujarat Government with Allegiance International Company Limited
Signed an MoU to enhance information sharing and coordination between the two agencies	Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) and Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)
Signed an MoU to collaborate on advanced technologies, digital transformation, and capacity building	Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing
Signed an MoU to combat telecom-linked financial frauds and protect investors.	Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

Signed an MoU to strengthen collaboration in research, data sharing, and knowledge exchange for sustainable land management	The Space Applications Centre and the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment
Signed four MoUs covering Sports, Cultural & Creative Industries, MSMEs, and the establishment of an Industrial Cooperation Committee, along with agreements on CEPA upgrade negotiations and the India-Korea Digital Bridge	India and South Korea
Signed an MoU to boost skill development among minority youth.	Ministry of Minority Affairs with IIT Patna under the PM VIKAS scheme

Chapter 11: GDP Forecasting

ICRA Projects India's GDP Growth to Slow to 6.5% in FY27

- ICRA projects India's GDP growth to moderate to 6.5% in FY 2026–27, down from 7.6% in the current fiscal, mainly due to high energy prices and supply concerns amid the West Asia conflict.
- The agency also expects the current account deficit (CAD) to widen to 1.7% of GDP, assuming average crude oil prices at around \$85 per barrel in FY27.

Moody's Cuts India's FY27 Growth Forecast to 6.0% Amid West Asia Conflict

- Moody's Ratings has downgraded India's GDP growth forecast for FY 2026–27 to 6.0%, from its earlier estimate of 6.8%.
- The revision is attributed to the economic impact of the West Asia conflict, which is affecting global stability and growth prospects.

Morgan Stanley Lowers India FY26–27 Growth Forecast to 6.2% Citing Gulf Conflict Pressures

- Global investment bank Morgan Stanley has cut India's FY 2026–27 GDP growth forecast to 6.2%, reducing it by 30 basis points from its earlier estimate.
- The downgrade is driven by concerns over supply-side disruptions and rising cost pressures, mainly due to the ongoing Gulf conflict impact on global economic conditions.

World Bank Raises India FY27 Growth Forecast to 6.6%, Cites Strong Demand and Export Strength

- The World Bank has raised India's FY27 growth forecast to 6.6% from 6.3%, citing strong domestic demand and export performance, but noted

that growth may moderate due to global headwinds, including Middle East conflict.

- For FY26, India's economy is projected to grow at 7.6% (up from 7.1% in FY25), driven by resilient domestic demand and robust exports, according to the World Bank's South Asia Economic Update.
- While the RBI projects slightly higher FY27 growth at 6.9%.

ADB Projects India's GDP Growth at 6.9% for FY27

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has projected India's GDP growth at 6.9% for FY 2026–27, lower than 7.6% for FY 2025–26, while expecting a rebound to 7.3% in FY 2027–28.
- ADB's forecast of 6.9% for FY 2026–27 is higher than the World Bank's estimate of 6.6% and is aligned with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) projection of 6.9%.

IMF Raises India's Growth Forecast to 6.5% for FY 2026–27

- The International Monetary Fund has raised India's GDP growth forecast to 6.5% for FY 2026–27, an upward revision of 30 basis points in its latest World Economic Outlook.
- For FY 2025–26, the IMF has also increased India's growth estimate to 7.6%, reflecting strong economic performance.

UN Projects India's Economy to Grow 6.4% in 2026 and 6.6% in 2027

- The United Nations projects India's economy to grow at 6.4% in 2026 and 6.6% in 2027, keeping it among the fastest-growing major economies globally.
- The forecast is released in the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2026 by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

Chapter 12: Current Affairs (National)

Indonesia Becomes First Southeast Asian Nation to Ban Social Media for Under-16 Users

- Indonesia is the first Southeast Asian country to prohibit under-16 users from accessing social media platforms (such as YouTube, TikTok, Facebook, Instagram, Threads, X, Bigo Live, and Roblox) to protect them from online risks and harmful content.
- The country follows Australia, which became the first nation globally to impose similar restrictions in December.

India Successfully Conducts Trials of First Hydrogen-Powered Train on Jind-Sonipat Route

- Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced successful oscillation trials of India's first hydrogen-powered train, marking a major step in green transportation.
- The trial was conducted by the Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO), with the train developed by Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai.

Nyaya Setu AI Chatbot with Mascot "Dishika" Launched at DISHA Programme

- Nyaya Setu AI Chatbot, along with its official mascot "Dishika" was launched at the DISHA programme held at Vigyan Bhawan.
- Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan and MoS Law & Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal unveiled the platform.

PM Modi Inaugurates 3,300 Crore Kaynes Semicon OSAT Facility in Gujarat

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a Rs 3,300 crore semiconductor assembly and test (OSAT) facility of Kaynes Semicon at Sanand, Gujarat.
- The facility has been developed under the India Semiconductor Mission to boost the country's semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem.

PM Modi Inaugurates Samrat Samprati Museum on Mahavir Jayanti in Gujarat

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Samrat Samprati Museum in Koba, Gandhinagar, on Mahavir Jayanti, dedicated to Jain history, Samrat Samprati's life, and the message of non-violence.
- He highlighted that the museum reflects a confluence of study, spiritual practice, and self-discipline, and emphasized the need to preserve India's cultural and knowledge heritage, including ancient manuscripts.

India Pharma 2026 to Be Held in New Delhi on 13-14 April

- The Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, will host the 9th edition of India Pharma 2026 on 13-14 April in New Delhi, in collaboration with FICCI and IPA.
- The conference will be held on the theme "Discover in India: Leapfrogging Life-Sciences Innovation", focusing on moving from a volume-based to value- and research-driven pharma industry.

Lok Sabha Passes Bill Declaring Amaravati as Sole Capital of Andhra Pradesh

- The Lok Sabha passed the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2026 to recognise Amaravati as the sole and permanent capital of Andhra Pradesh, with Congress supporting the move while YSR Congress staged a walkout.
- The Bill was passed by voice vote after a detailed debate and will now be sent to the Rajya Sabha and then to the President for final assent.

DoT Extends OTT SIM-Binding Deadline to Dec 31

- The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has extended the deadline for SIM-binding on OTT apps like WhatsApp, Telegram, and Signal to December 31, 2026, due to industry concerns.
- The earlier rule mandating automatic logout within 6 hours for web/desktop sessions has been withdrawn and replaced with a risk-based approach (logout only in suspected fraud cases).

NCERT Granted Deemed University Status Under Distinct Category by Education Ministry

- Ministry of Education, on the advice of University Grants Commission, has granted “deemed to be university” status (under a distinct category) to the National Council of Educational Research and Training.
- The approval followed evaluation by a UGC Expert Committee, and NCERT has been directed to start research, doctoral (PhD), and innovative academic programmes.

7 Railway Stations Shifted to South Coast Railway Zone in Visakhapatnam

- Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu informed that 7 railway stations have been transferred from the East Coast Railway Zone to the South Coast Railway Zone headquartered in Visakhapatnam.
- These stations are located between Ichchapuram and Palasa under the Khurda Division, improving administrative alignment in the region.

Deendayal Port Reclaims Top Spot Among India's Major Ports with Record Cargo Handling in FY 2025-26

- Deendayal Port Authority has regained the top position among India's major ports in FY 2025-26 by handling a record 160.11 million tonnes (MT) of cargo.
- It surpassed Paradip Port Authority, which handled 156.45 MT, and registered a 7% growth over FY 2024-25.

Income Tax Department Launches New Website and AI Assistant 'Kar Saathi' Under PRARAMBH 2026 Campaign

- The Income Tax Department has launched a new website along with an AI-based assistant named Kar Saathi to simplify compliance under the Income Tax Act, 2025.
- The launch is aligned with the nationwide awareness campaign PRARAMBH 2026, aimed at guiding taxpayers about updated rules and procedures.

PM Modi Launches Karmayogi Sadhana Saptah 2026 to Mark 5 Years of Civil Services Reform

- **PM Narendra Modi** has virtually launched **Karmayogi Sadhana Saptah 2026** at the **Dr Ambedkar International Centre**, marking 5 years of Mission Karmayogi, a major civil services reform and training initiative.
- The programme was **organised by the Capacity Building Commission** from 2–8 April 2026, focusing on enhancing the skills, efficiency, and performance of civil servants.

ECI Urges Voters to Use 'Know Your Candidates' Module for Informed Voting in 2026 Elections

- The **Election Commission of India** has urged voters to make informed choices in the upcoming **2026 Assembly elections** and by-elections using the **Know Your Candidates (KYC) module** on the **ECINet platform**.
- The appeal comes ahead of elections in states like Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and Puducherry, along with by-elections in multiple constituencies.

Indian Railways Achieves Record ₹6,735 Crore Scrap Revenue in FY26

- **Indian Railways** achieved a record **₹6,735 crore** from scrap disposal in **FY 2025–26**, surpassing its **target of ₹6,000 crore** by over 12%, boosting non-fare revenue.
- The total scrap sales reached **₹6,735.52 crore** by March 30, with a strong surge in the final month helping the national transporter comfortably exceed its annual target.

NITI Aayog Launches ATL Sarthi and Mentor India Academy in Telangana to Boost School-Level Innovation

- **NITI Aayog**, under the Atal Innovation Mission, **launched the ATL Sarthi initiative and Mentor India Academy in Telangana** to promote school-level innovation and support young innovators.
- The programme will provide structured mentorship and institutional support to 379 Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs), enabling students to transform ideas into practical solutions aligned with the vision of **Viksit Bharat 2047**.

Madhya Pradesh Launches 'School Chalen Hum' Campaign to Boost Enrolment and Quality Education

- The **Madhya Pradesh Government**, led by Mohan Yadav, **launched the 'School Chalen Hum'** from a government school in Bhopal to **boost school enrolment and improve education quality**.
- The initiative supports the goals of National Education Policy 2020, with enrolment rising by 19.6% overall and 32.4% in government schools, while Sandipani Vidyalayas and PM-SHRI schools promote better infrastructure and quality education.

Rongali Bihu Celebrations Begin in Assam

- The vibrant festival of Rongali Bihu, also known as Bohag Bihu, is celebrated across Assam, marking the Assamese New Year and the arrival of spring with music, dance, and traditional customs.
- It is the most prominent of the three Bihu festivals, symbolising joy, renewal, and agricultural prosperity, reflecting the rich cultural heritage and unity of Assamese society.

Puri Police Launches 'Puri Police Assistant' WhatsApp Chatbot for 24×7 Citizen Services

- The Puri Police in Puri launched the “Puri Police Assistant” WhatsApp chatbot to enhance citizen services and accessibility.
- The chatbot provides 24×7 support for public queries and essential services, improving convenience and digital governance.

BRO's Project Chetak Celebrates 47th Raising Day in Bikaner, Strengthening Border Infrastructure

- Border Roads Organisation celebrated the 47th Raising Day of Project Chetak in Bikaner, highlighting over four decades of service in strategically important western border regions.
- Established in 1980, Project Chetak has played a key role in developing and maintaining infrastructure across Rajasthan, Punjab, and northern Gujarat, contributing to both national security and regional development.

Oxford's Bodleian Libraries Launch UK Tour of 'Shikshapatri' on 200th Anniversary

- The Bodleian Libraries at the University of Oxford have launched a nationwide UK tour of the Shikshapatri to mark its 200th anniversary.
- The Shikshapatri is one of the most significant and rare Hindu scriptures. Shikshapatri, which means a letter of teachings, was composed in 1826 at Vadtal in Gujarat by Sahajanand Swami.

Uttar Pradesh Launches 'Safe Mobility Program' to Empower Women and Ensure Safe Transport

- The Uttar Pradesh Government has launched the 'Safe Mobility Program' to promote women empowerment and create employment opportunities.
- The scheme trains women from Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to become e-rickshaw drivers, ensuring safer and more accessible transport for women and girls.

Blackbucks Reintroduced in Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary to Boost Biodiversity Conservation

- Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary has reintroduced blackbucks into the Rampur grassland, marking a significant step toward biodiversity conservation and ecological restoration.

- The sanctuary is located in the Mahasamund district, Chhattisgarh, and covers around 245 sq. km, deriving its name from the villages Bar and Nawapara.

Jitendra Singh Inaugurates BIRAC-BioNEST Centre at CFTRI to Boost Food Innovation and Startups

- Jitendra Singh inaugurated the BIRAC-BioNEST Incubation Centre at Central Food Technology and Research Institute in Mysuru, boosting India's food innovation ecosystem.
- The initiative aims to bridge the gap between laboratory research and commercial applications, promoting startup-driven technologies in food processing and biotechnology.

Tri-Service 'Ran Samwad' Seminar in Bengaluru to Focus on Multi-Domain Warfare Strategy

- The Tri-Service seminar 'Ran Samwad' will be held on April 9–10 in Bengaluru, focusing on evolving warfare strategies.
- The theme "Multi-Domain Operations" emphasises preparing India's defence forces across land, air, sea, cyber, space, and cognitive domains.

CEC Gyanesh Kumar Launches 'Gen Z Vote' Song in Kochi to Boost Youth Voter Participation

- Gyanesh Kumar launched the "Gen Z Vote" awareness song in Kochi to motivate young voters to engage in the electoral process.
- The initiative aims to increase voter participation among youth (Gen Z) by promoting awareness about the importance of voting in a democracy.

Divya Singh Completes Everest Base Camp Cycling Expedition in 14 Days

- Divya Singh from Uttar Pradesh completed the Everest Base Camp expedition in just 14 days, showcasing remarkable endurance.
- She began her journey from Kathmandu and cycled through challenging mountainous terrain, riding 10–12 hours daily.

PM Mudra Yojana Completes 11 Years

- The Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), launched in 2015, has completed 11 years on 8 April, and has been highlighted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a major driver of self-employment and youth entrepreneurship across the country.
- The scheme has sanctioned around 58 crore loans worth over ₹40 lakh crore, with two-thirds of beneficiaries being women and about one-fifth first-time entrepreneurs, reflecting strong financial inclusion and empowerment.

- The scheme provides collateral-free loans up to ₹20 lakh under categories **Shishu, Kishor, Tarun, and TarunPlus**, supporting different stages of business growth and contributing to the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

KreditBee Becomes First Unicorn of FY 2026–27

- **KreditBee** has entered the **unicorn club** after raising \$280 million, achieving a valuation of \$1.5 billion.
- With this, the company has become the **first unicorn of Financial Year 2026-27**.

CCEA Approves ₹14,105 Crore Kalai-II Hydropower Project of 1,200 MW in Arunachal Pradesh

- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)**, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved a **₹14,105.83 crore hydropower project** named **Kalai-II Hydro Electric Project (HEP)** in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The project will be **built on the Lohit River in Anjaw district** and will have an **installed capacity of 1,200 MW**, consisting of six units of 190 MW and one unit of 60 MW.
- It will be developed through a **joint venture between THDC India Limited and the Government of Arunachal Pradesh**, aiming to boost clean energy generation in the region.

CCEA Approves ₹26,069 Crore Kamala Hydropower Project of 1,720 MW in Arunachal Pradesh

- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** has approved a **₹26,069.50 crore Kamala Hydro Electric Project** with an installed capacity of **1,720 MW in Arunachal Pradesh**.
- The project will be developed across **Kamle, Kra Daadi, and Kurung Kumey districts** and will be **implemented by NHPC Limited in partnership with the Government of Arunachal Pradesh**.

NHAI Launches 'Arogya Van' Initiative to Boost Medicinal Tree Plantation Along National Highways

- The **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** has launched the **'Arogya Van' initiative to develop medicinal tree plantations along National Highways**, aiming to integrate green cover with infrastructure development.
- Under this programme, **around 67,462 medicinal trees will be planted across multiple states** including Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi-NCR, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, and Chhattisgarh.

Two New Airports to Be Developed in Telangana at Warangal and Adilabad to Boost Regional Connectivity

- The **Union Ministry of Civil Aviation** has announced the **development of two new airports in Telangana**, to be established at **Warangal and Adilabad**, aimed at strengthening regional air connectivity and infrastructure.
- The Adilabad airport will be developed by the Ministry of Defence, while the Warangal airport project will be executed to enhance better connectivity and boost regional aviation development in the state.

Coal Ministry Allows Insurance Surety Bonds as Alternative to Bank Guarantees for Project Security

- The **Ministry of Coal** has **recognised Insurance Surety Bonds (ISBs)** as an alternative to bank guarantees (BGs) for bid and performance security.
- ISBs act as a risk transfer mechanism, protecting projects from financial losses if contractors fail to meet contractual obligations.

Amul Becomes First FMCG Company to Cross ₹1 Lakh Crore Turnover; Saraswat Bank Achieves Milestone in Urban Cooperative Banking

- **Amul** became the **first FMCG company in India** to cross a turnover of **₹1 lakh crore in FY 2025–26**, reaching **₹1,00,000 crore** with around **11% growth**.
- **Saraswat Cooperative Bank** also crossed **₹1 lakh crore** in total business, becoming the first urban cooperative bank to achieve this milestone.

Indian Army Launches 'Operation Him Setu' to Rescue Stranded Tourists in North Sikkim

- **Indian Army's Trishakti Corps** launched **Operation Him Setu** to evacuate stranded tourists in Lachen, North Sikkim after landslides disrupted road connectivity.
- Despite heavy snowfall and harsh weather, troops opened critical passes and alternate routes, enabling phased evacuation of tourists from the affected region.

VP C. P. Radhakrishnan Releases First-Ever Sindhi Version of Constitution in Devanagari Script

- **C. P. Radhakrishnan** released the **Sindhi version of the Constitution of India** in Devanagari script in New Delhi, marking its first-ever release since independence.
- He highlighted that Sindhi is one of the oldest and most melodious languages and emphasized the importance of making the Constitution accessible in diverse languages.

8th Poshan Pakhwada Launched to Boost Nutrition and Early Childhood Development Awareness

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development launched the 8th edition of Poshan Pakhwada from April 9 to April 23, 2026, to promote nutrition awareness and early childhood development.
- The theme for 2026 is “Maximising Brain Development in the First Six Years of Life”, highlighting the importance of the first 1,000 days and early childhood care.

Rajnath Singh Inaugurates Unnat Krishi Mahotsav Showcasing Modern Agri Technologies

- **Rajnath Singh** inaugurated the **three-day Unnat Krishi Mahotsav in Raisen**, Madhya Pradesh, showcasing modern agricultural technologies like drones, solar pumps, and micro-irrigation.
- The festival features expert interactions with farmers on 20 topics, including AI in agriculture and integrated farming, with participation from over 300 exhibitors and expected attendance of 50,000+ farmers.

Gujarat Police Launches 'NARIT AI', India's First AI Tool for Narcotics Investigations

- **Gujarat Police** has launched an AI-based tool 'NARIT AI' (Narcotics Analysis and Retrieval Augmented Generation-based Investigation Tool) to strengthen narcotics investigations.
- It is India's first-of-its-kind AI system designed to assist investigations under the NDPS Act, 1985.

World Bank Releases \$340 Million for Amaravati Capital Project in Andhra Pradesh

- The World Bank has released \$340 million for Phase-I of the Amaravati Capital Development Project in Andhra Pradesh.
- Both institutions have committed a total of \$1.6 billion (\$800 million each) for the development of Amaravati capital.

PM Modi Inaugurates ₹12,000 Crore Delhi–Dehradun Economic Corridor to Boost Connectivity

- **PM Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **Delhi–Dehradun Economic Corridor**, a major infrastructure project aimed at boosting connectivity and development.
- The corridor is a 213 km-long, six-lane access-controlled expressway built at an estimated cost of around ₹12,000 crore.

Birkbeck, University of London Gets UGC Nod to Set Up Bengaluru Campus

- **Birkbeck, University of London**, has received a **Letter of Intent from the University Grants Commission** to set up its global campus in Bengaluru.

- This initiative will allow Indian students to pursue University of London degrees in India at nearly **60% lower cost**, improving access to international education.

Dr. Ambedkar Foundation Celebrates 136th Birth Anniversary of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar at Parliament House

- **The Dr. Ambedkar Foundation** organised the **136th Birth Anniversary celebration of Dr B. R. Ambedkar** on April 14, 2026, at Prerna Sthal, Parliament House premises in New Delhi **under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment**.
- Dr. Ambedkar Jayanti is observed every year to honor Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's legacy as a social reformer, jurist, economist, and the principal architect of the Indian Constitution, highlighting his lifelong contribution to social justice, equality, and democracy.

Telangana Declares Cancer a Notifiable Disease; Mandatory Reporting Within One Month

- **The Government of Telangana** has declared cancer a notifiable disease, making it mandatory to report all diagnosed cases across the state.
- Under the directive, all hospitals, diagnostic labs, and clinics—both public and private—must report cancer cases within one month of diagnosis to ensure better tracking and healthcare planning.

Telangana Launches 'Project Sanjeevani' for Highway Trauma Care

- **Telangana** has launched **Project Sanjeevani** to pilot India's first fully **integrated trauma care** and highway rescue protocol on a **stretch of NH-44**.
- The project was introduced during the 'Arrive Alive' Road Safety Week (April 13–17) under the 99-Day Action Plan (Praja Palana Pragati Pranalika).

China Becomes India's Largest Trading Partner in 2025–26

- China has overtaken the **United States** to become **India's largest trading partner** in **2025–26**, with **bilateral trade reaching USD 151.1 billion**.
- India's trade deficit with China widened significantly to around USD 112 billion, as imports (USD 131.63 billion) far exceeded exports (USD 19.47 billion).

173 Years of Indian Railways: Ashwini Vaishnaw Celebrates Historic First Train Journey

- **Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw** marked the **173rd anniversary** of **India's first passenger train** (16 April 1853), which ran between **Bori Bunder (Mumbai) and Thane**.

- He shared a historic image of the Thane railway bridge and released a collage comparing the early train with a modern Amrit Bharat Express, highlighting the journey of Indian Railways.

India Achieves Record \$860 Billion Exports in FY 2025–26 with 4.2% Growth

- India achieved a record export of \$860 billion in FY 2025-26, surpassing the previous year's \$825 billion.
- The exports registered a 4.2% growth, reflecting steady expansion in India's global trade performance.

India's Unemployment Rate Rises to 5.1% in March 2026

- India's unemployment rate rose to a five-month high of 5.1% in March 2026, up from 4.9% in February 2026.
- The data is based on the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) released by the National Statistics Office (NSO).

Nari Shakti Vandan Bill Fails in Lok Sabha After Missing Two-Thirds Majority

- The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam (Constitution 106th Amendment Act, 2023) was defeated in the Lok Sabha after failing to secure the required two-thirds majority for a Constitutional amendment.
- The Bill proposed 33% reservation for women in Lok Sabha, State Assemblies, and Delhi Assembly, along with increasing Lok Sabha seats from 543 to 816 after delimitation based on the 2011 Census.

Gautam Adani Overtakes Mukesh Ambani to Become Asia's Richest

- Gautam Adani has overtaken Mukesh Ambani to become Asia's richest person, with a net worth of \$92.6 billion.
- Ambani's net worth stands at \$90.8 billion, placing him behind Adani in the latest global billionaire rankings.

FSSAI Bans Use of Ashwagandha Leaves in Supplements Over Safety Concerns

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has banned the use of ashwagandha leaves and their extracts in health supplements due to safety concerns, allowing only root-based usage.
- The regulator has directed states to act against violations, amid the rapidly growing nutraceutical market, with ashwagandha valued at \$928.5 million in 2026.

Union Cabinet Approves 2% Hike in DA and DR for Central Government Employees and Pensioners

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved a 2% hike in Dearness Allowance (DA) and Dearness Relief (DR) for Central government employees and pensioners, effective from 1 January 2026.
- With this revision, DA and DR increase from 58% to 60% of basic pay and pension to offset rising inflation.

Manohar Lal Launches Urban Challenge Fund Guidelines to Boost ₹4 Lakh Crore Urban Infrastructure Push

- Union Minister Manohar Lal launched the Operational Guidelines for the Urban Challenge Fund (UCF) along with the Credit Repayment Guarantee Sub-Scheme (CRGSS) to strengthen urban infrastructure financing in India.
- The Urban Challenge Fund, with ₹1 lakh crore Central Assistance, aims to mobilise nearly ₹4 lakh crore investment, promoting market-driven and sustainable urban development.

PM Modi to Inaugurate 594-km Ganga Expressway Linking Meerut to Prayagraj

- PM Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Ganga Expressway on April 29 in Hardoi.
- The 594-km-long expressway will run from Meerut (Bijoli village) to Prayagraj (Judapur Dandu village), connecting the western and eastern parts of the state.

Cabinet Led by Narendra Modi Extends Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana–III Till 2028

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Narendra Modi, has approved the extension of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana–III till March 2028 beyond its earlier deadline of March 2025.
- The total outlay of PMGSY-III has been increased from ₹80,250 crore to ₹83,977 crore to support continued rural road development.

AICTE Launches 3rd Edition of VAANI Scheme to Promote Indian Languages in Technical Education

- All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) launched the 3rd edition of AICTE-VAANI (Vibrant Advocacy for Advancement and Nurturing of Indian Languages) to promote Indian languages in technical education and bridge the language gap.
- The scheme focuses on research, learning, and knowledge dissemination in regional languages, with annual funding of ₹24 crore to support around 200 conferences, seminars, and workshops.

Meghalaya Grants Full Official Status to Khasi and Garo, Replaces 2005 Language Act

- The Government of Meghalaya approved the Meghalaya Official Languages Ordinance, 2026, granting Khasi and Garo full official language status alongside English.
- The ordinance repeals the Meghalaya State Language Act, 2005, under which Khasi and Garo earlier had only associate official language status.

Kankaria Coaching Depot Becomes India's First Water-Neutral Railway Depot

- **Kankaria Coaching Depot** has become India's first "water-neutral" railway depot, aligning railway operations with sustainability goals.
- The depot achieves water neutrality by treating and reusing water equal to its consumption, saving about 1.60 lakh litres daily and reducing dependence on fresh water.

Cabinet Approves 'Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool' with ₹12,980 Crore Sovereign Guarantee

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the creation of the '**Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool**' (BMI Pool), backed by a sovereign guarantee of **₹12,980 crore**, to ensure continuous and affordable maritime insurance coverage.
- The Pool will have a combined **underwriting capacity of around ₹950 crore**, with policies issued by member insurers. It will also help develop specialized domestic expertise in marine underwriting, claims management, and legal matters tailored to Indian shipping needs, while a Governing Body will oversee its functioning.

NITI Aayog Launches "Divya Bharat: A Window to the Soul of India" Anthology for Tourism Promotion

- NITI Aayog launched the anthology "**Divya Bharat: A Window to the Soul of India**", released by Vice Chairman Suman Bery in New Delhi to promote tourism across all States and Union Territories.
- The book serves as a year-round tourism guide, covering destinations, culture, cuisine, textiles, and handicrafts, along with a monthly travel calendar and state-wise details highlighting both famous and lesser-known places.

PM Modi to Inaugurate India's First Greenfield Integrated Refinery-Petrochemical Complex in Rajasthan

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will inaugurate India's first Greenfield integrated refinery-cum-petrochemical complex at Pachpadra, Rajasthan.
- The project has been developed as a joint venture between Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and the Government of Rajasthan, **at a cost of over ₹1,79,450 crore**.

Ministry of Textiles Launches 'Vishwa Sutra – Weaves of India for the World' to Globalize Indian Handlooms

- The **Ministry of Textiles** has launched the initiative '**Vishwa Sutra – Weaves of India for the World**', developed by the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handlooms) in collaboration with the National Institute of Fashion Technology, to promote Indian handlooms in a global design framework.

- The initiative features 30 distinct handloom weaves from 30 states, creatively reinterpreted with design inspirations from 30 countries and showcased at the 61st Femina Miss India event in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

CBI Launches AI Chatbot 'Abhay' to Verify Notices and Combat Digital Scams

- The **Central Bureau of Investigation (Central Bureau of Investigation)** has launched an AI-powered chatbot named 'Abhay' to help citizens verify official notices and protect them from digital scams.
- The chatbot enables users to check whether a notice is genuine or fake, thereby reducing panic and preventing financial fraud.

Female Black Panther Introduced at Visakhapatnam Zoo After 40 Years Under Animal Exchange Programme

- After nearly four decades, a **female Black Panther** has been introduced at **Indira Gandhi Zoological Park (located in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh)**, which is the third-largest zoo in India.
- The animal was brought under the Animal Exchange Programme from Assam State Zoo-cum-Botanical Garden (located in Guwahati).

Assam Celebrates 114th Suwari Festival with Cultural Grandeur in Boko

- The **114th edition of the Suwari Festival** was celebrated in **Boko** with **vibrant rituals**, music, dance, and participation from diverse communities.
- The festival showcased Assam's rich cultural heritage through traditional performances like dhul music, sports, and large public gatherings promoting unity and cultural solidarity.

Punjab Notifies New Law Imposing Stricter Punishment for Sacrilege Against Guru Granth Sahib

- **Government of Punjab** has notified the **Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar (Amendment) Act, 2026** to enforce stricter punishment for acts of sacrilege.
- The law introduces severe penalties, including life imprisonment and a fine of up to ₹25 lakh for offences against the Guru Granth Sahib.

Meghalaya Govt Scraps Luxury Resort Project at Umiam Lake Amid Local Opposition

- The **Government of Meghalaya** has scrapped the **proposed luxury island resort project at Umiam Lake** due to strong opposition from local stakeholders.
- The project was planned at Lumpondeng Island, but has now been cancelled following public concerns.

Samriddh Gram Initiative Nominated for WSIS Prizes 2026 for Boosting Rural Digital Infrastructure in India

- **Samridhh Gram Initiative**, launched by the Department of Telecommunications under the BharatNet Project, has been **nominated for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Prizes 2026** under the Enabling Environment category.
- The initiative operates through “**Samridhhi Kendras**”, which act as one-stop phygital service hubs in villages, combining physical infrastructure with digital platforms to deliver services.
- The initiative is being implemented in selected villages across India:
 - Ari and Umri → Madhya Pradesh
 - Chaurawala → Uttar Pradesh
 - Narakoduru → Andhra Pradesh

IIT Madras Introduces OmegaBall in India; Hosts First Inter-College Tournament on Campus

- **IIT Madras** has introduced **OmegaBall in India for the first time**, marking the sport’s official entry into the country and proposing the formation of a national-level IIT Madras OmegaBall Club to promote its development and expansion.
- To celebrate the launch, the Institute Gymkhana and Office of Dean (Students) organized an inter-college OmegaBall tournament at the Campus Football Field on 17 April 2026.

C. R. Patil Launches 9th India International Water Week 2026 Focused on Climate-Resilient Water Management

- **Union Minister of Jal Shakti, C. R. Patil**, launched the **9th edition of India International Water Week (IIWW-2026)**, India’s flagship global water event.
- IIWW-2026 will be held from 22nd to 26th September 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, with the **theme “Climate Resilient Water Management.”**

India’s textile sector grows 2.1% in FY 2025-26

- **India’s textile sector** demonstrated resilience in global markets, **with total exports (including handicrafts) rising to ₹3,16,334.9 crore in FY 2025–26.**
- The sector recorded a **growth of 2.1% compared to ₹3,09,859.3 crore in FY 2024–25**

Atal Pension Yojana Crosses 9 Crore Enrollments, Records Highest-Ever Annual Subscriptions

- **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)** has **crossed a major milestone of over 9 crore total enrollments**, reflecting its wide reach among citizens as of 21 April 2026.

- In FY 2025–26, the scheme recorded its highest-ever annual enrollment, with more than 1.35 crore new subscribers added.

Jyotiraditya Scindia Unveils Revised TDIP Scheme to Boost 5G, 6G and Indigenous Telecom Innovation

- Union Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia released revised guidelines for the TDIP Scheme to boost India's role in global telecom innovation.
- Implementation Agencies:
 - Telecommunications Standards Development Society India (TSDSI)
 - Telecom Centres of Excellence, India (TCOE)
 - Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL)

Government Notifies New Recruitment Rules for DCGI

- The Government of India has notified new recruitment rules for the post of Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI).
- The upper age limit has been increased from 56 to 58 years, with a maximum tenure of 5 years.

India Allows Ethanol Blending in Aviation Fuel; Sets SAF Targets for International Flights

- Government of India has allowed blending of ethanol and synthetic hydrocarbons in Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) to promote cleaner aviation fuel.
- SAF blending targets: 1% by 2027, 2% by 2028, and 5% by 2030; currently applicable only to international flights.

Maharashtra CM Inaugurates Heat Resilience Centre at IIM Nagpur to Combat Climate Change

- Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis inaugurated the Centre of Excellence for Heat Resilience and Sustainable Cooling (COE-HRSC) at IIM Nagpur to tackle climate change and heatwaves.
- The centre has been developed in collaboration with the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) to promote sustainable cooling solutions.

CCIC Launches 'Soul Threads' Heritage Collection Showcasing India's Artisanal Excellence

- Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India (CCIC) launched its first heritage designer collection "Soul Threads" under the Ministry of Textiles, highlighting India's rich artisanal legacy.
- The exhibition is being held from April 24 to May 10, 2026 at CCIC's flagship showroom in Jawahar Vyapar Bhawan, featuring sarees, designer wear, jewellery, and home furnishings.

India Approves ₹30 Billion Currency Swap Support for Maldives Under SAARC Framework

- India has approved the **first withdrawal of ₹30 billion** for the Maldives under the **SAARC Currency Swap Framework**.
- This comes after the Maldives repaid an earlier \$400 million facility, reflecting its commitment to meeting financial obligations.

Project DANTAK Celebrates 66th Raising Day

- **Project DANTAK**, an initiative of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), celebrated its **66th Raising Day on 24 April 2026**, marking **65 years of service in Bhutan** since its establishment in 1961.
- The BRO continues its operations in Bhutan due to the strong India-Bhutan strategic partnership and mutual cooperation, supporting infrastructure and connectivity development.

India Launches \$4.88 Million Biodiversity Project in Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya (2025–2030)

- The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** and the **National Biodiversity Authority** have launched a **five-year project (2025–2030)** to strengthen grassroots biodiversity governance in Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya, with **funding of over \$4.88 million**.
- The project titled “Strengthening Institutional Capacities for Securing Biodiversity Conservation Commitments” is a joint initiative of the Government, Global Environment Facility (GEF) and UNDP, aiming to integrate biodiversity conservation into Gram Panchayat Development Plans.

Centre Issues Draft Notification Declaring ESZ Around UP's Barasingha Wildlife Sanctuary

- The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** has proposed a draft notification to **declare 408.7 sq km** around **Barasingha Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh** as an Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ).
- The sanctuary is spread across five districts of Uttar Pradesh—**Muzaffarnagar, Meerut, Hapur, Bijnor, and Amroha**.

Meghalaya Launches CM-INSPIRE Scheme to Support UPSC Aspirants

- The **Meghalaya Government** has launched the **CM-INSPIRE Scheme** to provide financial support to youth **preparing for the UPSC Civil Services Examination**.
- The scheme aims to encourage and assist aspirants in pursuing careers in civil services by reducing financial barriers.

Scindia Inaugurates Adani Vikas Kendra in MP to Empower Women Through Skill Development

- Jyotiraditya Scindia inaugurated an Adani Vikas Kendra in Shivpuri to empower women through garment production and skill development.
- The 48,000 sq ft facility at Badarwas is equipped with 600 modern sewing machines and will function as both a training and production centre.

PM Narendra Modi Releases Commemorative Stamp for Shri Ram College of Commerce

- PM Narendra Modi released a commemorative postage stamp for Shri Ram College of Commerce, marking a significant milestone for the institution.
- Shri Ram College of Commerce is one of India's premier commerce colleges under University of Delhi.

Symbiosis Launches Asia's First UNESCO Chair on Gender Inclusion and Skill Development

- Symbiosis Skills and Professional University has launched Asia's first UNESCO Chair on Gender Inclusion and Skill Development, strengthening India's role in global gender and skilling initiatives.
- The initiative has already trained over 10,000 underprivileged girls in advanced sectors like robotics and semiconductor technology, enhancing employability and income opportunities.

Guntur Municipal Corporation Wins UNIDO's GEM Award for Women Empowerment and Green Initiative

- Guntur Municipal Corporation won the 4th Gender Equality Mobilisation (GEM) Award by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation at the International Day of Women in Industry 2026 in Vienna.
- The award recognises GMC's initiative integrating women empowerment with environmental sustainability by training over 200 women as electric auto drivers for waste collection.

IITM Pune Installs X-Band Doppler Weather Radar at Mahabaleshwar to Boost Forecasting Under Mission Mausam

- The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, inaugurated an X-band Doppler Weather Radar at Mahabaleshwar under Mission Mausam to enhance weather monitoring.
- IITM also signed an MoU with ISRO's Space Applications Centre (SAC) to develop advanced satellite-based weather products, aiding disaster management, agriculture, aviation safety, and climate studies.

India's Industrial Growth Slows to 4.1% in March 2026

- India's industrial output growth slowed to a 5-month low of 4.1% in March 2026, indicating moderation in economic activity.
- Industrial growth is measured by the Index of Industrial Production, which tracks factory output across sectors.

Chapter 13: Current Affairs (International)

UN Launches High-Level Task Force to Address Hormuz Crisis and Safeguard Global Trade

- The United Nations has established a high-level task force, led by Secretary-General António Guterres, to tackle humanitarian and trade disruptions caused by rising tensions in the Strait of Hormuz.
- The task force, headed by Jorge Moreira da Silva, includes bodies like UNCTAD, IMO, and ICC, and aims to ensure the smooth flow of aid and essential goods using models like the Black Sea grain corridor and Yemen operations.

Bharti Airtel Becomes World's 2nd Largest Telecom Operator with 650 Million+ Subscribers

- Bharti Airtel has crossed 650 million global subscribers, becoming the 2nd largest telecom operator globally by mobile user base (as per GSMA Intelligence).
- The company operates across India and Africa, with over 368 million users in India and 179 million users across 14 African countries, under the leadership of Sunil Bharti Mittal.

Seattle Becomes First US City to Install Swami Vivekananda Statue at Westlake Square

- Seattle has become the first city government in the United States to host a life-size statue of Swami Vivekananda at Westlake Square Park.
- The bronze statue was unveiled by Seattle Mayor Katie Wilson and the Consul General of India, marking a significant cultural milestone.

World Bank Group Launches 'Water Forward' Initiative to Ensure Water Security for 1 Billion People by 2030

- World Bank Group launched a global initiative named "Water Forward", aiming to ensure water security for over 1 billion people by 2030.
- A key feature of the initiative is country-led "Water Compacts", where governments will set reform priorities, strengthen institutions, and develop investment pathways for water management.

France Allows Visa-Free Airport Transit for Indian Nationals

- France has granted permission for Indian citizens traveling through French airports to undertake airport transit without a visa, thereby making international travel even easier.
- This facility applies only to passengers transiting by air through mainland France; it does not apply to other types of entry or travel.

China Selects First Foreign Astronauts from Pakistan for Tiangong Mission

- China has selected **Muhammad Zeeshan Ali and Khurram Daud** of Pakistan as part of its first batch of foreign astronauts.
- As per the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA), they will undergo training in China as reserve astronauts.

IFC Targets \$10 Billion Annual Investment in India by 2030

- **International Finance Corporation (IFC)**, the private-sector arm of the World Bank Group, aims to increase its **annual investments in India to \$10 billion by 2030**.
- Currently, IFC's annual investment in India stands at around \$5.4 billion (2024–25), indicating a significant planned expansion.

Turkey Bans Social Media Use for Under-15s

- Turkey has passed a law banning the use of social media for children below the age of 15.
- Digital platforms are required to implement age verification measures and appoint a representative in Turkey if they have a large user base.

UNESCO Expands Global Geoparks Network with 12 New Sites, Total Reaches 241 Worldwide

- UNESCO has added **12 new sites to its Global Geoparks Network**, strengthening efforts to protect geological heritage and promote sustainable development.
- With this expansion, the total number of UNESCO Global Geoparks has reached 241 sites in 51 countries, covering over 882,000 sq km worldwide.

12 New UNESCO Global Geoparks

1. Changshan UNESCO Global Geopark - China
2. Mt. Siguniang UNESCO Global Geopark - China
3. Terres d'Hérault UNESCO Global Geopark - France
4. Nisyros UNESCO Global Geopark - Greece
5. Joyce Country and Western Lakes Global Geopark - Ireland
6. Lenggong UNESCO Global Geopark - Malaysia
7. Sarawak Delta UNESCO Global Geopark - Malaysia
8. Algarvensis UNESCO Global Geopark - Portugal
9. Mine-Akiyoshidai Karst Plateau UNESCO Global Geopark - Japan
10. Toratau UNESCO Global Geopark - Russian Federation
11. Dahar UNESCO Global Geopark - Tunisia
12. Manantiales Serranos UNESCO Global Geopark - Uruguay

Chapter 14: Banking & Financial

Reserve Bank of India Imposes Penalties on Union Bank of India, Central Bank of India, Bank of India & Pine Labs for Regulatory Violations

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed monetary penalties on Union Bank of India (₹95.40 lakh), Central Bank of India (₹63.60 lakh), Bank of India (₹58.50 lakh), and Pine Labs (₹3.10 lakh) for regulatory non-compliance.
- The violations included delay in crediting unauthorised transactions (Union Bank), lapses in Priority Sector Lending and deposit interest rules (Bank of India), and deficiencies in KYC and financial inclusion norms (Central Bank of India), while Pine Labs failed proper KYC for prepaid instruments.

Govt to borrow ₹8.2 lakh crore in April-September of FY27

- Ministry of Finance India, in consultation with Reserve Bank of India, plans to borrow ₹8.20 lakh crore through dated securities during April-September of FY 2026-27.
- This accounts for about 51% of the total borrowing target of ₹16.09 lakh crore, which is lower than the usual 60%+ borrowing seen in the first half of the fiscal year.

RBI sets WMA limit at ₹2.5 lakh crore for H1 FY 2026-27

- Reserve Bank of India, in consultation with the Government of India, has set the Ways and Means Advances (WMA) limit at ₹2,50,000 crore for April-September FY 2026-27.
- The WMA limit aims to support smooth cash flow management of the government while ensuring fiscal discipline during the first half of the financial year.

Allianz Jio Reinsurance Limited Commences Operations After IRDAI Approval

- Jio Financial Services Limited and Allianz Group have launched their reinsurance joint venture Allianz Jio Reinsurance Limited, which has started operations after receiving approval from Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India.
- Headquartered in Mumbai, the venture is authorised to underwrite reinsurance in India and aims to strengthen the country's insurance ecosystem as a long-term strategic partner.

Government Keeps Small Savings Interest Rates Unchanged for Eighth Consecutive Quarter

- The government has kept interest rates unchanged for small savings schemes like PPF and NSC for the eighth consecutive quarter, effective from April 1, 2026.

- As per the Finance Ministry notification, the **rates for the first quarter of FY 2026–27 (April–June 2026)** remain the same as those in the previous quarter (Jan–March 2026).

Manufacturing Boost Lifts India's Industrial Growth to 5.2% in February

- **India's industrial growth**, measured by the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**, **increased to 5.2% in February**, up from 5.1% in January, driven by strong manufacturing performance.
- The manufacturing sector showed significant improvement, with output growth rising to 6% in February 2026, as per the Statistics Ministry data.

RBI Imposes ₹31.80 Lakh Penalty on Airtel Payments Bank for Disclosure Lapses

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a **penalty of ₹31.80 lakh on Airtel Payments Bank Ltd** for non-compliance with financial disclosure norms.
- The bank failed to disclose certain customer complaints in its FY 2024–25 financial statements, leading to regulatory action.

India's GST Collections Rise 8.8% to Cross ₹2 Lakh Crore in March 2026

- **India's gross GST collections** rose by **8.8% year-on-year to over ₹2 lakh crore** in March 2026, compared to about ₹1.83 lakh crore in March 2025, reflecting improved tax compliance and economic activity.
- As per the Ministry of Finance, Central GST stood at ₹40,549 crore, State GST at ₹53,268 crore, and IGST collections crossed ₹1 lakh crore.

IRDAI Retains LIC, New India Assurance & GIC as D-SIIs for FY 2025–26

- **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India** has identified **LIC, New India Assurance, and GIC as Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs)** for FY 2025–26.
- The D-SII list remains unchanged compared to the previous financial year.

India Signs KOICA Pact to Boost Shipbuilding Skills Under Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047

- The **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways** signed a Plan of Implementation with the **Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)** to **strengthen skill development in India's shipbuilding and marine sector**.
- The agreement aims to develop a skilled workforce and boost shipbuilding as a key driver of India's economic growth under the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047.

India Introduces AI and Coding Curriculum for Classes 3–8 from 2026–27 Under NEP 2020

- The Ministry of Education and the Central Board of Secondary Education have launched a new AI and Computational Thinking curriculum for Classes 3 to 8 from the 2026–27 session.
- The curriculum focuses on basic coding, AI concepts, logical thinking, and data handling to build early digital skills among students.

Bank of Baroda Crosses ₹30 Lakh Crore Global Business Mark for the First Time in FY26

- **Bank of Baroda** crossed a major milestone by surpassing ₹30 lakh crore in total global business (deposits + advances) for the first time, reaching ₹30.78 lakh crore as of March 2026, with 13.93% YoY growth.
- The bank recorded strong growth in both segments, with global deposits rising by 12% and advances increasing by 16.23%, reflecting robust expansion in lending and savings.

RBI Holds Repo Rate at 5.25% with Neutral Stance

- The **Reserve Bank of India** kept the repo rate unchanged at 5.25%, maintaining a neutral monetary policy stance.
- The RBI projected **GDP growth at 6.9% for FY 2026–27**, while estimating 7.6% growth for the previous financial year.
- Inflation outlook remains a concern, with **CPI inflation projected at 4.6% for FY 2026–27**, mainly due to rising energy prices and global uncertainties.

RBI Current Policy Rate are as under

- *Policy Repo Rate* – 5.25%
- *Standing Deposit Facility (SDF)* – 5.00%
- *Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)* – 5.50%
- *Bank Rate* – 5.50%
- *Reverse Repo Rate* – 3.35%
- *Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)* – 3.00%
- *Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)* – 18%

IRDAI Grants R1 Approval to M Pallonji Group for New General Insurance Venture

- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India has granted R1 approval to the M Pallonji Group for launching a new general insurance venture in partnership with Federal Bank and Divya Sehgal.
- The proposed venture will have a 51% stake held by M Pallonji Group, with additional funding support from Federal Bank and family offices, and will be promoted by Mehli Mistry and Pheroze Mistry.

RBI Cancels Licence of Shirpur Merchants' Co-operative Bank Over Financial Weakness

- Reserve Bank of India has cancelled the licence of Shirpur Merchants' Co-operative Bank due to inadequate capital and poor earning prospects, effective April 6, 2026.

Bank of Baroda Launches AI-Based 'bob SAMVAD' Platform to Enhance Customer Experience

- Bank of Baroda launched "bob SAMVAD", an AI-powered multilingual conversational platform to enhance customer interaction at bank branches.
- In the first phase, bob SAMVAD will be rolled out across 250 branches in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. This will be followed by a phased, large-scale deployment across the bank's branch network.

PhonePe-SBI Launch Co-Branded Credit Card with Zero Joining Fee

- Digital payments company PhonePe has launched a co-branded credit card in partnership with State Bank of India.
- The PhonePe SBI Card is being offered with a limited-period promotional benefit of zero joining fee for the first year.

DBS Bank India Launches 'DBS Aspire' Programme

- DBS Bank India has launched the 'DBS Aspire' banking programme along with the Aspire debit card.
- The programme is targeted at emerging affluent and well-travelled customers, offering premium banking benefits and services.

UPI Completes 10 Years with Massive Growth in Transactions and Value

- India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI), developed by the National Payments Corporation of India, has completed 10 years since its launch in 2016.
- UPI has witnessed massive growth in transaction volume, rising from 1.78 crore to 21,898 crore transactions (around 12,000× increase).

RBI Unveils 'Utkarsh 2029' Strategy Framework to Strengthen Digital Finance and Global Role

- The Reserve Bank of India has launched its medium-term strategy framework 'Utkarsh 2029' for the period April 2026 to March 2029.
- The framework is based on six pillars: robust regulation, customer-centric and inclusive finance, competitive markets, effective technology, a future-ready organisation, and Global India.

India's Retail Inflation Rises to 13-Month High of 3.4% in March

- India's retail inflation (CPI) increased to 3.4% in March, marking a 13-month high, compared to 3.2% in February.

- The rise in inflation was reported by the National Statistical Office (NSO), indicating a slight uptick in consumer prices during the month.

CSB Bank Launches 'Smart Save Account' to Boost Retail Banking Portfolio

- CSB Bank Limited has launched its **first dedicated retail product, the 'SMART SAVE ACCOUNT'**, to strengthen and expand its retail banking segment.
- **Reliance Jio and Bank of Baroda** have partnered to launch **'bob World Lite'**, a mobile banking app for feature phone users, available on the JioPhone Prima 4G.

Visa & HDFC Bank Launch FIFA World Cup 2026 Pixel Credit Card with 'Spend & Win' Campaign

- **Visa and HDFC Bank** have launched a limited-edition **FIFA World Cup 2026 Pixel Credit Card** along with a nationwide **"Spend & Win"** campaign, offering rewards like match tickets and official merchandise.
- The card, a variant of the Pixel Play digital credit card, features FIFA-themed branding and is available via the PayZapp app and HDFC Bank website; it was launched in Mumbai in the presence of former footballer Michael Owen.

RBI returns Ujjivan SFB's application to convert into universal bank

- The **Reserve Bank of India** has returned the **application of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank** seeking conversion into a universal bank.
- Meanwhile, AU Small Finance Bank had received RBI approval earlier to transition into a universal bank, highlighting differing regulatory outcomes.

NSE Gets MCA Approval for 'National Coal Exchange of India' Name

- The **National Stock Exchange of India** has received approval from the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs** to reserve the name **"National Coal Exchange of India Limited"** for its proposed coal exchange venture.

RBI Cancels Licence of National Urban Cooperative Bank, Pratapgarh

- RBI has cancelled the licence of **National Urban Cooperative Bank Ltd Pratapgarh**.
- Depositors are eligible for insurance up to 25 lakh from Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation.

PPFAS Asset Management Gets PFRDA Approval to Sponsor Pension Fund Under NPS

- PPFAS Asset Management has received approval from the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority** to act as a sponsor for a pension fund under the National Pension System.

- The company will soon begin managing retirement savings of NPS subscribers by setting up a separate pension fund entity to handle and grow these investments.

India's Wholesale Inflation Rises to 3-Month High of 3.9% in March on Rising Fuel and Power Costs

- India's wholesale inflation, measured by the Wholesale Price Index, rose to a three-month high of 3.9% in March due to rising fuel and power costs.
- The data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry indicates increasing pressure from higher energy input costs, with analysts warning that the trend may continue in the near term.

Shriram Finance Gets RBI Nod for Primary Dealer Business; Shares Rise on Positive Market Sentiment

- Shriram Finance's wholly owned subsidiary, Shriram Overseas Investments Ltd, has received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India to start a Primary Dealer business.
- The new business will begin after fulfilling the conditions specified by the RBI, and is expected to strengthen Shriram Finance's position in the financial market.

Life Insurance Corporation of India Launches MyLIC & Super Sales Saathi Apps to Boost Digital Services

- Life Insurance Corporation of India launched two mobile apps—MyLIC (for customers) and Super Sales Saathi (for agents)—to enhance digital services and customer experience.
- The MyLIC app enables users to manage policies, pay premiums, track benefits in real time, avail paperless loans, revive lapsed policies, and purchase new policies online.

Ahana Launches RBI Reporting Solution for Co-operative Banks with Proprietary Data Model

- Ahana has launched an RBI reporting solution for co-operative banks, built on its proprietary Data Model to streamline reporting across core banking, treasury, and digital systems.
- The solution addresses challenges like fragmented data, manual extraction, validation, reconciliation, and heavy reliance on spreadsheet-based workflows in reporting cycles.

India Post Achieves Record ₹15,296 Crore Revenue in FY26, Registers 16% Growth

- India Post recorded a historic revenue of ₹15,296 crore in FY 2025–26, marking a strong 16% growth, as highlighted by Jyotiraditya M. Scindia.

- The growth was driven by key segments like **parcels (+69%)**, **mail services (+34%)**, and **citizen-centric services (+70%)**, along with expansion in savings bank and insurance services.

BHIM App Introduces New Feature to Check CIBIL Score Directly via NPCI Support

- The NPCI-backed **National Payments Corporation of India (BHIM app)** has introduced a new feature that **allows users to check their CIBIL score directly within the app.**
- This facility has been launched in partnership with TransUnion CIBIL, enhancing easy and secure access to credit score information for users.

India's Eight Core Industries Contract 0.4% in March After Five Months of Growth

- **India's Eight Core Industries** recorded a **0.4% contraction in March**, marking the first decline in the last five months, as per data released by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- The Eight Core Industries include **Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement, and Electricity**, which are key drivers of industrial growth.

NSE-Listed Companies' CSR Spending Jumps 23% to ₹22,212 Crore in FY25

- **CSR spending by companies listed on the National Stock Exchange** main board increased by 23% to ₹22,212 crore in FY 2024–25, compared to ₹18,011 crore in the previous year, according to a report by PrimeInfobase (PRIME Database Group).
- **Reliance Industries Ltd** topped CSR spending with ₹1,309.5 crore, followed by **HDFC Bank** at ₹1,068.03 crore and **Tata Consultancy Services** at ₹960 crore.

SEBI Slashes Minimum Investment in Social Impact Funds to ₹1,000, Boosting Retail Participation

- **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has reduced the **minimum investment in social impact funds from ₹2 lakh to ₹1,000**, enabling wider participation in the Social Stock Exchange (SSE).
- Investors can now start with just ₹1,000, making social impact investing accessible to retail investors.

RBI Launches 4th Global Hackathon "HaRBinger" on Secure and Inclusive Banking Theme

- **Reserve Bank of India** launched the fourth edition of its global hackathon titled **"HaRBinger – Innovation for Transformation"**.

- The hackathon focuses on the theme “**Secure Banking: Powered by Identity, Integrity, and Inclusivity**”, aiming to strengthen innovation in the banking sector.

SBI Aims to Expand Balance Sheet to 25% of India's GDP by 2030

- **State Bank of India** has announced an ambitious plan to expand its balance sheet to 25% of India's GDP by 2030, up from around 20% currently.
- As of December 2025, SBI's balance sheet size stands at ₹71.62 lakh crore, while its total business (deposits ₹57.01 lakh crore + advances ₹46.28 lakh crore) is ₹103.29 lakh crore.

Pay Point India Becomes First Fintech to Join RBI's Centralised Payment System

- **Pay Point India** becomes the **first private fintech company** to join RBI's Centralised Payment System (CPS), marking a major shift in the fintech sector.
- It now has direct access to key payment systems like RTGS and NEFT without relying on partner banks.

RBI Cancels Paytm Payments Bank Licence; Assures Full Repayment to Depositors

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has cancelled the **banking licence of Paytm Payments Bank Limited**, prohibiting it from conducting any business with immediate effect.
- The action follows earlier restrictions imposed in March 2022 and 2024, including a ban on onboarding new customers and accepting deposits or credits.

RBI Imposes ₹41.8 Lakh Penalty on Bandhan Bank for KYC and Compliance Violations

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a **penalty of ₹41.8 lakh on Bandhan Bank** for **non-compliance with regulatory norms**, including Know Your Customer (KYC) guidelines.
- The bank was found guilty of failing to review risk categorisation of accounts and sanctioning loans related to directors, violating RBI directives.

RBI Imposes ₹80,000 Penalty on Muthoot Housing Finance for Fair Practice Code Violations

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a **penalty of ₹80,000 on Muthoot Housing Finance Company** for non-compliance with regulatory guidelines.
- The penalty was due to violations of RBI's 'Fair Practice Code', which ensures transparency and fairness in lending practices.

Govt Forms Panel Under SBI Chief C. S. Setty to Assess AI Platform 'Mythos' Risks

- **Nirmala Sitharaman** announced the formation of a **panel** under **C. S. Setty** to assess risks arising from the AI platform **“Mythos”** and suggest mitigation measures.
- The panel will involve coordination among banks, led by the State Bank of India and the Indian Banks’ Association, to evaluate threats and identify areas needing additional investment.

MobiKwik Gets RBI NBFC License

- **Indian fintech firm One MobiKwik Systems** has received approval from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** for an **NBFC license**, enabling it to enter the regulated lending space.
- The license will allow the company to launch **Mobikwik Financial Services**, offering secured and unsecured loans to consumers and small businesses, especially in underserved segments.

Nirmala Sitharaman Launches ‘Mission Jagrook’ at SEBI’s 38th Foundation Day to Boost Investor Awareness

- **Nirmala Sitharaman** delivered the keynote address at the **38th Foundation Day** of the Securities and Exchange Board of India.
- She launched a nationwide investor awareness initiative, **‘Mission Jagrook’** to promote financial literacy and investor protection.

RBI Launches ‘Mission SAKSHAM’ to Strengthen Urban Cooperative Banks Through Nationwide Capacity Building

- **Reserve Bank of India** launched **‘Mission SAKSHAM’ (Sahkari Bank Kshamta Nirman)** to strengthen the Urban Cooperative Banking (UCB) sector.
- It is a nationwide training and capacity-building programme, targeting around 1.4 lakh participants from UCBs.

Chapter 15: Committee

Committee	Headed by	Purpose
The National Council of Educational Research and Training has reconstituted its National Syllabus and Teaching Learning Material Committee (NSTC)	M.C. Pant , with Manjul Bhargava as co-chairperson	NCERT has formed a new 20-member committee to review and strengthen syllabus and learning materials .
The Government of India has constituted a high-level body named	The group will be chaired by Ashwini Vaishnaw	To guide the country’s AI governance strategy and policy framework

the Artificial Intelligence Governance and Economic Group (AIGEG)		
The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has constituted a Technology and Policy Expert Committee (TPEC)	The MeitY Secretary and includes experts like B. Ravindran and Rajat Moona	To support the functioning of the AI Governance and Economic Group (AIGEG)

Chapter 16: Defence News

INS Trikand Reaches Maputo During Operational Deployment in the South-West Indian Ocean

- **INS Trikand** has reached **Maputo** as part of its operational deployment in the South-West Indian Ocean Region.
- The deployment supports **India's MAHASAGAR vision (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions)**, focusing on regional security and cooperation.

INS Sudarshini Arrives at Sète for 'Lokayan-26' Expedition

- **INS Sudarshini** reached **Sète** as part of the transoceanic expedition 'Lokayan-26'.
- The vessel will participate in the **Escale à Sète**, a major international gathering of traditional tall ships.

Indian Navy Hosts IMEX TTX 2026 in Kochi with IONS Nations; India Assumes Chairmanship 2026–2028

- **Indian Navy** hosted at Maritime Warfare Centre Kochi, bringing together Indian Ocean Naval Symposium members and international officers to discuss maritime security.
- Multiple countries including Bangladesh, France, Indonesia, Kenya, Maldives, Mauritius, Myanmar, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, and Timor-Leste participated, while India takes over IONS Chairmanship for 2026–2028 after 16 years.

MoD Signs ₹1,950 Crore Deal with BEL for Indigenous Mountain Radars to Boost Air Defence

- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed a ₹1,950 crore contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for the procurement of two mountain radars for the Indian Air Force to enhance border surveillance and detection.
- These radars are indigenously designed by DRDO's Electronics & Radar Development Establishment (LRDE) and will be manufactured by BEL, supporting the Make in India defence initiative.
- The radars are expected to be deployed in Jammu & Kashmir and Nagaland, strengthening air defence capabilities, counter-drone systems, and national security while reducing dependency on foreign systems.

India Conducts Tri-Service Exercise "Dweep Shakti" to Strengthen Coastal and Island Defence

- India conducted Exercise Dweep Shakti, a Tri-Service (Army, Navy, Air Force) high-intensity drill aimed at strengthening coastal and island defence capabilities.
- The exercise focused on amphibious assaults, maritime dominance missions, and beach landing operations, testing the ability to capture and control hostile coastal areas.

Indian Navy Inducts INS Sanshodhak

- The Indian Navy has received INS Sanshodhak, the fourth and final Survey Vessel (Large) built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE).
- The earlier ships of this class—INS Sandhayak, INS Nirdeshak, and INS Ikshak—were commissioned between February 2024 and November 2025.

Indian Navy Inducts 'Malwan' ASW Craft to Boost Coastal Defence Capabilities

- The Indian Navy inducted 'Malwan', the second Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC), built by Cochin Shipyard Limited, boosting coastal defence capabilities.
- 'Malwan' is part of a series of 8 indigenously built ASW SWCs designed for shallow water operations, enhancing surveillance and anti-submarine warfare readiness.

INS Sunayna Flagged Off from Mumbai for IOS SAGAR Mission with 16-Nation Participation

- The Indian Navy flagged off INS Sunayna as part of the IOS SAGAR mission from Mumbai amid tensions in the Strait of Hormuz.
- The vessel carries Indian Navy personnel along with representatives from 16 foreign countries, highlighting international maritime cooperation.

India's Defence Exports Hit Record ₹38,424 Crore in FY26 with 62.66% Surge

- India's defence exports reached a record ₹38,424 crore in FY 2025–26, marking a 62.66% increase from ₹23,622 crore in the previous year, as per the Ministry of Defence.
- Both sectors contributed significantly, with DPSUs accounting for 54.84% and the private sector contributing 45.16% of total exports.

INS Trikand Reaches Dar-es-Salaam to Boost India–Tanzania Maritime Cooperation

- Indian Navy's frontline guided missile frigate INS Trikand arrived at Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania as part of its deployment in the South-West Indian Ocean Region.
- The visit aims to strengthen maritime cooperation and enhance bilateral defence and naval ties between India and Tanzania.

INS Sunayna Arrives in Maldives Under IOS SAGAR Initiative with 16 Friendly Foreign Countries Personnel

- INS Sunayna, an Indian Navy ship, reached Malé (Maldives) as part of its operational deployment under the IOS SAGAR (Indian Ocean Ship – Security and Growth for All in the Region) initiative, marking its first port call under this mission.
- The deployment is significant for regional maritime cooperation as it includes personnel from 16 Friendly Foreign Countries (FFCs), promoting joint training, coordination, and maritime security in the Indian Ocean region.

Indian Army Participates in India–Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise 'Cyclone-IV' at Anshas

- An Indian Army contingent of 25 Special Forces personnel has departed for Egypt to participate in the 4th edition of India–Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise "Cyclone-IV", scheduled at Anshas, Egypt.
- The exercise aims to enhance joint mission planning, interoperability, and special operations capabilities through training in a realistic operational environment with Egyptian Special Forces.

Indian Army Flags Off "Samudra Sahas" Blue-Water Sailing Expedition from Mumbai to Mark Artillery Bicentenary

- The Indian Army flagged off its first blue-water sailing expedition "Samudra Sahas" from Marve, Mumbai, as part of the bicentenary celebrations of the Regiment of Artillery.
- The 520 nautical mile expedition along the Konkan coast will be conducted in four legs from Mumbai to Vijaydurg, Goa and back, using 21-foot Seabird class sailing boats, sailing about 7 nautical miles offshore.

INS Sunayna Reaches Jakarta Under IOS SAGAR

- **Indian Navy's INS Sunayna**, deployed under the **IOS SAGAR** initiative, arrived at Jakarta, Indonesia after earlier port calls in Thailand (Phuket) and the Maldives (Malé).
- The Offshore Patrol Vessel carried a multinational crew from 16 friendly foreign countries and transited the Malacca and Singapore Straits before reaching Indonesia.

Defence Ministry Signs ₹975 Crore Deal for TRAWL Systems to Boost Army's Minefield Breaching Capability

- The **Ministry of Defence** signed contracts worth around **₹975 crore** with **Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML)** and **Electro Pneumatics & Hydraulics (India) Pvt. Ltd.** for the procurement of TRAWL Assembly for T-72 and T-90 tanks.
- The TRAWL system is a critical equipment that will enhance the Indian Army's minefield breaching capability, enabling the creation of safe vehicle lanes through anti-tank minefields.

INS Nireekshak Visits Sri Lanka for Joint Naval Training

- **INS Nireekshak** arrived at **Colombo**, Sri Lanka, for an operational turnaround and training visit to strengthen **India-Sri Lanka maritime cooperation**.
- INS Nireekshak is a diving support and submarine rescue vessel, used for underwater operations, salvage missions, and specialized naval diving tasks.

INS Sudarshini Arrives in Spain Under Lokayan 26, Marks Maiden Visit to Canary Islands

- **Indian Navy Sail Training Ship INS Sudarshini** arrived at **Las Palmas, Spain**, under its transoceanic deployment **Lokayan 26**, marking the first-ever visit of an Indian naval ship to the Canary Islands.
- The ship, which began its voyage from Kochi in January, has visited multiple countries, including Oman, Egypt, Malta, France, and Morocco, promoting the message of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam."

DRDO Unveils Indigenous Advanced Armoured Platforms to Boost Defence Capabilities

- **DRDO Chairman Dr. Samir V. Kamat** unveiled **Advanced Armoured Platforms (Tracked and Wheeled)** at a DRDO laboratory in Ahilyanagar, Maharashtra.
- These platforms have been developed to meet the emerging operational requirements of the Indian Defence Forces, enhancing mobility, firepower, and protection.

Defence Exercise	Between	About
IMEX TTX 2026 (IONS Maritime Exercise Tabletop Exercise)	Countries including Bangladesh, France, Indonesia, Kenya, Maldives, Mauritius, Myanmar, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, and Timor-Leste participated	Multiple countries including Bangladesh, France, Indonesia, Kenya, Maldives, Mauritius, Myanmar, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, and Timor-Leste participated, while India takes over IONS Chairmanship for 2026–2028 after 16 years.
The anti-submarine warfare exercise 'Sea Dragon 2026',	India , along with the United States, Japan, Australia and New Zealand	The exercise was hosted by the U.S. Navy's Task Force 72 , focusing on enhancing coordination in anti-submarine warfare operations .
The 7th edition of India-Uzbekistan Joint Military Exercise 'DUSTLIK'	India-Uzbekistan	Exercise DUSTLIK is an annual bilateral military exercise conducted alternately between India and Uzbekistan ; the previous edition (2025) was held in Aundh (Pune), India .

Chapter 17: Sports News

Kimi Antonelli Wins Japanese Grand Prix at Suzuka

- Kimi Antonelli of Mercedes won the Japanese Grand Prix at Suzuka, securing his second consecutive victory in Formula One.
- With this win, the 19-year-old became the youngest driver in Formula One history to lead the World Championship standings.

Ravichandran Ashwin Becomes First Indian International to Join US Major League Cricket

- Ravichandran Ashwin is set to become the first Indian international cricketer to join Major League Cricket (MLC) in the USA, signing with the San Francisco Unicorns for the 2026 season.

- The veteran spinner, who played 287 matches and took 765 wickets for India, retired from international cricket in 2024 and concluded his IPL career last year.

Pankaj Advani Wins Maiden National 9-Ball Pool Championship Title in Ludhiana

- Pankaj Advani won his maiden National 9-ball pool championship title held in Ludhiana.
- The multiple-time world champion defeated Nitin Sharma of Chandigarh in the final

Chitra Magimairaj Wins 9-Ball National Title, Ends 9-Year Drought with Dominant Comeback

- Chitra Magimairaj ended a **nine-year title drought** by winning the women's 9-ball pool National Championship in Ludhiana.
- She defeated Ishika Shah of Madhya Pradesh by 7-4 in the final.

IOC Bars Transgender Women from Women's Olympic Events, Citing Fairness Concerns

- The International Olympic Committee approved a new **eligibility policy barring transgender women from competing in women's Olympic events** to ensure fairness.
- IOC President Kirsty Coventry stated that even minor physical differences impact results, and allowing biological males in female categories is no longer considered equitable.

11-Year-Old Bodhana Sivanandan Becomes Britain's Top-Rated Female Chess Player

- Bodhana Sivanandan, aged 11, is now **Britain's top-rated female player (FIDE April 2026)** with a rating of 2,366, ranked 72nd globally among women.
- She has overtaken many established players, showcasing exceptional talent, discipline, and strong international performances.

Khelo India Tribal Games 2026: Karnataka Emerges Champion as Chhattisgarh Hosts Maiden Edition

- The maiden Khelo India Tribal Games 2026 was hosted by Chhattisgarh, where Karnataka emerged as the overall champion.
- Karnataka topped the medal tally with **23 Gold, 8 Silver, and 7 Bronze medals**, followed by Odisha (21 Gold) and Jharkhand (16 Gold).

Rassie van der Dussen Retires from International Cricket After Illustrious White-Ball Career with South Africa

- South Africa batter **Rassie van der Dussen** has announced his **retirement from international cricket**, ending a successful career as a key white-ball performer for the Proteas.

- He made his international debut in T20I cricket against Zimbabwe in 2019 at the age of 29 after strong domestic performances.

Dravid and Kumble Honoured with Named Stands at Chinnaswamy Stadium

- The Rahul Dravid End and Anil Kumble End were officially unveiled at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, honouring two iconic Indian cricket legends.
- The naming ceremony was conducted by the Karnataka State Cricket Association, celebrating the immense contributions of both players to Indian and Karnataka cricket

Murali Sreeshankar Shines at Indian Athletics Series 2026 with 8.15m Jump

- Murali Sreeshankar won the men's long jump at the Indian Athletics Series 2026 in Bengaluru with a jump of 8.15m, crossing the Asian Games qualifying mark.
- Abdulla Aboobacker (16.82m) won the men's triple jump, while Sarvesh Kushare (2.23m) clinched the men's high jump title.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar Becomes First Fast Bowler to Reach 200 IPL Wickets

- Bhuvneshwar Kumar became the first fast bowler to take 200 wickets in the Indian Premier League, achieving the milestone by dismissing Ayush Mhatre.
- He is currently the second-highest wicket-taker in IPL history, behind Yuzvendra Chahal (223 wickets).

Palak Gulia and Mukesh Nelavalli Win Gold with Junior World Record in ISSF 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team Event

- Indian shooters Palak Gulia and Mukesh Nelavalli won gold medal in 10m air pistol mixed team event at the ISSF World Cup, Granada (Spain) with a junior world record score of 487.7 points.
- The duo broke the previous junior world record of 481.3 points, while finishing the final ahead of China (silver) and Hungary (bronze); Mukesh also made his senior ISSF World Cup debut, scoring 244.7.

Hyderabad to Host Rugby Premier League 2026

- Rugby India has announced that the second edition of the Rugby Premier League (RPL) will be hosted in Hyderabad, marking an important step in expanding rugby in India.
- The tournament is scheduled to take place from June 16 to June 28, 2026 at the Gachibowli Stadium, which will serve as the main venue for the league matches.

Wisden 2025: Mitchell Starc & Deepti Sharma Named Leading Cricketers

- Mitchell Starc and Deepti Sharma were named Leading Cricketers in the World for 2025 by Wisden Cricketers' Almanack, with Starc winning the men's award and Deepti the women's.

- **Abhishek Sharma** was named the **Leading T20 Cricketer**, while Wisden also announced its **Five Cricketers of the Year**: Shubman Gill, Ravindra Jadeja, Rishabh Pant, Mohammed Siraj, and Haseeb Hameed.
- **Shubman Gill** also received the **Wisden Trophy for best individual Test performance** for his 430-run effort at Edgbaston, leading India to victory.

Sanju Samson and Amelia Kerr Named ICC Players of the Month for March

- **Sanju Samson** was named the **ICC Men's Player of the Month for March**, thanks to his outstanding performances in the T20 format.
- **Amelia Kerr**, captain of the New Zealand women's team, **won the ICC Women's Player of the Month for March** for her exceptional all-round display.

Hockey Jharkhand Clinches Third Consecutive Sub-Junior Women's National Title

- **Hockey Jharkhand** won the **16th Hockey India Sub-Junior Women's National Championship**, securing a third consecutive title (2024–2026) and showcasing dominance at the grassroots level.
- The success is backed by strong infrastructure development in Jharkhand, including extensive astroturf facilities built between 2014 and 2026, helping nurture young hockey talent.

R. Vaishali Wins FIDE Women's Candidates 2026

- **R. Vaishali** won the **FIDE Women's Candidates Tournament 2026 in Cyprus**, defeating Kateryna Lagno and finishing with 8.5/14 points.
- With this victory, Vaishali has earned the right to challenge reigning world champion Ju Wenjun for the Women's World Championship later this year.

Viktor Axelsen Announces Retirement from Professional Badminton After Historic Olympic Success

- **Viktor Axelsen**, the Danish badminton star, has announced his retirement from professional badminton after an illustrious career.
- He is regarded as one of the greatest men's singles players, winning back-to-back Olympic gold medals at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paris 2024 Olympics, along with a bronze at the Rio 2016 Olympics.

Rubel Hossain Announces Retirement from International Cricket

- **Rubel Hossain**, Bangladesh's fast bowler, has announced his **retirement from international cricket** after a decade-long career with 159 matches across formats.
- He played 27 Tests, 104 ODIs, and 28 T20Is, with his last international match in 2021 against New Zealand national cricket team, and plans to continue in domestic cricket despite injury setbacks.

Aranyak Ghosh Becomes India's 95th Grandmaster

- **Aranyak Ghosh**, Kolkata West Bengal, became **India's 95th Grandmaster** after achieving his final norm at the Bangkok Chess Club Open 2026.
- The Kolkata-based player scored 7 points in 9 rounds, finishing tied for first place and completing his third GM norm after earlier norms at the Sants Open (2023) and Annemasse Masters (2024).

Suraj Kumar Chand Wins Men's Title at HCL Squash PSA Challenger in Chennai

- **India's Suraj Kumar Chand** won the **men's title at the HCL Squash PSA Challenger Tour in Chennai**, defeating South Korea's Jeongmin Ryu in the final at the Indian Squash Academy.
- This victory marked the fourth PSA Tour title of Suraj Kumar Chand's career.

India Selected by FIFA for Women's Development Programme 2026 to Boost Women's Football

- **India** has been selected **among 12 nations by FIFA for the Women's Development Programme (Commercial Strategy 2026)**, boosting women's football.
- Under this initiative, FIFA will provide customised training and guidance to stakeholders to strengthen women's football development in the country.

Sabastian Sawe Becomes First Athlete to Break 2-Hour Marathon Barrier at London Marathon 2026

- **Sabastian Sawe** created history by **becoming the first man** to run an official marathon in under two hours.
- He achieved this milestone at the London Marathon 2026 with a record time of 1 hour 59 minutes 30 seconds.

Goa to Host SAFF Women's Championship 2026 for the First Time

- **Goa** will host the **SAFF Women's Championship 2026 for the first time**, scheduled from May 25 to June 7, 2026, marking a historic milestone for the state.
- All matches will be held at PJN Stadium, Fatorda, making it the first SAFF tournament in Goa since the Men's Championship in 1999.

Chapter 18: Book and Author

Book	Author
The book- "Tides of Time: Bharat's History through Murals in Parliament"	Released by the Vice President of India, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan

	Authored by MP Smt. Sudha Murty at Samvidhan Sadan, New Delhi.
Autobiography "A Road Well Travelled"	Former R.K. Raghavan
"Do You Know Your Hinduism?"	Rajmohan Gandhi
A new non-fiction book titled The Curious and the Classified: Unearthing Military Myths and Mysteries	Manoj Mukund Naravane

Chapter 19: Important Day

Date	Day	Theme/Importance
1 April	Odisha Day (Utkal Divas)	On this day, Odisha became the first Indian state to be formed on a linguistic basis, recognising the Odia-speaking population.
1 - 7 April	Prevention of Blindness Week	The initiative focuses on promoting early detection, timely treatment, and regular eye check-ups to reduce vision impairment.
2 April	World Autism Awareness Day	Theme 2026: Autism and Humanity - Every Life Has Value
2 April	International Fact-Checking Day	The day highlights the importance of accurate news, credible sources, and responsible sharing of information on social media.
2 April	International Children's Book Day	It encourages children to develop reading habits, imagination, and creativity through books
4 April	International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action	The day aims to promote mine action efforts, ensure the safety of civilians, and support affected communities in rebuilding their lives.

4 April	International Carrot Day	The day was first celebrated in 2003 and has since gained popularity across many countries
4 April	International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action	Theme 2026 - Invest in Peace; Invest in Mine Action
5 April	National Maritime Day	Theme 2026 - Maritime India – Empowering Progress
5 April	International Day of Conscience	Theme 2026 - Reinventing Peace with Youth
6 April	International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP)	Theme 2026 - Sport: Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers
7 April	World Health Day	Theme 2026 - Together for health. Stand with science
10 April	World Homoeopathy Day	Theme 2026 - Homoeopathy for Sustainable Health
11 April	National Safe Motherhood Day	The day marks the birth anniversary of Kasturba Gandhi and highlights the importance of proper healthcare for mothers before, during, and after childbirth.
12 April	International Day of Human Space Flight	The day commemorates the first human spaceflight by Yuri Gagarin in 1961 , when he orbited the Earth aboard Vostok 1.
13 April	Jallianwala Bagh Massacre Remembrance Day	The massacre took place in 1919 in Amritsar , where British troops under General Dyer opened fire on a peaceful gathering, killing hundreds of unarmed civilians.
14 April	World Chagas Disease Day	It highlights the causes, symptoms, and serious long-term complications of Chagas disease, including heart damage and digestive system problems that can appear years after infection.

15 April	International Wellness Day	The day focuses on raising awareness and encouraging action for physical, mental, and emotional health through education and wellness initiatives.
17 April	World Hemophilia Day	Theme 2026 - Diagnosis: First Step to Care
18 April	World Heritage Day	Theme 2026 - Emergency Response for Living Heritage in Contexts of Conflicts and Disasters
19 April	World Liver Day	Theme 2026 - Solid Habits, Strong Liver
20 April	UN Chinese Language Day	The day honours the Chinese language and its historical significance as one of the six official languages of the UN.
21 April	World Creativity and Innovation Day	Theme 2026 - Harnessing Creativity for Global Progress
22 April	Earth Day	The day promotes actions like climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation, pollution control, and sustainable living practices
22 April	World Earth Day	Theme 2026 - Our Power, Our Planet
23 April	World Book and Copyright Day	Theme 2026 - Read, Make Your Star Shine
23 April	English Language Day	The day is celebrated by the United Nations to highlight multilingualism and linguistic diversity.
23 April	International Girls in ICT Day	Theme 2026 - AI for Development: Girls shaping the digital future
24 - 30 April	World Immunisation Week	Theme 2026 - For every generation, vaccines work
24 April	International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace	To promote the peaceful resolution of global issues through cooperation.

24 April	National Panchayati Raj Day	Theme 2026 - Sashakt Panchayat, Sarvangeen Vikas" (Empowered Panchayats, Holistic Development)
24 April	World Day for Animals in Laboratories	The day advocates for humane treatment of laboratory animals and promotes alternatives to animal testing .
25 April	World Malaria Day	Theme 2026 - Driven to End Malaria: Now We Can. Now We Must.
25 April	World Penguin Day	Theme 2026 - Save the penguins
26 April	World Intellectual Property Day	Theme 2026 - IP and Sports: Ready, Set, Innovate
27 April	World Tapir Day	The day highlights the importance of protecting four species of tapirs found in Central and South America as well as Southeast Asia .
26 April	International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day	The day raises awareness about the long-term environmental, health, and social impacts caused by nuclear radiation and highlights the importance of nuclear safety .
27 April	World Design Day	The day highlights the role of designers in innovation, sustainability, and creating user-friendly solutions across industries .
28 April	World Day for Safety and Health at Work	The day is supported by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and focuses on preventing occupational accidents, injuries, and diseases .

Chapter 20: Science & Technology

NASA Launches Artemis II Mission for First Crewed Lunar Flyby in Over 50 Years

- **NASA** launched the **Artemis II mission**, marking the first crewed lunar flyby in over 50 years since the Apollo era, using the Space Launch System (SLS) from Kennedy Space Center.
- The mission carries four astronauts—Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, Christina Koch, and Jeremy Hansen—on a 10-day journey around the Moon aboard the Orion spacecraft.

GE Aerospace Delivers 6th F404-IN20 Engine to HAL for Tejas MK1A Under 99-Engine Deal

- **GE Aerospace** delivered the **6th F404-IN20 engine** to **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** for the **Tejas LCA MK1A**.
- The delivery took place in the United States, and the engine will be transported to India.

Artemis II Astronauts Set New Record, Travel Farthest from Earth at 4.07 Lakh Km

- **Astronauts of the Artemis II Mission** created history by **travelling farther from Earth than any humans before, reaching about 4.07 lakh km (252,756 miles)**.
- The mission is part of NASA's Artemis programme, aimed at deep space and future lunar exploration.
- The crew included **Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, Christina Koch, and Canadian astronaut Jeremy Hansen** aboard the Orion spacecraft.
- They surpassed the **previous record set by Apollo 13 (1970)**, which had reached a distance of 248,655 miles (400,171 km) from Earth.

Meta Launches 'Muse Spark' AI Model to Boost Superintelligence Ambitions

- **Meta Platforms** has launched **Muse Spark**, a new AI model to strengthen its position in the global artificial intelligence race.
- **Muse Spark** is part of Meta's broader superintelligence strategy, developed by a specialised AI team to advance machine intelligence capabilities.

Meta Unveils "Muse Spark" AI Model After Major Team Overhaul

- **Meta Platforms** has launched its **new AI model Muse Spark**, replacing Llama 4, and aims to deliver faster performance with improved reasoning in science, math, and health.
- **Muse Spark** will power Meta's ecosystem, including Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, and Messenger, but is currently available only in the United States.

Artemis II Returns Successfully, Marking First Crewed Lunar Mission in 50 Years

- **Artemis II** successfully returned to **Earth with a splashdown in the Pacific Ocean**, marking the first crewed lunar mission in over 50 years after the Apollo Program.

- The mission carried four astronauts—Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, Christina Koch, and Jeremy Hansen—aboard the **Orion capsule** named “**Integrity.**”

DRDO Hands Over AI-Based ‘Prajna’ System to Boost Internal Security

- The **Ministry of Home Affairs** received an indigenous **AI-based satellite imaging system**, ‘Prajna’, developed by DRDO, to enhance real-time decision-making for security agencies.
- Separately, DRDO and the Indian Navy successfully tested the Air Droppable Container (ADC-150), capable of delivering 150 kg payload to assist naval operations and emergency support at sea.

NASA Unveils Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope to Explore Exoplanets and Map the Universe

- **NASA** has unveiled the **Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope**, a next-generation observatory aimed at studying exoplanets, dark matter, and dark energy.
- Named after astronomer Nancy Grace Roman, the project has an estimated cost of over \$4 billion.

Chapter 21: Obituary

Person	About
Chandrikapersad Santokhi, former President of Suriname	He served as the President of Suriname from 2020 to 2025 and was also the leader of the Progressive Reform Party , having earlier worked as the country’s Justice Minister.
Senior Congress leader Mohsina Kidwai	She served as a Union Minister under Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi , handling key portfolios including Health, Rural Development, Urban Development, and Transport.
Legendary Playback Singer Asha Bhosle	Asha Bhosle began her playback career in 1943 and went on to record thousands of songs in nearly 20 Indian and international languages , working with legendary composers like R. D. Burman and A. R. Rahman.
C. D. Gopinath, former India cricketer	He was also part of the Madras team that won the Ranji Trophy in 1954–55,

	marking a significant contribution to domestic cricket.
Abu Hasem Khan Chowdhury, popularly known as 'Dalu Babu'	He served as an MLA from Kaliyachok (1996–2006) and later as an MP from Malda Dakshin constituency.
Jim Whittaker, First American to Summit Mount Everest	He made history on 1 May 1963 by reaching the summit with Nawang Gombu, becoming the 10th person in the world to achieve this feat under extreme conditions.
Lion of Ladakh' Sonam Wangchuk, Maha Vir Chakra Awardee	As a Major, he led the Ladakh Scouts in the strategically important Chorbat La (Batalik sector) at an altitude of around 18,000 feet.
Oscar Schmidt, Brazil Basketball Legend	A Hall of Fame inductee (2013), he had a 30-year career , represented Brazil in five Olympic Games and four World Cups , and holds all-time scoring records in both competitions.
Former Rajya Sabha MP and Renowned Paediatrician Dr. Gopalrao Patil	He represented the BJP in the Rajya Sabha from 1994 to 2000 and contributed to key parliamentary committees, including commerce, external affairs, and railways.
TDP Co-founder and Former Andhra CM Nadenla Bhaskar Rao	He co-founded TDP in 1982 with N.T. Rama Rao and later served as Finance Minister in the Andhra Pradesh government.
Padma Shri Awardee Bhagwandas Raikwar 'Dau'	He was known for preserving Bundeli Martial Arts, specifically the 'Akhada' style.
Veteran Photographer Raghu Rai	His awards include the Padma Shri (1972), US Photographer of the Year (1992), Académie des Beaux-Arts Photography Award (2019), and a Lifetime Achievement Award (2017) by

	the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
Former Rajya Sabha MP and Paediatrician Gopalrao Patil	He was associated with the Bharatiya Janata Party

