

IAS/RAS

FOUNDATION



क्लास 12th के बाद ग्रेजुएशन के साथ 3 वर्षीय कोर्स

COURSE FEATURES



विषय विशेषज्ञों द्वारा क्लासेज



प्रिंटेड बुकलेट्स



टेस्ट सीरीज



पर्सनल मेंटरशिप



लाइब्रेरी सुविधा*

SEPARATE BATCHES FOR HINDI & ENGLISH MEDIUM

OFFLINE & LIVE FROM CLASSROOM



ऑफलाइन बैच के अतिरिक्त SAMYAK TEAM द्वारा गुणवत्तापूर्ण व परिणामोन्मुखी तैयारी ONLINE भी

- Live & Recorded Classes
- Printed & E-Notes
- Personal Mentorship
- Test Series & Solution
- Toppers' Strategy Sessions

GET MORE INFORMATION

9875170111

ONLINE COURSE & TEST SERIES AVAILABLE ON APP



SCAN QR & DOWNLOAD APP NOW

Current Affairs

January-February : 2026

INDEX

		Page No.
1	Rajasthan Affairs	1 – 56
2	National Affairs	57 – 74
3	Economy	75 – 85
4	International Affairs	86 – 98
5	Space and Defence Technology	99 – 114
6	Sports	115 – 122
7	Awards & Honors	123 – 135
8	Person in News	136 – 142
9	Places in News	143 – 159
10.	Conference	160 – 163
11.	Reports & Indexes	164 – 170
12.	Important Days	171 – 173



Near Riddhi-Siddhi Circle, Gopalpura Bypass, Jaipur

Rajasthan Affairs

Major Programs, Schemes, Campaigns

Chief Minister's Youth Self-Employment Scheme

- The scheme was launched on 12th January 2026 at the State Level Youth Festival.
- Through this scheme, 1 lakh youth will be prepared as micro entrepreneurs by giving interest-free loans. To be eligible for this scheme, one must be a permanent resident of Rajasthan and the age should be between 18 to 45 years.

Key Provisions

- Interest-free loan up to Rs. 10 lakh for setting up of micro industries.
- The 100% interest on the loan will be borne by the state government .
- Apart from this, margin money and CGTMSE charges up to Rs 50 thousand will be reimbursed.

Loan limit according to educational qualification

Educational Qualification	field	Maximum loan limit	Maximum margin money
8th to 12th Passed	Services & Trade	Up to Rs 3.5 lakh	Rs. 35,000
8th to 12th Passed	Manufacturing	Up to Rs 7.5 lakh	Rs. 35,000
Graduate/ ITI & above	Services & Trade	Up to Rs 5 lakh	Rs 50,000
Graduate/ ITI & above	Manufacturing	Up to Rs 10 lakh	Rs 50,000

Rajasthan AI-ML Policy and National AI Literacy Programme launched

- Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma inaugurated the Rajasthan Regional AI Impact Conference 2026 held at JECC in Jaipur on 6th January 2026.
- The National AI Literacy Program and the Rajasthan AI-ML Policy 2026 were launched on the occasion.
- Along with this, the iStart Learning Management System, Rajasthan AI Portal and Rajasthan AVGC-XR Portal were launched.
- These initiatives will promote AI-based education, startups, research, skill development, and digital governance.

National AI Literacy Program

- The National AI Literacy Programme was launched on 6th January 2026 with the aim of making the masses AI literate. The programme will enable children, youth and general citizens to gain basic and practical knowledge of AI. Its first phase is "Yuva AI for All".

"Youth AI for All"

- The course is about four hours long and has been designed in such a way that no technical background will be required to do it.
- The course will be available in 11 Indian languages and will be completely free.
- 'YUVA AI FOR ALL' will be made available on FutureSkills Prime, iGOTKarmayogi, DIKSHA and other leading e-learning platforms.
- On completion of this course, the participants will also get an official certificate from the Government of India.

iStart Learning Management System (LMS)

- It is a modern digital platform developed for startups, young entrepreneurs, students and those associated with the startup ecosystem.

Main characteristics

- More than 100 hours of audio-video content.
- Short modules of 5 to 15 minutes
- Content in both Hindi and English
- Sessions taught by experts, digital certificate facility with real startup examples
- Rajasthan AI Portal and special portals to promote the AVGC-XR sector have been launched for effective implementation of AI policy.

Skill training to 5,000 youth in Rajasthan

- Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced the launch of new skill training programmes in Rajasthan.
- These programmes will be conducted in collaboration with industry associations with the aim of promoting electronics manufacturing.
- Under this, skill training will be provided to 5,000 youths of the state.

Green Energy Awareness Campaign

- The awareness campaign was launched by Rajasthan State Gas Limited (RSGL) on 27th January 2026 with the aim of promoting green energy in Rajasthan.
- The campaign will be conducted till 31st March 2026.
- Under this campaign, citizens were made aware about Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and Piped Natural Gas (PNG).
- Apart from this, a campaign has been launched by RSGL to promote the use of CNG in Kukas and Neemrana and CNG and PNG in Kota, Sheopur-Gwalior.

Prerna Abhiyan 2.0

- The Prerna Campaign 2.0 was launched by the Directorate of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) on 19th January 2026.
- Its full name is Pregnancy Registration and Early Childhood Education and Nutrition Awareness.
- The campaign will run from 19th January to 19th February 2026.
- The campaign is aimed at strengthening maternal and child nutrition and health.
- Under this, pregnant, lactating women, children from 0 to 6 years and adolescent girls will be registered.
- In this, the beneficiaries will be connected to various government schemes through Anganwadi centers.

Policies

Rajasthan Aerospace and Defence Policy 2025

- The policy aimed at making Rajasthan a major hub for aerospace and defence manufacturing was approved on 21st January 2026.
- Under this policy, special emphasis has been laid on the promotion of defence and space technology.
- It will create a conducive environment for the growth of MSMEs, startups and innovation-based industries.
- It will promote units in manufacturing, equipment manufacturing, component supply, precision engineering and maintenance and repair.

Investment Categories and Project Classification

Project	Manufacturing	Service
Large Project	50 – 300 crores	25 – 100 crores
Mega Project	Rs 300 – 1,000 crore	100 – 250 crores
Ultra Mega Project	More than Rs 1,000 crore	More than 250 crore

Incentives and Financial Benefits

Incentive	Provision
Investment Grants	Reimbursement of 75% of state tax for 7 years
Manufacturing Units	20%–28% Capital Grant disbursed over 10 years
Service Area Units	14%–20% Capital Grant or Turnover Based Incentive
Employment Incentives	10%–15% Employment Booster
Special Units	Sunrise, Anchor and Thrust Boosters for Initial Mega and Ultra Mega Units

Land, Energy and Other Special Concessions

Area of Concession	Provision
Land Payment	Flexible payment facility for up to 10 years to Mega and Ultra Mega units on RIICO land
Office Space	25% Lease Rental Subsidy for 5 Years
Energy Fees	Waiver in Banking, Wheeling and Transmission Charges
Captive Power	51% of the investment is involved in eligible fixed capital investments.
Electricity Charges	Full discount for up to 7 years
Mandi/Market Fee	100% Recharge
Stamp & Conversion Charges	75% OFF + 25% Recharge

Rajasthan Semiconductor Policy-2025

- The state government approved Rajasthan's first semiconductor policy-2025 on 21st January 2026.
- It aims to bring anchor investments in the semiconductor and sensors sector, develop world-class semiconductor parks and strengthen the fabless design ecosystem.
- Through this, indigenous production in the semiconductor sector will be promoted by attracting investments.
- Special emphasis has been laid on the creation of new high-tech employment opportunities.
- Green manufacturing will be promoted through renewable energy, water efficiency, recycling and circular initiatives in semiconductor parks.

Incentives/Financial Benefits	Description
Special Incentives	Special Incentives to Approved Projects under India Semiconductor Mission
Electricity Tariff Waiver	100% Waiver from Electricity Charges for 7 Years
Stamp and Land Conversion Charges	75% Discount & 25% Recharge
Capital Grant (State)	Equivalent to 60% of Capital Subsidy sanctioned by the Central Government

Interest subvention	5% Interest Subvention on Term Loans taken from Banks/Financial Institutions
Environmental Project Reimbursement	Maximum 50% of the project cost
Captive Power Plant	Full waiver of electricity charges for 7 years
Green Rating Incentives	50% Exemption in Consent Fee to Certified Units under Rajasthan Green Rating System
Additional incentives	Employment Generation, Skill and Training, Intellectual Property Creation and Quality Certification

2 Policies and 1 Scheme launched on National Youth Day

- The Rajasthan government announced 3 important policies and schemes for the youth on 12th January 2026 on the occasion of National Youth Day:
- Mukhyamantri Yuva Swarojgar Yojana
- Rajasthan Youth Policy – 2026
- Rajasthan Employment Policy – 2026

Rajasthan Youth Policy-2026

- The main objective of this policy is to prepare the youth as leaders and responsible citizens.
- Through this policy, the youth will be made active participants in economic progress and social change.
- Under the Youth Policy, opportunities for youth in emerging sectors will be enhanced through education and skill development.
- Along with this, the participation of youth in local governance and decision making process will be strengthened.
- Special attention has been given to youth healthcare, sports, prevention of gender-based violence, encouragement of young artists and the role of youth in sustainable development.
- This policy is mainly divided into 6 parts -

1. Education and Skills

- Elaborate provisions have been made to increase access to quality education for the youth.
- Emphasis has been placed on providing career counselling and appropriate guidance.
- Skill-based and inclusive education models will be promoted.
- Innovative technologies such as Artificial Intelligence will be included in the training courses.

2. Employment and Entrepreneurship

- Enhancing employment opportunities for youth and skill development were encouraged.
- The youth will be motivated to become job providers as well as get employment.
- Attention has also been given to the development of the gig economy and youth working in the unorganized sector.

3. Health and Wellness

- The policy gave priority to the physical and mental health of the youth.
- The youth will be motivated to adopt a healthy lifestyle by keeping them away from drugs.
- Mental and physical health will be strengthened through yoga, meditation and sports activities.

4. Youth leadership development

- Emphasis was laid on making the youth a partner in the journey of developed Rajasthan.
- Provisions were made to develop leadership capacity and decision-making ability.
- The youth will be made active participants in democratic governance.

5. Social Justice and Gender Equality

- In line with the principle of Antyodaya, the goal was to provide equal opportunities to every youth.
- An inclusive environment free from social and gender discrimination will be ensured.

6. Art and Culture

- Efforts have been made to connect the youth with cultural heritage, literature and traditions.
- Young artists and budding talents will be encouraged.
- Cultural festivals and local language literature will be promoted.

Environmental Protection

- Provisions were made to provide a clean and pollution-free environment to the youth.
- The role of youth in climate protection will be strengthened.
- The focus is on green technology and traditional environmental practices.

Institutional Mechanisms

- A three-tier institutional mechanism will be developed for effective implementation of the policy.
- A high-level committee will be formed under the leadership of the Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs.
- A state-level task force and core committee will also be constituted.

Rajasthan Employment Policy 2026

- Under the Rajasthan Employment Policy, a target has been set to provide 15 lakh employment opportunities by March 2029.
- For this, employment exchanges will be integrated through the Rajasthan Employment Portal (EEMS 2.0) and an AI based digital platform will be developed.
- The policy also includes the facility of e-job fairs to provide employment at national and international level.

Rajasthan AI-ML Policy-2026

- It was launched on 6 January 2026.
- The policy aims to make public services fast, transparent, and citizen-centric through the responsive, ethical, and secure use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML).
- The policy will enhance administrative efficiency, promote innovation-driven economic growth, and help develop Rajasthan as an emerging hub for investment and innovation.
- It lays special emphasis on data protection, cyber security, AI education, capacity building, and industry-startup collaboration.

Subject	Key Provisions
Cybersecurity	Clear mechanism for reporting and resolution of cybercrimes related to AI
AI Center of Excellence	Establishment of Artificial Intelligence Centre of Excellence in the state
AI Nodal Officer	Appointment of Nodal Officer for AI Functions in each Department
Digital Infrastructure	Boost to AI Cloud, Secure Data Storage and Testing Platform
AI Education	Promotion of AI Education in Schools, ITIs, Polytechnics and Colleges
Training Programs	AI Training for Youth, Teachers, and Government Personnel
Industry & Startup Support	Top-up incentives to industry, MSMEs, startups and research institutions
Bias Control	Provisions to reduce bias and clarify decision making in AI systems

Rajasthan Aggregator Policy 2025

- The transport department of Rajasthan has implemented the aggregator policy in the state.
- Under this, many stringent provisions including license fees, fines and insurance have been fixed, which will protect gig workers.

Key Provisions

- According to the draft, the license will be valid for 5 years, for which the application fee has been fixed at Rs 10,000 and the license fee has been fixed up to Rs 5 lakh.
- Companies will also have to pay a security deposit of Rs 10 lakh to Rs 50 lakh, depending on their vehicle number.
- The fare will be fixed by the government.
- Aggregator companies have been allowed to apply dynamic pricing up to a minimum of 50 percent lower and a maximum of two times.
- Drivers will be required to pay at least 80 per cent of the total fare.
- If a trip is cancelled without a valid reason, a maximum penalty of Rs 100 can be imposed on the driver or passenger.
- Provision of a 24x7 active control room and call centre will be mandatory for the safety of passengers.
- Through the app, passengers will be able to share their live location and panic alerts will reach the police and control room directly in case of an emergency.
- Women passengers will also be given the option to choose a female driver during the journey.
- Every company will have to appoint a grievance officer for redressal of complaints.
- To promote electric vehicles, companies will set a target to increase the number of e-vehicles.
- It has been made mandatory for every company operating in the state to open an office in Rajasthan and appoint an authorised appliance officer.
- In case of default in compliance with the rules or serious security negligence, the license of the company can be suspended for three months.
- The license will be cancelled three times in a financial year if there is suspension or confirmation of a serious offence.

Amendments to Excise Policy 2025 in Rajasthan

- The Rajasthan government made significant changes to the Excise Policy 2025-29 on 29 January 2026.
- These include plans to increase the price of liquor and sell liquor late at night.
- These provisions will be applicable from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029.

Key Provisions

- The Excise Commissioner has been given the right to decide the opening and closing hours of liquor shops.
- The excise duty was increased from 75% to 80%, which will increase the prices of liquor.
- The guarantee fee for contract renewal has been increased and shopkeepers will be allotted two warehouses instead of one.
- Violating the conditions of the optional license can lead to cancellation of registration of a registered venue, hotel, bar or private residence, and a fine of up to Rs 50,000.
- Non-alcoholic beverages will have to be mandatorily included in hotels and restaurant bars.

5th Session of the 16th Rajasthan Legislative Assembly

- The fifth session of the 16th Rajasthan Legislative Assembly began on 28 January 2026.
- On January 29, 2026, the Governor's address was held in the Assembly.
- The Rajasthan Budget 2026-27 will be presented on 11th February 2026.
- This will be the third budget of the Bhajan Lal government. The Budget session will be held in two phases.

Constitutional Provisions

- At the state level, the session is convened by the Governor on the recommendation of the Council of Ministers of State.
- Under Article 174, the Governor can convene a session of the State Legislature, prorogue it and dissolve the Assembly.
- Article 175 mentions the right of the Governor to address and send messages to the Legislature.
- Article 176 mentions the Special Address of the Governor.
- Note: The Governor's Special Address is the first session after the formation of the new government and the first session of the year (budget session).

The Immovable Property and Protection of Tenants in Disturbed Areas Bill, 2026

- The bill was approved in the state cabinet meeting held on 21st January 2026 under the chairmanship of Shri Bhajan Lal Sharma, Chief Minister of Rajasthan.
- The name of this bill is "The Rajasthan Prohibition of Immovable Property and Provision for Protection of Tenants from Eviction from Premises in Disturbed Areas Bill, 2026".
- The Bill aims to prevent the negative effects of population imbalance on social harmony, public order and community structure.
- It provides for protection of permanent residents from the pressure of selling the property at a lower price in the event of riots or mob violence.
- Transfer of immovable property without prior permission of the competent authority in the disturbed area will be considered invalid.
- Valid transfer of property by interested persons can be done only after obtaining permission.
- Violation of the Bill is considered a non-bailable and cognizable offence with imprisonment of 3 to 5 years and fine.
- With the enactment of the Bill, the rights of permanent residents and tenants will get legal protection.
- This will help in maintaining social balance and community harmony in the state.

10 Projects Approved in Integrated Cluster Development Scheme

- The Integrated Cluster Development Scheme was implemented in January 2025.
- The objective of the scheme is to develop handicrafts, handloom and MSME sectors.
- Under this, there is a provision of grants up to 100% for technological upgradation, skill development, quality improvement and market development.
- Recently 10 projects have been approved by the Department of Industry and Commerce.
- A total of Rs 69 crore will be spent on 10 clusters of 9 districts, out of which a grant of about Rs 58 crore will be given by the state government.
- Common Facility Centres will be developed in Bharatpur, Hanumangarh, Phalodi, Kotputli-Behror, Balotra, Dausa and Jaipur.
- Modern machines will be installed in these centers, which will benefit more than 100 small and micro industrial units.

In Rajasthan, Governor returns 10 bills

- The Governor of Rajasthan, Shri Haribhau Kishanrao Bagde returned 10 Bills on legal grounds.
- Out of these, 9 bills were passed during the Ashok Gehlot government, and 1 bill was passed in the first term of the Vasundhara Raje government in 2008.

10 Bills returned

- The Rajasthan Protection from Lynching Bill, 2019
- The Rajasthan Prohibition of Interference with the Liberty of Marital Relations in the Name of Honour and Tradition Bill, 2019

- The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Rajasthan Amendment Bill, 2020
- The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services (Rajasthan Amendment) Bill, 2020
- The Essential Commodities (Special Provisions and Rajasthan Amendment) Bill, 2020
- The Vyas Vidyapeeth University, Jodhpur Bill, 2022
- Saurabh University, Hindaun City (Karauli) Bill, 2022
- The Electricity (Tariffs) Bill, 2023
- The Nathdwara Temples (Amendment) Bill, 2023
- Rajasthan Freedom of Religion Bill, 2008

Atal Gyan Kendra Scheme: Approval of Phase I

- In Rajasthan, knowledge centers are being set up at the Gram Panchayat level under the Atal Gyan Kendra Scheme. The objective of these centres is to provide opportunities to rural youth for quality studies, digital literacy and preparation for competitive examinations.
- Designated infrastructure, digital facilities and learning resources will be made available in all the centres in a time-bound manner.
- In the first phase, financial sanction has been given to 1,687 Atal Knowledge Centres in Rajasthan.

Union Budget 2026-27: Rajasthan's Share in Central Taxes

- Rajasthan is estimated to get Rs 90,445 crore as a share of central taxes in the Union Budget 2026–27.
- This amount is about Rs 6,505 crore more than Rs 84,487.83 crore in the previous year.
- However, the percentage of Rajasthan's share in central taxes has come down to 5.92%, from around 6% in the previous budget.
- **Note:** The percentage of Rajasthan's share in central taxes has decreased but the total amount has increased.
- Rajasthan will get the highest amount of central taxes from income tax and corporate tax.

Estimated amount by tax category (in Rs. crore)

Tax Category	Estimated amount (in crore)
income tax	32,187.25
Corporate Tax	26,550.56
Central GST	24,736.89
Custom Duty	4,825.56
Excise Duty	2,055.69
Other Taxes	89.90
family	90,445.85

Rajasthan in the Recommendations of the 16th Finance Commission

- The Union Budget has approved the recommendations of the 16th Finance Commission.
- Under this, Rajasthan will get Rs 12,281 crore for disaster relief fund, about Rs 19,381 crore for local bodies. This amount will be received in 5 years.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Ajmer

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Ajmer on 28th February 2026.
- The foundation stone and inauguration of projects worth around ₹16,686 crore were laid.

National Level HPV Vaccination Campaign

- The Prime Minister launched the National HPV Immunization Campaign for Cervical Cancer Prevention for 14 Year Girls from Kayad in Ajmer.
- The campaign involves administering one dose of Gardasil-IV vaccine which is a quadrivalent vaccine that provides protection against four types of human papilloma virus -types 6, 11, 16, and 18
- This vaccine will be administered free of cost to about 1.15 crore girls across the country every year.

Rajasthan Industrial Park Promotion Policy-2026

- The policy was approved in the state cabinet meeting on February 25, 2026.
- It aims to develop high-quality industrial infrastructure in the state, attract private investment and make Rajasthan a major industrial hub.

Models of development

Model	Description
A	The land will be fully provided by RIICO
B	80 per cent of the land will be given by the developer and 20 per cent by the RIICO
C	The entire land will belong to a private developer
D	It will be based on Public-Private Partnership (PPP)

Application Process

- All applications will be accepted under the single window system through 'Raj Nivesh Portal'.
- RIICO has been appointed as the nodal agency for effective implementation of this policy.
- Eligibility Conditions: It is mandatory for any industrial park to have a minimum of 50 acres of land and at least 10 industrial units.

Area (acres)	Maximum Capital Grant
Up to 100 Acres	Support up to ₹20 crore
100 to 250 Acres	Grants up to ₹30 crore
More than 250 acres	Support up to ₹40 crore

- Up to 50% (maximum ₹12.5 crore) of the expenditure incurred on the Shared Waste Treatment Plant (CETP) will be reimbursed. 60% of the cost (maximum ₹3 crore) for the construction of approach roads of industrial parks will be borne by the state government.
- Captive renewable energy usage will be exempted from 100% electricity tariff for 7 years.
- Stamp duty and land conversion charges will be exempted by 25%.
- Additional incentives will also be made available under RIPS-2024 for plug-and-play office complexes.

Rajasthan Homestay Scheme-2026

- The objective of this scheme is to promote tourism and rural self-employment.
- The scheme has been simplified and streamlined in line with 'Ease of Doing Business'.

Key Provisions

- The maximum number of rooms in a residential unit has been increased from 5 to 8 (maximum 24 beds). The requirement of the property owner to live in the same premises was abolished.
- It is mandatory to report foreign tourists and keep the guest register safe for at least 7 years.
- Temporary registration for operation will be granted on the day of application itself and permanent registration will be granted for 2 years after inspection within 3 months.
- For this purpose, there is a provision of ₹1,000, and ₹2,000 for the Gold category.

'Gaon Gwala' Yojana

- The scheme was launched on 22nd February 2026 from Khedli village in Kota district.
- It was inaugurated by Education and Panchayati Raj Minister Madan Dilawar.
- Objective: To revive the traditional cow grazing system and prevent accidents caused by stray cattle on the roads.
- Under this, one 'Gaon Gwala' will be appointed for every 70 cows. Each cowherd (gwala) will be given an honorarium of ₹10,000 per month. The cost of the scheme will be borne with the help of Bhamashah (donors) instead of the government budget.

Rajasthan in Union Railway Budget 2026-27

- The central government has made a provision of Rs 10,228 crore for Rajasthan in the general budget.
- This is the highest ever Railway Budget for Rajasthan. A provision of Rs 2.93 lakh crore has been made across the country to speed up railway infrastructure works.

Girls' hostels to open in all districts of Rajasthan

- In the Union Budget 2026-27, it has been announced to open girls' hostels in every district.
- Under this scheme, 41 girls' hostels will be opened in Rajasthan.
- Special announcements have been made in the budget for textile, handloom and handicraft sectors. This will provide new employment opportunities to artisans, craftsmen, women and small entrepreneurs. Provisions related to infrastructure and connectivity will give a boost to tourism in Rajasthan.
- Modernization of railways, urban development schemes and smart connectivity will ease access to major tourist cities.

Important decisions of the State Cabinet

- The state cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma took important decisions on February 25, 2026.

Major Election Decisions

- The requirement of 'two children' to contest panchayat and urban body elections was abolished.
- For this, the Rajasthan Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2026 and the Rajasthan Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 2026 were approved.
- Section 19 of the Panchayati Raj Act, 1994 and Section 24 of the Municipalities Act, 2009 will be amended.
- As per the directions of the Supreme Court, leprosy was removed from the category of 'dangerous disease' and the affected persons were given the right to contest elections.

Administrative and Economic Reforms

- The old 'State Directorate of Revenue Intelligence' will be abolished and the 'Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and Economic Offences (DRIEO)' will be formed.
- Objective: To strengthen the control over economic crimes and ensure strict financial discipline in the state.

Area of Work

- The new directorate will monitor tax evasion and revenue loss in commercial tax, excise, transport, registration and mineral departments.
- It will take action against real estate frauds, banking and insurance frauds, stock market crimes, multi-level marketing and fake placement agencies.

Private Bill on Love Marriage and Live-In Relationship

- Ahore MLA Chhagan Singh Rajpurohit introduced a private bill in the Rajasthan Assembly .
- The name of this bill is “Rajasthan Family Consent (Regulation of Marriage and Cohabitation) Bill-2026”. The Bill provides that the consent of parents or guardians will be mandatory for love marriages up to the age of 25 years.
- The Bill also requires parental consent for a live-in relationship.
- The Bill also provides for punishment and fine in case of violation.

Vande Ganga Jal Sanrakshan Abhiyan (Phase II)

- Union Minister for Jal Shakti, C.R. Patil has given instructions to ensure adequate recharge capacity of rainwater under Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari Campaign 2.0.
- The work of river water conservation through public participation in Dungarpur district has emerged as an exemplary initiative.
- The state government will start the second phase of “Vande Ganga Jal Sanrakshan Jan Abhiyan” from Ganga Dussehra (25 May 2026).
- The campaign will be conducted till 5th June 2026 (World Environment Day).
- In the first phase (1.0) of this campaign, Rajasthan was ranked third in the country.
- Barmer and Bhilwara districts had performed best in the first phase.

Women Entrepreneurship Programme 2026 (WISE-2026)

- The event was held in Jaipur on 27–28 February 2026.
- The event was held under WISE-2026 (Women’s International Summit on Entrepreneurship).
- It was organized in collaboration with the Rajasthan Rural Livelihood Development Council (Rajeevika) and the Confederation of Women Entrepreneurs (COWE).
- Objective: To encourage women in the field of entrepreneurship and promote economic empowerment.

Increase in Social Security Pension Scheme

- Under the provisions of the Rajasthan Minimum Income Guarantee Act, 2023, the state government decided to increase the pension amount.
- Under the Social Security Pension Scheme, the monthly pension amount was increased from Rs 1,250 to Rs 1,300.
- This increase will be applicable to pension to old age, widow/single woman, Divyangjan and small and marginal farmers.
- Note: The Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Shri Bhajan Lal Sharma, on February 27, 2026, in response to the Finance and Appropriation Bill, announced this amount to Rs 1,450.
- The increased amount will be considered effective from January 1, 2026.
- This enhanced pension will be paid from February, 2026.
- **Note: The Rajasthan Budget 2026-26 has been included with the book “Samyak Rajasthan Economic Survey 2025-26”.**

Person in News

Jitendra Singh appointed as president of Rajasthan Kabaddi Association

- The elections to the Rajasthan Kabaddi Association were held unopposed on 23 January 2026.
- In these elections, Jitendra Singh was elected as the new president of the Rajasthan Kabaddi Association.

Elected Officials

- Chairman: Jitendra Singh
- **Vice-Presidents:** Harjeet Singh Brar, Bhikh Singh Daura, Surendra Khanduja, Nemi Chand, Reena Kumari.
- Secretary: Jagdish Garhwal
- Treasurer: Akshay Hada

Dr. Ashok Kumar Sharma appointed Vice President of Baseball Association of India

- Dr. Ashok Kumar Sharma from Rajasthan was re-elected as the Vice President of the Amateur Baseball Federation of India.
- He is also currently the President of the Rajasthan Baseball Association.
- Dr. Ashok has been elected to this post for the third consecutive time.

Raghuveer Singh Rathore passes away

- Rajasthan's only former Test cricket umpire Raghuveer Singh Rathore passed away.
- He officiated in 2 Test matches and 4 ODIs.
- Apart from this, Rathore also played the role of umpire in 50 first-class cricket matches.

Bhanu Prakash Mirdha passes away

- Former Nagaur MP Bhanuprakash Mirdha passed away on 1 January 2026.
- He was the son of veteran farmer leader Nathuram Mirdha.
- In the 1997 Lok Sabha by-election, he was elected MP from Nagaur on a Bharatiya Janata Party ticket.
- His parliamentary term lasted from 1997-98.

Veteran shooter Poonam Kumar passes away

- Eminent shooter Poonam Kumar Choudhary passed away on Sunday. He won a gold medal at the Commonwealth Shooting Championships in 2001.
- Poonam Kumar won a total of 88 medals in her career, including 86 at the national level, including 17 gold medals. The Rajasthan government honored him with the Maharana Pratap Award in the year 2018.

Phoolchand Gurjar passes away

- Two-time Bharatiya Janata Party MLA Phoolchand Gurjar passed away on 2 January 2026.
- He was an MLA from Neemkathana assembly constituency.

Former High Court judge Panachand Jain passes away

- Former Rajasthan High Court judge Panachand Jain passed away on January 27, 2026.
- He has authored the book 'Indian Democracy: Constitutional Perspective'.

Rohit Kumar Singh becomes USISPF Chair and BOD Advisor

- The US India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) appointed Rohit Kumar Singh, former Secretary to the Government of India, as the Chair of the Global Value Chains Committee and an Advisor to the Board of Directors. They will work on promoting regulatory synergy, public-private partnerships, and robust and diversified supply chains. Rohit Kumar Singh is a 1989 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from Rajasthan. He has vast experience in areas such as Economic Governance, Consumer Markets and Digital Governance.

K. K. Gupta appointed as state brand ambassador of Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)

- Mr. K.K. Gupta, former Chairman of Dungarpur Municipal Council, has been appointed as the State Brand Ambassador of Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) on February 1, 2026. He is also currently the State Coordinator of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin).

- Shri Gupta is known for his “Dungarpur Model”, under his guidance Dungarpur excelled in cleanliness surveys.
- Note: Shri K.K. Gupta has been the Swachhata Brand Ambassador of the State twice in the past.

Namita Gokhale receives Harishchandra Lifetime Achievement Award

- Jaipur Literature Festival co-founder and author Namita Gokhale was honoured with the Bhartendu Harishchandra Lifetime Achievement Award at the Banaras Lit Fest.
- The award was given for his long-standing and multifaceted contribution to Indian literature.
- He has also received the Sahitya Akademi Award for the novel ‘Things to Leave Behind’ in the year 2021.

Former minister Hem Singh Bhadana passes away

- Former cabinet minister and 2-time MLA from Thanagazi Hem Singh Bhadana passed away on February 2, 2026. He was an MLA from Thanagaji on a Bharatiya Janata Party ticket twice in 2008 and 2013.
- He was Minister of State (Independent Charge) in the Vasundhara government from 2014-2016 and a cabinet minister from 2016-2018.

Former MLA Hetram Beniwal passes away

- Communist Party of India leader Hetram Beniwal passed away on February 23, 2026.
- He was an MLA from Sangaria.

Places in News

Rajasthan ‘s first fully organic-certified panchayat

- Bamanwas Kankar panchayat in Rajasthan’s Kotputli-Behror district has become the state’s first fully biologically certified panchayat.
- It is also the first panchayat in North-West India to get fully organic certification.
- About 1500 hectares of agricultural land in seven hamlets of this panchayat has been certified under organic standards.
- More than 6000 animals are also certified as per the National Biological Standards.
- Farmers here have stopped using chemical fertilizers and pesticides.
- Natural manure, compost, crop rotation and organic pest control practices are being adopted in agriculture and animal husbandry.

Nagaur’s Ashwagandha gets GI tag

- The central government has granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag to ‘Nagori Ashwagandha’.
- The certificate has been issued by the Geographical Indications Registry, Chennai, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.
- This is the second major GI tag of Rajasthan after Sojat’s mehndi in the agriculture category.
- Nagori Ashwagandha is the 22nd GI tagged product of Rajasthan, while the second product in the agriculture sector.
- Getting the GI tag will preserve the regional identity and traditional knowledge of this medicinal crop.
- At the same time, quality will be ensured, market price will increase and farmers’ income will increase.
- The natural area of Nagori Ashwagandha is spread over western and central Rajasthan. This includes Nagaur as well as the surrounding areas of Bikaner, Churu, Barmer, Sikar and Jodhpur.

Pali: Rajasthan’s first e-service centre for judicial work

- Under the digitization of judicial work, the state's first e-service center will be set up in Pali Court.
- The objective of the e-Sewa Kendra is to make judicial processes simpler, faster and digital.
- A total of eight types of information including the status of cases, the date of the next hearing will be available free of cost at these centers.
- Information related to video conferencing, e-filing, RTI, e-RTI and debate list will also be available here. The e-Seva Kendra will have the facility of e-payment of penalty and court fee.
- Soft copies of judicial orders and judgments can be obtained through e-mail, WhatsApp or other digital means.

Pilot Project for Grain ATMs in 3 Districts

- Pilot project for grain ATMs in 3 districts in Rajasthan - Grain ATMs will be set up in Jaipur, Bharatpur and Bikaner districts.
- Beneficiaries associated with the food security scheme will be able to get wheat directly from the grain ATM without going to the fair price shop through ration card.
- Families covered under the National Food Security Act will no longer have to stand in queues to get ration.
- The beneficiaries will be able to get their family quota of wheat at any time, from the grain ATM under the 24×7 facility.
- These grain ATMs will act like ATM machines and ration can be obtained from the thumb impression.
- The country's first grain ATM of this type has already been launched in Gurugram.

Biological Park to be developed in Alwar

- A new organic park will be developed in the Kati Ghati area of Alwar district of Rajasthan.
- The proposed biological park will be constructed between Kati Ghati and Jaisamand.
- The park will be developed in an area of about 100 hectares.
- Out of the total area, about 30 percent will be developed as a zoo and 70 percent as a green area.
- It will become the first organic park of its kind in the National Capital Region (NCR).
- More than 400 wildlife of 81 different species will be kept in Alwar Biological Park.
- Here lions, cheetahs and tigers of various species found in India can be seen.
- Giraffes brought from Africa will be the major attraction of this park.
- It will have 3 safaris - Lion Safari, Tiger Safari and Safari of Herbivores.

Rescue Centers and Veterinary Clinics

- A state-of-the-art animal rescue centre will be set up on the lines of Gir National Park.
- A high-tech veterinary hospital will also be developed along with it.
- The park will be operated by the Rajasthan Forest Department in collaboration with the Central Zoo Authority.
- Note: Rajasthan's first 'NaMo Biodiversity Park' has been developed at Pratapbandh near the same area.

Rajasthan's first government poison detection and drug level lab

- Rajasthan's first government poison detection and drug level lab is being set up at Sawai Mansingh Hospital in Jaipur.
- This lab has been set up under the Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology.
- With the start of this lab, patients affected by the consumption of toxic substances like pesticides, sleeping pills or sulfos will be treated on the basis of scientific investigation.
- The lab will be equipped with modern equipment like HPTLC and UV-visible spectrophotometer.
- In this, the type and quantity of poison can be accurately detected through the investigation.
- This will reduce the side effects of the drugs and also reduce the cost of treatment.

Inauguration of Rajasthan's first Jamun, Sitaphal and Amla Processing Incubation Centre

- Rajasthan's first Jamun, Sitaphal and Amla Processing Incubation Centre was inaugurated on 20th January 2026 in Balicha area of Udaipur. The centre was built at a cost of Rs 3.44 crore.
- The event also saw an exhibition of various products including Millets, Ice Cream, Jamun Bites by the beneficiaries of the PM-FME scheme.

Jaipur: Largest data center to be built

- Rajasthan's largest data center will be set up in Jaipur.
- The announcement was made by Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw during the AI Impact Conference of the Rajasthan DigiFest Tie Global Summit held at JECC in Jaipur.
- Apart from this, about 10 lakh people will be given training related to Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Flag off ceremony of Kaushal Rath in Rajasthan

- It took place on 7th January 2026 at the Rural Women's Educational Institute, Sikar.
- The Chief Guest was Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Jayant Chaudhary and the Guest of Honour was Jhabar Singh Kharra (Minister of State (Independent Charge), Urban Development, Housing and Autonomous Government Department, Rajasthan).
- It aims to ensure mobilization, training, assessment and certification of more than 2,000 youth in 1 year in Sikar and access to all blocks and gram panchayats of the district.
- Objective: To provide information to the youth on skill development and employment-oriented training.

Kaushal Rath

- Kaushal Rath is a special awareness and mobilization campaign.
- It provides industry-based certified training and employment opportunities to the youth from rural, small towns and backward areas by connecting them with government skill schemes.

North India's tallest Hanuman statue built in Nathdwara

- A 111-feet tall grand statue of Hanuman ji has been installed in Nathdwara of Rajsamand district, after the world famous Shiva statue Vishwas Swaroopam.
- This statue was installed in a standing posture on the Govardhan mountain.
- The south-facing idol is bowing to Shrinathji with folded hands.
- It will be visible from 10-12 km away as it is on a mountain with a height of about 450 feet.
- The idol has been constructed by sculptor Naresh Kumawat.

Rajasthan's first terminal station to be built at Khatipura

- The city's first terminal railway station will be developed at a cost of about Rs 200 crore in the Khatipura area of Jaipur. The station will be equipped with new electronic interlocking systems, with a total of 8 lines and 6 platforms. These include 6 loop lines and 2 main lines.
- 8 Line Crossing Station between Khatipura, Jagatpura and Kanota stations was connected to fully centralized train operation through Double VDU System and Electronic Interlocking Technology.
- A modern coach care complex/Vande Bharat maintenance shed is also being constructed here, where maintenance of Vande Bharat and other Mail-Express trains will be carried out.

The country's largest bone marrow transplant Unit

- The country's largest bone marrow transplant unit has been started at the State Cancer Institute located in Pratap Nagar, Jaipur.

- This unit will be useful for patients suffering from blood cancer, aplastic anemia, thalassemia, sickle cell disease and myeloma.
- This modern unit has been built at a cost of about Rs 25 crore with 50 beds.
- The institute will have the facility of autologous and allogeneic transplant simultaneously.
- Here Ayushman card holders will get free treatment.

Crude reaches Balotra from Mundra port: Pachpadra refinery trial successful

- The trial of crude oil in the country's most state-of-the-art refinery located at Pachpadra in Barmer was successful.
- In this, crude oil was transported to the refinery in 21 days through a pipeline 700 km away from Mundra Port in Gujarat.
- The commissioning process was completed in 21 days.
- The refining process started from January 2026, although commercial production will start at full capacity by March 2026.
- For this, the pipeline already laid from Mangla Terminal to Jamnagar will be used.
- Pachpadra is India's first joint refinery-petrochemical complex project.
- It is based on BS-6 fuel production and zero liquid discharge technology.

Satellite Innovation Studios to be set up in four cities including Jaipur

- The first state-of-the-art Atal Innovation Studio and Accelerator will be set up to promote animation, VFX, gaming, documentary and digital content in Rajasthan.
- The main production house will be built in the IT Development and e-Governance Building in Jhalana, Jaipur.
- Satellite Studios: Bharatpur, Bikaner and Udaipur.
- Nodal Department: Department of Information Technology & Communications (DoIT&C)
- This will provide a one-stop solution from idea to production.

Pugal to develop as solar energy hub

- A huge solar park of 2450 MW capacity will be developed in the Pugal area of Bikaner district.
- It has a capacity of 1600 MW/s solar power generation as well as solar power generation. A 6400 MWh battery energy storage system will also be developed, ensuring uninterrupted power supply even during peak hours.
- An investment of about Rs 17,000 crore is proposed on this project.
- The Rajasthan government has started the online tendering process for the project.
- 4394 hectares of land has already been allocated for this project.
- The development of the solar park will be done in two phases:
 - Phase-1: 2000 MW solar + 1320 MW/s solar 5280 MWh Battery
 - Phase-2: 450 MW solar + 280 MW/s solar 1120 MWh Battery

Udaipur: New hybrid health model for government hospitals

- Dr. Vipin Mathur, Principal, RNT Medical College, Udaipur, has devised a cottage ward-insurance-based hybrid public health model.
- This model will be considered for implementation at the state level.
- If this is approved, Rajasthan will become the first state in the country, where the option of premium facilities will also be available with free treatment in government hospitals.

World's smallest cat 'Rusty Spotted Cat' found in Shergarh forest of Baran

- Recently, a rusty-spotted cat was recorded alive in a camera trap at Shergarh Wildlife Sanctuary in Baran district located in Hadoti region of Rajasthan.

Rusty-spotted cat

- It is called the "hummingbird of cats" by wildlife experts.
- Scientific Name: *Prionailurus rubiginosus*
- It is the smallest wild cat in the world.
- Weight: Approximately 0.9 to 1.6 kg
- Length: 35 to 48 centimeters (without tails)
- It is a nocturnal species and has a vision capacity about 6 times that of humans.
- IUCN Red List Status: Near Threatened (NT)
- Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Listed in Schedule-I

Eco-sensitive zone declared around Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary

- The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change issued a notification declaring an Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) around the Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary in Rajasthan.
- An area from 0 to 1 km from the sanctuary boundary will fall under the ESZ, which has a total area of about 243 square kilometers.
- This notification has been issued under Section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- The ESZ covers a total of 94 villages in Rajsamand, Pali and Udaipur districts of Rajasthan.

Pushkar to become wedding destination city

- Pushkar will be developed as a wedding destination city after three schemes of the Ajmer Development Authority get approval from the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA).

Approved Schemes

Brahma Enclave Resort	Tirtharaj Pushkar Farm House	Pushkar Wedding Destination City
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area: 12.8 hectares 64 Resort Units 85 Commercial Shops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area: 34.27 hectares 64 Farm House Plots 33 Commercial shops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area: 44.4 hectares 21 Mega Resorts 21 Farm House Plot 42 Commercial Shops

Nasirabad: Training of 'Bhairav Force' for high-risk operations

- In view of the emerging challenges related to internal and external security of the country, the Indian Army has formed a new special commando unit 'Bhairav Force'.
- The training was imparted at the historic Naseerabad Cantonment in Rajasthan, where the country's largest firing range is located.
- The commandos have been given intensive training in modern weapons, communication systems, drone technology and Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based warfare skills under the hybrid training model.

The country's first Maharudra Shaktipeeth in Amer

- The country's first Maharudra Shaktipeeth will be set up at Mehndi Ka Bas in Amer area of Jaipur.
- The idols will be installed in this Shaktipeeth in the presence of Galta Peethadhishwar Swami Avdeshacharya Maharaj. Ashta Bhairav will also be established in this Shaktipeeth.

Huge cow sanctuary to be built in Kota

- Recently, the Chief Minister announced the setting up of a huge cow sanctuary in Kota.

- For this, a separate protected site is proposed to be built in the Kota area, which will be dedicated to the conservation of cows.
- It aims to promote the protection, promotion and service of Gau Mata and to link animal welfare with religious, cultural and social values. This will provide safe shelter to abandoned and destitute cattle.

Tele-robotic surgery: SMS Hospital to become control centre

- Specialist doctors of Sawai Mansingh Hospital in Jaipur will also be able to perform surgeries on patients admitted in hospitals in the state as well as the country and abroad through tele-robotic technology.
- In this arrangement, the entire control of surgery will be done from SMS Hospital, Jaipur.
- For this, robots are being purchased by the Medical Department in Jodhpur, Bikaner, Kota, Udaipur and Ajmer. With the help of these robots, operations for serious diseases like kidney and prostate cancer will be done.

Udaipur: Lion Safari begins in Sajjangarh Sanctuary

- The Lion Safari was launched for the general tourists on 16 February 2026 at Sajjangarh Sanctuary in Udaipur.
- This is the second Lion Safari in Rajasthan.
 - **Note:** There is also a Lion Safari in Nahargarh Biological Park in Jaipur.
- This will enable tourists to visit three major attractions in the Sajjangarh region – Sajjangarh Sanctuary, Sajjangarh Biological Park and Lion Safari.
- For this, a strong iron fence and boundary wall has been built around the Lion Safari developed in an area of about 20 hectares.
- A pair of Asiatic Lions for safari were brought from the Sakkarbaug Zoo in Junagadh, Gujarat under an exchange programme.

Siliserh Lake to become Rajasthan's first 'Model Wetland'

- The Siliserh Lake in Alwar will be developed as Rajasthan's first Model Wetland.
- Objective: To develop wetlands as a model for other districts for conservation and management.
- Instructions in this regard were issued in the meeting of the Technical Committee of the State Wetlands Authority on February 10, 2026.
- In December, 2025, it received international recognition as India's 96th Ramsar site. It is the 5th Ramsar site of Rajasthan.

International Skill Centres in Jaipur and Bharatpur

- In a high-level review meeting between the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and the Government of Rajasthan, it was agreed to open International Skill Centres in Jaipur and Bharatpur.
- Apart from this, a National Skill Training Institute will be set up in Bharatpur.
- Under the Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employment Transformation Scheme, 1,000 ITIs and 5 National Skill Training Institutes will be upgraded at a cost of Rs 60,000 crore in five years .
- A target has been set to provide training to 20 lakh youth under this scheme.

2 new Centre for Climate Change to be set up in Rajasthan

- The Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board (RSPCB) signed MoUs with IIT Jodhpur and MNIT Jaipur on 9th February 2026.
- A 'Centre of Excellence for Climate Change' will be set up in collaboration with IIT Jodhpur.
- A 'Clean and Green Technology Development Centre' will be set up in collaboration with MNIT Jaipur.

Clean and Green Technology Development Centre

- It will be set up at a cost of Rs 250 crore.
- It aims to promote green skilling, convert waste into a resource and encourage a circular economy.
- Under this, research, data and knowledge hubs will be developed for pollution control.

Centre of Excellence for Climate Change

- It will be set up at a cost of Rs 150 crore.
- It will work on research, policy advice, innovation and capacity building on climate change.
- The focus will be on detailed climate mapping of the state, early warning systems and climate adaptation.

Udaipur: India's first dedicated lacrosse ground

- The country's first dedicated lacrosse ground has been developed at Maharana Pratap Khelgaon in Udaipur. The ground has been built at a cost of Rs 72 lakh and is at par with international standards.
- The size of the field is 130 × 80 meters.
- It has been laid out with natural grass like international cricket grounds.
- Rajasthan's largest multipurpose indoor stadium is also developing rapidly in this sports village complex.
- On completion of these facilities, Udaipur will become a major city in Rajasthan to host national and international sports events.

Jaipur: World's First Ayurvedic Excellence Centre

- The world's first Ayurvedic Excellence Centre has been developed at the National Institute of Ayurveda, Zorawar Singh Gate, Jaipur.
- The centre was inaugurated on February 7, 2026 by Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma and Union Minister of State for AYUSH Pratap Rao Jadhav.
- The objective of this centre is to ensure purity, quality and scientific authenticity of Ayurvedic medicine.
- Modern laboratories for Ayurvedic medicines and medicinal plants have been established here.
- Key facilities include DNA banks, genome sequencing labs, and digital databases.
- This database will compile information related to biological identification, properties and medicinal effects of medicinal plants.

Rajasthan's second Ayurveda University to be set up in Ajmer

- The state cabinet approved the draft of the 'Rajasthan Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy University, Ajmer Bill-2026'. The establishment of this University will promote education and research in traditional medicine areas such as Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani and Homoeopathy.
- At present, the only Ayurveda University in the state is in Jodhpur.
- Objective: To develop modern teaching, training and research in traditional medicine practices.
- This initiative will promote medical tourism in AYUSH and provide better infrastructure facilities to students and researchers.

Jaipur to be AVGC hub, studio to be set up in Jhalana

- The Rajasthan government has given financial approval to Jaipur to become an Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics (AVGC) hub.
- The studio will be constructed at the Polytechnic College campus in Jhalana, Jaipur.
- Short movies, animation series and documentaries can be produced in this production house.
- It will promote activities in robotics, coding, animation, VFX, gaming and comics for startups in the state.

- It will be built at a cost of about Rs 70 crore.
- Note: The Rajasthan government had announced Atal Innovation Studios in Jaipur, Bharatpur, Bikaner, and Udaipur in Budget-2024.
- Note: The AVGC-XR policy was implemented in Rajasthan in December 2024.

Bhati Khera (Balotra): Auction of Minor Rare Earth Element Block in Rajasthan

- The first major (critical) Rare Earth Element block from Hard Rock in Siwana area of Balotra district was auctioned.
- The block was allotted to M/s Team Geo Resources Pvt. Ltd.
- After research in the Aravalli region by the Geological Survey of India and Directorate of Atomic Minerals, a block of 1.34 sq km was identified at Bhati Kheda.
- The micro granite of this region has been found to be rich in rare earth elements.
- These minerals are used in nuclear and defence technology, space research, electric vehicles and high-tech manufacturing.

Global Rare Earth Reserves Status

1. China: 44 million tonnes (highest in the world)
2. Brazil: 21 million metric tons
3. India: 6.9 million metric tonnes

Rare Minerals discovered in Aravalli region connected to Udaipur-Sirohi-Abu Road

- The Ambaji (Gujarat) mountain region connected to Udaipur-Sirohi-Abu Road is estimated to have more than 100 million tonnes of rare mineral reserves.
- Precious minerals like copper, gold, lead, zinc, silver have been found in this area.
- Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation (GMDC) has signed a research and consultancy MoU with the Department of Geology, Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur.
- The process of mineral exploration and mining has started in Ambaji area.
- Mining has been planned in an area of 1840 hectares, of which 140 hectares are covered in the first phase.

Rajasthan 's first 'NAFED Bazaar'

- Rajasthan's first 'NAFED Bazaar' was inaugurated on 13th February, 2026 at Nehru Sahakar Bhawan, Jaipur.
- This retail outlet is based on the concept of 'Kisan Se Kitchen Tak'.
- Through this, farmers will get fair prices for their produce and pure and quality products will be available to the consumers.
- In future, NAFED bazaars will be set up in other districts of the state as well.

Jodhpur-Pali-Marwar and Kankani Industrial Areas to be declared Priority Semiconductor Corridors

- Under the Rajasthan Semiconductor Policy, Jodhpur-Pali-Marwar and Kankani Industrial Area will be declared as Priority Semiconductor Corridors.
- Under this, fast-track land allotment, single window registration, utility coordination and all necessary infrastructure facilities will be made available at one place.
- Apart from this, two committees will be formed for the effective implementation of the Rajasthan Semiconductor Policy:
 1. State Level Sanctions Committee
 2. State Empowered Committee
- In this, the Department of Industries and Commerce will act as the nodal department.

Rajasthan's first sleeper Vande Bharat from Jodhpur

- Rajasthan's first sleeper Vande Bharat train will run from Jodhpur.
- Train maintenance facilities are available at the Sleeper Vande Bharat Escort Shed at Jodhpur.
- In the year 2026-27, a target has been set to install Kavach Protection System on 250 km of railway route in Rajasthan.
- Since 2014, 1514 railway flyovers and underpasses have been constructed in Rajasthan and about 3900 km of railway tracks have been constructed.

Mini Plug and Play Textile Park in Kota

- 50 acres of land has been identified in Range Kasar area for setting up of Textile Park in Kota.
- A mini plug and play textile park will be developed here.

Atal Kavya Smarak and Atal Loktantra Upvan at City Park Mansarovar

- Atal Kavya Smarak and Atal Loktantra Upvan will be developed in the City Park at Mansarovar, Jaipur.
- The preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) and the appointment of an architect for the project were given administrative and financial approval on February 3.

Awards & Honors

Rajasthan: 3 awarded Padma Shri

- In the Padma Awards for the year 2026, 3 persons from Rajasthan will be conferred with Padma Shri. Ghaffaruddin Mewati Jogi, Tagaram Bhil and Swami Brahmadev will be given the Padma Shri award.
- Apart from this, Piyush Pandey, who hails from Jaipur, will be posthumously awarded the Padma Bhushan from Maharashtra for his contribution in the field of art.



Name	Place	Field	Contribution
Gafruddin Mewati Jogi	Deeg	Art	Through Bhopang playing and Pandun folk singing, he kept the endangered folk art alive for six decades and gave it global recognition.
Tagaram Bhil	Jaisalmer	Art	He took Rajasthani folk music to national and international platforms through the art of Algoza playing; he also possessed exceptional skill in Matka and flute performance.
Swami Brahmadev	Sriganganagar	Social Service	Notable contribution to social work; Founder of Shri Jagdamba School of Blind and Charitable Eye Hospital, working for the welfare of poor and visually impaired people since the 1990s.

77th Republic Day: Rajasthan's tableau wins third prize

- Rajasthan's tableau won the third prize in the Popular Choice category at the 77th Republic Day Parade held in New Delhi.
- In the Popular Choice category, Gujarat got the first position and Uttar Pradesh got the second place.
- The tableau of Rajasthan was based on the theme "Golden Touch of the Desert".
- The tableau showcased the Swarna Usta art of Bikaner.

Republic Day-2026 State Level Celebrations and Honours

- The 77th Republic Day state level function was held at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium.
- Police Medals and Certificates of Merit were presented to several officers for distinguished services on the occasion.

President's Police Medal

- Inspector General of Police Shri Satyendra Singh was awarded the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service. He has been the Inspector General of Police, Sikar Range and is currently posted in CID CB, Rajasthan, Jaipur.

President's Meritorious Service Medal (Home Defence)

- Shri Ghanshyam Singh, Deputy Commandant, Central Training Institute, Home Defence, Rajasthan, Jaipur was awarded the President's Meritorious Service Medal.

Other honors

- Police Medals were awarded to 16 officers including IG Mr. Vikas Kumar.

Energy Conservation: 'Energy Conservation Award' to Alwar and Jaipur stations

- The Rajasthan government honoured Alwar and Jaipur railway stations with the Rajasthan Energy Conservation Award.
- In the 'Railway Station' category, Alwar station has got the first position and Jaipur station has got the second position.
- These stations were selected on the basis of the Service Comfort Index (SCI).
- Under this, the power consumption was brought down to the minimum level while maintaining the convenience of the passengers with the use of technology at these stations.

Rajasthan Energy Conservation Award

- The awards were presented on 20th January 2026 at the Constitutional Club, Jaipur.
- Awards were given for outstanding work in energy conservation during the years 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25.
- **The awards were given in 5 categories** – Industry, Individual Building, Urban Body Building, Government Department, Office and Individual.
- A total of 73 people including 30 institutions and individuals and 43 other winners were awarded in 5 major categories. In the government department (district collector category), Dr. Artika Shukla, District Collector Alwar was awarded the first prize for the year 2022-23.

Jaipur Police's 'Nazar App' awarded with SKOCH Award

- Jaipur Police's public welfare digital initiative 'Nazar App' has been awarded the prestigious SKOCH Award at the national level. This app makes the verification process of tenants, drivers, and domestic helpers simple and transparent.
- The SKOCH Foundation presented this honor to Jaipur Police in the Technology Innovation category.
- The award was received by the then Additional Commissioner Kunwar Rashtradeep, who played a key role in the development of the Nazar app.

Gold Award to Rajasthan DISCOMs in PM-KUSUM Scheme Component-C

- The Gold Award was presented to Rajasthan DISCOMs at the annual felicitation ceremony of All India Discoms Association.
- The award was given for outstanding performance in Component-C of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM Scheme).

- Aarti Dogra, Chairperson, Rajasthan Discoms received the award.
- 1307 decentralized solar power plants of 2877 MW capacity have been set up in the State under Component-A and Component-C.

Rajasthan wins 'Leader Award' on National Startup Day

- On the occasion of National Startup Day, Rajasthan was awarded the prestigious 'Leader Award' in the National Startup Ranking at a ceremony held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- The award was conferred by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and Startup India for the state's strong, innovative and fast-growing startup ecosystem.

Priyanka Yadav wins State Level Young Leader Award

- Priyanka Yadav from Rajasthan was awarded the Young Leader Dialogue – State Level Award under the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2047.
- The award was given to him for his contribution to the leadership development, innovation and nation building of the youth.

Jaipur Airport becomes AI-smart airport

- Jaipur International Airport has now joined the list of select AI-based smart airports in the country.
- Here the Artificial Intelligence-based queue management system was implemented.
- This new technology will facilitate the movement of passengers within the terminal during peak hours. This will give passengers real-time information about the crowd situation.

Special Military Award to Dr. Lakshyaraj Singh Mewar

- General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Army Staff conferred the Special Military Award on Dr. Lakshyaraj Singh Mewar, former royal family member of Mewar, for his distinguished contribution in the field of social service. The award was given to him for setting 9 Guinness World Records in the field of Education, Women Education, Medical, Sanitation, Environment Protection and Social Service by providing two hi-tech ambulances to the Indian Army during the COVID period.

Bhilwara's Jjivisha Joshi wins two national honours in writing

- 17-year-old Jjivisha Joshi from Bhilwara, Rajasthan, has achieved remarkable achievements in the field of writing. She has become the youngest writer in the country by winning the 'Desh Ratna Award' and 'Indian Glory Award'. Jjivisha suffers from a serious and incurable disease like muscular dystrophy. His first book is 'Door to the Fifth Dimension'.

Rajasthan Gramin Bank's Achievement at IBA Banking Technology Awards

- Rajasthan Gramin Bank won a total of 5 awards at the 21st IBA Annual Banking Technology Awards held in Mumbai. The bank bagged the first position in the Digital Financial Inclusion category.
- Runners-up in Best Technology Bank and IT Risk Management.
- Special honours were received in the categories of Digital Sales and FinTech and DPI Adoption.

Republic Day-2026: Awards for the best tableaux in Rajasthan

- Tableaux of various departments were awarded at the State level celebrations of Republic Day-2026 on 9th February 2026.
- In this, the first prize was given to the tableau of the Agriculture Department "Namo Drone Didi".
- Through this tableau, the message of innovation in farming and women empowerment was conveyed through modern techniques.
- Apart from this, the "Rajasthani Art" themed tableau of the Department of Art and Culture received the second prize. The third prize was given to the tableau based on the "MAA Yojana" of the Medical and Health Department.

Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha Udyan awarded 'Best Exhibitor of the Show Shield'

- The garden located in the Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha complex was awarded the "Best Exhibitor of the Show Shield". There are currently about 70 varieties of flowering plants present in this assembly garden.

India Stone Mart-2026: Rajasthan wins first prize

- The first prize was given to the Rajasthan Department of Mines and Geology and Rajasthan State Mines and Minerals Limited for their outstanding performance in the Government Pavilion category at the India Stone Mart-2026. Both these departments were felicitated with mementos and citations.
- He gave an effective display of Major and Minor Minerals of the State in the Departmental Pavilion.
- Along with this, detailed information about the rich mineral wealth of Rajasthan was also presented.

Stonemart 2026: Honoring Rajsthali Emporium

- Rajsthali Emporium was awarded the 'Best Pavilion' award at Stonemart 2026 held in Jaipur.
- The award was presented by the state government under the PSU category.
- The award was given for Rajasthan's rich heritage, ODOP products, and innovative presentation.

Maharana Mewar Award 2026

- The international and national awards for the year 2026 were announced by the Maharana Mewar Charitable Foundation.
- The ceremony was held on March 15, 2026 at Manak Chowk of City Palace, Udaipur.

Major Honors & Winners

- Colonel James Todd Honor: Dr. Molly Emma Atkin (USA) – Rajput Painting
- Haldighati National Award: Kamlesh Kishore Singh – Journalism
- Maharana Udai Singh Award: Marimuthu Yoganathan – Environment Conservation
- Maharana Mewar Award: Bhuvnesh Jain – Journalism
- Maharana Sajjan Singh Award: Ajay Rawat – Sand Art
- Rana Punja Award: Dimple Chandat – Adivasi Upliftment
- Panna Dhaay Honor: Jet Airways Flight 9W 569 Crew – Humanitarian Services

Agreements/MoUs

Rajeevika-MNIT Jaipur MoU

- The MoU was signed between Rajasthan Rural Livelihood Development Council (Rajeevika) and Malaviya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur on 20 January 2026. It aims to strengthen academic collaboration for effective evaluation, study and research of Rajivika's schemes.

MoU with Google, IIT Delhi and NLU Jodhpur

- MoUs were signed with Google, IIT Delhi and National Law University, Jodhpur on 6th January 2026.
- In collaboration with Google, pilot projects based on AI-ML in health, agriculture, transport and civic services will be launched. Capacity building of officials, startups, and professionals will be undertaken in collaboration with NLU Jodhpur, promoting ethical, responsive and credible AI.

Demonstration of MoU using Holographic Technology

- On 6th January 2026, three important MoUs were showcased alive through holographic technology at JECC, Jaipur. This was the first time in a government event that a live event was presented as a holographic experience.
- The technology was developed by Rajat Jain, founder of Culenz, a startup registered with iStart.
- The MoUs with Google, IIT Delhi and NLU Jodhpur were shown in holographic form on the platform.

MoU between Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh State Election Commission

- The MoU was signed between the Rajasthan State Election Commission and the Madhya Pradesh State Election Commission on February 03, 2026 with the objective of smooth, fair and transparent conduct of local body elections in Rajasthan.
- The agreement was signed between the Rajasthan State Election Commission and the Madhya Pradesh State Election Commission.
- This MoU is an extension of the earlier agreement related to EVM availability and utilization.
- Under this, 30,000 control units and 60,000 ballot units will be provided to Rajasthan by the Madhya Pradesh State Election Commission on rent.
- These EVMs will be used in elections of Municipal and Panchayati Raj Institutions.
- Rajasthan State Election Commissioner, Rajasthan: Shri Rajeshwar Singh.
- Secretary, State Election Commission Rajasthan: Shri Rajesh Verma.

Ashok Bishnoi honoured with Rajbhasha Samman

- Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer Ashok Bishnoi (Phalodi) from Rajasthan was awarded for his effective use of Hindi.
- His office was ranked second in the North Region under the Official Language Policy of the Government of India.
- The award was presented by Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar at a function held in Agartala (Tripura).

Sports

National Fencing Championship

- Jaipur's Prakhar Singh Dhirawat won the bronze medal in the 69th SGFI National Fencing Championship held in Imphal. He achieved this feat in the Under-19 category.

Khelo India Winter Games: Rajasthan

- Speed skaters from Rajasthan performed appreciably at the Khelo India Winter Games held in Leh.
- Aritra Kumar, Atrika Kumar, Jayshree Khandelwal, Krishna Kanwar Gehlot, Nishtha Bari, Nitesh Dhakad, Tanmay Vaishnav and Vishal Dhakad participated in this competition.
- The Rajasthan team reached the second round, but could not win any medal.
- The Rajasthan contingent was led by Ranvijay Singh Champawat as Chef De Mission.

National Para Powerlifting Championships: Sunita wins silver medal

- Sunita of Jaipur performed excellently in the 23rd Senior and 2nd Junior-Sub Junior National Para Powerlifting Championship held in Roorkee, Uttarakhand.
- Sunita won the silver medal in the 79 kg weight category.
- Earlier, he won the gold medal in the 8th Senior and 2nd Junior-Sub Junior State Para Powerlifting Championship held on January 7.

Rajasthan wins bronze medal at National Equestrian Championship

- The Rajasthan team won the bronze medal in the 80 km National Equestrian Competition held at Indlod, Jhunjhunu. In the team event, Jaipur's Mallika Singh, Meghna Shekhawat, Sushil Kumar, Rajveer Singh and Prince were included.
- Earlier, Meghna Shekhawat had won a silver medal in the National Equestrian Qualifier Competition (40 km).

U-14 Raj Singh Dungarpur Trophy: Rajasthan finish runners-up

- Rajasthan finished runners-up in the Raj Singh Dungarpur Under-14 Trophy held in Indore.
- The Uttar Pradesh Under-14 team won the title on the basis of Rajasthan's first-innings lead.
- In the final match, Rajasthan scored 218 runs in the first innings.
- But the Uttar Pradesh team won by scoring 590 runs in the first innings.

National Muthai Championship: Rajasthan first runner-up with 33 medals

- The 7th National Muay Thai Championship was held at the S.S Convention Centre, Hyderabad.
- In this, the players of Rajasthan won the title of first runner-up by winning 33 medals (including 10 gold). A total of 41 players from Rajasthan participated in the competition.
- Gold medalists: Muskan Verma, Vidhi Sharma, Mohini, Khushi Beniwal, Anushka, Simran, Mohit Verma, Ali Sher, Chhavi, Rinki.

Junior National Judo Championships

- The Rajasthan men's team became the champion in the Junior National Judo Championship held in Kolkata.
- The Rajasthan team won a total of 2 gold and 3 bronze medals.
- The Punjab team finished runners-up with 2 gold and 2 bronze medals.
- Gold medals: Sajan (90kg), Yash Yadav (100kg).
- Bronze medals: Atesh Chaturvedi (73kg), Babnoor Singh (100kg), Babaldeep Singh (100+kg).

Ojaswa Gajraj wins bronze medal in Kalaripayattu

- Jaipur's Ojaswa Gajraj won the bronze medal in the Khelo India National Kalaripayattu League.
- The 14-year-old Ojaswa Gajraj achieved the feat in the Chuvadukul competition of the under-18 category. He was the only participant from Rajasthan in this competition.

CII-AU Invitation Golf Cup 2026

- The sixth edition of the CII-AU Invitation Golf Cup was held at the Rambagh Golf Club in Jaipur.
- In this, Vishal Baid was awarded the trophy of Best CII Golfer.
- Apart from this, KC Goel won the award Blind Fold Monster and Dr. Zoheb Naqvi won the award Closest to the Pin.
- Vimy Bhatia was adjudged Best Lady Golfer and Kamal Bordia was adjudged Best Veteran Golfer.

Rajasthan at the National Slingshot Championship

- Players from Rajasthan performed brilliantly in the 13th National Slingshot (Catapult) Competition held in Panaji, Goa.
- In the Under-21 Individual category, Jaipur's Khubchand Jalthaniya won the silver medal.
- In the Under-25 category, Rohit Kayat won the silver medal by finishing second.

Sunita Dhobi wins silver in para powerlifting

- Jaipur's Para Powerlifter Sunita Dhobi won the silver medal at the National Para Powerlifting Championship held in Roorkee from 16th to 18th January 2025.
- Sunita achieved this feat in the 79 kg weight category.
- Note: Sunita won the gold medal in the Rajasthan State Para Powerlifting Competition held in January 2026.

2 from Rajasthan win gold medals in World International Mathematical Olympiad

- Rajasthan's Rajveer Maheshwari and Armaan Agarwal won gold medals in their respective categories at the World International Mathematical Olympiad (WIMO).
- The competition took place on January 3, 2026, at The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen (China).

All India Karate Championship: Rajasthan wins 27 medals

- The Rajasthan team won 12 gold, 4 silver and 11 bronze medals at the NKFI All India Karate Championship held in Faridabad, Haryana.
- Rajasthan Gold medalists: Rajvansh Singh Jawa (Gold & Silver), Aditya Kachhwa, Mayank Nakwal, Parul Jawa (Gold & Silver), Tanvi, Surya Pratap Singh, Krishna Kumawat, Rakshit Karadia, Teja Shivam Chaudhary, Vaibhavi Jain, Jinisha Rudiya.

School National Archery: Rajasthan's Compound Team Champions

- The compound team of Rajasthan won the championship in the 69th National School Archery Competition held in Ranchi (Jharkhand) from January 6 to 10.
- The Rajasthan Compound Girls team won the gold medal by defeating Maharashtra in the final.
- In the individual compound category, Aryan Pareek won the gold by scoring 698 points out of 720.
- Rajasthan won a total of 8 medals, including 5 gold, 2 silver and 1 bronze.

Rajasthan tops National Shooting, wins 107 medals

- The 68th National Shooting Championship was held in New Delhi and Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- In this competition, Rajasthan performed brilliantly and secured the first place.
- Event Period: 25 December 2025 to 4 January 2026
- Rajasthan won a total of 107 medals, including 34 gold, 36 silver and 37 bronze medals.
- Haryana stood second with 105 medals and Uttar Pradesh third with 78 medals.

National Boxing: Arundhati Chaudhary wins gold medal

- Kota boxer Arundhati Chaudhary won the gold medal at the 9th National Boxing Championships held from 4-10 January 2026 in Greater Noida.
- She defeated All India Police's boxer Sneha 5-0 in the final of the 70 kg weight category.
- Note: Arundhati represented the Border Security Force in this competition.

Khelo India Beach Kabaddi: Rajasthan wins gold in both categories

- Rajasthan won gold medals in both the men's and women's categories at the Khelo India Beach Kabaddi tournament held in Daman and Diu.
- Rajasthan defeated Haryana in the final matches of both sections.
 - Men: 43-36
 - Women: 47-27
- The Rajasthan team's Chef de Mission: Anirudh Jagdhari.

Jaipur's Ganpat wins gold in Indo-Nepal Ball Badminton Series

- Recently, Rajasthan's Ganpat Lal Mali won the gold medal in the Indo-Nepal Ball Badminton Series.
- The final match was played in Biratnagar, Nepal.
- In this, Indian players won the title by winning 2 consecutive sets.
- Rajasthan's Ganpat Mali was awarded the Best Player Award of this competition.
- Ganpat Lal Mali is a resident of Malpura, Tonk.

Rajasthan wins 3 medals in National Boxing Championships

- Three boxers from Rajasthan won medals in this competition.

Player	Category (Weight)	Medal
Harsh Choudhury	Men's 90kg	Gold
Vivek Meena	Men's 70kg	Bronze
Tashri Menaria	Women's 80kg	Bronze

Kognivera Polo Cup 2026

- Recently, the trophy of the Kognivera Polo Cup 2026 was unveiled in Jaipur.
- At about 7 feet high, this trophy is the tallest and largest polo trophy in the world.
- This international polo tournament was held in Jaipur from 26 January to 1 February.

Chess: Ojas Joshi wins bronze

- The Under-14 SGFI Chess Competition was held in Ranchi.
- In this, Ojas Joshi of Jaipur won the bronze medal.

69th National School Cricket Tournament

- The 69th National School Cricket Tournament (14 Years Boys) was inaugurated on 19 January 2026 at Bhairupura in Sikar.
- It was organized under the joint aegis of Directorate of Elementary Education, Bikaner and SGFI.

National Bench Press: Jaipur's Riya wins gold

- Jaipur's Riya Kanwar Shekhawat won the gold medal in the 76kg sub-junior category at the 34th National Bench Press Championship held in Faridabad, Haryana.
- Rhea won by lifting 85 kg.
- Rhea also won a gold medal in the national competition held in Karnataka last year.

Senior National Volleyball: Rajasthan Women's Team Wins Bronze

- The Rajasthan women's team won the bronze medal for the first time in the Senior National Volleyball Championship held in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- In the bronze medal match, Rajasthan defeated a strong Haryana team 3-1 (25-14, 25-12, 20-25, 25-14). In this, Rajasthan's Rajani was the best blocker of the tournament.
- Rajasthan Volleyball Association President: Ramanand Chaudhary.

State Level Table Tennis: Amit Thanvi and Anshul Vyas win titles

- Amit Thanvi of Sirohi wins the title in the Men's Singles category of the Rajasthan State Table Tennis Championship. In the women's singles category, Anshul Vyas of Jodhpur was the winner.
- Apart from this, in the veteran category, Vijay Pancholi won titles in the 39+ and 49+ age groups.
- Nirmal Chaudhary won in the 59+ and 64+ categories.

Rajasthan Body Building Championship: Arshan wins Mr Rajasthan

- Jodhpur's Arshan Khan won the title of Mr. Rajasthan in the 53rd Rajasthan Body Building Championship held in Kota. In the junior category, Ramkrishna Prajapat from Jaipur was chosen as Junior Mr. Rajasthan. Apart from this, Suhana was the winner in the women's category.
- The winning players were awarded cash prizes of a total of Rs 2.5 lakh.

Rajasthan United won the RUFC U-16 Winter Cup title

- Rajasthan United Football Club won the RUFC Under-16 Winter Cup title.
- In the final, Rajasthan United Football Club defeated Bengaluru Soccer School in a thrilling penalty shootout. In the stipulated time, both teams were tied 5-5 and in the penalty shootout, Rajasthan United Football won 5-4.

Sub-Junior National Softball: Rajasthan win gold in boys' category and bronze in girls' category

- In the 38th Sub-Junior National Softball Championship held in Jhajjar, Haryana, the boys team of Rajasthan won the gold medal and the girls team won the bronze medal.
- The Rajasthan boys team defeated Maharashtra 1-0 in the tie-break in the final.
- Apart from this, the Rajasthan girls team defeated Madhya Pradesh 6-2 in the third-place match.

Anita Kumari wins silver medal in Para Shooting

- Rajasthan's Anita Kumari won the silver medal in the 10m air pistol SH1 para women's category at the 6th Para National Shooting Championships held in New Delhi.
- His teammates Srishti Arora and Saurabhi Sharma were also involved in this competition.

Rajasthan State Senior Shooting Ball Championship

- In the state level senior shooting ball competition held in Sikar from January 2 to 4, Ganganagar won the men's category and Ajmer in the women's category.
- Jaipur teams were the runners-up in both the categories
- In the men's final, Ganganagar beat Jaipur 14-21, 21-19, 21-14
- In the women's final, Ajmer beat Jaipur 17-16, 16-14

Best Player:

- Men's Category: Sandeep Chahar
- Women: Kishna, Shireen
- Best Defender: Himank Bittu

Junior National Equestrian Competition: Jaipur wins 7 medals

- In the Junior National Equestrian Competition held at Army Polo and Riding Centre, Delhi Cantt, the Jaipur team won a total of 7 medals including 2 gold, 2 silver and 3 bronze.
- The medal winners included Diya Sharma, Divajot Kore, Siddharth Dutta, Arjun Mallaya, Krishna Gellott, Hanisha Gupta and Tanisha Gupta.
- Jumping and dressage events were held in the age groups of 10-12, 12-14 years (sub-junior) and 15-18, 18-21 years (junior/youth).

Roll Ball: Rajasthan won the national title for the fifth time in a row

- Rajasthan won the gold medal in the 17th Junior Rollball National Championship held at the MA Stadium in Jammu. The tournament was organized under the aegis of Jammu Sports Council and Roll Ball Federation of India.
- In the final match of the boys' category, Rajasthan defeated Uttar Pradesh 5-0 to win the gold medal.

Inter-University Badminton: Rajasthan University wins Bronze medal

- The Rajasthan University team won the bronze medal in the West Zone Inter-University Women's Badminton Championship held at Symbiosis International (Deemed University) in Pune.
- In the bronze medal match, Rajasthan University defeated MIT, Pune 2-0 .
- Rajasthan team's Diksha Shekhawat was adjudged the best player of the competition.

Squash: Divyanshi Jain wins Scottish Open

- Jaipur's squash player Divyanshi Jain won the girls' under-13 title at the Scottish Open Squash Tournament held in Edinburgh.
- In the final match, Divyanshi defeated India's Shanaya Parasrampururia 11-5, 11-9, 11-5.
- This is Divyanshi's second international title.
- Earlier, he also won the title of Kuala Lumpur Open 2025.
- Currently, Divyanshi is the country's No. 1 squash player in the under-13 category.

National Karate Championship: Rajasthan wins 34 medals

- In the National Karate Championship held in New Delhi, the Rajasthan team won a total of 34 medals, including 9 gold. Gold Medal Winners (Kata/Kumite): Kunika Hadala, Tamannaah Kumawat, Augusti, Srijal, Riya, Adya Shakti, Deepanshi, Naman Preet, Kapil Saini.

National Wushu: Sachin Chaudhary wins silver medal

- Sachin Chaudhary of Rajasthan won the silver medal in the 9th Federation Cup National Wushu Championship held in Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh.
- He achieved this feat in the 90 kg weight category in the senior category.

National Kickboxing: Amish Shivdas wins 2 gold medals

- In the National Kick Boxing Competition held in Pune (Maharashtra), Amish Shivdas of Jaipur performed brilliantly and won 2 gold medals.
- Rajasthan's Ajith Bajpai also won a gold medal in the same competition.

U-14 School Boxing: Rajasthan National Champion

- Rajasthan Under-14 School Boxing Team secured the first position in the 69th National School Boxing Championship.
- The competition was held from December 26 to 31 in Guna (Madhya Pradesh).
- The Rajasthan team won a total of 8 medals including 3 gold, 2 silver, 3 bronze.

Gold Medal Winners:

- Yash Kumar (28-30kg)
- Chhatrapal Singh (36-38kg)
- Aniraj Chaudhary (38-40kg)

4 shooters from Rajasthan selected for Asian Rifle-Pistol Championship

- 4 shooters from Rajasthan will represent India at the Asian Rifle-Pistol Championship to be held in New Delhi from 2nd to 14th February 2026.
 1. Manini Kaushik: 50m Rifle Prone Event
 2. Bhavesh Shekhawat: 25m Rapid Fire Pistol
 3. Manvendra Singh Chauhan: 50m Rifle 3 Positions (Junior)
 4. Bhanu Pratap Singh Chaudhary: Air Rifle (Youth)
- Note: Manini won the individual bronze and the silver medal in the team event at the Asian Championship held in Shimcent (Kazakhstan) last year.

Karate: Rajasthan won a total of 27 medals, including 12 gold

- In the NKFI All India Karate Championship held in Faridabad, the Rajasthan team performed brilliantly and won 12 gold, 4 silver and 11 bronze, a total of 27 medals.
- Gold medalists: Rajvansh Singh Jawa (gold and silver), Aditya Kachhwa, Mayank Naqwal, Parul Jawa (gold and silver), Tanvi, Surya Pratap Singh, Krishna Kumawat, Rakshit Karadia, Teja Shivam Chaudhary, Vaibhavi Jain, Jinisha Rudiyal.

Rajasthan's Palash selected in Futsal India squad

- Palash Barbar, a resident of Udaipur, Rajasthan, was selected for the training camp of the men's futsal India team formed under the aegis of the South Asian Football Federation.
- Palash participated in the International Futsal Competition to be held in Bangkok (Thailand) from 13-26 January 2026.

Mona Jat selected in Indian squad

- Jaipur's Mona Jat has been selected in the Indian women's team for the Shooting Volleyball World Cup.
- The competition was held from 1st to 3rd February 2026 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi. Mona Jat has been a part of the winning team of the West Zone.

Rajasthan's first player in Women's Premier League

- Happy Kumari Khikhar from Kumawas village in Jhunjhunu district made her debut in the Women's Premier League. She became the first player from Rajasthan to play in the Women's Premier League.
- He played his first match for Gujarat Giants against Royal Challengers Bangalore.
- Recently, the Gujarat team bought him for Rs 10 lakh.

Boxing: Akshay appointed as technical officer

- Akshay Klossian, a resident of Jaipur, has been appointed as the technical officer of the 9th National Men's and Women's Boxing Championship.
- He has been selected by the Boxing Federation of India (BFI).
- Akshay is also the BFI's Star Certified Referee-Judge.

Krishna Nagar wins 2 bronze medals at Para Badminton World Championships

- Krishna Nagar won 2 bronze medals at the Para Badminton World Championships held in Bahrain from February 8 to 14, 2026.
- Krishna won a bronze medal in the singles event and another bronze medal in the mixed doubles with Nithyasree Sugandhi Sivan.

Rajasthan's Manini Kaushik wins gold at Asian Shooting Championships

- Jaipur's shooter Manini Kaushik won the gold medal in the 50m rifle prone team event at the Asian Rifle Pistol Championship held at the Karni Singh Shooting Range in Delhi.
- The team consisted of Manini Kaushik, Sift Kaur and Tejaswini Sawant.
- The Indian team won the gold medal by defeating Kazakhstan by 0.1 points with a score of 1862.9 points.
- Earlier, Manini had won silver and bronze medals at the Asian Championships held in Shymkent, Kazakhstan.

Khwahish Sharma wins bronze medal at Asian Shooting Championships

- Rajasthan's rifle shooter Khwahish Sharma won the bronze medal at the Asian Shooting Championships.
- Khwaish Sharma is a resident of Fatehpur Shekhawati, Sikar.
- It was his first international tournament.

Rajasthan's Tanishk Sharma wins bronze medal in weightlifting

- Tanishk Sharma won a bronze medal in the Youth, Junior and Senior Weightlifting Championship held in Modinagar (Uttar Pradesh).
- He lifted a total of 273 kg including 94 kg Snatch and 127 kg Clean and Jerk in the 127 kg weight category.
- Earlier, Tanishk Sharma had also won a silver medal in the National School Weightlifting Championship.

IPL 2019: Riyan Parag appointed as Rajasthan Royals captain

- Rajasthan Royals have appointed Riyan Parag as the captain of the team for the upcoming Indian Premier League season.
- Riyan Parag has been associated with Rajasthan Royals since the year 2019.
- He will replace Sanju Samson. Sanju Samson is now a part of Chennai Super Kings.
- Rajasthan Royals won the Indian Premier League title in 2008.

Rajasthan wins Gold in Women's Kabaddi

- The All India Civil Services Kabaddi Championship was held in Chandigarh from 9th to 14th February, 2020.
- Rajasthan Civil Services Women's Kabaddi Team defeated Punjab by 32-24 points in the final match.
- Rajasthan's Sonu Yadav was adjudged the best player of the tournament for his outstanding performance.

Jaipur's Luv Sankhla wins silver medal in India Open Kick Boxing

- Jaipur's Luv Sankhla won the silver medal in the 5th India Open International Kick Boxing Championship held at the Indira Gandhi Stadium in Delhi.
- Luv Sankhla won the medal in the junior category in the 89 kg weight category.

National Para Throwball Tournament: Rajasthan Women's Team Runners-up

- The National Para Throwball Tournament was held at Singhania University in Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan.
- Andhra Pradesh won the men's title and Jharkhand won the women's title.
- In the men's section, Telangana finished runners-up and Haryana third.
- In the women's category, Rajasthan and Telangana secured the second and third positions.
- B Pawan Kumar and Mahima Kumari were adjudged the best players in the men's and women's categories.

Purvi Pratap finishes sixth in Asian Shooting Championships

- Purvi Pratap Kachhwaha finished sixth in the 25m Sports Pistol Women's Junior category.
- He represented India at the 15th Asian Shooting Championship held at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range in New Delhi.
- She became the first female shooter from Rajasthan to participate in this competition.

PM Rungta Memorial Golf Cup

- Arjun Kuchhal won the overall gross winner's rolling trophy at the PM Rungta Memorial Golf Cup in Rajasthan.
- This one-day golf tournament was held at Rambagh Golf Club.
- The tournament was played in the Stableford Single Peoria format.

Winners of Handicap Categories:

- 0-9 Category: Himanshu Singh
- 10-18 Category: Devendra Rajawat
- 19-24 Category: Ankur Thakur
- The Veteran Golfer Award went to Dr. Basant Khaitan.
- The Lady Golfer title was won by Vimmi Bhatia.

Para Throwball Competition: Rajasthan Runners-up

- The National Para Throwball Tournament was held in Jaipur.
- It was organized by the World Para Throwball Federation and the Para Throwball Federation of India.
- Andhra Pradesh won the men's and women's titles respectively.
- Rajasthan finished as the runner-up in this competition.

All India Sub Junior Badminton

- The All India Sub Junior Ranking Badminton Tournament was held at the Badminton Arena at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur.
- Rajasthan's Vayam Lamba and Shreyansh Chaudhary won the U-15 boys doubles title.
- In the final match, they defeated the pair of Uttarakhand and Jharkhand 22-20, 26-28 and 21-18.

National Sub-Junior Kho-Kho: Rajasthan runners-up

- The 35th National Sub-Junior Kho-Kho Competition was organized in Kurukshetra, Haryana.
- It was organized under the joint auspices of Kho Kho Federation of India, New Delhi and Haryana Kho Kho Association.
- In the final match, Maharashtra defeated Rajasthan by 12 points to win the title and Rajasthan's girls team finished runners-up.
- In this, Gunjan of Rajasthan was given the Best Attacker Award.

Asian Junior Golfmasters: Devvrat Singh Rajawat to represent India

- 14-year-old golfer Devvrat Singh Rajawat from Jaipur represented India.
- Devvrat participated in the Asian Junior Masters Golf Championship held in Hua Hin, Thailand.
- The tournament was held from February 2 to 5.

Taekwondo: Tulip and Dipendra win gold

- Jaipur's Tulip Ojha won the gold medal in the 46kg senior category at the All India Inter Sai Taekwondo Championship held in Patna, Bihar.
- Apart from this, Dipendra Chaudhary of Jaipur won the gold medal.

Flag Football: Rajasthan champions in both categories

- The Senior National Flag Football Championship was organized at Purnima University, Jaipur.
- The Rajasthan team became the champion in both the categories of this competition.
- In the Boys final, Rajasthan defeated Bihar 31-13.
- In the girls' final, Rajasthan defeated Madhya Pradesh 40-12.
- Rajasthan's Devendra and Kavita Meena were adjudged the Most Valuable Players.

Pranav Sharma wins gold at Special Olympics

- Jaipur's Pranav Sharma won the gold medal at the Special Olympics India Hockey Competition held in Faridabad on February 22-25, 2026.

Dheeraj Dhatarwal selected in Indian Wushu team

- Dheeraj Dhatarwal, a resident of Kekri in Ajmer, was selected in the Indian Wushu team. He will represent India at the International Wushu Championships to be held in Moscow in April, 2026.

Senior National Equestrian Championship: Siddhant Jaiswal wins 2 silver medals

- The Senior Equestrian Championship was held at Army Polo and Riding Club, New Delhi.
- Siddhant Jaiswal of Jaipur won 2 silver medals in the individual event and team event.

Raj Singh Jodha wins bronze medal in Cycling

- The second National Cycling Championships were held in Hyderabad.
- It was organised by the Paralympic Committee of India and the Cycling Federation of India.
- In this, Raj Singh Jodha of Rajasthan won the bronze medal in the senior category of this competition.

Indo-Indonesia Ball Badminton Test Series

- The Indo-Indonesia Ball Badminton Test Series 2025-26 was held in Bali, Indonesia.
- It was organized under the aegis of Rajasthan Ball Badminton Federation of Asia and Indonesia Ball Badminton Federation. The Indian team defeated Indonesia 3-0 in this series.
- Jaipur's Harshita Junewal and Churu's Kumkum Soni were part of the winning Indian women's team.
- Harsh Detarwal from Churu was a member of the winning Indian men's team.

5th Soft Hockey National Championship: Rajasthan's brilliant performance

- The 5th Soft Hockey National Championship was held at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur.

Category	Winner
Senior Men's	Rajasthan
Senior Women's	Puducherry
Junior Boys	Rajasthan
Junior Girls	Rajasthan
Sub-Junior Boys	Rajasthan
Sub-Junior Girls	Rajasthan

- In the senior men's final, Rajasthan defeated Maharashtra 5-3 to win the gold medal.
- For Rajasthan, Vikas scored 2 goals, Mohit, Prateek and Sanjay scored 1-1 goals.
- In the final of the senior women's category, Puducherry defeated Rajasthan 3-0 to win the gold medal.

Archery: Amandeep Kaur won Gold

- The Khelo India West Zone Open Archery Tournament was organized under the joint aegis of Archery Association of India and Rajasthan Archery Association.
- It was organized at the Archery Range in Jagatpura, Jaipur.
- In recurve category women's and men's matches were played.
- In the women's category, Amandeep Kaur of Rajasthan won the gold medal.

NTPC Khelo India West Zone Open Archery

- They were organized at the Archery Ground in Jagatpura, Jaipur.
- It was organized under the joint aegis of the Archery Association of India and the Rajasthan Archery Association.
- In the men's category, Maharashtra's Riyansh won gold, Sahil won silver and Ritesh bronze.
- In the women's category, Rajasthan's Amandeep Kaur won the gold medal, Pranjal Tholia won the silver and Harpreet Kaur won the bronze medal.

The world's biggest Kognivera Polo Trophy won by the Jaipur team

- It was organized in Jaipur.
- In the final, the Jaipur team defeated the V Polo team 5-2.
- This trophy is considered to be the largest polo trophy in the world.
- The height of this trophy is 7.1 feet and the weight is 65 kg.
- The trophy was built by Ramsaran Jangid of Jaipur.

Fencing: Prakriti Sharma wins gold medal

- Rajasthan's fencer Prakriti Sharma won the gold medal in the Under-19 saber category at the 69th All India School National Fencing Championship.
- The competition was held in Imphal, Manipur.

JPL Shootingball Premier League

- The three-day Women's and Men's JPL Shooting Ball Premier League was held in Jaisinghpur, Maharashtra.
- In both the women's and men's categories, the Maharashtra team was the winner.
- In the women's category, Rajasthan's Sireen was given the "Best Shooter" award.
- In the men's category, Haryana's Suresh Bishnoi was adjudged Man of the Series.

Miscellaneous

Army Day parade in Rajasthan for the first time

- For the first time in Rajasthan, the Army Day Parade was organised in Jaipur on 15 January 2026.
- The parade was about 3 km long on Mahal Road (starting from Akshaya Patra Circle to Bombay Hospital) in Jagatpura.
- For the first time in the country, the parade was held in Jaipur outside the military cantonment.
- It also carried out fly-past by fighter aircraft and helicopters.
- Jaipur was the fourth city outside Delhi where the Army Day parade was held.
- After being organized in Bengaluru, Lucknow, and Pune since 2023, the Army Training Command hosted it for the first time.

- The parade was organised on the lines of the Republic Day Parade in New Delhi. About 15,000 soldiers participated in the parade and displayed state-of-the-art missiles, tanks and robotic dogs .
- Various events related to the Army were held in Jaipur from 5 to 15 January 2026.
- An exhibition of modern weapons and technology of the army was held for the general public at Bhavani Niketan School Ground.

Rajasthan's tableau includes Bikaner's Usta art on Republic Day

- On the Republic Day of the year 2026, the world famous golden Usta art of Bikaner was presented in the tableau of Rajasthan at Kartavya Path in Delhi.
- The theme of the tableau of Rajasthan was "Rajasthan: The Golden Touch of the Desert".
- The front portion of the tableau displayed a 180-degree rotating statue of the artist playing the famous folk instrument of Rajasthan, Ravanhatta.
- In the year 2025, the tableau of Rajasthan was not included in the Republic Day parade.



Usta Art

- Usta art is a golden sculpture performed on the body of a camel.
- This art form is the unique traditional heritage of Bikaner, Rajasthan, in which majestic embellishments are done with gold enamel.
- This art was brought to Bikaner by master artists from Iran during the time of Raja Rai Singh.
- In this art, camel leather is prepared by a special process and the work of 'Munavati' i.e. gold embossing is done on it with 24 carat gold leaf and natural colors.
- The Usta art has a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

Swadesh Darshan Scheme-2.0: Malaassery Dungri to be developed

- An amount of ₹48.73 crore has been approved for the development of Malaseri Dungri, the birthplace of Lord Devnarayan.
- This amount has been sanctioned under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme-2.0 of the Central Government.
- The development works include boundary wall, parking, passenger amenities, kitchen, dining hall, waiting hall, community hall and road construction.

639 PM Shree Vidyalayas to become Centres of Excellence

- 639 PM Shree Vidyalayas of Rajasthan are being developed as Centres of Excellence.
- Buildings have been renovated and modernized in 402 schools in the first phase and 237 schools in the second phase.
- Bal Vatikas are being run in these schools.
- Digital libraries have been set up in 500 PM-SHRI Vidyalayas and O-Labs in 142 schools.

First meeting of Raj Unnati

- The first meeting of Raj Unnati was held on 17th January 2026 under the chairmanship of Chief Minister of Rajasthan Bhajan Lal Sharma .
- The meeting emphasized on time-bound implementation of schemes and projects.

“Kingdom Advancement”

- The state government has a new review and development-progress initiative.
- It aims to increase the pace of development through transparency, accountability, and regular monitoring.
- This initiative is inspired by the PRAGATI model of the Government of India.
- Rajasthan has become the first state in India to implement the PRAGATI framework at the state level.

Key Features

- It is a digital platform that uses real-time data and performance tracking.
- This is helpful in establishing better coordination between different departments.
- It integrates monitoring of both central and state level schemes.

PRAGATI Model

- PRAGATI is an e-governance and monitoring platform that was launched by the Government of India in 2014.
- It aims to review key infrastructure and development projects in real time.
- It focuses on reducing delays in public service delivery by combining technology, governance, and coordination.

Gram Utthan Shivir

- They were inaugurated on 22nd January 2026 at Sirohi .
- For the first time in Rajasthan, Gram Utthan Shivirs were organized at every Girdawar Circle.
- The campaigns operated till 9th February 2026.
- In these camps, villagers and farmers were informed about the schemes and on the spot approvals were provided to the eligible beneficiaries.
- Special Village Upliftment Camps were organized in 2,839 Girdawar Circles of Rajasthan.
- The information about these camps was given to the villagers through Gram Sabhas on January 22.
- 12 departments including Agriculture, Horticulture, Agricultural Marketing, Dairy, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Cooperation, Water Resources, Energy, Industries, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj participated in these camps.

Stages of the camps

- First phase: 23, 24, 25 and 31 till January 2026.
- Second phase: February 1 and from February 5 to 9, 2026.

Indigenous Digital Address System ‘Bharat PIN’

- Deepak Sharda, a resident of Barmer, Rajasthan, has created the country’s first indigenous digital address system ‘Bharat PIN’ and Bharat Maps. The system works on the lines of UPI, in which every home, shop, office and factory is given a unique 7-digit digital PIN.
- Through this technology, accurate identification of any location up to 1 meter will be possible.
- ‘Bharat PIN’ will prove helpful in the direction of ‘One Nation, One Address’.

Features of Bharat PIN:

- It identifies the location, not the person
- Unique code of 7 digits/letters (e.g.: BMM4338)
- The identity of the district has been fixed by the first letter and a new PIN has been fixed after every four houses.

PM Suryaghar Warrior Award

- Those who contribute to the promotion of PM Suryaghar Yojana in Rajasthan will be honoured with the PM Suryaghar Warrior Award.

- For this, the individual, company or institution has to register on the website of the Rajasthan Solar Association (RSA).
- The objective of this initiative is to motivate people to adopt rooftop solar projects.
- The awards will be presented during the India Renewable Expo.

Vayu Shakti 2026

- The Indian Air Force will conduct the exercise at Chandhan Field Firing Ranges, Pokhran from 12 to 26 February 2026.
- It will demonstrate combat readiness on 2 fronts.
- Over 125 aircraft will participate in the exercise and Su-30 MKI and Rafale fighter aircraft will lead the exercise.
- The full-dress rehearsal will take place on February 24 and the main event will be held on February 26.

Setting up of R4C for Cyber Crime Control

- R4C will be set up in Rajasthan on the lines of the Central Government's Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C).
- It will be developed as Rajasthan Cyber Crime Coordination Centre.
- R4C will be made a Centre of Excellence in the field of Cybercrime Control.
- This will create a strong centralized system for information sharing and research in all districts.

Rawatbhata Nuclear Project

- Recently, Pressurized Heavy Water Reactor Units 9 and 10 of 700 MW capacity were sanctioned for expansion of the Rawatbhata site.
- The first critical work of the indigenously built Unit-8 of the Rajasthan Atomic Power Project will be held in the month of April. Thereafter, Unit-8 will be synchronized to the grid in May 2026.

Approval for setting up of Rajeevika District Project Management Units in 8 newly formed districts

- District Project Management Units (DPMUs) will be formed in the newly formed 8 districts of the state to empower rural livelihoods through the Rajasthan Rural Livelihood Development Council.
- These districts include Balotra, Beawar, Deeg, Didwana-Kuchaman, Khairthal-Tijara, Kotputli-Behror, Phalodi and Salumbar.
- This initiative will provide momentum and stability to livelihood-based programmes in these districts.

Rajasthan's contribution to honey production

- Rajasthan accounts for about 9% of the total honey production in the country.
- At present, 3,350 beekeepers are active in Rajasthan.
- There are about 2 lakh 76 thousand bee colonies in the state.
- About 8,500 metric tonnes of honey is produced annually from these colonies.
- This information was given by the state government at a state-level seminar organized by the state government at the Institute of Agricultural Management, Durgapura.

Kripal Singh Shekhawat's contribution to the artistic decoration of the Constitution

- Renowned handicraft artist from Rajasthan, Kripal Singh Shekhawat, who was awarded the Padma Shri, made a significant contribution in the decoration of the original copy of the Indian Constitution.
- He designed handcrafted border paintings of every page of the Constitution.
- The original copy of the Constitution consists of 22 paintings, which depict the history, culture and tradition of India. These paintings and decorations were directed by renowned artist Nandalal Bose, whose team also included Kripal Singh Shekhawat.

Launch of Govardhan Gaon Gwal Yojana

- In Rajasthan, the Govardhan Gaon Gwal scheme will be started from Ramganjmandi (Kota).
- It aims to revive the traditional Gopalan culture.
- In this, the cooperation of experts, experienced pastoralists and religious leaders will be taken.
- The aim is to motivate people to take up cow rearing and re-establish the ancient tradition of village Gwal.

National Conference on Ecological Restoration of Aravalli Landscapes inaugurated

- Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav inaugurated the National Conference on Ecological Restoration of Aravalli Landscapes titled Strengthening of Aravalli Green Wall, organized by Sankala Foundation in New Delhi on 14th January 2026.
- During this time, a report titled "Ecological Restoration of the Aravalli Landscape" prepared by Sankala Foundation was released.
- In addition, the Aravalli Green Wall Project has been launched as part of India's pledge to regenerate 26 million hectares of degraded land under UNCCD.
- Under this initiative, 6.45 million hectares of degraded land has been identified in the Aravalli region.
- Under this initiative, greening work has been started on more than 2.7 million hectares of land in Gujarat, Delhi, Haryana and Rajasthan.
- The Divisional Forest Officers of 29 districts around Aravalli are implementing this project.
- The focus is on the plantation of local species suitable for arid and semi-arid conditions.

New Roadmap for Industrial Development for the Year 2026

- The Government of Rajasthan has prepared a detailed roadmap for the year 2026 to accelerate industrial development and ease of doing business.

Major Projects

- Development of JPMIA (Jaipur-Mumbai Industrial Area)
- Dausa and KBNIR nodes under DMIC
- Textile Park in Bhilwara
- Defence Manufacturing Zone in Kishangarh

Jodhpur-Pali-Marwar Industrial Township

- It proposes the largest multimodal logistics hub of Rajasthan.
- This will reduce transportation costs and provide better logistics facilities to industries.
- Total area: about 3600 hectares
- First phase: 641 hectares
- Phase II: 1100 hectares

Ramjal Setu Project: Aqueduct to be built on Chambal river

- A 2.3 km long aqueduct is being built on the Chambal river under the Ramjal Setu project.
- The construction work will be done in Package-II of the first phase at a cost of Rs 2330 crore.
- The aqueduct will connect Pipalda Samel village in Digod tehsil of Kota district with Gohata village in Indragarh tehsil of Bundi district.
- The total length of this aqueduct will be 2280 meters, the internal width will be 41.25 meters and the height will be 7.7 meters.

Operation Cyber Liberation

- The operation was carried out by the Kotputli-Behror district police.
- In this, while taking major action against cyber crime, the international cyber fraud gang was exposed.

“Operation Enforcement – Vigilant Citizens, Safe Cities”

- On the directions of Jaipur District Collector Dr. Jitendra Kumar Soni, “Operation Enforcement – Vigilant Citizens, Safe Cities” campaign was launched by the district administration.
- Under this campaign, strict action was taken against the business of illegal gas refilling and storage.
- The campaign aims to ensure the safety of citizens and prevent illegal activities.

IndiaSkills-2025 Competition

- At the national level, the IndiaSkills-2025 competition was organized by the Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
- It aims to identify skilled youth in various occupational sectors and provide them with training, mentorship and exposure.
- Talented youngsters will be encouraged and rewarded through the competition. At the state level, this competition was organized by Rajasthan Skill and Livelihood Development Corporation.

Rajasthan at ‘Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2026’

- Young participants from Rajasthan participated in the ‘Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2026’ to be held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi from 9th to 12th January 2026.
- 44 youth from Rajasthan were selected in the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue Competition organized for participation in the National Youth Festival.
- Out of these, 29 youths were selected for competitions like group Folk Dance, Folk Singing, Story Writing, Painting and Speech.
- Additionally, 2 youths were selected for the “Hack for Social Cause” event.

Give Up Campaign and Food Safety Achievements

- Under the Give Up campaign, more than 54.36 lakh affluent persons in Rajasthan have so far voluntarily removed their names from the food security list.
- In this, the highest number of 3.17 lakh deprived characters have been added to the food security scheme in Jaipur district.
- Barmer and Sikar districts added 3.07 lakh and 3.04 lakh new eligible beneficiaries respectively, standing second and third.
- At present, a total of 4.35 crore beneficiaries in the state are included in the food security list.

Asian Waterbird Census-2026 to be conducted on 122 reservoirs of Rajasthan

- The process of Asian Waterbird Census-2026 for the purpose of conservation and monitoring of water birds has started in Rajasthan.
- The census will be conducted by the Rajasthan State Biodiversity Board, Jaipur.
- The census will be conducted on January 22, 2026 on 122 identified major water bodies of the state.
- It includes many major reservoirs in Jodhpur and Phalodi districts.

Panch Gaurav painting competition

- A painting competition was organized on 22nd January 2026 in all government and private schools of Jaipur district.
- The theme of the competition was “Ek Jila – Ek Pehchan”.
- The aim is to introduce students to the district’s cultural heritage, sports traditions and local products.
- The competition was conducted in three phases of Panchayat/Nagar level, Block Level and District level.

Cabinet sub-committee set up for Governor’s address

- The government constituted a cabinet sub-committee to prepare for the Governor’s address in the budget session of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly that began on January 28, 2026.
- This committee will prepare a draft address on the basis of proposals received from various departments. Convenor: Premchand Bairwa (Deputy Chief Minister)

'Agneepath nahin Janpath'

- The book is written by Dr. Satish Poonia.
- The fifth edition of the book was released.
- Dr. Satish Poonia has been the in-charge of the Haryana state of BJP and former state president of Rajasthan .

National Road Safety Month

- In Rajasthan, the National Road Safety Month, sponsored by the Central Government, was celebrated from 1st January to 31st January 2026.
- This year's campaign was based on the theme 'Learning to Safety, Technology to Transformation'.
- Technological innovations such as the Intelligent Traffic Management System, e-DAR system, e-challan, and automation have been adopted to strengthen road safety in the state.
- Prompt medical assistance has been ensured in the golden hour through Rajasthan Mukhyamantri Ayushman Jeevan Raksha Yojana and Rahveer Yojana.

State-of-the-art cattle feed plant to be set up in Rajasthan

- The cattle feed plant will be set up by Rajasthan Co-operative Dairy Federation at a cost of Rs 71.22 crore. A silo system of 2000 metric ton capacity will also be developed for storage of raw materials.
- The plant will be set up in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).
- More than one lakh milk producers will benefit from this plant.
- The plant will have a production capacity of 150 metric tonnes per day.

PMKKKY : Aspirational Districts and Blocks of Rajasthan

- NITI Aayog has declared 5 districts of Rajasthan namely Sirohi, Jaisalmer, Baran, Karauli and Dholpur as Aspirational Districts under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Kalyan Yojana in Rajasthan.
- In addition, 27 Aspirational Blocks have been identified:
- Neemrana, Sajjangarh, Kishanganj, Ramsar, Bair, Kotdi, Kolayat, Nimbahera, Rajgarh, Ramgarh Pachwara, Baseri, Jothri, Sangaria, Fatehgarh, Ahor, Khanpur, Shergarh, Masalpur, Jayal, Rani Station, Pipalkhunt, Bheem, Gangapur City, Abu Road, Piplu and Khairwada.

Elections to Panchayati Raj Institutions in Rajasthan-2026

- In the General Elections to Panchayati Raj Institutions in Rajasthan-2026, elections to the wards of Zilla Parishad and Panchayat Samiti will be conducted through EVMs.
- Apart from this, the election of Sarpanch and Ward Panch of Gram Panchayat will be done through ballot boxes. This arrangement has been made under Rule 35 of the Rajasthan Panchayati Raj (Election) Rules, 1994. It aims to make the election process simple, transparent and streamlined.
- A total of 14,403 Gram Panchayats and 1,30,282 wards have been identified in Rajasthan.
- Apart from this, there will be 1,403 wards in Zilla Parishads and 8,221 wards in Panchayat Samitis.

16th Finance Commission: Additional budget to Municipal Corporations

- In the report of the 16th Finance Commission of the Centre, a provision has been made to give additional budget to the municipal corporations, which has been called the premium grant.
- Under this, a provision of Rs 2,000 per person has been kept.
- Jaipur, Jodhpur and Kota Municipal Corporations will get the benefit of this system.
- Under the new provisions, municipal corporations will now have to increase certain revenue items by 5 per cent.
- Apart from this, the amount received from the central government will not lapse and can be spent in other bodies if required.

'BharatVistaar'

- 'BharatVistaar' was launched on February 17, 2026, at the State Institute of Agricultural Management, Durgapura, with the aim of bringing about a digital revolution in the agriculture sector.
- The event was presided over by Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma.
- This initiative is a multilingual, AI-based interactive consultation system announced in the Union Budget 2026-27. 'BharatVistaar' will provide holistic services related to agriculture to the farmers on a unified digital platform.
- It has been developed as the Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) of the agriculture sector.

Final voter list of Rajasthan released after Special Intensive Revision

- The Rajasthan Election Department published the final electoral roll on February 21, 2026 after a special intensive revision.
- The total number of voters was recorded at 5,15,19,929.

Voter Details

- Male voters: 2,69,57,881
- Female voters: 2,45,61,486
- Transgender voters: 562
- The electorate sex ratio increased from 909 to 911.
- The age group of 18-19 years recorded an increase of 4,35,061 (0.82%).
- Districts with highest growth of young voters: Jaipur (1.30%), Barmer (1.26%) and Bharatpur (1.22%)
- During this revision, 12.91 lakh new voters were added and 44.27 lakh names were deleted.

Indian Air Force's Air Show at Jaipur

- The Grand Air Show of the IAF was held at Mansagar area of Jaipur on 22 February 2026.
- In this, the Suryakiran aerobatic team flew from Jaipur International Airport to Mansagar.
- The display showcased the strength, courage and dedication of the IAF.
- A total of 11 fighter jets and 6 Sarang helicopters participated in this air show.

'Bhavishya ki Udaan' Initiative

- This is an initiative to improve the future of children in Sawai Madhopur with the support of the government and citizens.
- It is operated under the Mukhyamnatri Jan Sahabagita Yojana, in which 40% of the amount is given by the public and 60% by the state government.
- So far, more than Rs 37 crore has been collected through this.
- This amount was used for building repairs, construction of new classrooms and toilets in government schools of the district. To raise this amount, money was collected by selling mustard straw, saving from events like funeral feasts and donations given in other social and family functions.
- This initiative was started on the initiative of the then District Collector of Sawai Madhopur, Shri Suresh Ola.

Launch of 'PM e-Bus Seva'

- In a major boost to clean and sustainable urban transport in Rajasthan, 675 electric buses were approved to operate in 8 cities under 'PM e-Bus Seva'.
- The trial of these buses was conducted in Jaipur between February 26-28, 2026.
- Jaipur, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Kota, Bikaner, Bhilwara, Alwar and Ajmer have been included in this scheme.
- These buses have been designed to be Divyangjan friendly and have been fitted with panic buttons, CCTV cameras, passenger display boards and automatic passenger counting systems for safety and convenience.

IIT Jodhpur: 'Project Geeta' Initiative

- The state-of-the-art technology is being developed under IIT Jodhpur's "Project Geeta: Knowledge in the Air".
- A special initiative has been taken with the aim of making visually impaired and deaf children self-reliant and digitally empowered. It will give a new dimension to the education, expression and thinking of children.
- This initiative is being launched under the joint aegis of IIT Jodhpur, Zila Parishad Jodhpur and the Department of Social Welfare.
- Under this project, smart instruments are being developed, which have been designed by IIT Jodhpur.
- These devices aim to connect visually impaired and deaf children directly to the digital world.
- The flagship device of this project is "Namya", which, like a mobile phone, acts as a flexible band.

Indian Army's Indigenous Heavy Drop System-20L Trials

- The Indian Army successfully test-fired the Advanced 28 Feet Heavy Drop System-20L (Type V) at the Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Bikaner on February 17, 2026.
- The system can safely airlift heavy military equipment and armored vehicles up to 20 tons.
- This technology makes military deployment easier in inaccessible and mountainous areas.
- The system was jointly developed by DRDO's ADRDE laboratory and ADSL (JCBL Group) under 'Make in India'.

Rajasthan Achieves Solar Power Capacity of 3,000 MW Under PM Kusum Yojana

- Under the PM Kusum Yojana (Components A and C), Rajasthan has achieved a solar power capacity of 3,000 MW.
- Further, Central Financial Assistance under Component-C of the PM KUSUM Scheme was approved on 6th February 2026.
- The Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) approved the release of assistance of Rs 46.64 crore in the first phase.
- Under Feeder Level Solarisation, 991 projects of 2,462 MW capacity have been installed in Rajasthan.

All services in Rajasthan will be online by 2027

- A meeting of the Sectoral Group of Secretaries (Group-6) was held to implement the vision of Viksit Rajasthan@2047.
- The meeting was chaired by Chief Secretary V. Srinivas.
- Under this, a target has been set to make all the government services of the state completely online by the year 2027.
- A people-centric, futuristic and zero-tolerance good governance model will be developed in Rajasthan.

India AI Impact Summit 2026 and Rajasthan AI Pavilion

- The India Artificial Intelligence (AI) Impact Summit 2026 was organized by the Government of India at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.
- In this summit, the Information and Technology Department of the Government of Rajasthan established the "Rajasthan AI Pavilion".
- It covers AI startups registered with the state government's 'iStart'.
- It showcased various AI based initiatives and systems -
 - AI based crop health management through 'RajKisan'.
 - Data-driven targeted Direct Benefit Transfer by Rajasthan Jan Aadhaar platform.
 - 360-degree citizen profiling and real-time planning monitoring through the 'SMART' (Service Management with Artificial Intelligence and Real Time) System.

Complete Ban on Khejri Felling in Rajasthan

- On February 12, 2026, the Rajasthan government announced a complete ban on the felling of Khejri trees in the state.
- According to the order of the Revenue Department, there will be a ban on the felling of Khejri till the Tree Protection Act is implemented. The Rajasthan government will bring the Tree Protection Act in this budget session (year 2026-27).

Rajasthan's first participation in Surajkund International Craft Mela

- The 39th edition of Surajkund International Crafts Mela was held in Faridabad, Haryana from 31st January to 15th February, 2026.
- Rajasthan has become a participant in the Surajkund International Craft Fair held in Haryana for the first time.
- In this fair, 'Rajasthan Chowk' built by the Rajasthan Small Industries Corporation (RAJSICO) was established. Art, culture, handicrafts and ODOP products of Rajasthan are showcased here.

Rudra Shakti Military Exercise

- 'Exercise Rudra Shakti' was conducted by the Southern Command of the Army at Pokhran Field Firing Ranges, Jaisalmer.
- The all-arms exercise led by the 'Rudra Brigade' showcased military capabilities through live firing.
- The exercise witnessed joint operations with tanks and mechanised forces in desert terrain.
- The 'Rudra Shakti' exercise is a sequel to the recent 'Exercise Akhand Prahar'.
- While new strategies for desert warfare were tested in 'Akhand Prahar', the same strategies were practically implemented in 'Rudra Shakti'.

'Kharga Shakti 2026' Military Exercise

- It was organised by the Kharga Corps of the Indian Army at Mahajan Ranges, Bikaner from February 23, 2026. It strengthened coordination between the Infantry, Mechanised Force and the Air Force.
- Objective: To improve combat skills with the use of modern technologies and test military readiness and response capability on the western border.

Wellbeing Centres and State Level Wellness Cells in Medical Colleges

- Keeping in mind the mental health of medical students in Rajasthan, a wellbeing center will be set up in every medical college.
- Under this, a wellness cell will be formed at the state level.
- Deans (Mental Wellbeing) will be appointed in each medical college.
- It aims to reduce the mental stress of students and monitor their mental health regularly.

Census in Rajasthan: First Phase Timetable

- For the first time in the country, digital technology will be used extensively.
- In this, the option of self-enumeration will be made available to the citizens from May 1 to May 15, 2026 before the listing of the house.
- House listing work will be done in Rajasthan from May 16 to June 14, 2026.

'Saksham Saathin' Workshop

- 'Saksham Saathin Workshop' was organized in Jaipur under the joint initiative of the Department of Women Empowerment of Rajasthan and Educate Girls. The objective of this initiative was to expose the Fellow Saathins to government schemes, higher education opportunities, and modern technological topics like Artificial Intelligence and Cyber Security.
- Through this workshop, special emphasis was laid on making women self-reliant and empowered.

Ramgarh-Bhadla Transmission Project

- Power Grid Corporation of India Limited commissioned a new power project at Ramgarh in Jaisalmer.
- Under this, the operation of the 765 kV double circuit Ramgarh-Bhadla III transmission line started.

- Under the project, Ramgarh substation of 765, 400 and 220 KV capacity has been developed.
- This system will be helpful in connecting the solar energy of Jaisalmer and Ramgarh region to the national grid.
- The project has been developed as a Green Energy Highway.

Financial powers to Commissioners and EOs in Municipal Bodies

- The Government of Rajasthan has delegated financial management powers to the Commissioners and Executive Officers of Municipal Corporations, Municipalities and Municipal Councils.
- Earlier, these powers were with the Mayor or the President.
- Now decisions like sanctioning of development works, general procurement and payment can be taken directly at the level of the officers.
- Orders in this regard were issued by the Autonomous Government Department of Rajasthan.
- Under this, policy and administrative decisions will be taken by the Administrator until a new elected board is constituted.

New guidelines for private universities-

- The Rajasthan government has issued new guidelines for setting up private universities.
- In this, many rules have been relaxed compared to the 2007 guidelines.
- Note: No new private university has started in Rajasthan in the last seven years.

Key Provisions

- The application fee has been increased from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 10 lakh.
- The minimum land limit has been reduced from 30 acres to 20 acres, while 40 percent open area will be mandatory.
- A special category of 10 acres of land has been added for the Research University.
- The period for completion of conditions after Letter of Intent (LOI) has been increased from 1 year to 3 years.
- A minimum net worth of Rs 25 crore has been made mandatory for the university.
- All admissions will be online only and no admission will be granted after the due date.
- The entire fee will be charged from the students in the online university's bank account and no hidden fee will be charged.
- NAAC grade and permanent faculty will be mandatory for research.
- University will not be able to offer M.Phil. course.
- It will be mandatory to appoint at least 1 professor, 2 associate professors and the required number of assistant professors in each department.

Second Stage of Compliance Reduction and Deregulation

- The state government has identified 28 priority and optional priority areas for Phase-II of Compliance Reduction and Deregulation in Rajasthan.
- These include Investment Promotion Bureau (BIP), Higher and School Education, Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board, Medical and Health, Revenue, LSG, UDH, RICO, Labour, Industry, Tourism, Administrative Reforms, Energy and Food and Civil Supplies Includes.
- The Union Cabinet Secretariat has identified 23 Priority and 5 Optional Priority Areas across the country for this phase.
- The initiative aims to complete the processes such as business establishment, operations, and housing construction in simple, shorter and less steps for citizens and industries.

Operation Shutter Down

- Jhalawar Police launched "Operation Shutter Down" to attach the assets of illegal income earned through cyber fraud.
- The objective of this campaign is to crack down on illegal assets worth crores of rupees.

Conferences, Meetings, Festivals

DigiFest – Tie Global Summit 2025

- The Rajasthan DigiFest-TiE Global Summit was organized from 4th to 6th January 2026 at JECC, Sitapura, Jaipur. The event was jointly organized by the State Government and TiE Rajasthan .
- This international level event was held in Jaipur for the first time.
- The summit was attended by around 10,000 global entrepreneurs, 500 investors and more than 100 speakers.

Rajasthan Regional AI Impact Conference 2026

- The conference was organized under the aegis of the AI Impact Summit.
- It was held on 6th January 2026 at JECC, Jaipur.
- The theme of this conference was “Democratizing AI for Public Good”.

The country’s first guava festival

- The country’s first Guava Festival was held in Sawai Madhopur on 18-19 January 2026.
- More than 30 varieties of guava were displayed in this two-day festival.
- It was organized on the occasion of the 263rd Foundation Day of Sawai Madhopur.
- It was inaugurated by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Agriculture Minister Dr. Kirori Lal Meena.
- In order to provide fair price to the farmers, it was announced to set up a guava processing unit at a cost of Rs 150 crore in Sawai Madhopur.

Jaipur Bird Festival-2026

- The Jaipur Bird Festival-2026 began on January 31 at Kanota Camp Resort, Jamdoli (Jaipur).
- This two-day state-level event was based on the theme “Join the Celebration of Wings & Wetlands”.
- It was organized by the Green People Society (Jaipur Chapter) in collaboration with the Forest Department of the State Government and WWF India.

India Stonemart 2026

- India Stonemart 2026 held on 5-8 February 2026 at the Jaipur Exhibition and Convention Centre (JECC) in Sitapura, Jaipur.
- The event will be held under the joint aegis of RIICO, CEDOS and Laghu Udyog Bharati.
- This is the 13th edition of India Stonemart since its inception in 2000.
- It is a prestigious international exhibition, which aims to bring global recognition to the natural stone industry of Rajasthan. Producers, exporters, buyers, architects, designers and experts from India and abroad participated in this exhibition.

Maru Festival 2026

- The Maru Mahotsav was organized on Magh Shukla Purnima from 29 January to 1 February 2026.
- The festival started from Pokhran and ended at Khuhri via Jaisalmer and Sam.
- It was organized under the joint aegis of Jaisalmer District Administration and Tourism Department.
- For the first time in the history of the festival, a ‘Grand Drone Light Show’ was organized at Shaheed Poonam Singh Stadium on 30th January 2026. The main attraction of the procession was the world-famous Camel Mounted Band of the Border Security Force.
- Manish Panwar won the title of Mr. Desert for his impressive moustache and traditional attire, while Kusum won the Miss Moomal title.

Rajasthan at International Conference on Democracy and Election Management – 2026

- The first International Conference IICDEM-2026 was organized by the Election Commission of India from 21-23 January 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- The conference was held under the aegis of the India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM). Rajasthan Election Department shared its experiences, innovations and best practices on the theme “Elections, Media and Voter Awareness” at the conference.
- Rajasthan’s partner countries in this conference were Croatia and Kazakhstan.

Rashtriya Chintan Shivir on Food Processing in Udaipur

- The Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries organized a 2-day Chintan Shivir in Udaipur on 19-20 January 2026. The camp was inaugurated by Union Food Processing Minister Chirag Paswan.
- Discussions were held on strengthening the food processing ecosystem in this camp.

National Seminar on Earthquakes

- The two-day National Seminar was organized by Malaviya National Institute of Technology (MNIT) Jaipur in collaboration with the Building Material Technology Promotion Council and the Bureau of Indian Standards.
- The theme of the seminar was “Earthquake Safety in India: In Memory of the 2001 Bhuj Earthquake”.
- The event took place on 23-24 January 2026 at the Rajasthan International Centre, Jhalana, Jaipur.
- It discussed policy, institutional and technological developments related to earthquake safety in India in the aftermath of the Bhuj earthquake.

Sahakar Sangam-2026

- The event was held on 17th January 2026 at the Rajasthan International Centre, Jaipur.
- The event was organized by the Association of Rajasthan Co-operative Subordinate Services (ARCSS).
- Shri Gautam Kumar Dak, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Cooperation, Government of Rajasthan was the Chief Guest.
- Objective: To empower the cooperative sector and motivate inspectors to their role.

India Renewable Expo 2026

- The India Renewable Expo 2026 was held from January 16 to 18 at VT Ground, Mansarovar, Jaipur.
- The expo was inaugurated by Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma. In this, information about solar panels, components, installation, service and government subsidy schemes was provided to the common consumers.

Handicraft Expo

- The Handicraft Expo held in Jodhpur was inaugurated by the Union Minister for Culture and Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on 16th January 2026. The expo was organized by the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts at the Trade Facilitation Centre.

Arogyam 2026

- This is the state level Ayush Arogya Mela of Rajasthan.
- The ‘Arogya Mela 2026’ was organized by the Department of Ayurveda, Government of Rajasthan from 15-18 January 2026. It was held at Jawahar Kala Kendra, Shilpgram, Jaipur.
- About 1000 physicians and staff served in it. Panchakarma, de-addiction, gynecology, yoga counseling, pulse testing and free medicine distribution facilities were made available here.

Jaipur Literature Festival

- The five-day Jaipur Literature Festival (JLF) inaugurated in Jaipur at Hotel Clarks Amer.
- The international literary festival witnessed the participation of more than 500 speakers from across the world, including India, and more than 300 sessions. Along with literature, discussions were held on history, politics, science, technology, climate change, and global issues on the stage.

'Melody of Colours' Art exhibition

- The exhibition was inaugurated on 17th January 2026 at Alankar Art Gallery, Jawahar Kala Kendra.
- The exhibition was inaugurated by Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Tourism, Art and Culture Diya Kumari.
- The three-day solo exhibition is based on the works of renowned watercolor artist Dr. Sushma Mahajan.
- The exhibition showcased fine and vibrant works of watercolor art.

Kite Festival 2026

- It was organized in Jaipur on 14 January 2026.
- It was organized by the State Tourism Department and District Administration, Jaipur.
- The main event was held at Jal Mahal Ki Pal, Amer Road, Hawa Mahal Rooftop, Badi Chaupar.
- As per the instructions of the Chief Minister, kite festivals were organized at all the seven divisional levels of the state this year.
- Apart from this, kite festivals were also organized in Jaisalmer and Mount Abu.

International Camel Festival 2026

- A 3-day International Camel Festival was organized in Bikaner from 9th to 11th January 2026.
- The event was held under the joint aegis of the district administration and the tourism department.
- The festival started with a heritage walk from Laxminath Temple to Rampuria Haveli.

Meeting of BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors

- The meeting was held in Jaipur from March 4-7, 2026.
- BRICS is an important grouping of major emerging economies of the world.
- The group includes Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.
- The objective of this group is to improve global economic governance and increase cooperation among member countries.

National Judicial Conference on Cyber Security

- A three-day Judicial Conference was held from 20th to 22nd February, 2026 at Rajasthan International Centre, Jaipur.
- The conference was inaugurated by the Chief Justice of India, K.K. Datta by Suryakant on February 20, 2026.
- It was attended by judges of the Supreme Court and various High Courts.
- The conference discussed topics related to cyber security, cyber forensics, artificial intelligence and justice system.
- This was the country's first major judicial conference on cyber issues.

National Institutional Leadership Summit (NSIL) 2026

- It was held on February 16-17, 2026, at the Rajasthan International Centre (RIC), Jaipur.
- It was organized under the joint aegis of the Department of Higher Education, Government of Rajasthan and Vidya Bharati Institute of Higher Education.
- About 1,500 delegates from more than 250 universities and institutions in the country participated in it.
- The conference discussed six key themes namely Institutional Development, Teacher Education and Leadership Development, India Centric Research, Indian Knowledge Tradition, Promotion of Indian Languages and Artificial Intelligence.

6th Meeting of Board of Investment

- The sixth meeting of the Board of Investment was held on February 14, 2026, under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma.
- In this meeting, it was decided to promote investment of about Rs 46,000 crore in Rajasthan.
- Approval was given for a customized package to 10 Ultra Mega projects in different sectors.
- These projects include solar module and cell manufacturing and renewable energy sector.
- Apart from this, projects in cement, mines and minerals, automobile, chemical, textile and tourism sectors were also approved.
- All the sanctioned projects were provided special customized incentive packages under RIPS.

Maa Katyayani Devi Cattle Fair

- Maa Katyayani Devi Cattle Fair Saila-2026 was organized on February 15, 2026 at Sayla village in Jalore district.
- The event was held under the joint aegis of the district administration and animal husbandry department.
- The cattle fair was organized as per the budget announcement of the Rajasthan government.
- Through these fairs, cattle farmers get information about economic benefits, buying and selling of livestock and public welfare schemes of the Animal Husbandry Department.

Badli Bhairuji Pashumela 2026

- The fair was held from January 28 to February 1, 2026 at Gram Panchayat Badli of Panchayat Samiti Keru, Jodhpur district.
- As part of the Rajasthan government's Budget Announcement 2023-24 initiative, the state-level Badli Bhairuji cattle fair was organized in Jodhpur for the first time.
- In this, a special exhibition of horses, camels, buffaloes, sheep and indigenous cows of more than 250 Marwaris and other breeds was organized under the Tharparkar Cow Breed Improvement Program.

Shri Nimbeshwar Mahadev Cattle Fair

- A 5-day Shri Nimbeshwar Mahadev Pashu Mela was organized from 13-17 February, 2026 at Sanderao in Pali district.
- In this fair, an exhibition of the best animals of Punganur, Gir, Kankrej, Thar and hybrid breeds was shown.
- As per the announcement of the Budget 2025-26, district-level cattle fairs are being organized in 11 districts of the state in the first phase.

13th India Stonemart 2026

- The 13th edition of India Stonemart was held from February 5-8, 2026, at the Jaipur Exhibition and Convention Centre (JECC), Sitapura Industrial Area, Jaipur.
- It is an international level stone industry exhibition.
- Its theme was Stone for Sustainability.
- Its official website was launched in more than 26 international languages.
- A dedicated digital mobile app was developed for the first time for India Stonemart 2026.
- It has features like virtual e-stall, product display, stall location map, meeting scheduling, live updates. For the first time, a dedicated 'One District One Product (ODOP)' pavilion was set up.

Jaipur Architecture Festival

- It was held on February 6-7, 2026, at the Jaipur Exhibition and Convention Centre (JECC), Sitapura.
- The festival was part of the Architecture Festival organized under the India Stonemart 2026.

- The winners of the 12th All India Stone Architecture Awards 2025 were felicitated.
- This will provide an opportunity to small artisans and craftsmen of the state to showcase their work on a global scale.
- Jaipur has a special place in international architecture for being the world's first planned city.

Indian Handicrafts and Gift Fair 2026

- The 61st IHGF14th was held from February 14 to 18, 2026 at India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida, Delhi NCR. It was inaugurated by Union Minister of Textiles Shri Giriraj Singh on 14th February, 2026.
- It offered more than 2000 product lines and more than 300 trends in 16 specific product categories.
- The fair is one of the largest international trade fairs in the world.
- It has been organized by the Handicrafts Export Promotion Council (EPCH) since 1994 in the form of spring and autumn editions.
- EPCH is the apex organization representing manufacturers and member exporters of home, lifestyle, fashion, furnishings, furniture, gifts, and interiors in India.

International Symposium: "Vision 2047 – Mining and Minerals Perspective"

- The International Seminar was organized in Jaipur on 15th February, 2026.
- It was organized by the Rajasthan Chapter of the Mining Engineers Association of India.
- The seminar deliberated on the future and growth prospects of the mining and mineral sector.

Printpack-Rajasthan 2026

- Printpack-Rajasthan was held from February 21 to 23, 2026, at the Jaipur Exhibition and Convention Centre (JECC). The exhibition was organized for the printing and packaging industry of Rajasthan.
- It was attended by around 20,000 printers and packaging visitors.
- It was organized by the Indian Printing, Packaging and Allied Machinery Manufacturers Association (IPAMA).

State Level Van Mela organized

- Minister of Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Shri Sanjay Sharma inaugurated the State Level Van Mela on 9th February 2026. The fair was held on 9th and 10th February, 2026 at Secretariat Nursery, Jaipur.
- Through this, medicinal and other products obtained from forests were made available in the market.
- This will provide economic support to the forest-dependent tribals and other communities.
- In Rajasthan, forest fairs will be organized by the Forest Department first at the divisional and then at the district level.
- Apart from this, the National Van Mahotsav will be organized in Jaipur in the future on the lines of Madhya Pradesh.

Alwar Bird Festival 2026

- Alwar Bird Watching Festival was organized on 7th February, 2026 at Silisedh Lake, Alwar.
- More than 200 bird species are found here, which are major attractions for tourists.
- The Tiger Marathon and Bird Festival will be held in February every year.
- The International Level Tiger Marathon was held in Alwar on February 8, 2026.
- It has been decided to organize a bird festival on February 2 every year in Siliserh Lake.

Rajasthan Seaside Startup Summit-2026

- The summit was held from February 27 to March 1, 2026 at Hotel Taj Amer, Jaipur.
- The conference was inaugurated by Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma on February 27, 2026.

- It aims to develop Rajasthan as a major startup hub and connect Indian entrepreneurs with international investors.
- Organizers: Department of Information Technology and Communications (Government of Rajasthan), Open Innovation Lotus Foundation and Armenian Startup Armenia Scientific Educational Foundation.
- It was attended by more than 130 startups, including startups from Rajasthan, the country, and abroad.

Sambhar Bird Festival 2026

- The Rajasthan Forest Department organized the 'Sambhar Bird Festival' on 27th February, 2026 in the Kochya ki Dhani and Jhapok areas of Sambhar Lake. The aim was to raise public awareness about the lake's biodiversity, wetland ecology and the importance of migratory birds. The 'Wetland Mitra Registration Campaign' was launched to connect the general public with conservation activities .

Rajasthan Science Festival 2026

- It was held from February 26-28, 2026, at MNIT, Jaipur.
- The festival was inaugurated by Vidhan Sabha Speaker Vasudev Devnani.
- This year's theme was "Women in Science: Catalysts of Viksit Bharat".
- It was organized in collaboration with the Department of Science and Technology (Rajasthan), Vigyan Bharati Rajasthan and MNIT Jaipur.

Braj Holi Festival 2026

- The Braj Holi Festival 2026 was held in Bharatpur from February 26-28, 2026.
- The event was organized by the Department of Tourism and District Administration, Bharatpur.

Science & Technology

Successful test firing of indigenous 'Tank Killer' missile

- The Jodhpur-based DRDO conducted a successful flight test of the indigenous Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM).
- The third generation missile was test-fired at the KK range in Ahilyanagar, Maharashtra.
- It destroyed the moving target 2.5 km away.

Features

- It is capable of destroying modern main battle tanks.
- This missile can be fired from a military vehicle launcher.
- It can also be branded by placing it on the shoulder.
- It is a third-generation fire and forget missile, that is, after firing it, the soldier does not need to control it.
- Equipped with indigenous technologies such as Imaging Infrared Homing Seeker, All-Electric Control Actuation System, Fire Control System, Tandem Warhead, Propulsion System and High Performance Sighting System.

Reports & Indexes

Export Preparedness Index 2024: Rajasthan in 'Aspire' category

- The Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2024 was released by NITI Aayog.
- The report assesses the export potential, policy framework, infrastructure and business environment of the states.

- Maharashtra topped the list with a score of 68.01.
- Apart from this, Tamil Nadu was second and Gujarat was third.

Status of Rajasthan

- Share of Rajasthan in the country's total exports: 2.3%
- Export Rank in 2024: 12th
- Rank in 36 States/UTs in total: 17th (Rajasthan was ranked 13th in the previous ranking.)
- Score: 47.31
- Category: 'Aspire'
- Key Challenges: Logistics costs, lack of industrial diversification, and limited global reach of MSMEs.

First State Level Ranking of PMSHRI Vidyalayas released

- For the first time, a state-level ranking of 639 PM SHRI schools in Rajasthan was released.
- This ranking is based on 18 parameters.

Top 5 PM SHRI Schools

- PM SHRI Dhawa (Jodhpur)
- PM SHRI Sawar (Ajmer)
- PM SHRI Manpura Macheri (Jaipur)
- PM SHRI Jodhkia (Hanumangarh)
- PM SHRI Ringas (Sikar)

Rajasthan in Economic Survey 2025-26

- The Economic Survey 2025-26 highlighted Rajasthan's innovations in economic management, social health sector, and administrative reforms.
- In 2023-24, the state's revenue deficit was Rs 38,954 crore.
- In the revised estimate for the year 2024-25, it decreased to Rs 31,939 crore.
- The revenue deficit in the Budget Estimates for the year 2025-26 is estimated to be Rs. 31,009 crore.
- Inflation was 6.39 per cent in 2023-24, which declined to 4.34 per cent in 2024-25.
- During the year 2025-26 (April-December), retail inflation was recorded at 0.81 per cent.

Rajasthan's Cash Plus Model: Included in Best Practice

- Rajasthan's cash plus model has been included as the best practice in the Economic Survey to tackle child and maternal malnutrition.
- This model has been implemented in Pratapgarh, Dungarpur, Banswara, Udaipur and Baran districts.
- It integrated the benefits of Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana and Mukhyamantri Matru Poshan Yojana.
- The Economic Survey also appreciated the Comprehensive Career Education Programme for students from classes 9 to 12.

Rajasthan's performance in PM Vishwakarma Yojana

- Rajasthan ranks first in the country in registration under PM Vishwakarma Yojana.
- Apart from this, Rajasthan has been ranked second at the national level in terms of loan sanction and disbursement. The state ranks third in the field of toolkit distribution and training of artisans.
- Note: An additional 2% interest subsidy is being given to the beneficiaries of the scheme by the Government of Rajasthan. Due to this subsidy, loans are available to the beneficiaries at only 3% interest rate.
- The average loan ticket size in Rajasthan is Rs 87,000, which is higher than the national average of Rs 83,000.

Position of States in Tax Revenue Growth and Capex

- In terms of the financial position of the States in the year 2025-26, Karnataka has been at the forefront of tax revenue growth as per the data of the Comptroller and Auditor General for the period April-November 2025. Rajasthan ranks second in this regard.
- Apart from this, Gujarat was at the top in increasing capital expenditure.

Tax Collection Growth (Top-5 States):

State	2024-25 (₹ Crore)	2025-26 (₹ Crore)	Increase
Karnataka	1,10,856	1,34,109	20.97%
Rajasthan	82,450	95,200	15.46%
Maharashtra	2,16,548	2,34,259	8.17%
Uttar Pradesh	1,82,483	1,94,521	6.59%
Gujarat	92,185	97,338	5.59%

- However, Karnataka still lags behind Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh in terms of total tax collection.
- In terms of increase in capital expenditure, Gujarat (48.18%), Maharashtra (19.03%) and Karnataka (16.57%) are ranked first, second and third respectively.

TomTom Traffic Index 2025: Jaipur ranked 10th among Asia's top-10 most congested cities

- The index was released by the TomTom company of the Netherlands according to this index, Jaipur has joined the 10 most congested cities in Asia. In Asia, Bengaluru is first, Pune second and Jaipur tenth. According to the report, Jaipur spent an average of 121 hours in a year, i.e. about five days, in traffic jams.

Traffic jams globally: Jaipur ranked 30th

- According to the report, Bengaluru is the second most traffic-affected city in the world.
- Traffic congestion levels in Bengaluru were recorded at 74.4 per cent.
- Mexico City ranks first in the world with 75.9 percent traffic congestion.
- Globally, Jaipur was ranked 30th in terms of traffic jams.

Rajasthan ranks fifth in effective action against cyber crime

- Rajasthan has become one of the leading states in the country due to effective action against cyber crime. In the year 2025, Rajasthan has secured the 5th position in the country in terms of freezing the amount of cyber fraud on time.
- The Rajasthan Police has taken action under campaigns like Operation Mule Account and POS, Cyber Shield, Anti-Virus and Operation Vajra Prahar.

Rajasthan ranks first in Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana

- ICDS Rajasthan under the Department of Women and Child Development got the first position in the National Monthly Ranking of Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana for January, 2026.
- In the year 2025, the department has got the second position in the nutrition month and the first place in the nutrition fortnight.
- In the monthly ranking, Karnataka and Assam were ranked second.
- The scheme is applicable from January 1, 2017 in all districts of the country.

According to the new guidelines:

- From April 1, 2023, a total of Rs 5000 (Rs 3000 and Rs 2000) is given in two installments on the fulfillment of conditions on the first child.
- From 1st April, 2022, a one-time assistance of Rs. 6000/- is given on the birth of only the girl child as a second child after fulfillment of the conditions.

PM Suryaghar Yojana in Rajasthan

- Rajasthan is the 5th leading state in the country in PM Suryaghar Yojana.
- More than 1.42 lakh rooftop solar plants have been installed in Rajasthan so far.
- At present, on an average, about 14,000 rooftop solar plants are being installed every month.
- Rajasthan DISCOMs aim to double the number of installations in the current year.

District Academic Rankings of January 2026

- The District Academic Rankings for January, 2026 were released by the School Education Department of Rajasthan.
- The rankings have been prepared on the basis of academic outcomes, day-to-day operations of schools, governance and other indicators.
- Jhunjhunu and Hanumangarh topped the list and Churu secured the third position.
- Sikar, Bharatpur and Khairtal-Tijara stood fourth, fifth and sixth respectively.
- Apart from this, Banswara and Jaisalmer were at the lowest position.
- This year, academic learning outcomes have been formally made part of the rankings.

District Level Statistics of Tourism Department 2025

- In the year 2025, more than 1.52 crore domestic tourists visited 10 major historical and world heritage sites of Rajasthan .
- This number is 11.78% higher than the 13.6 million tourists in 2024.
- According to the district-level data of the Tourism Department, the average growth of domestic tourists in the entire state was 9-10%.
- The Chittorgarh Fort recorded the highest increase of 51.01%.
- Jaisalmer Fort recorded a decline of 5.09%, yet it remained in the first position.

Ranking and Performance of Major Destinations

Destination	Number of Tourists (million)	Rank	Increase/ Decrease (%)
Jaisalmer Fort	41.92	1	-5.09
Hawa Mahal	18.24	2	+24.34
Amer Fort	18.15	3	+13.15
City Palace, Udaipur	15.23	4	+15.69
Chittorgarh Fort	13.44	5	+51.01
Nahargarh Fort	12.22	6	+19.69
Jantar-Mantar	11.63	7	+18.55
Mehrangarh Fort	10.73	8	+10.05
Umaid Bhawan	6.02	9	+4.88
Akbar Fort	4.83	10	+14.45
Total	152.41	—	+11.78

Tourism Statistics of 10 Major Temples in Rajasthan

- According to the Rajasthan Tourism Department, about 11 crore devotees reached 10 major temples of the state in the year 2025.
- Khatu Shyam Temple stood first with 2.54 crore devotees.
- In terms of the number of devotees, Khatu Shyam Ji Temple in Sikar district is ahead of Vaishno Devi and Sai Baba of Shirdi.
- The Poonchhari ka Lautha Temple in the Govardhan Parikrama area has overtaken Pushkar to reach the second position.
- The number of devotees at Poonchhari Ka Lautha temple in Deeg district has increased by 54% in a year.

- There are estimated to be about 39,392 temples in Rajasthan.
- There are about 47 temples per one lakh population in the state.
- On the basis of the number of temples, Tamil Nadu ranks first and Rajasthan ranks sixth in the country.

Religious Places (District)	2025 (Lakh)	Increase/ Decline (%)
Khatu Shyam, Sikar	258.00	+9.3
Poonchari ka LAutha, Deeg	147.12	+54.0
Pushkar, Ajmer	132.46	+6.2
Sanwaliaji Seth, Chittorgarh	119.40	+11.7
Dargah Sharif, Ajmer	84.61	+14.5
Ramdevra, Jaisalmer	72.33	+2.0
Kailadevi Temple, Karauli	65.34	+0.8
Salasar Balaji, Churu	53.61	+7.5
Gogamedi, Hanumangarh	42.05	-0.3
Shivad, Sawai Madhopur	33.63	-29.7

Status of Rajasthan in Per Capita Debt

- According to the Reserve Bank, Rajasthan ranks 9th in terms of per capita debt among the top 17 states of the country. In the last five years, the per capita credit of banks in Rajasthan increased by 66%, while deposits increased by 38.8%.
- Rajasthan by the first half of FY 2025–26
 - Debt per capita: ₹78,023
 - Deposit per person: ₹86,383

Credit-Deposit Ratio (CD Ratio)

- In the last 5 years, Rajasthan's credit-deposit ratio increased from 75% to 90%.
- Rajasthan ranks 5th on the basis of credit-deposit ratio.
- Rajasthan ranks 13th in terms of deposits.
- The national average credit-deposit ratio is 80%.

Status of Districts

- In 20 of the 41 districts of Rajasthan, the debt is more than 100% of the deposits.
- Balotra district has the highest credit-deposit ratio in the state with 377%.
- The top five districts are Hanumangarh, Bhilwara, Phalodi and Jaisalmer in Balotra.
- Dungarpur district has the lowest loan-deposit ratio with 61.16%.

Ranking of Major Districts

District	Rank
Bikaner	13th
Jaipur	20th
Jodhpur	28th
Udaipur	31st
Kota	33rd
Ajmer	36th

Top States in Debt Per Capita (in ₹)

State	Debt per capita (₹)
Maharashtra	4,06,462
Telangana	2,50,850

Tamil Nadu	2,27,628
Andhra Pradesh	1,44,305
Gujarat	1,44,263
National Average	1,32,863

Top 5 States in Per Capita Deposits (in ₹)

State	Deposit per person (₹)
Maharashtra	4,14,265
Haryana	2,93,720
Kerala	2,79,984
Karnataka	2,76,805
Telangana	2,30,513
National Average	1,65,933

The first census of Wild Cats in the country

- The number of wild cats in the country is about 3 lakhs.
- These medium-sized wild cats are protected in Schedule 2 of the Wildlife Protection Act and are also known as Felis Chaus.
- The census was conducted in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of Dehradun, the Indian National Science Academy, the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) Bengaluru and the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources in Wyoming, USA.

State-wise breakdown of Wild Cats

State	Forest Area (sq km)	Male cats	Female cats
Madhya Pradesh	78,849	11,769	32,854
Rajasthan	76,709	11,449	31,962
Chhattisgarh	57,391	8,566	23,913
Maharashtra	41,395	6,178	17,248
Gujarat	41,359	6,173	17,233

Apps & Portals

'Apna Khata' mobile app

- Hemant Meena, Revenue and Colonization Minister of Rajasthan, launched the 'Apna Khata' mobile app on 27 January 2026. Through this app, citizens will be able to avail revenue services from mobile phones only.
- This app provides services related to mutation, boundary demarcation, consent-based partition, jamabandi (land records), maps, various types of copies, and the status of applications.
- In addition, non-state restricted land reports, departmental circulars and services related to girdawari are also included.

Citizen App

- This citizen app has been developed by the Excise Department of the Government of Rajasthan.
- The purpose of this app is to stop the sale of illegal liquor and save people from poisonous liquor.
- The QR code of the hologram sticker on the liquor bottle can be identified as real or fake liquor.

- The MRP, packing size, batch number, production date and name of the manufacturer can also be known through this app.

District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMFT) Portal

- The dedicated portal and website will be launched to make the functioning of the District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMFT) in Rajasthan more transparent and effective.
- This portal will be linked to the NMFT portal of the Government of India.
- Links to the Central and State Mines Department will be available on this website.
- In this, information about funds, approvals, proposed work, progress and expenditure will be available in one click.

'My Career Advisor' mobile app

- This app has been launched with the aim of helping the students of Rajasthan to plan better for the future and make suitable career choices.
- This modern AI-based personalized career guidance app launched by the Department of Education is useful for students from class 9th to 12th.
- Along with this, teachers, parents and counselors will also be able to get career awareness and guidance through this app.

National Affairs

Supreme Court stays UGC Equity Regulation 2026

- The Supreme Court on 29th January 2026 stayed the implementation of the University Grants Commission (UGC) Equity Regulations 2026.
- The verdict was delivered by a bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalay Bagchi.
- According to the court, the key provisions of the regulation are “completely ambiguous” and can be misused. The old 2012 regulations of the UGC will remain in force until further orders.

UGC Equity Regulation 2026:

- On 13th January 2026, the UGC had notified the Equity Regulation 2026.
- Under the new rules, provision was made to set up Equal Opportunity Centres (EOC), campus-level grievance committees in all universities and colleges.
- The main cause of controversy was Regulation 3(c), which restricted caste-based discrimination to SC, ST, and OBC only.
- This was pointed out as necessary in the context of increasing complaints of caste-based discrimination and cases like Rohith Vemula and Payal Tadvi.

Announcement of the pilot model of India's first AI-enabled state university

- Union Minister Jayant Chaudhary on 28th January 2026 announced the pilot of India's first AI-enabled state university at Chaudhary Charan Singh University (CCSU) in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh.
- This initiative has been jointly undertaken by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and the Ministry of Education.
- This model has been developed in collaboration with Google Cloud and focuses on the integration of AI in higher education.
- Under this, CCSU will be developed as a “Living Lab”. It will implement personalized AI tutors, AI-based skill-gap analysis, and automated administrative systems.
- This model will provide a scalable framework for AI adoption in other Indian universities in the future.
- This grant will be used for integration of AI tools into national programmes such as the SWAYAM platform and the Prime Minister's POSHAN Tracker Scheme.

77th Republic Day Celebrations 2026

- The theme of the 77th Republic Day celebrations was ‘150 years of Vande Mataram’.
- The Chief Guest of the Republic Day Parade was the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission.
- Republic Day parades, cultural programmes, tableaux, public competitions and other events were organised on the same theme.

Key Points

- The parade was held at Kartavya Path in New Delhi.
- A total of 30 tableaux from States, Union Territories and Central Ministries based on the themes ‘Azadi ka Mantra – Vande Mataram’ and ‘Mantra of Samridhi – Aatmanirbhar Bharat’ participated in the parade.
- Around 10,000 special guests including farmers, artisans, scientists, innovators, women entrepreneurs, students, sportspersons, beneficiaries of government schemes and frontline workers from across the country were invited.

- The formal events of Republic Day culminated on 29th January 2026.
- The 'Beating the Retreat' ceremony at Vijay Chowk marks the formal end of Republic Day celebrations.
- Note: The ceremony reflects an ancient military tradition, in which soldiers would stop fighting at the sound of 'Retreat' at sunset.

Simran Bala became the first woman to lead an all-men unit

- CRPF Assistant Commandant Simran Bala led the all-men unit at the 77th Republic Day Parade.
- She became the first woman officer to do so.
- Simran Bala hails from Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Anti-ship hypersonic missile for the first time at Republic Day parade

- The long-range anti-ship hypersonic glide missile developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) joined the Republic Day parade for the first time.
- The missile system was displayed with a mobile launcher.
- The missile works on a battery-based system and can strike both stationary and active targets.
- It is capable of firing various payloads up to about 1500 km.
- It is capable of destroying all types of warships by reaching the target in a short time.

Lays foundation stone of Matabari tourist circuit in Tripura

- Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region and Communications, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia laid the foundation stone of the Matabari Tourism Circuit at Dumboor, Tripura on 25th January 2026.

Key Features of Matabari Tourism Circuit

- The project will connect Tripura Sundari Temple, Chhabimura and Dumbur Lake.
- The total cost of the project is Rs. 450 crore, out of which Rs. 276 crore was provided by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region. It will include floating piers, eco-friendly resorts, modern tourist amenities and local culture-based experiences.



First country in the world to commercially produce bio-bitumen

- India has become the first country in the world to commercially produce bio-bitumen for use in road construction.
- The achievement was announced by Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari.
- Bitumen is a black and thick hydrocarbon mixture obtained from crude oil, which is used as a bond factor in road construction.
- The technology developed by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has made it possible to commercialize bio-bitumen.
- The use of bio-bitumen will reduce pollution caused by burning crop residue.

Inauguration of National IED Data Management System (NIDMS)

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the National IED Data Management System (NIDMS) of the National Security Guard (NSG) on 9th January 2026.
- It aims to analyse the pattern of terrorist incidents and explosions and assist investigative agencies in formulating effective strategies. Under this, the security data was earlier scattered across different departments, which will now be integrated.
- The system will be available to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), anti-terror squads, state police forces, and all central armed police forces.
- It will be able to upload and analyze data related to any explosion or IED incident across the country.

India's first fully solar-powered mobile ATM van

- Tripura Gramin Bank launched India's first fully solar-powered mobile ATM van.
- This initiative has been launched in the name of 'TGB on Wheels'.
- Its purpose is to provide banking services to rural and remote areas.
- The van does not rely on conventional electricity and diesel generators and remains functional even during power cuts.
- Through this, cash withdrawals and basic banking services linked to the account are provided.
- The project has been implemented in collaboration with NABARD.

Census 2027: First phase notification issued

- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs notified the first phase of Census of India 2027 on 8th January 2026. The Census will be conducted in a completely digital format, which will be India's first digital census.

First Phase: Home Listing and Housing Census

- The first phase will be carried out through door-to-door visits between April 1 and September 30, 2025. In each State and Union Territory, this work will be completed within the stipulated period of 30 days. Under the self-enumeration facility, citizens will get the option to fill in online information themselves 15 days before the start of the house-to-house survey.
- In the first phase, 33 questions related to the condition of the house, construction material, ownership, and basic amenities will be asked.
- Mobile applications will be available on both Android and iOS platforms for data collection.

Second Stage: Population Census

- The second phase of the population census will be conducted in February 2027.
- Snow-covered areas of Ladakh, UT of Jammu and Kashmir in September 2026,
- Population census will be conducted for Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
- The total estimated cost of the census is ₹11,718.24 crore.
- The central government has decided to include caste census in the upcoming census.

Indian Railways becomes world's largest electrified rail system

- Indian Railways became the largest electrified rail system in the world.
- The entire broad-gauge network of about 70,000 km in the country is now powered by electricity.
- The pace of electrification was more than about 15 km per day in the last 6 years.
- 25 States and Union Territories of India have achieved 100% electrification. Only 5 States (Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Assam and Goa) have some balance to be done.
- Railways also increased its solar power capacity to about 898 MW.

'YUVA AI for All': National AI Literacy Programme

- The program was launched on 6th January 2026 at the Rajasthan AI Regional Impact Conference held in Jaipur. It aims to make AI literacy an essential life skill.
- 'YUVA AI for All' is a foundational course of about 4 hours.
- It covers topics related to the basic concept, usage, ethics, and future of AI.
- The course is available in 11 Indian languages.
- This course is free of cost and available on major digital learning platforms.
- The government aims to make 10 lakh learners AI literate in the next one year.
- The program prepares youth and citizens for the opportunities and responsibilities of an AI-driven future.

New logo of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)

- The Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has launched its new logo and mascot 'Statistics'.
- The Ashoka Chakra in its logo symbolizes transparency, the ₹ symbol symbolizes economic planning and the upward growth curve of sustainable development.
- The saffron, white, green and blue colours represent national values, sustainability and wisdom.
- The new logo underlines the Ministry's motto of "Data for Development".
- MoSPI is the principal ministry responsible for the development of the country's statistical system and monitoring of major government programmes.



All India Services Cadre Allocation Policy 2026

- The Union Department of Personnel and Training announced the new Cadre Allocation Policy 2026 for All India Services.
- The policy will be applicable to Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS) and Indian Forest Service (IFoS) officers. Under this, the earlier 5-zone system has been abolished.
- Now 25 states and combined cadres were divided into 4 groups in alphabetical order.

Group Structure

- Group-I: Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram and Union Territory Cadre (AGMUT), Andhra Pradesh, Assam-Meghalaya, Bihar, Chhattisgarh.
- Group-II: Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh.
- Group-III: Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu.
- Group IV: Telangana, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal.

New method of allocation

- Cadre allocation will now be done through a rotational cycle of 25 cadres.
- Cadre will be allotted to the candidates on the basis of merit in each cycle.
- The order of the groups will be changed every year, so that the regional balance is maintained.

Insider-Outsider Rules

- Insider vacancies will be filled on a priority basis.
- If the insider positions cannot be filled, they will be immediately converted to outside seats.
- In case the home state is allotted by chance, the swap rule will be applied.
- Apart from this, the vacancies will be counted on January 1 of the next year of the examination.
- The states will have to send their demands by January 31.
- The respective ministries will decide the service-wise vacancies.

PwBD Category

- Special preference has been given to Divyang candidates.
- Additional posts can be created for them if required.

Implementation of PESA Act in Jharkhand after 25 years

- Jharkhand implemented the rules under the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA) in January 2026.

PESA Act 1996

- Its full name is the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996.
- The PESA Act aims to extend the Panchayati Raj system to the Fifth Schedule areas.
- It empowers the Gram Sabhas in decisions related to natural resources, local development and social justice. This law protects the traditions, customs, and cultural identity of tribal communities.

SAIL's 'Great Place to Work' certification

- Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) was awarded the 'Great Place to Work' certification.
- This honor was presented for the third consecutive year.
- The certification was given after an extensive evaluation conducted by Great Place to Work Institute, India. This certification is given to organizations that provide employees with a positive and trustworthy work experience.
- The 'Great Place to Work' certification requires at least 70% positive employee feedback.

India's first LNG-diesel dual-fuel DMU train

- Indian Railways launched the country's first LNG-diesel dual-fuel DMU train.
- The operation of this train was started in Sabarmati area of Ahmedabad. It aims to promote environment-friendly rail operations by reducing dependence on conventional diesel.

Key Features

- It is a 1,400 horsepower (HP) capacity DMU train.
- It has been converted to a liquefied natural gas (LNG) and diesel-based dual fuel system.
- About 40% of diesel consumption has been replaced by LNG under the new fuel configuration.
- The field trial was successful by covering a distance of more than 2,000 km without operational problems.

Akasa Air becomes IATA member

- Akasa Air has become the 5th airline in India to become a member of the International Air Transport Association (IATA). IATA represents more than 360 airlines in the world and covers more than 80 percent of global air traffic.

Akasa Air

- Akasa Air was founded in the year 2020 by Vinay Dubey.
- Late investor Rakesh Jhunjhunwala had invested \$35 million for about 40 percent stake in it.
- The airline launched its first commercial flight on 7th August 2022.
- It currently connects 26 domestic and 6 international cities.

India becomes world's largest rice producer

- Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced on 4 January 2026 that India has overtaken China in total rice production.
- India's rice production was recorded at 150.18 million tonnes, while China's was recorded at 145.28 million tonnes.
- India's global rice supply capacity has strengthened.
- On this occasion, 184 improved varieties of 25 crops developed by ICAR including cereals, pulses, oilseeds, cotton, sugarcane, fodder crops, jute and tobacco were also released.

Proposal to Rename Kerala to "Keralam" Approved

- The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal to officially change the name of the state of Kerala to "Keralam."
- In June 2024, the Kerala Legislative Assembly unanimously passed this resolution, requesting the Central Government to amend the First and Eighth Schedules of the Constitution.
- The name "Kerala" is considered to be a result of English/colonial influence; the new name reflects the indigenous identity.
- In the Malayalam language, the state's original name is "Keralam"; therefore, the proposal was put forward to adopt a name consistent with local pronunciation.

The Constitutional Process for Changing a State's Name (Under Article 3)

- First, the State Legislative Assembly passes a resolution proposing the name change.
- Subsequently, the President's assent is required before the bill is introduced in Parliament.
- The President refers the bill to the State Legislative Assembly to seek its views.
- The bill is passed by both Houses of Parliament by a simple majority.
- The name change becomes effective following the final assent of the President.
- To this end, necessary amendments are made to the First Schedule (listing the names of states).

Menstrual Health as a Fundamental Right

- A Supreme Court bench (comprising Justice J.B. Pardiwala and Justice R. Mahadevan), in the case of *Dr. Jaya Thakur vs. Union of India*, recognized Menstrual Health and Hygiene (MHH) as a fundamental right under Article 21.
- Pursuant to this verdict, oxo-biodegradable sanitary napkins will be provided free of cost to female students in grades 6 to 12 in both government and private schools.
- Vending machines and Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) corners will be established in schools, where spare uniforms, undergarments, and disposal bags will be made available. Additionally, separate toilets, facilities for water and soap, and safe waste disposal systems will be ensured.
- The District Education Officer (DEO) will oversee this initiative, while the NCPCR and SCPCR will ensure compliance.

No-Confidence Motion Against the Lok Sabha Speaker

- Recently, a no-confidence motion (resolution for removal) was moved against the Lok Sabha Speaker, Om Birla. However, this motion was defeated by a voice vote.
- A no-confidence motion is a formal parliamentary procedure through which members of the Lok Sabha express a lack of confidence in the Speaker.

Constitutional Procedure for Removing the Lok Sabha Speaker

- Under Article 94(c), the Lok Sabha Speaker may be removed by a resolution passed by an 'Effective Majority'.

Stages of the Procedure

- A written notice of at least 14 days is mandatory.
- The motion requires the signatures of at least 50 Members of Parliament (MPs).
- Upon the completion of the 14-day notice period, permission is sought to introduce the motion.
- If 50 or more members rise in support, permission for a discussion is granted.
- It is mandatory to hold the discussion and voting within 10 days of receiving such permission.
- An 'Effective Majority' is required to remove the Speaker. (Support from more than 50% of the total *then-existing* membership of the House—i.e., excluding vacancies).
- While the motion is under consideration, the Speaker does not preside over the House. They may remain present in the House and present their case.
- They may cast a vote like any ordinary member; however, they do not possess the right to cast a 'casting vote' (decisive vote) in the event of a tie.

Points to Note

- To date, in the history of the Indian Parliament, no Speaker of the Lok Sabha has been removed through this procedure.
- In the past, such attempts were made against G.V. Mavalankar (1954), Sardar Hukam Singh (1966), and Balram Jakhar (1987), but all of them failed.

Pennaiyar River Water Dispute

- On February 2, 2026, the Supreme Court directed the Central Government to constitute a Pennaiyar River Water Dispute Tribunal. This river flows through both Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, making it an inter-state river.
- The dispute has arisen over check dams and water diversion structures constructed by Karnataka.
- Tamil Nadu argues that these unilateral measures adversely affect downstream water flow and violate existing agreements.

National Counter-Terrorism Policy 'PRAHAAR'

- On February 23, 2026, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs released India's first comprehensive National Counter-Terrorism Policy and Strategy, titled 'PRAHAAR'.
- This policy is based on the principle of 'zero tolerance' towards terrorism and focuses on intelligence-led prevention and rapid response.
- Its objective is to deny terrorists and their supporters access to funding, weaponry, and safe havens.
- The policy aims to eliminate the threat of terrorism from India by 2029.

The 7 Key Pillars of 'PRAHAAR':

- P (Prevention): Preempting terrorist attacks and ensuring the safety of citizens.
- R (Response): Taking swift and effective action commensurate with the threat level.
- A (Aggregating Internal Capacities): Enhancing coordination among various government agencies.
- H (Human Rights & Rule of Law): Conducting operations while adhering to human rights and legal standards.
- A (Attenuating Enabling Conditions): Eliminating conditions that foster radicalization and terrorism.
- A (Aligning International Efforts): Strengthening international cooperation in the fight against terrorism.
- R (Recovery and Resilience): Empowering society to recover after terrorist attacks and preparing it for future challenges.

Key Features:

- Special emphasis on threats associated with emerging technologies such as drones, robotic attacks, crypto-wallets, and the Dark Web.
- CBRNED (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Digital) threats have been incorporated into the policy for the first time.
- The Multi-Agency Centre (MAC) and the Joint Task Force on Intelligence (JTFI) have been designated as the primary platforms for real-time information sharing.
- A proposal to establish a uniform counter-terrorism architecture across all states.
- De-radicalization programs within prisons and specialized surveillance measures to curb radicalization. A plan to increase the involvement of legal experts to strengthen the prosecution process. International cooperation for the extradition of terrorists and for having them designated as terrorists at the global level.

India's MANAV Vision

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the "MANAV Vision" at the India AI Impact Summit 2026.
- Its objective is to ensure the responsible and human-centric development of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Key Pillars of the MANAV Vision

- M – Moral and Ethical Systems: The development of AI must be grounded in ethics, transparency, and human oversight.
- A – Accountable Governance: Establishing clear regulations and robust oversight mechanisms for the use of AI.
- N – National Sovereignty: Ensuring national control over data, algorithms, and digital infrastructure—based on the principle: "Whose Data, Their Right."

- A – Accessible and Inclusive: Making AI accessible to all sections of society, particularly the Global South.
- V – Valid and Legitimate: Ensuring that AI systems are compliant with the law and verifiable, in order to address risks such as deepfakes. To implement this vision, the government has approved the India AI Mission, with an outlay exceeding ₹10,300 crore.

Information Technology (IT) Amendment Rules, 2026

- The Government of India has notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2026.
- These rules came into effect on February 20, 2026.
- Their objective is to address digital threats arising from AI and deepfakes.

Key Features of the IT Amendment Rules, 2026

- For the first time, “Synthetically Generated Information (SGI)” has been defined in law.
- This includes audio, visual, and audio-visual content created or altered using AI/algorithms.
- Strict Timelines for Content Removal: The timeframe for removing content subject to court or government orders has been reduced from 36 hours to 3 hours.
- Non-Consensual Intimate Imagery (NCII) and Deepfakes: Removal is mandatory within 2 hours of receiving a complaint.
- Furthermore, clear labeling will be mandatory for content generated by AI. Permanent metadata (Provenance Data) must be embedded with the content to enable the identification of its source and the tools used to create it.

India's First State Innovation Mission (SIM)

- India's first State Innovation Mission (SIM) was launched in Agartala (Tripura) on February 26, 2026.
- This mission has been initiated to institutionalize innovation and entrepreneurship at the state level, under NITI Aayog's State Support Mission and Atal Innovation Mission 2.0.
- Its objective is to extend innovation to districts and villages, develop solutions for local problems, and encourage women and tribal entrepreneurs.
- Under the mission, initiatives such as the T-NEST Incubation Hub, Innovation Centers across all 8 districts, and the District Innovator Fellowship have been launched.

Namo Bharat Corridor

- On February 22, 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the final sections of the Delhi–Ghaziabad–Meerut RRTS—Sarai Kale Khan–New Ashok Nagar and Meerut South–Modipuram.
- This is India's first Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS).
- It is being operated by the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC).
- This corridor spans approximately 82.15 km in length.
- It features a design speed of 180 km/h and an operational speed of 160 km/h, making it India's fastest urban train system. In this project, for the first time, the RRTS and the Meerut Metro are operating on the same tracks and stations.

India Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS)

- The Government of India will implement the country's first comprehensive Carbon Credit Trading Program (CCTS). Its objective is to reduce emission intensity by 45% from 2005 levels by 2030 and to achieve the Net-Zero target by 2070.
- This is a market-based system wherein the government sets emission caps for industries, and carbon credits are awarded to units that emit less than their assigned targets.
- The statutory foundation for this scheme has been laid under the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Act, 2022.
- The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) will serve as its administrator, while the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) will regulate the trading.

- In its first phase, scheduled for FY 2025-26, nine key sectors will be covered, and carbon credit trading is set to commence by October 2026.
- It will comprise two mechanisms:
 1. **Compliance:** Heavy industries will be assigned mandatory emission targets.
 2. **Offset:** Other entities can earn carbon credits through voluntary emission reductions.

Parliamentary Friendship Groups (PFGs)

- On February 23, 2026, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla constituted Parliamentary Friendship Groups with more than 60 countries.
- The objective of these groups is to enhance inter-parliamentary cooperation, strengthen legislative dialogue, and promote parliamentary diplomacy at the global level.
- This initiative will provide Indian parliamentarians with the opportunity to engage in direct dialogue with their counterparts in other countries, share experiences, and exchange insights regarding legislative processes.
- Furthermore, it will foster mutual cooperation in areas such as trade, technology, culture, and global challenges.
- Each group typically comprises approximately 11 members and is led by a Chairperson or Group Leader.
- These groups include Members of Parliament from both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, with members drawn from various political parties.

Inauguration of the Seva Teerth Bhavan Complex

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 'Seva Teerth' Bhavan complex in New Delhi on February 13, 2026.
- This complex constitutes a key component of the Central Vista Redevelopment Project.

Seva Teerth Bhavan

- 'Seva Teerth' is the new name for the Prime Minister's Office and its associated complexes.
- This complex is situated in New Delhi, in the vicinity of Vayu Bhavan.
- It was constructed by Larsen & Toubro (L&T).
- It comprises three high-tech buildings designated as Seva Teerth-1, Seva Teerth-2, and Seva Teerth-3.
- The new Prime Minister's Office (PMO) is housed in Seva Teerth-1.
- The Cabinet Secretariat operates from Seva Teerth-2.
- Seva Teerth-3 houses the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) and the office of the National Security Advisor (NSA).
- All the buildings are interconnected via underground tunnels to ensure security and confidentiality.
- The complex has been designed to facilitate fully digital and paperless governance.

India's First LNG-Diesel Dual-Fuel DEMU Train

- Indian Railways has launched the country's first DEMU train featuring an LNG-diesel dual-fuel system.
- The dual-fuel DEMU train was successfully operated at Sabarmati, located in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- This initiative marks a significant step towards the goal of achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2030. The train is based on hybrid technology and is powered by a blend of LNG and diesel.
- This DEMU train is equipped with a power output capacity of 1,400 horsepower.
- This technology meets approximately 40% of the traditional diesel requirement using LNG.
- The converted coaches successfully completed field trials, covering a distance of over 2,000 kilometers.
- Following the trials, the train has been inducted into regular passenger service without encountering any operational issues.

World Bank Approves Loan for PM-SETU Scheme

- The World Bank has approved a loan of \$830 million (approximately ₹6,900 crore) for the Government of India's Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas evam Rojgar Kshamta Parivartan – Advanced ITI (PM-SETU) scheme.
- This scheme was launched to modernize India's vocational and skills training infrastructure.

PM-SETU Scheme

- The scheme was launched on October 4, 2025.
- It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
- Under this scheme, the institutions will be government-owned, but their management will be undertaken by industries.
- The total outlay of the scheme is ₹60,000 crore, which will be shared between the Centre and the States.
- Under this initiative, 1,000 Government ITIs will be upgraded based on a 'Hub-and-Spoke' model.
- Five National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs) will be developed as Centres of Excellence.

Tripartite Agreement between the Government of India, the Government of Nagaland, and the ENPO

- A historic tripartite agreement was concluded on February 5, 2026, between the Government of India, the Government of Nagaland, and the Eastern Nagaland Peoples' Organization (ENPO).
- Its objective is to establish a special administrative and legislative arrangement for the six districts of Eastern Nagaland.

Key Provisions:

- An autonomous body, to be named the Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority (FNTA), will be constituted within Nagaland itself.
- The districts that the FNTA will administer are: Tuensang, Mon, Kiphire, Longleng, Noklak, and Shamator.
- Powers pertaining to 46 subjects of the State Government will be devolved to the FNTA, thereby granting it legislative, executive, and financial autonomy.
- A mini-secretariat will be established for the FNTA, to be headed by an officer of the rank of Additional Chief Secretary or Principal Secretary.
- The Central Government will provide a fixed annual budget to the FNTA, and the initial administrative expenses will be borne by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The allocation of development funds will be made in proportion to the population and geographical area.
- This arrangement will not affect the special provisions and cultural safeguards accorded to Nagaland under Article 371(A) of the Constitution.

Union Budget 2026-27

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented her ninth consecutive Union Budget on February 1, 2026.
- With this, she became India's longest-serving Finance Minister.
- Morarji Desai had presented a total of 10 budgets (the highest number) across various tenures.
- He presented six budgets between 1959 and 1964, and four budgets between 1967 and 1969.
- Note: From the year 2017 onwards, the date of the Budget presentation was shifted to February 1st to ensure that its parliamentary approval could be completed before the commencement of the financial year (April 1st).

Union Budget 2026-27 (Part-A)

3 Key Objectives of the Budget

1. To accelerate economic growth and ensure its sustainability.
2. To fulfill the aspirations of the people and build their capabilities.
3. To advance the principle of “Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas”.

First Kartavya: Accelerate and Sustain Economic Growth

A. Boosting Manufacturing in Strategic and Frontier Sectors

- To transform India into a global manufacturing hub, the Budget places special emphasis on 7 strategic sectors.

1. BioPharma SHAKTI Mission

- SHAKTI: Strategy for Healthcare Advancement through Knowledge, Technology, and Innovation.
- The “BioPharma SHAKTI” mission has been proposed with the aim of establishing India as a global hub for biopharmaceutical manufacturing.
- An allocation of ₹10,000 crore over a period of 5 years has been made for this mission.
- Its primary focus will be on biologics and biosimilars.
- Three new National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPERs) will be established.
- Seven existing institutes will be upgraded and empowered to align with global standards.

2. India Semiconductor Mission 2.0

- ISM 2.0 has been announced to bolster technological self-reliance.
- This initiative will boost the production of semiconductor devices and related materials.
- Centers for industry-led research, development, and training will be established to strengthen the supply chain.

3. Electronics Component Manufacturing

- To enhance domestic production within the electronics sector, the budgetary allocation for the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme has been increased from ₹22,919 crore to ₹40,000 crore. The objective is to strengthen the domestic value chain.

4. Dedicated Rare Earth Corridor

- Corridors dedicated to Rare Earth elements will be established across Odisha, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu.
- Under this initiative, mining, processing, and manufacturing activities will be promoted.
- Additionally, to reduce import dependency, three chemical parks will be developed based on a cluster-based model.

5. Capital Goods and Container Manufacturing

- High-tech tool rooms will be established by Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs).
- A scheme to boost the manufacturing of construction and infrastructure equipment will be implemented. To promote domestic production, a Container Manufacturing Scheme with an outlay of ₹10,000 crore will be launched.

6. Development of the Textile Sector

- An integrated textile program has been launched, combining the National Fibre Scheme, Samarth 2.0, the Tex-Eco initiative, and Cluster Modernization.
- Mega Textile Parks will be established to promote technical textiles and value addition.

7. Mahatma Gandhi Gram Swaraj Yojana

- Through this scheme, Khadi, handlooms, and handicrafts will be promoted. This will facilitate global market linkages and branding. It will provide support for training, skill development, process improvement, and production quality.
- Furthermore, a dedicated initiative for sports goods will be launched to foster manufacturing, research, and innovation in equipment design and material science.

B. Revitalization of Heritage Industrial Clusters

- A scheme will be launched to revitalize 200 heritage industrial clusters.
- The objective is to enhance their competitiveness and efficiency through infrastructure and technological upgrades.

Champion MSME Initiative

- An “SME Growth Fund” of ₹10,000 crore will be established to foster globally competitive companies.

Atmanirbhar Bharat Fund

- An additional allocation of ₹2,000 crore has been provided for this fund, which was constituted in 2021. This will provide venture capital to micro-enterprises and assist them in integrating into larger value chains. “Corporate Mitra” will be developed as a key partner to provide guidance and mentorship to these enterprises.

Infrastructure Risk Guarantee Fund

- An Infrastructure Risk Guarantee Fund has been proposed in the Budget. This will provide partial credit guarantees to lenders during the infrastructure development and construction phases.

Dedicated Freight Corridors

- To promote eco-friendly transportation, new Dedicated Freight Corridors will be developed, connecting Dankuni to Surat. A target has been set to operationalize 20 National Waterways over the next 5 years.

Coastal Cargo Promotion Scheme

- The shifting of cargo from road and rail transport to waterways and coastal shipping will be encouraged. The goal is to increase the modal share from 6% to 12% by the year 2047.

Maritime Aircraft VGF Scheme

- Indigenous manufacturing and operation of seaplanes will be supported.
- This will improve connectivity in remote areas and boost tourism.

City Economic Regions (CER)

- A new initiative titled “City Economic Regions (CER)” has been proposed to foster the economic growth of cities. An allocation of ₹5,000 crore over five years has been provided for each CER.
- This initiative will be implemented through a “Challenge Mode” mechanism.

Carbon Capture and Decarbonization

- A Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS) scheme will be launched. Its objective is to incentivize the decarbonization of high-emission industries, such as steel and cement.

High-Speed Rail Corridors

- Seven high-speed rail corridors will be developed to boost economic activity.
- The routes included are:
 1. Mumbai–Pune
 2. Pune–Hyderabad
 3. Hyderabad–Bengaluru
 4. Hyderabad–Chennai
 5. Chennai–Bengaluru
 6. Delhi–Varanasi
 7. Varanasi–Siliguri

Second Kartavya: Fulfillment of Aspirations and Capacity Building

- To foster the growth of the services sector, a High-Powered Standing Committee focused on “Education to Employment and Entrepreneurship” will be constituted.

Healthcare Sector

- Existing institutions for Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) will be upgraded.
- This initiative will encompass 10 disciplines, including Optometry, Radiology, Anesthesia, OT Technology, Applied Psychology, and Behavioral Health.
- Approximately 100,000 new AHP professionals will be trained over the next five years.

Medical Tourism

- States will be provided with assistance to establish five regional medical tourism hubs through partnerships with the private sector.
- These hubs will function as integrated healthcare complexes, equipped with medical, educational, and research facilities.

AYUSH Sector

- Three new All India Institutes of Ayurveda will be established.
- The WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine, located in Jamnagar, will be upgraded to enhance research, training, and public awareness.

Animal Husbandry

- To increase the number of veterinary professionals, a credit-linked capital subsidy scheme will be launched to facilitate the establishment of veterinary hospitals, laboratories, breeding centers, and training institutes in the private sector.
- This initiative aims to increase the number of veterinarians by over 20,000.

Orange Economy (Creative Industries)

- An Indian Institute of Creative Technology will be established in Mumbai.
- AVGC Content Creator Labs (CCLs) will be set up in 15,000 schools and 500 colleges.

Design Sector

- A new National Institute of Design will be established in India's eastern region to promote design education and development.

Education

- With the assistance of state governments, five university townships will be developed.
- These townships will comprise universities, colleges, research institutes, skill development centers, and residential facilities.
- Capital assistance will be provided to establish women's hostels in every district that houses a STEM institution.

Tourism

- The National Council for Hotel Management and Catering Technology will be upgraded to establish a National Institute of Hospitality.
- In collaboration with the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), a 12-week training program for 10,000 guides will be launched across 20 major tourist destinations.
- A National Destination Digital Knowledge Grid will be established to create digital records of cultural, spiritual, and heritage sites.

Eco-friendly Tourism Initiatives

- Mountain trails will be developed in Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, the Araku Valley, and Pothigai Malai.
- Turtle trails will be created in the coastal regions of Odisha, Karnataka, and Kerala.
- Bird-watching trails will be developed around Pulicat Lake in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

International Events

- The first global summit of the International Big Cat Alliance will be hosted in 2026.

Heritage and Cultural Tourism

- 15 archaeological sites—including Lothal, Dholavira, Rakhigarhi, Adichanallur, Sarnath, Hastinapur, and the Leh Palace—will be developed as Experiential Cultural Destinations.

Sports

- To foster the systematic development of sporting talent, the “Khelo India Mission” will be launched under the Khelo India program, aiming to bring about a comprehensive transformation in the sports sector over the next decade.

Third Kartavya: Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas**Efforts to Enhance Farmers’ Income**

- India is the world’s largest producer of coconuts; therefore, a Coconut Promotion Scheme will be launched to boost the competitiveness of coconut production.
- To achieve self-reliance in the production and processing of raw cashews and cocoa, a special program dedicated to Indian cashews and cocoa will be initiated.
- The objective is to enhance export potential and establish Indian cashews and cocoa as premium global brands by 2030.

India-VISTAAR

- VISTAAR: Virtually Integrated System to Access Agricultural Resources (A Digital System for Accessing Agricultural Resources)
- A multilingual, AI-based platform will be developed, which will be integrated with the AgriStack portal and the agricultural systems of the ICAR.

‘SHE Marts’ for Rural Women

- SHE Marts: Self-Help Entrepreneur Marts.
- Community-owned retail outlets (SHE Marts) will be established at the cluster level for Self-Help Groups (SHGs).
- The objective is to enable women to move beyond purely credit-based livelihoods and evolve into independent entrepreneurs.

Empowerment of Divyangjan (Persons with Disabilities)

- Through the Divyangjan Kaushal Yojana, opportunities for dignified employment will be provided to various groups of persons with disabilities by offering specialized, industry-relevant training.
- Under the Divyang Sahara Yojana, investments will be promoted in the production of assistive devices, Research & Development (R&D), and AI technologies.
- To this end, proposals include extending support to the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), strengthening *PM Divyasha* Centers, and establishing modern assistive technology marts.

Mental Health and Trauma Care

- NIMHANS-2 will be established to strengthen mental health services in North India.
- The National Institutes of Mental Health in Ranchi and Tezpur will be upgraded as Regional Centres of Excellence.

Special Focus on ‘Purvodaya’ States and the North-Eastern Region

- An Integrated East Coast Industrial Corridor will be developed, positioning Durgapur as a key connectivity node.
- Five major tourism destinations will be developed across the five ‘Purvodaya’ states.
- 4,000 e-buses will be provided to strengthen public transportation.

Buddhist Tourism Circuit in the North-East

- A Buddhist Circuit Development Scheme will be launched in Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, and Tripura.
- This will include the conservation of temples and monasteries, translation centers at pilgrimage sites, improved connectivity, and amenities for pilgrims.

16th Finance Commission

- In accordance with the recommendations of the 16th Finance Commission, the government has provided approximately ₹1.4 lakh crore to the states as Finance Commission grants for the financial year 2026–27.

Union Budget 2026–27: Tax Reforms

- The Union Budget 2026–27 proposes several significant reforms aimed at making the tax system simpler, more transparent, and investment-friendly.
- These reforms seek to simplify tax compliance, incentivize industries, and boost economic activity.

New Income Tax Act, 2025

- The government has decided to repeal the Income Tax Act, 1961, and implement a simplified Income Tax Act, 2025. This new legislation will come into effect on April 1, 2026, making the tax system clearer and more streamlined.

Stability in Tax Rates

- No changes have been made to the income tax slabs for the financial year 2026–27.
- This measure aims to maintain stability within the tax framework.

Rationalization of TCS (Tax Collected at Source)

- A TCS (Tax Collected at Source) of 2% will now be applicable on overseas tour packages, as well as on foreign remittances made under the LRS (Liberalized Remittance Scheme) for educational and medical purposes.
- This rate will apply without any minimum threshold limit.

Rationalization of TDS (Tax Deducted at Source)

- The TDS rate applicable to the supply of manpower services has been clarified as follows:
 - 1% for HUFs (Hindu Undivided Families)
 - 2% for others
- Failure to deposit TDS in instances involving the non-submission of books of accounts or payments made in kind will now be decriminalized.

Changes in Customs Duty

- The duty on goods imported for personal use has been reduced from 20% to 10%. Duties on 17 cancer drugs and 7 medicines/dietary items related to rare diseases have been completely exempted.

Securities Transaction Tax (STT)

- The STT rate in certain stock market segments has been increased from 0.1% to 0.15%.
- The objective of this measure is to curb excessive speculation.

Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT)

- It has been proposed to exempt non-resident taxpayers who pay taxes on a presumptive basis from MAT.

Improvements in Tax Administration

- A joint committee comprising the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and the CBDT will be constituted.
- Its objective is to establish coordination between ICDS and IndAS standards.
- Effective from the year 2027–28, separate ICDS-based accounting will be discontinued, and the definition of 'Accountant' will be simplified.

Protection from Prosecution

- Protection from prosecution will be granted for the non-disclosure of foreign assets valued at less than ₹20 lakh. This provision will come into effect retrospectively from October 1, 2024.

Tax on Share Buybacks

- Tax on share buybacks will now be levied as capital gains rather than as dividends.
- This will shift the tax burden from the company to the shareholder.

Strategic Incentives for Investment and Industry

Data Center Tax Holiday

- Foreign companies providing global cloud services through Indian data centers will be granted a tax holiday until 2047.

IFSC (GIFT City)

- The tax holiday period for Offshore Banking Units has been extended from 10 years to 20 years.

Critical Minerals

- Customs duty exemption has been granted on capital goods required for the processing of critical minerals—such as Lithium and Cobalt—and for the manufacturing of Lithium-ion cells.

Safe Harbour Rules for the IT Sector

- The threshold for Safe Harbour benefits for IT services has been increased to ₹2,000 crore.
- Software development and KPO services have been included under a unified category.

Tariff Modernization and Export Promotion

Sectoral Relief

- The duty-free import limit on inputs for the marine, leather, and textile industries has been increased, thereby boosting export competitiveness.

Aviation and Defence

- Duty exemptions have been granted on components used in aircraft manufacturing and MRO (Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul) operations.

Measures for Ease of Doing Business : Several digital reforms have been implemented to simplify trade processes:

- Clearance of goods through a single digital window
- Expedited customs clearance for non-compliant goods
- Implementation of the Customs Integrated System (CIS)
- Expansion of AI-based container scanning

Furthermore:

- Duty-free regime for fisheries in the EEZ and High Seas
- Revision of duty-free baggage allowance limits
- A dispute resolution mechanism and reduced penalties have been facilitated for honest taxpayers.

Budget Estimates

- **Capital Expenditure :** For the financial year 2026–27, capital expenditure has been set at ₹12.2 lakh crore, which is approximately 3.1% of the GDP.
- **Effective Capital Expenditure :** If capital grants-in-aid provided to states are included, the total effective capital expenditure amounts to ₹17.1 lakh crore, which is approximately 4.4% of the GDP.
- **GDP Growth Estimates :** For the financial year 2026–27, nominal GDP growth is estimated at 10.5%, while real GDP growth is estimated at approximately 7%.
- **Revised Estimates (2025–26)**
 - Non-debt Receipts: Approximately ₹34 lakh crore
 - Total Expenditure: Approximately ₹49.6 lakh crore
 - Capital Expenditure: Approximately ₹11 lakh crore

Budget Estimates (2026–27)

- Non-debt Receipts: Approximately ₹36.5 lakh crore
- This includes net tax receipts of ₹28.7 lakh crore.
- Total Expenditure: Approximately ₹53.5 lakh crore

Fiscal Deficit

- For the Budget Estimates (BE) of 2026–27, the fiscal deficit has been pegged at 4.3% of the GDP.
- This aligns with the government's strategy, which aims to bring it down below 4.5%.
- In the Revised Estimates (RE) for the year 2025–26, this figure stood at 4.4%; thus, the current position reflects a slight improvement.

Debt-to-GDP Ratio

- In the Budget for 2026–27, the debt-to-GDP ratio is projected to stand at 55.6%.
- In the Revised Estimates for the year 2025–26, this figure was 56.1%.
- The government aims to reduce this to 50% by 2030–31, thereby making more resources available for developmental activities.

Financing the Fiscal Deficit

- To meet the fiscal deficit, net market borrowing will be approximately ₹11.7 lakh crore, gross borrowing approximately ₹17.2 lakh crore, and the remaining financing will be undertaken through small savings and other sources.

Economic Survey 2025–26

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Economic Survey 2025–26 in Parliament on January 29, 2026.
- The Economic Survey is an annual government document presented every year prior to the Union Budget. It analyzes the country's economic condition and assesses future prospects.
- It is prepared by the Economic Division of the Ministry of Finance under the guidance of the Chief Economic Advisor.
- India's economy remains robust despite global uncertainties.
- Real GDP growth is projected to be 7.4% in FY26.
- GDP growth is likely to range between 6.8% and 7.2% in FY27.
- For the fourth consecutive year, India remains the world's fastest-growing major economy.

Consumption and Investment

- Private consumption expenditure grew by 7%, reaching 61.5% of GDP (the highest level since 2012).
- Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) grew by 7.8% and remained at 30% of GDP.
- Services continued to be the primary driver of growth, with a projected expansion of 9.1%.

Fiscal Position

- The Central Government's revenue receipts have reached 9.2% of GDP.
- The number of income tax filers has risen from 69 million to 92 million.
- During April–December 2025, GST collections stood at ₹17.4 lakh crore, registering a growth of 6.7%.
- Capital expenditure reached approximately 4% of GDP.
- The debt-to-GDP ratio has declined by 7.1 percentage points.

Banking and Monetary Sector

- Gross NPAs declined to 2.2%, and Net NPAs stood at 0.5%.
- The credit growth rate of Scheduled Commercial Banks reached 14.5%.
- The number of Jan Dhan accounts rose to 55.02 crore.
- Loans amounting to ₹36.18 lakh crore were disbursed under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY). There are now over 21.6 crore Demat accounts and more than 12 crore investors (25% of whom are women).

Financial Inclusion

- 55.02 crore accounts have been opened under the Jan Dhan Yojana, with the majority located in rural areas. The number of investors has exceeded 12 crore, with approximately 25% being women.
- The reach of capital markets and investment opportunities has expanded beyond metropolitan areas.

External Sector

- India's total exports have reached \$825.3 billion.
- Services exports stood at \$387.6 billion, registering a growth of 13.6%.
- India received remittances amounting to \$135.4 billion.
- Foreign exchange reserves have reached \$701.4 billion.

Inflation

- During April–December 2025, CPI inflation stood at 1.7%, marking a historic low.
- Inflation has remained under control due to a decline in food and fuel prices.

Agriculture Sector

- Foodgrain production has reached 3577.3 lakh tonnes.
- Horticultural production stood at 362.08 million tonnes, surpassing foodgrain production.

Services Sector

- The services sector contributes 53.6% to the GDP and 56.4% to the GVA.
- India has emerged as the 7th largest exporter of services globally.
- The services sector received over 80% of the total FDI inflows.

Industry and Manufacturing

- The industrial sector has recorded a growth of approximately 7%.
- The manufacturing sector has witnessed a growth ranging from 7.72% to 9.13%.
- Under the PLI schemes, investments exceeding ₹2 lakh crore were made, generating production worth ₹18.7 lakh crore and creating 12.6 lakh jobs.

Infrastructure

- Capital expenditure reached ₹11.21 lakh crore.
- The national highway network expanded from 91,287 km to 1,46,572 km.
- The railway network has been electrified to nearly 100%.
- The number of airports increased from 74 to 164.
- Energy capacity reached 509.74 GW.

Employment and Skills

- Total employment stood at 56.2 crore.
- The female labor force participation rate rose from 23.3% to 41.7%.
- 31 crore workers (54% women) are registered on the e-Shram portal.

Poverty and Rural Development

- Multidimensional poverty has declined from 55.3% to 11.28%.
- Expenditure on the social sector has increased to 7.9% of the GDP.

3

Economy

Revision of base year of GDP, CPI and IIP

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) of India has also set a new base year for the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Index of Industrial Production (IIP) from the upcoming year.
- The base year of the estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was changed from 2011-12 to 2022-23.
- The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) has also been revised to 2022-23 base year in line with the new National Accounts series.
- The base year for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) is set at 2024, with the consumption baskets and weights updated for both rural and urban areas.



Change in GDP base year

- Since 2011-12, the Indian economy has undergone significant structural changes such as the development of new sectors such as renewable energy and digital services, changes in consumption and investment patterns.
- The year 2022-23 has been chosen because it is a relatively stable and normal year after the disruptions of 2019–2021 (Covid-19).
- The estimation of GDP will continue to be carried out on the basis of both the expenditure method and the production/income methods.

CPI base year revision

- It aims to make inflation measurements more accurate and in line with current consumer behavior.
- The base year will be changed from 2012 to 2024 (Applicable Q1 2026)
- It will revise the basket of goods and expenditure weights using data from the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2023-24.

Release Dates of New Base Series

- The new series of GDP (base year 2022-23) to be released on 27 February 2026.
- The new series of CPI (base year 2024) to be released on 12th February 2026.
- The new series of IIPs (base year 2022-23) to be released on 28th May 2026.

Sampoornata Abhiyan 2.0

- NITI Aayog has launched the Sampoornata Abhiyan 2.0 to increase access to basic services in the most backward districts and blocks of the country.
- The campaign will run from 28th January 2026 to 14th April 2026 for a period of three months.
- Its main goal is to ensure 100% access to essential government services to every eligible person.
- The focus of the campaign is on important areas like health, nutrition, sanitation, education and animal vaccination.

Key Features

- It is a time-bound and outcome-based campaign.
- The emphasis is on full saturation rather than partial correction.
- Action plans will be prepared at the district and block levels.
- There will be a monthly review of the progress and the strategy will be changed as per requirement.

Guidelines issued for the NIRYAT PROTSAHAN scheme

- The Reserve Bank of India issued new operational guidelines related to interest subvention on export credit in January 2026.
- The scheme was implemented with the objective of enhancing the global competitiveness of MSMEs.

Main characteristics

- Eligible MSME exporters will be given 2.75% annual interest subvention on pre-shipment and post-shipment export credit taken in rupees.
- The maximum profit per exporter has been capped at Rs. 50 lakhs for the financial year 2025-26.
- The scheme will be applicable to export loans sanctioned on or after January 2, 2026.

Eligibility and Coverage

- All MSME manufacturers and merchant exporters, who have a valid IEC and Udyam Registration Number, will be eligible for the scheme.
- The benefit will be available only on products included in the notified 'Positive List', which includes most of the tariff lines.
- Priority has been given to labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, gems and jewellery, engineering goods, and marine products.
- Deemed exports and NPA declared accounts are excluded from the purview of the scheme.

Hindustan Zinc becomes India's most valuable metal company

- The rise in silver prices made Hindustan Zinc the most valuable metal company in India.
- The market cap of this company has exceeded Rs 3.2 lakh crore.
- This company is one of the world's leading silver producing companies.
- It was incorporated on 10 January 1966 as a public sector company under the name of Metal Corporation of India.
- In 2002, the central government sold it to Sterlite Opportunities and Ventures Limited (now Vedanta Ltd.).
- It is currently a subsidiary of the Vedanta Group.

National Entrepreneurship Mission

- The 'National Entrepreneurship Mission' was launched by the Union Ministry of Rural Development on 12th January 2026 with the aim of economically empowering rural women.
- Its main focus is to strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem in rural India.
- Under this campaign, 50,000 Community Resource Persons (CRPs) will be given special training for enterprise promotion, who will provide vocational guidance to rural women.
- Under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM), 50 lakh Self Help Group (SHG) members will be given Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) training.
- The central government aims to make 3 crore women 'Lakhpati Didis' with an annual income of ₹1 lakh or more.
- This will reduce dependence on agriculture and strengthen the non-farm rural economy.

Approval to extend Atal Pension Yojana 2031

- The Union Cabinet approved the extension of the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) till the financial year 2030-31.
- The scheme was launched on 9 May 2015 for unorganized sector workers.
- At present, more than 8.66 crore people have joined it till January 19, 2026.
- Under this scheme, a monthly pension of Rs 1,000 to Rs 5,000 is guaranteed after the age of 60 years.

Launch of PM SVANidhi Credit Card

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the PM SVANidhi Credit Card on 23rd January 2026 in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- This initiative is aimed at deepening financial inclusion among street vendors.

Features

- It is a UPI-linked RuPay credit card.
- Eligible street vendors get access to quick credit of small value.
- It is designed as an interest-free, revolving credit facility.
- Emphasis has been laid on encouraging digital payments.

PM SVANidhi Scheme

- The scheme was launched on 1st June 2020 for the street vendors affected by COVID-19.
- Its full form is PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi.
- The objective was to provide collateral-free working capital loans.
- Over a period of time, the scheme has become a medium to link the street vendors to the formal financial system.
- In August 2025, the extension of the scheme was approved till 31st March 2030 with an outlay of ₹7,332 crore.
- About 1.15 crore street vendors will benefit from the revised scheme.

Debt Structure:

- First Loan: ₹15,000 (for 1 year, including interest subsidy)
- Second Loan: ₹25,000 (on timely payment)
- Third Loan: Up to ₹50,000

Additional Incentives:

- Cashback up to ₹1,200 on regular sales
- Cashback up to ₹400 on bulk purchases

New FEMA Rules for Export-Import: RBI Notification

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has notified new rules under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) in January 2026.
- These rules are named "Foreign Exchange Management (Export and Import of Goods and Services) Regulations, 2026".
- These rules will come into effect from October 1, 2026. The new regulations will replace the Foreign Exchange Management (Export of Goods and Services) Regulations, 2015.
- They aim to enforce uniform timelines and stringent monitoring regimes for trade-related foreign exchange transactions. The FEMA (Export and Import of Goods and Services) Regulations, 2026 has been notified under Sections 7, 8, 10(6) and 47(2) of FEMA, 1999.
- These rules are applicable to export, import and merchanting trade transactions of goods and services.
- It also covers software exports and service imports.

India's trade deficit with China in 2025 was \$116.12 billion.

- According to Chinese customs data released on 14 January 2026, India's trade deficit with China stood at \$116.12 billion.
- India's exports to China during January-December 2025 stood at \$19.75 billion.
- This export was 9.7% higher than the previous year, registering an increase of about \$5.5 billion.
- India-China total trade in 2025 stood at a record level of \$155.62 billion, the highest ever.
- China's exports to India increased by 12.8% to \$135.87 billion in 2025. This growth was much higher than India's exports.

Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS) approves 22 proposals

- The Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) approved 22 new proposals on 2 January 2026 under the third phase of ECMS.

Third stage

- In the third phase, 22 projects were sanctioned.
- The estimated investment is ₹41,863 crore and the projected production over the next six years is ₹2,58,152 crore.
- So far, a total of 46 projects have been sanctioned under the scheme.
- The approved projects are in sectors such as mobile, telecom, consumer electronics, automotive and IT hardware.

ECMS Scheme

- It is a centrally sponsored initiative to strengthen India's electronics components manufacturing ecosystem.
- The ECMS received Cabinet approval on 28th March 2025 with a total outlay of ₹22,919 crore and was notified on 8th April 2025.
- Objective: To reduce import dependence by increasing domestic value addition, attract investments from global and domestic companies, and integrate Indian companies into global value chains.
- This scheme is similar to the PLI model, but focuses exclusively on electronics components.
- This includes turnover-linked, capex-linked (up to 25%) and hybrid incentives.

Market Access Assistance (MAS) Initiative

- The Government of India launched the Market Access Support (MAS) initiative under the Export Promotion Mission (EPM) on 31 December 2025.
- This initiative has been implemented under the export-direction sub-scheme of EPM.
- Its main objective is to better connect MSMEs, first-time exporting enterprises and Indian exporters from priority sectors to global markets.
- The MAS is being conducted jointly by the Department of Commerce, Ministry of MSME and Ministry of Finance.
- Under this initiative, activities such as Buyer-Seller Meets, International Trade Fairs, Mega Reverse BSM and Trade Delegations will be supported.

'Paripoorna Medclaim Ayush Bima'

- The Union Ministry of Finance launched the Paripoorna Medclaim Ayush Bima Yojana for CGHS beneficiaries on January 14, 2026.
- It is an optional retail health insurance policy, designed to complement the benefits of the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS).
- It aims to provide additional financial security to central government employees and pensioners amid rising medical costs.

Main characteristics

- It provides Indemnity based coverage for in-patient hospitalization within India.
- Beneficiaries can choose a sum insured of ₹10 lakh or ₹20 lakh.

- This plan provides additional coverage with existing CGHS facilities.
- The policy offers two flexible co-payment options - 70:30 (Insurer: Beneficiaries) and 50:50 (Insurer: Beneficiaries).
- Under these options, there is a discount of up to 28% and 42% on the premium, respectively.
- This arrangement provides adequate insurance protection at low premiums.

100% FDI Rules in Insurance Sector Notified

- The Union Finance Ministry has notified the final rules allowing 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in insurance companies. Under the new rules, the requirement of a majority of Indian directors on the board has now been abolished.
- It stipulates that at least one of the top leadership positions (Chairman/CEO/MD) will be held by an Indian resident. This reform aims to attract global capital, enhance competitiveness, and promote ease of doing business in the insurance sector.

8th Pay Commission comes into force

- The notification of the 8th Pay Commission was issued by the central government in November 2025.
- It came into effect on January 1, 2026, but it will not lead to an immediate salary increase.
- The Commission has been given about 18 months to give its recommendations.
- These recommendations will require approval of the Union Cabinet.
- The actual wage revision will likely come into effect in late 2027 or early 2028.
- If this is implemented, the arrears will be paid to the employees from January 1, 2026.

PFRDA constitutes SAARG Committee for NPS reforms

- The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) constituted the high-level Strategic Asset Allocation and Risk Governance (SAARG) Committee.
- The committee will be chaired by Narayan Ramachandran, who is the former CEO of Morgan Stanley India.
- Objectives of the Committee: To review the investment structure of the National Pension System (NPS).

Skydo gets accreditation as a cross-border payment aggregator

- Skydo received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as a cross-border payment aggregator.
- This accreditation authorizes Skydo to provide international payment services.
- **Cross-Border Payment Aggregator** : A cross-border payment aggregator is a platform or service that facilitates financial transactions between different countries.
- **Payment Aggregator** : Payment aggregators are entities that facilitate payments from customers to merchants.

Skydo

- Skydo is a leading fintech company based in Bengaluru.
- It was established in the year 2022.
- It is currently offering its services to more than 12,000 Indian exporters.

FSS becomes the first payments company to get ISO/IEC 42001 certification

- Financial Software & Systems (FSS) on 6th January 2026 became the first payments company to achieve ISO/IEC 42001 certification in India, the Middle East, Asia-Pacific, and South Africa.
- The ISO/IEC 42001 certification reflects compliance with international standards of AI governance.
- This puts FSS among the select global organizations that adopt reliable AI management.

ISO/IEC 42001

- It is the world's first Artificial Intelligence Management System (AIMS) standard.
- It has been jointly developed by ISO and IEC.

Broadband subscribers in India cross 100 crore mark

- In the field of digital connectivity, the number of broadband subscribers in the country crossed 100 crore. According to the Press Information Bureau (PIB), 100.37 crore broadband subscribers were recorded in India.
- The key reasons for this rapid growth include affordable mobile data, expansion of 4G and 5G networks, optical fiber infrastructure, Digital India initiatives, and the increasing penetration of smartphones in rural areas. With this, India has joined the largest digitally connected societies in the world.

'Land Stack' and 'Glossary of Revenue Terms' (GoRT) launched

- The central government launched the 'Land Stack' portal under the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP) on 31st December 2025. Along with this, the Terminology of Revenue Posts (GoRT) was also released to bring uniformity in land records.
- Land Stack is a GIS-based integrated digital platform that provides all information related to land and property in one place.
- This includes information such as ownership, deed, encumbrance, and litigation status.
- The pilot phase of the project has been launched in selected areas of Chandigarh and Tamil Nadu.

National Monetization Pipeline 2.0 (NMP 2.0)

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the National Monetization Pipeline 2.0 on February 24, 2026.
- This serves as a roadmap for the asset monetization of government assets for the period spanning 2025–26 to 2029–30.
- It has been developed by NITI Aayog and builds upon the success of NMP 1.0.
- Objective: To unlock the value of operational public sector assets and mobilize capital for infrastructure development.
- NITI Aayog serves as the nodal agency for this initiative.
- It will be monitored by an Empowered Core Group of Secretaries on Asset Monetisation (CGAM) chaired by the Cabinet Secretary.
- Under this framework, ownership of the assets will remain with the government, while the rights for operations and management will be granted to the private sector for a specified duration.

Key Targets

- Total Monetization Potential: Approximately ₹16.72 lakh crore (2026–2030).
- Private Investment: Expected participation of approximately ₹5.8 lakh crore.

Key Sectors

- Roads & Highways: Constituting approximately one-fourth of the total share, along with Multi-Modal Logistics Parks.
- Railways: Redevelopment of railway stations, Dedicated Freight Corridors, and railway colonies.
- Energy Sector: Power transmission lines and power grid assets.
- Coal & Minerals: Revenue generated from the auction of mines and royalties.
- Other Sectors: Telecommunications (BSNL towers and land assets), Civil Aviation, Ports, Petroleum & Gas Pipelines, Urban Infrastructure, and Tourism.

Vibrant Villages Programme-II (VVP-II)

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the Vibrant Villages Programme-II on February 20, 2026, at Natanpur (Cachar) in Assam.
- The objective of this scheme is to strengthen basic services, livelihoods, and border security in border villages.
- For this purpose, a provision of ₹6,839 crore has been made until 2028–29, with an estimated expenditure of approximately ₹3 crore per village.
- This scheme will cover 1,954 border villages across 15 states and 2 Union Territories.
- These include Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.

PM RAHAT Scheme

- Its full name is Pradhan Mantri Road Accident Victim Hospitalization and Assured Treatment.
- This scheme was launched by the Prime Minister on February 13, 2026.
- The objective of this scheme is to provide immediate life-saving medical assistance to accident victims.
- Under this scheme, cashless treatment of up to ₹1.5 lakh will be provided for a period of 7 days following an accident.
- The scheme will be linked with the ERSS 112 helpline to ensure that victims are transported to a hospital within the “Golden Hour.”
- Regarding its implementation, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) will oversee policy monitoring.
- The National Health Authority (NHA) will handle claim processing through the TMS 2.0 system.

Key Recommendations of the 16th Finance Commission

- Nirmala Sitharaman presented this report in Parliament on February 1, 2026.
- The recommendations of the 16th Finance Commission will be applicable for the period from 2026–27 to 2030–31. The Commission has retained the states’ share in the divisible pool of central taxes at 41%.
- The criteria and weights adopted by the 16th Finance Commission to determine the share of each state are as follows:

Criteria	15th Finance Commission (2021–26)	16th Finance Commission (2026–31)
Income Distance	45%	42.5%
Population (2011)	15%	17.5%
Demographic Performance	12.5%	10%
Area	15%	10%
Forest Area	10%	10%
Tax and Fiscal Effort	2.5%	–
Contribution to GDP	–	10%
Total	100%	100%

- Income Distance is defined as the difference between a state’s per capita Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) and the average per capita GSDP of the top three high-income states.
- Population (2011 Census): This is based on each state’s share of India’s total population as per the 2011 Census.
- Demographic Performance: This measures population growth between 1971 and 2011.
- States with lower population growth during this period are assigned a higher share. (Incentivizing effective population control)
- Regarding Forest Area, the 16th Finance Commission has accorded weightage to both a state’s share of the total forest area and the increase in forest cover observed between 2015 and 2023—a metric that now includes open forests as well. In contrast, the 15th Finance Commission had taken into account only dense and moderately dense forests.
- The 16th Finance Commission has introduced ‘Contribution to National GDP’ as a new criterion, replacing the ‘Tax and Fiscal Effort’ criterion utilized by the 15th Finance Commission.
- In terms of Grant-in-Aid, the Commission has recommended a total allocation of ₹9.47 lakh crore over a five-year period, primarily earmarked for urban and rural local bodies, as well as for disaster management.
- Additionally, the Revenue Deficit, Sector-Specific, and State-Specific grants introduced by the 15th Finance Commission have been discontinued.

- For Local Bodies, it has been recommended that ₹4.4 lakh crore be allocated to rural bodies and ₹3.6 lakh crore to urban bodies over the five-year period. These grants will comprise 80% Basic Grants and 20% Performance-Based Grants. Special Infrastructure Grants and Urbanization Premium Grants have also been proposed for urban local bodies.
- Fifty percent of the Basic Grants will remain untied (unconditional), while the remaining 50% will be tied to specific sectors: sanitation, solid waste management, and water management.
- For Disaster Management, a total provision of ₹2,04,401 crore has been made under the SDRF (State Disaster Response Fund) and SDMF (State Disaster Mitigation Fund). Under this framework, the cost-sharing ratio has been set at 90:10 for the North-Eastern and Himalayan states, and 75:25 for other states, with the Centre's share amounting to ₹1,55,916 crore.
- As part of the fiscal roadmap, the Commission has recommended reducing the Centre's fiscal deficit to 3.5% of GDP by 2030-31. For the states, the annual fiscal deficit limit has been capped at 3% of GSDP, and emphasis has been placed on eliminating off-budget borrowings by integrating them into the budgetary framework. Under power sector reforms, states have been advised to promote the privatization of electricity distribution companies (DISCOMs).
- Regarding subsidy expenditure, the Commission has advised states to review and rationalize their subsidies.
- In the context of Public Sector Enterprises, the Commission has recommended reviewing 308 dormant State Public Sector Undertakings with a view to closing them down.
- Note: The 16th Finance Commission was constituted on December 31, 2023, under the chairmanship of Arvind Panagariya.
- The Commission submitted its report to the President of India on November 17, 2025.

RBI Monetary Policy 2026: Repo Rate Remains Unchanged

- The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) kept the repo rate unchanged at 5.25% during its February 2026 meeting.
- This decision was taken during the 59th MPC meeting, held between February 4 and 6, 2026.
- The meeting was chaired by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra.
- This decision was taken to strike a balance between keeping inflation under control and supporting economic growth.

Current Policy Interest Rates

- Repo Rate: 5.25%
- Standing Deposit Facility (SDF): 5.00%
- Marginal Standing Facility (MSF): 5.50%
- Bank Rate: 5.50%

Yantra India Limited Granted 'Miniratna Category-I' Status

- Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approved the conferment of 'Miniratna Category-I' status upon Yantra India Limited (YIL) on February 2, 2026. This company is a Defence Public Sector Undertaking (DPSU) operating under the Ministry of Defence (MoD).
- Following the conferment of 'Miniratna Category-I' status, YIL's Board of Directors is empowered to approve capital expenditure of up to ₹500 crore without the prior approval of the government.

Yantra India Limited

- YIL was established on October 1, 2021, following the corporatization of the erstwhile Ordnance Factory Board (OFB).
- The company's key products include ammunition assemblies, artillery guns, Main Battle Tanks, components for armored vehicles, carbon fiber composites, and aluminum alloys.

'Karmayoga for Empowered Bharat' Campaign

- President Droupadi Murmu launched the 'Karmayoga for Empowered Bharat' campaign on February 13, 2026, during a Brahma Kumaris conference held in Gurugram.
- This campaign is a value-based national movement aimed at inspiring citizens to integrate spiritual and ethical principles into their personal lives and public endeavors.
- The initiative is grounded in the philosophy of Karmayoga and promotes values such as selfless duty, integrity, compassion, non-violence, and service.

Launch of a Nationwide Pulses Revolution

- A National Pulses Consultation and Strategy Meeting was held on February 7, 2026, at the Food Legume Research Centre (FLRP) located in Amlaha, Sehore district, Madhya Pradesh.
- On this occasion, the roadmap for the nationwide 'Pulses Self-Reliance Mission' was unveiled.
- The 'Pulses Self-Reliance Mission' was formally launched from Amlaha. Under this initiative, the objective is to eliminate India's dependence on pulses imports and to transform the nation into a pulses-exporting country in the future.
- Plans include the establishment of 1,000 pulses mills across the country, 55 of which will be located in Madhya Pradesh.
- Furthermore, the Government of India will provide a subsidy of up to ₹25 lakh for the establishment of pulses mills.

Consumer Price Index (CPI) Base Year 2024

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has revised the base year for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) from 2012 to 2024.
- The first official data under the new CPI series was released on February 12, 2026.
- The CPI measures the average change in the retail prices of goods and services that households purchase for daily consumption. It is considered the key indicator of retail inflation.
- The CPI is published by the National Statistical Office (NSO).
- The new base year is based on the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES 2023-24), which will enable a more accurate measurement of inflation.

Key Changes

- The coverage of the CPI has been expanded to include 1,465 rural and 1,395 urban markets.
- The number of items in the consumption basket has increased from 299 to 358.
- The number of goods has risen from 259 to 308, and the number of services has increased from 40 to 50.
- The weightage of food and beverages has decreased to 36.75%.
- The weightage of the housing category has increased to 17.67% due to the inclusion of utilities.
- OTT subscriptions, digital services, and modern consumer goods have been included in the CPI.
- The index is now classified into 12 divisions.

New Base Year for Merchandise Trade Indices

- The DGCI&S, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has revised the base year for India's Merchandise Trade Indices from FY 2012-13 to FY 2022-23.
- This decision was taken based on the recommendations of the Prof. Nachiketa Chattopadhyay Committee. Henceforth, 2022-23 = 100 will be adopted as the new base for calculating the indices.
- The trade basket has been updated to include new technology-based commodities while excluding those of lesser relevance. The weighting structure of the commodities has been revised in accordance with the actual trade values of FY 2022-23.

India's First CBDC-Based Digital Food Currency Pilot Scheme

- On February 15, 2026, Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched India's first Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)-based digital food currency pilot scheme from Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- With this, Gujarat has become the country's first state to transfer PDS subsidies through CBDC, as authorized by the RBI.
- Under this scheme, beneficiaries in the districts of Ahmedabad, Surat, Anand, and Valsad will be issued digital tokens (e₹) to purchase rations using a QR code or OTP.
- This CBDC-based system has been developed by Punjab National Bank.
- Through this system, beneficiaries receive tokens in their digital wallets, which can be utilized to purchase food grains from 'Grain ATMs' or through authorized channels.
- Amit Shah virtually inaugurated the 'Annapurna' Grain ATM in Ahmedabad, which is capable of dispensing up to 25 kilograms of food grains in just 35 seconds.
- The objective of this initiative is to enhance transparency within the food supply chain, curb corruption, and ensure the secure delivery of subsidies to the intended beneficiaries.

'White Revolution 2.0'

- The Union Ministry of Cooperation has launched 'White Revolution 2.0' for the development of the dairy sector.
- The objective of this initiative is to expand cooperative coverage, generate employment, and enhance women's participation.
- A target has been set to increase milk procurement by dairy cooperative societies by 50% over the next five years.
- Milk procurement is expected to reach 1,007 kilograms per day by the year 2028-29.
- Under this initiative, a two-pronged strategy will be adopted:
 1. Expanding the coverage of dairy cooperative societies
 2. Strengthening the reach of existing cooperative societies within the organized sector

Bharat Taxi: Launch of a Cooperative-Based Ride-Hailing Platform

- Union Minister of Home Affairs and Cooperation, Amit Shah, launched Bharat Taxi at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on February 5, 2026.
- Bharat Taxi is the country's first cooperative-led ride-hailing platform.
- Bharat Taxi has been registered under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002.

Key Features

- The platform operates on a zero-commission and surge-free model.
- The drivers are referred to as "Sarathi" and are the actual owners of the platform.
- No exclusivity clauses are imposed on the drivers; they are free to work on other platforms as well.
- Under Bharat Taxi, drivers are provided with personal accident insurance and family health insurance coverage.
- Seven assistance centers are currently operational in Delhi, offering facilities for emergency support and grievance redressal.

Urban Challenge Fund (UCF) and Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0

- In February 2026, the Union Cabinet approved the ₹1 lakh crore Urban Challenge Fund (UCF) and the ₹10,000 crore Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 to strengthen urban infrastructure and the startup ecosystem.
- The UCF will be operational from the financial year 2025-26 to 2030-31.
- Under this initiative, the Central Government will contribute 25% of the project cost, while at least 50% of the funds will be raised from market sources.

Launch of BIRAC–RDI Fund

- In February 2026, Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of Science and Technology (Independent Charge), launched the first national call for the ₹2,000 crore BIRAC–RDI Fund in New Delhi.
- Its full name is the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) – Research, Development, and Innovation (RDI) Fund.
- Its objective is to provide financing at low interest rates for high-risk, long-term research projects in sectors such as Deep-Tech, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Biotechnology.
- This fund is part of the national RDI initiative, which was approved by the Union Cabinet in July 2025 with an outlay of ₹1 lakh crore.
- Startups, SMEs, and industry partners may submit their proposals by March 31, 2026.
- These proposals will be evaluated based on the TRL (Technology Readiness Level) scale.

India's First 'Bee Corridor'

- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has announced plans to develop India's first 'Bee Corridors' along national highways.
- The objective of this initiative is to promote the conservation of pollinators and to strengthen both agricultural and ecological balance.
- Instead of ornamental plants, indigenous species such as Neem, Karanj, Mahua, Palash, Bottlebrush, Jamun, and Siris will be planted.
- NHAI's regional offices have been assigned a target to develop at least three pollinator corridors during the 2026–27 fiscal year.
- The goal for 2026–27 is to plant approximately 4 million trees, with about 60% of these trees to be planted under the 'Bee Corridor' initiative.

India's First Fully Digital FPI License

- Kotak Mahindra Bank has become India's first custodian to issue a Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) license through a completely digital process.
- The bank completed the entire FPI onboarding process using electronic signatures (e-signatures), thereby eliminating the need for physical documents and wet signatures.
- Under the new framework, the use of Digital Signature Certificates (DSCs) and e-signatures has been permitted on the FPI Common Application Form (CAF) portal.

National MDA Campaign for the Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis

- Union Minister J.P. Nadda launched the National Mass Drug Administration (MDA) campaign in February 2026.
- Objective: To eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (Elephantiasis) as a public health problem by 2027.
- Its coverage extends across 12 endemic states, 124 districts, and 719 blocks.
- Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) is commonly known as Elephantiasis.
- It is a vector-borne disease transmitted by the female Culex mosquito.
- The Government of India has set a target to eliminate LF as a public health problem by the end of 2027—ahead of the global Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2030 target.

Walmart Achieves \$1 Trillion Market Valuation

- Walmart has achieved a market valuation of \$1 trillion, becoming the world's first retailer to do so.
- With this achievement, Walmart has joined the ranks of the world's most valuable companies.
- Typically, a valuation of \$1 trillion is achieved by companies in the technology sector.
- Over the past decade, Walmart's shares have recorded a growth of approximately 468%.

International Affairs

India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA)

- The official announcement of the Free Trade Agreement between India and the European Union was made during the 16th India-EU Summit held in New Delhi on 27th January 2026.
- The European Union has become India's 22nd FTA partner.
- It will come into effect after ratification from all 27 member states of the EU and the European Parliament.
- The agreement provides India with a huge market access and will give a boost to labour-intensive sectors and the services sector.
- The agreement connects a combined market of about 2 billion people and covers about one-fourth of the global GDP.

Key Features

- The EU has committed to opening 97% of tariff lines, covering about 99.5% of India's exports by value.
- Sectors such as textiles, apparel, leather, footwear, marine products, gems and jewellery, toys and sports goods will get entry into the European market at zero duty.
- Binding commitments have been made in 144 service sub-sectors, including digital, professional, education and business services.
- Indian agricultural and processed food products will get preferential access to the European Union (EU) market, which will increase competitiveness.
- Clear arrangements have been made for corporate transfers, temporary movement of contractual service providers and independent professionals.
- India has committed to providing market access on 92.1% of tariff lines, while sensitive agricultural areas will remain protected.
- 102 service sub-sectors including telecom, financial, maritime, environmental, professional and business services have been opened. The facility of self-certification and special flexibility has been provided for the MSME dominated sectors.
- Emphasis has been placed on TRIPS-compliant intellectual property protection, protection of generic drugs, and digital sovereignty while protecting the public interest.

The President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) visits India

- His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates paid an official visit to India on 19 January 2026.
- This was his third official visit to India as the President of the United Arab Emirates.

Agreements and Declarations

- Agreement to enhance investment cooperation for the development of the Special Investment Region at Dholera in Gujarat.
- Cooperation in the Space Industry in India and UAE
- Strategic Defence Partnership
- LNG Supply Agreement
- Food Security and Agribusiness

Key Announcements

- A principle-based agreement was reached between India's C-DAC and the UAE's company G42 to establish a supercomputing cluster in India. The two countries announced bilateral trade to over USD 200 billion by 2032 and linking MSMEs to new global markets.

- Cooperation will be in the development, operation and nuclear safety of advanced nuclear technologies, large nuclear reactors and small modular reactors.
- UAE major companies First Abu Dhabi Bank and DP World will set up their offices and operations in Gujarat's GIFT City.
- A digital or data embassy will be set up.
- The 'House of India' will be built in Abu Dhabi to showcase Indian art, heritage and archaeology.
- India and UAE decided to encourage reciprocal youth delegation visits to strengthen academic, research and cultural understanding among youth.

UAE is India's second-largest LNG supplier.

- A long-term LNG agreement was signed during the visit of UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to India.
- Under this agreement, the UAE will supply 0.5 million metric tonnes of LNG to India every year.
- With this agreement, the UAE has become India's second-largest LNG supplier after Qatar.
- LNG is a relatively clean fuel, used in electricity, industry, and domestic gas.

Visit of German Chancellor Friedrich Merz to India

- German Chancellor Friedrich Merz paid an official visit to India from 12-13 January 2026.
- This was the first official visit of German Chancellor Merz to India.
- Chancellor Merz along with Prime Minister Modi participated in the International Kite Festival at Sabarmati Riverfront on 12th January 2026.
- India and Germany signed 19 agreements and joint declarations to strengthen the strategic partnership.
 1. Joint Declaration of Intent on Strengthening Bilateral Defence Industrial Cooperation.
 2. Establishment of a forum of CEOs integrated into and as part of the Indo-German Joint Economic and Investment Committee.
 3. Joint Declaration of Intent on Indo-German Semiconductor Systems Partnership.
 4. Joint Declaration of Intent on Cooperation in the field of Critical Minerals.
 5. Joint Declaration of Intent for cooperation in the telecom sector.
 6. MoU between National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology and Infineon Technologies AG.
 7. MoU between All India Institute of Ayurveda and Charité University, Germany.
 8. MoU between the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) and the German Technical and Scientific Association (DVGW) for the Gas and Water Industry.
 9. An agreement was signed between Indian company AM Green and German company Uniper Global Commodities for the purchase of green ammonia.
 10. Joint Declaration of Intent for joint cooperation in research and development on bio-economy.
 11. Joint Declaration of Intent on Extension of Tenure of Indo-German Science and Technology Centre (IGSTC).
 12. Indo-German Roadmap on Higher Education.
 13. Joint Declaration of Intent on the Framework Terms of Global Skills Partnership for Fair, Ethical, and Sustainable Recruitment of Health Professionals.
 14. Joint Declaration of Intent for setting up of National Centre of Excellence for Skill Development in Renewable Energy at National Skill Training Institute, Hyderabad.
 15. MoU signed between National Maritime Heritage Complex, Lothal and Institute of Maritime History, Bremerhaven, Germany **for development of National Maritime Heritage Complex at Lothal, Gujarat.**
 16. Joint Declaration of Intent on Cooperation in Sport.
 17. Joint Declaration of Intent for Cooperation in the Postal Services Sector.
 18. Letter of Intent between the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications and Deutsche Post AG.
- MoU on Youth Hockey Development between Hockey India and German Hockey Federation (Deutscher Hockey-Bund EP).

The following major announcements were also made:

- Visa free transit through Germany announced for Indian passport holders.
- Establishment of the Track 1.5 Foreign Policy and Security Dialogue.
- Establishment of a bilateral dialogue mechanism on the Indo-Pacific region.
- Adoption of the Action Plan of the India-Germany Digital Dialogue (2025-2027).

BRICS 2026: Launch of the Logo, Theme and Website

- External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar launched the logo and website of BRICS Presidency 2026 on 13 January 2026.
- Note: In the year 2026, India will chair BRICS.
- Highlighting the 4 broad priorities of India's Presidency, Mr. Jaishankar included Resilience, Innovation, Collaboration and Sustainability.
- The theme of India's BRICS Presidency 2026 is "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability".
- It aims to promote inclusive growth, capacity building, innovation, and long-term sustainability.
- India officially assumed the presidency from Brazil for the fourth time on January 1 this year. Earlier, India had held the presidency in 2021 during the COVID pandemic.

BRICS 2026 logo

- The logo of the BRICS Summit held under India's Chairmanship has been made on the lotus flower.
- The central part depicts a greeting of 'Namaste'.
- It has been designed by Sudip Subhash Gandhi. In it, "Namaste" symbolizes welcoming and honoring someone on arrival, the lotus represents remembrance, and India is also moving forward in the same direction.
- The petals of the logo include the colors of all BRICS member countries.

**Bermuda to become first country to adopt digital currency**

- The Bermuda government announced a major plan for the digital economy at the World Economic Forum in Davos.
- Bermuda is preparing to transform into a fully digital currency-based economy.
- For this, partnerships have been made with crypto companies like Coinbase and Circle.
- These companies will provide the digital currency framework to the government, banks, insurance companies, businessmen and the general public.
- In addition, digital financial education and technical training will also be imparted across the country.
- The USDC stablecoin will be a key part of this initiative, with a price of approximately 1 US dollar.

BBNJ Agreement Officially Entered into Force

- The Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement entered into force on 17 January 2026.
- It is the world's first legally binding agreement to protect marine biodiversity in international waters (High Seas). Under this, institutional structures such as the Conference of Parties (COP), subsidiary bodies, clearing-house mechanisms, and the Secretariat have been established.
- The BBNJ Agreement has been adopted under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), 1982.
- This applies to areas beyond the national EEZ and to the international seabed.
- Its negotiations began in 2008 and were finalized in March 2023.
- It came into force after ratification by 60 countries in September 2025.

4 Main Columns

1. **Marine Genetic Resources (MGR):** Fair and equitable distribution of benefits.
2. **Area-Based Management Tools (ABMT):** Establishment of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

3. **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):** Mandatory assessment before activities in the High Sea.
4. **Capacity Building and Technology Transfer:** Technical Assistance to Developing Countries.
 - It will be helpful in combating climate change, over-fishing and marine pollution.
 - It supports the 14th Sustainable Development Goal (SDG-14) (Conservation of Aquatic Life).

India's Position

- India signed the BBNJ Treaty on 25 September 2024.
- Full ratification of the treaty is pending as of January 2026.
- The Ministry of Earth Sciences is the nodal Ministry for implementation of this Agreement.
- A 12-member committee is working to adapt domestic laws.

US announces inclusion of India in 'Pax Silica'

- Newly-appointed US Ambassador Sergio Gor has announced that India will be invited to join the US-led alliance 'Pax Silica'.
- Pax Silica aims to secure and strengthen supply chains involving critical minerals, silicon, and AI.
- The first Pax Silica Summit was held in December 2025.
- Its current signatories include Australia, Israel, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, the UK, the Netherlands and the UAE.
- Qatar became the newest member of this alliance on 12 January 2026.

Background

- India has reserves of about 8.52 million tonnes of rare earth minerals used in semiconductor production. Despite this, India's production is only 2,900 metric tonnes, while China's production is 2,70,000 metric tonnes.
- Pax Silica is an attempt to reduce dependence on China's dominant supply chains.

Invitation to India to the Board of Peace for Gaza

- India was invited by the United States to join the Board of Peace for Gaza.
- India is yet to take a final decision on participation.

Board of Peace for Gaza

- It is a US-led intergovernmental body.
- It has been established under UNSC Resolution 2803 (2025).
- Its purpose is to implement the US peace plan to rebuild Gaza.
- It is not under the control of the United Nations, but with the approval of the UNSC, it has international legitimacy.

Structure

- President: U.S. President Donald J. Trump.
- Founding Executive Board: Tony Blair, Diplomacy and Development Specialist including Marco Rubio
Gaza Executive Board: Coordination of operations at the local level.
- NCAG (National Committee): 15-member, politically independent committee of Palestinian technicians.

Main functions

- Monitoring the demilitarization of Gaza, reconstruction, economic recovery and interim regime.
- The initial permission is valid until December 31, 2027.

Membership and Financing

- Provision of three years free subscription (renewable).
- Participation in the Permanent Membership and Reconstruction Fund on a contribution of US\$ 1 billion.

'Operation Absolute Resolve'

- Under this operation, the United States detained Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his wife in Venezuela's capital, Caracas, on January 3, 2026, as part of a military operation.
- Maduro was taken to New York for trial on charges of drug trafficking, narco-terrorism, illegal possession of weapons and corruption.
- In this action, about 150 fighter jets of the US Air Force targeted several strategic bases in Venezuela.
- These operations are part of the strategic interests of the United States.
- Key objectives: to restore American dominance in the Western Hemisphere, to limit the influence of China and Russia in Latin America, and to increase influence over Venezuela's vast oil reserves.

Delcy Rodríguez becomes interim President of Venezuela

- On January 5, 2026, Delcy Rodríguez was sworn in as the country's interim president in Venezuela.
- This happened after the arrest of former President Nicolás Maduro in a US military action.

Venezuela

- Venezuela is located on the northern coast of South America. Its capital is Caracas.
- It has the world's largest proven oil reserves, mainly in the Orinoco belt.

U.S. pulls out of 66 international organizations

- US President Donald Trump announced the termination of America's membership from 66 international organizations. These include 31 UN entities and 35 non-UN organizations.
- An official memorandum in this regard was signed on 7th January 2026.
- According to the White House, these organizations were acting contrary to US national interests, security and sovereignty.

Bulgaria becomes 21st member of euro zone

- Bulgaria officially adopted the euro as its national currency from January 1, 2026.
- With this, Bulgaria became the 21st member of the euro zone.
- This expansion brought the number of citizens using the euro to more than 350 million.
- Bulgaria will now have representation in the Governing Council of the European Central Bank (ECB).

Eurozone

- It is a monetary union of European Union countries using the euro.
- It consists of a common currency and an integrated monetary policy.
- It was formed under the Maastricht Treaty (1992). The number of countries currently involved in it is 21.

For the first time in the world, stingless bees have been granted legal rights.

- The Satipo and Nauta municipalities in Peru granted legal rights to the Amazon stingless bees in December 2025. With this, they have become the first insect species in the world to get legal rights.
- These bees have existed for about 80 million years and are crucial for pollination in the Amazon ecosystem. Half of the world's nearly 500 species are found in the Amazon, while more than 170 species are found in Peru.

International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists declared

- The United Nations has declared 2026 as the 'International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists'.
- The initiative will be implemented under the leadership of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The proposal was led by Mongolia.
- This year's aim is to raise global awareness of the pasture ecosystem and the role of pastoralists.
- Other announced themes for 2026 are:
 - International Year of Women Peasants
 - International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development
- Note: 2027 has been declared the International Year of Sustainable and Resilient Tourism.

World's Largest Compressed-Air Energy Storage Plant

- China began operating the world's largest compressed air energy storage (CAES) plant.

CAES Plant

- Location: Jiangsu Province of East China
- Project: Guoxin Suyan Huai'an Salt Cavern CAES Project
- Manufacturer/Operator: Harbin Electric Corporation
- Installed Capacity:
 - Power Generation Capacity: 600 MW (MW)
 - Energy storage capacity: 2,400 megawatt-hours (MWh)
- Its energy conversion efficiency is around 71%, which is considered a leader in CAES technology.
- It uses non-combustion (adiabatic) CAES technology.
- It does not use any fossil fuel for power generation, it is a zero-emission plant.

World's First Mountain Ice Core Repository Inaugurated in Antarctica

- The world's first Mountain Ice Core Repository was inaugurated on 14 January 2026 at the Concordia Research Station located on the high plateau of Antarctica.
- This repository is set up in a special cave built under the ice in the Dome C area.
- The initiative is being steered by the Ice Memory Foundation.
- This repository is the world's first global repository to preserve ice cores extracted from glaciers.
- Its main objective is to preserve the scientific data of melting glaciers from global warming for future generations.

2nd Global Buddhist Summit (GBS 2026)

- The Ministry of Culture organized the 2nd Global Buddhist Summit on 24th and 25th January, 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- The summit was organised in collaboration with the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC).
- The main theme of the conference was "Collective Wisdom, United Voice and Mutual Coexistence".
- The conference provides a platform for global dialogue and solidarity, aligned with the IBC's motto "Collective Wisdom, United Voice."
- Note: The first Global Buddhist Summit was held in New Delhi on April 20–21, 2023.

56th World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Conference 2026

- The 56th Annual Conference of the World Economic Forum (WEF) was held in Davos (Switzerland) from 19–23 January 2026.
- It was attended by 3,000+ leaders, policy-makers and business leaders from across the globe.
- Its main theme was 'A Spirit of Dialogue'.

16th Assembly of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

- The 16th Assembly of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) was held from 10th to 12th January 2026 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.
- The theme of the conference was "Powering Humanity: Renewable Energy for Shared Prosperity".
- Its main objective is to guide global energy policies and promote economic growth and inclusion through renewable energy. Union Minister Pralhad Joshi participated from India.

India joins Gulfood 2026 as partner country

- Gulfood is the world's largest annual food and beverage business conference.
- The event was held from 26th to 30th January 2026. The conference was held simultaneously for the first time at two venues Dubai World Trade Centre and Expo City Dubai.
- This is the first time that Gulfood has onboarded India as a partner country.
- 161 exhibitors from India showcased the capabilities and diversity of the agri-food sector.

New social media platform 'W' launched

- The new social media platform called 'W' was launched on 20th January 2026 at the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum held in Davos (Switzerland).
- In this, users will have to verify their identity through photo verification and identity card.
- In this, actual user verification will be mandatory and bots will be completely banned.
- The purpose is to ensure that the user is a real person.
- W's data will be hosted by European companies in Europe.
- It will prioritize authentic information and credible communication rather than algorithm-based inflammatory content.



India Joins 'Pax Silica'

- Recently, the 'Pax Silica' declaration was signed between India and the United States.
- With this, India has officially joined this initiative. Pax Silica is a U.S.-led strategic initiative.
- Its objective is to develop secure and reliable global supply chains for semiconductors, AI infrastructure, and critical minerals. Its primary goal is to reduce dependence on non-cooperative nations—such as China—and to promote the democratization of the 'Silicon Stack.'
- India has become the 10th signatory nation to join this initiative.

Prime Minister Modi's Visit to Israel

- During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Israel, 16 agreements (MoUs) were signed across sectors such as defense, technology, agriculture, and the digital economy.
- India and Israel elevated their relationship to the level of a "Special Strategic Partnership for Peace, Innovation, and Prosperity."
- Under an agreement between NPCI International and MASAV, India's UPI payment system will be utilized in Israel.
- Defense cooperation was advanced beyond the traditional vendor-buyer model to focus on joint development and joint production.
- Consensus was reached on the iCET initiative to foster collaboration in the fields of AI, quantum computing, and semiconductors, as well as on establishing an India-Israel Centre of Cyber Excellence in India. To enhance cooperation in agriculture and water management, plans were formulated to establish an India-Israel Centre for Agricultural Innovation and to integrate Israel's water technologies into India's national missions.
- Both nations also agreed to deepen cooperation within the IMEC and I2U2 frameworks, facilitate the deployment of 50,000 Indian workers to Israel, and strengthen academic and research collaboration.
- Reiterating India's support for the Gaza peace plan, Prime Minister Modi emphasized the importance of regional peace and stability.

Hexagon of Alliances

- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu proposed a "Hexagon of Alliances" for security, diplomacy, and economic cooperation in West Asia. This is a multilateral framework based on six nations or strategic pillars, aimed at enhancing security and economic cooperation among like-minded countries.
- Its objectives are to counter the influence of Iran-backed groups, secure maritime trade routes in the Red Sea and the Mediterranean, and provide strategic support to the IMEC corridor.
- Countries such as Israel, India, the UAE, Greece, and Cyprus play pivotal roles within this framework.
- Its primary areas of focus include defense and intelligence cooperation, energy corridors, food security, and cybersecurity. For India, this initiative is significant for strengthening its 'Look West' policy, enhancing strategic cooperation with Greece and Cyprus, and fostering joint ventures in defense manufacturing.

FORGE International Initiative

- FORGE stands for the Forum on Resource and Geostrategic Engagement.
- India has recently endorsed this multilateral global initiative.
- It pertains to energy security and strategic autonomy.
- It was launched by the United States during the Critical Minerals Ministerial held in Washington, D.C.
- The objective of this initiative is to secure the global supply chain for critical minerals, mitigate risks arising from the dominance of any single nation, and reduce price volatility.
- Under this platform, the U.S. has proposed providing up to US\$100 billion in loans and public finance support for strategic mineral projects.
- The primary focus of this initiative is supply-chain de-risking, the stabilization of mineral prices, and the promotion of responsible mining in alignment with ESG standards.

Operation 'Ghazab Lil-Haq'

- On February 26, 2026, Pakistan launched a cross-border military operation against Afghanistan codenamed "Operation Ghazab Lil-Haq."
- According to Pakistan, this operation was conducted against alleged hideouts of the Afghan Taliban.

India-US Interim Trade Framework

- India and the United States announced an interim trade framework on February 7, 2026.
- Its objective is to strengthen cooperation in trade, technology, and supply chains by resolving tariff disputes. Under this framework, tariffs on Indian exports to the US market have been reduced from 50% to 18%.
- The 25% additional duty, imposed in August 2025 due to purchases of Russian oil, has been completely removed. This duty was imposed by the then-US President, Donald Trump, during the Ukraine war.
- Now, an 18% tariff will apply to textiles, ready-made garments, leather, footwear, plastics, rubber, organic chemicals, home decor, handicrafts, and certain machinery.
- India will purchase goods worth \$500 billion from the US over the next five years, including energy products, defense and aviation equipment, as well as semiconductors and data centre technology.
- A zero-tariff target has been set for generic medicines, animal feed, certain agricultural products, and aircraft components.
- No concessions have been granted in sensitive sectors of India, such as agriculture and dairy.

Signing of Terms of Reference (ToR) for India-GCC FTA

- India and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) signed the Terms of Reference (ToR) on February 5, 2026. This paves the way for the commencement of formal negotiations on the proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA).
- The ToR document defines the scope, procedure, and timeline for the FTA negotiations.
- It outlines the framework for negotiations across areas such as goods, services, and investment.

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

- It is a regional political-economic organization comprising six Arab nations.
- Members: Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, and Bahrain.
- The GCC features a common market, a common external tariff, and a collective defense arrangement.
- Current Status of India-GCC Trade (2025-26):
- Total Bilateral Trade: \$178.56 billion.
- India's Exports: Approximately \$56.87 billion.
- India's Imports: Approximately \$121.68 billion, primarily energy products.

New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) Expires

- On February 4, 2026, Russia announced that the New START treaty between Russia and the United States had expired.

- The New START treaty was signed in 2010.
- Its objective was to limit the number of deployed nuclear weapons (warheads) and their delivery vehicles held by Russia and the United States.
- The treaty entered into force on February 5, 2011, and was initially effective for a period of 10 years.
- It was subsequently extended until February 5, 2026.

Visit of the President of France to India

- French President Emmanuel Macron paid a three-day visit to India from February 17 to 19, 2026, at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi; this marked his fourth visit to the country.
- During this visit, he participated in the AI Impact Summit 2026.
- India and France agreed to elevate their bilateral relations to the level of a “Special Global Strategic Partnership.”

Key Initiatives and Collaborations:

- The year 2026 was declared the “India-France Year of Innovation.”
- A Final Assembly Line for the Airbus H125 helicopter will be established at Vemagal in Karnataka.
- An agreement was reached with Safran regarding the transfer of technology for the development of a 120 kN engine for the AMCA combat aircraft.
- A joint venture was established between BEL and Safran for the production of the HAMMER weapon system.
- Discussions are ongoing regarding the procurement of Rafale-M aircraft and Scorpène submarines for the Indian Navy.

Other Areas of Cooperation:

- Establishment of an AI Centre in the healthcare sector and a Joint Research Centre for Digital Sciences.
- Strengthening cooperation in renewable energy under the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
- Enhancing cooperation on the Jaitapur Nuclear Power Project and Small Modular Reactors (SMRs).
- Cooperation in the space sector will continue through the Gaganyaan mission and the TRISHNA satellite.
- Amendments to the DTAA are being pursued to boost investment, and a target has been set to provide educational opportunities to 30,000 Indian students in France by 2030.
- A pilot facility for visa-free transit at French airports has been introduced for Indian citizens.

H125 Helicopter Final Assembly Line

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron inaugurated the Final Assembly Line for the Airbus H125 light utility helicopter at Vemagal (Kolar), Karnataka, on February 17, 2026.
- This project is being established in collaboration between Tata Advanced Systems and Airbus Helicopters.

Indo-French Centre for AI in Health (IF-CAIH)

- The Indo-French Centre for AI in Health (IF-CAIH) was inaugurated at AIIMS, New Delhi, on February 18, 2026.
- The inauguration was jointly conducted by Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda and French President Emmanuel Macron.
- It has been developed by AIIMS, New Delhi, in collaboration with Sorbonne University (France) and the Paris Brain Institute.

Visit of the Brazilian President to India

- During the visit of Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva to India, both nations set a target to boost bilateral trade to \$30 billion by 2030.
- Currently, India holds a trade surplus with Brazil, and a consensus was reached to strengthen this relationship in a balanced manner.

Key Areas of Cooperation

- Cooperation on ethanol blending technology and the production of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) under the Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA).
- Synergy in renewable energy, leveraging Brazil's hydroelectric potential and India's expertise in solar energy.
- Collaboration between KABIL and Brazilian mining companies in the sector of lithium and other critical minerals.
- Discussions regarding the local production of the C-390 Millennium transport aircraft between Embraer and Indian companies in the aviation manufacturing sector.
- Cooperation on the integration of payment systems between UPI (India) and Pix (Brazil).
- Plans to establish joint research centres in the fields of AI and cybersecurity.
- Under the framework of food security, Brazil will supply pulses and edible oils to India, while India will extend cooperation in the supply of fertilizers.

Prime Minister Modi's Visit to Malaysia

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi undertook a two-day official visit to Malaysia on February 7–8, 2026.
- This marked his third official visit to Malaysia.
- Prime Minister Modi participated in the India–Malaysia CEO Forum held in Kuala Lumpur.
- Several Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed between the two nations in the fields of audio-visual co-production, disaster management, anti-corruption cooperation, UN peacekeeping operations, semiconductors, wildlife conservation, social security, skills education, security, and healthcare.
- An agreement was reached between the University of Cyberjaya (Malaysia) and the Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda (ITRA), Jamnagar, to foster cooperation in Ayurveda education.
- Additionally, the establishment of a Consulate General of India in Malaysia was announced.
- A Thiruvalluvar Centre was established to promote the Tamil language and Indian culture.
- An agreement was reached between NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) and Malaysia's PayNet to link their digital payment systems.

Visit of Seychelles President Dr. Patrick Herminie to India

- President of Seychelles Dr. Patrick Herminie paid an official visit to India from February 5 to 10, 2026.
- This visit took place on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Seychelles.
- Both countries adopted 'SESEL' (India–Seychelles Joint Vision), aimed at deepening connectivity, economic development, and security cooperation.
- The following MoUs were signed between the two countries:
- Agreements were concluded in sectors such as health, meteorology, digital transformation, ocean research, capacity building, culture, procurement, and hydrography.
- India announced a special economic package worth US\$ 175 million.
- This includes US\$ 125 million in concessional credit and a grant of US\$ 50 million.
- Seychelles was provided with 10 ambulances, 1,000 metric tonnes of food grains, 10 utility vehicles, and 5 Laser Radial-class boats.

India–Netherlands Hydrogen Fellowship Program

- The Union Department of Science and Technology (DST) launched the India–Netherlands Hydrogen Fellowship Program in New Delhi on February 6, 2026.
- On this occasion, an MoU was signed between 19 Indian IITs and the University of Groningen in the Netherlands for research in Green Hydrogen and clean energy.
- This fellowship has been launched for PhD scholars, post-doctoral researchers, and faculty members.
- Its objective is to strengthen human resources and research capabilities for Green Hydrogen technologies in India.

IIT Madras's Dubai AI Innovation Centre

- The IIT Madras Global Research Foundation launched its first international Applied AI Innovation Centre at Dubai CommerCity (UAE) on February 18, 2026.
- The agreement for the establishment of this centre was signed during WORLDEF Dubai 2026.
- In its initial phase, the centre will support six Applied AI start-ups with a combined valuation of approximately \$118 million.
- The centre will focus on product development, the implementation of AI solutions, intellectual property creation, and industry-government collaboration.

First Meeting of the 'Board of Peace'

- India recently participated as an Observer in the first meeting of the 'Board of Peace,' an entity established by US President Donald Trump. The Board of Peace is a US-led international body.
- It was established to monitor the ceasefire in Gaza, oversee reconstruction efforts, and facilitate future governance arrangements.
- It was first proposed in September 2025 as part of Trump's 20-point plan to end the Gaza conflict.
- Its formal establishment took place on January 22, 2026, during the World Economic Forum (WEF) held in Davos, Switzerland, where its charter was signed.

Structure:

- Donald Trump serves as its Chairman for life.
- The Executive Board comprises prominent members such as Marco Rubio, Jared Kushner, Steve Witkoff, Tony Blair, and Ajay Banga.
- Currently, it consists of 22 full member nations, including Israel, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Turkey, the UAE, Pakistan, Indonesia, and Jordan.
- Eleven nations—including India, the European Union, Germany, and Italy—participate in the body as Observers.

India-UK Offshore Wind Energy Taskforce

- India and the United Kingdom have launched the India-UK Offshore Wind Taskforce.
- This initiative has been established under the India-UK Vision 2035 and the 4th India-UK Energy Dialogue. Its objective is to enhance strategic leadership and collaboration within the offshore wind energy sector.
- Under this initiative, measures will be undertaken to streamline seabed leasing arrangements, develop revenue security mechanisms for investors, and facilitate the modernization of ports as well as the manufacturing of towers and blades.

Offshore Wind Energy

- This refers to the technology of generating wind energy using turbines installed in the sea or large lakes. Wind speeds at sea are more consistent and stronger; consequently, energy generation is higher.
- Offshore turbines can be larger and more powerful (10–15 MW+) compared to their onshore counterparts.

India-WFP Food Security Agreement

- A five-year food security agreement has been signed between the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and the World Food Programme (WFP).
- Under this agreement, India will provide 200,000 metric tonnes of rice for the WFP's humanitarian operations over the next five years.
- In 2024–25, with a production volume of 150.18 million tonnes, India surpassed China to become the world's largest rice-producing nation.
- India contributes approximately 28% to global rice production and is the world's largest exporter of rice.

62nd Munich Security Conference 2026

- This conference was held in Munich from February 13 to 15, 2026.
- The theme of this year's conference was "Under Destruction," reflecting the growing instability within the global order. For the first time, detailed discussions were held regarding AI-based hybrid warfare and rising nuclear risks. India was represented by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.
- The Munich Security Conference is considered the world's foremost independent forum for security policy. It was founded in 1963 by Ewald-Heinrich von Kleist.
- It is often referred to as the "Davos of security policy."
- It is held annually in February at the Hotel Bayerischer Hof.

First BRICS Sherpa Meeting in India, 2026

- The first BRICS Sherpa meeting of 2026, held under India's Chairship, was recently convened in New Delhi. This meeting marks a significant step toward formulating the formal action plan and roadmap for India's 2026 Chairship.
- India is assuming the Chairship of BRICS for the fourth time. (India previously held the Chairship in 2012, 2016, and 2021.)
- The meeting was chaired by India's BRICS Sherpa, Sudhakar Dalela, who also serves as the Secretary (Economic Relations) in the Ministry of External Affairs.
- Representatives from the 10 member nations—Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates—participated in the meeting.
- India has designated "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation, and Sustainability" as the theme for 2026.

India-United Kingdom Social Security Agreement (SSA)

- India and the United Kingdom have signed a historic Social Security Agreement (SSA).
- Its objective is to eliminate the obligation of dual social security contributions for employees who work temporarily in each other's countries.
- This provision applies equally to Indian personnel working in the UK and British personnel working in India.

Key Provisions

- Under this agreement, Indian professionals travelling to the UK for short-term work will not be required to make contributions in both India (EPFO) and the UK (National Insurance).
- Employees undertaking temporary assignments of up to 36 months (3 years) will contribute to social security only in their home country. Obtaining a Certificate of Coverage (CoC) will be mandatory to claim exemption from social security contributions in the host country.
- A Social Security Agreement (SSA) is a bilateral treaty that safeguards the social security rights of workers employed abroad.

America's Project Vault

- US President Donald Trump officially launched Project Vault from the Oval Office of the White House.
- This is a \$12 billion strategic initiative aimed at establishing a national stockpile of critical minerals in the United States. The project seeks to secure mineral supplies for the defense, automotive, and technology industries, and to reduce dependence on China.
- This initiative is modelled after the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) to ensure that supplies remain uninterrupted in the event of a global crisis.
- Project Vault is based on a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.

Social Media Ban for Children Under 16 in Spain

- Spain is set to impose a complete ban on social media usage for children under the age of 16.
- Following Australia, Spain has become the second country in the world—and the first in Europe—to take this step.

- Under the new legislation, the minimum age for registering on social media platforms has been raised from 14 to 16 years. Platforms will now be required to implement rigorous age verification systems, such as biometrics or digital IDs.
- CEOs of social media companies will face criminal liability if they fail to remove illegal or hateful content.
- The manipulation of algorithms to promote hatred and violence has been criminalized.
- Smartphone and tablet manufacturers will be mandated to provide default parental control systems.

Second India–Arab Foreign Ministers’ Meeting

- The second India–Arab Foreign Ministers’ Meeting was held in New Delhi on January 31, 2026.
- India hosted this meeting for the first time.
- The meeting was co-chaired by India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- Representatives from all 22 member states of the Arab League participated in the meeting.
- This meeting took place approximately 10 years after the first India–Arab Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (2016, Bahrain).
- On this occasion, the India–Arab Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture was also inaugurated.

Background

- The India–Arab Foreign Ministers’ Meeting was institutionalized in 2002.
- India is an Observer State in the League of Arab States (LAS).

Space and Defence Technology

Space Technology

ISRO's PSLV-C62 / EOS-N1 Mission

- ISRO launched the EOS-N1 satellite on 12 January 2026 onboard a PSLV-C62 rocket.
- The launch was carried out from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.
- The initial phases of the flight remained normal, but the mission was unsuccessful due to a technical fault in the final part of the third stage (PS3).
- At the end of the PS3 stage, deviations in the roll rate and flight path of the rocket were found.
- ISRO has started a detailed technical analysis of all the data related to the mission.
- This was the 105th launch from Sriharikota and the 64th mission of PSLV.
- It used the PSLV-DL version, which has two strap-on boosters.
- EOS-N1 is an Earth observation satellite, developed for strategic uses.
- The mission was piloted by NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of ISRO.
- EOS-N1 was also accompanied by 15 co-passenger satellites developed by startups and academic institutions from India and abroad.
- According to the original plan, EOS-N1 and 14 co-passenger satellites were to be placed in the Sun Synchronous Orbit (SSO).
- The remaining payload was the KID capsule, which was to be used for the re-entry experiment.
- The plan was to restart the PS4 phase after the deployment of the satellites and put it on the re-entry path via de-boost.

India's First Integrated Private Satellite Manufacturing Facility

- The foundation stone of India's first integrated private satellite manufacturing facility was laid at Khoraj in Sanand district of Gujarat. The project is being developed by Azista Space.
- The facility will include an electro-optical payload factory.
- The plant has been named "Palmanaro" and will focus on indigenous satellite manufacturing.
- This initiative will encourage private sector participation in space technology.

Successful Testing of Drogue Parachutes for Gaganyaan Mission

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted the qualification-level load test of the drogue parachutes for the Gaganyaan mission at the RTRS facility of the Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL) in Chandigarh.
- Teams from the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)—ISRO, the Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE)—DRDO, and TBRL collaborated in this test.
- By simulating loads exceeding the maximum flight conditions, this test validated the structural integrity, safety margins, and reliability of the parachutes.
- The function of the drogue parachutes is to stabilize and decelerate the Crew Module prior to the deployment of the main parachutes.
- The objective of the Gaganyaan mission is to send three Indian astronauts on a three-day mission to a Low Earth Orbit at an altitude of approximately 400 km, and to ensure their safe re-entry and recovery in the Indian Ocean.

Mission Drishti:

- Bengaluru-based space-tech start-up GalaxEye Space has launched its satellite mission, 'Mission Drishti'. This is the world's first multi-sensor Earth observation satellite, developed by GalaxEye Space—a company founded by alumni of IIT Madras.
- This satellite is scheduled to be launched in the first quarter of 2026, in collaboration with SpaceX.
- This mission will help reduce India's reliance on foreign satellite data in the defense and strategic sectors, thereby promoting the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (Self-Reliant India) initiative.

Key Features:

- It utilizes the SyncFused OptoSAR architecture, which integrates Optical (EO) and Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) sensors onto a single platform.
- Optical sensors provide high-resolution imagery during the daytime, while SAR sensors are capable of imaging even through clouds, in darkness, and during adverse weather conditions.
- This satellite is capable of analyzing data onboard—directly in space.
- It weighs approximately 160 kilograms.
- It will provide high-resolution imagery with a spatial resolution of 1.5 to 1.8 meters.

'Satellite Bus as a Service (SBaaS)' Initiative

- ISRO's commercial arm, IN-SPACE, has selected three Indian startups under the SBaaS initiative.
 - Astrome Technologies
 - Agista Industries
 - Dhruva Space
- This initiative pertains to the development and testing of indigenous small satellite bus platforms.
- A satellite bus provides essential services to the payload and functions as a modular platform.
- Under this initiative, each selected company will be provided with a grant of ₹5 crore.
- IN-SPACE will provide the companies with access to the infrastructure and technical guidance of ISRO and the Department of Space (DoS).

The World's First Private Space Station

- The world's first private space station, Haven-1, is scheduled to be launched in 2027.
- This station is being developed by the American private company, Vast Space.
- It will be launched using SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket.
- The role of private space stations is gaining prominence following NASA's plans to de-orbit the International Space Station (ISS) around 2030.
- Haven-1 is designed as a compact, single-launch orbital station.

GalaxEye-NSIL Partnership

- In February 2026, the Indian space-tech startup GalaxEye entered into a data reseller agreement with NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). Under this collaboration, NSIL will be able to sell GalaxEye's 'SyncFused OptoSAR' satellite imagery in both domestic and global markets.
- This data is useful in sectors such as agriculture, disaster management, infrastructure planning, and environmental monitoring.

India's First Private Company with In-Orbit Snooping Capability

- In February 2026, Azista Industries—an Ahmedabad-based private company—successfully demonstrated the capability to image one satellite from another while in space.
- The company's ABA First Runner (AFR) satellite captured high-quality images of the International Space Station. Technically, this capability is referred to as "in-orbit snooping" or "space watch."
- Azista's 80-kilogram Earth-observation satellite is capable of keeping a watch on the space station, as well as on satellites belonging to other nations.

- During a trial on February 3, Azista tracked the ISS on two separate occasions. Images of the space station were captured from a distance of approximately 300 kilometres the first time, and 245 kilometres the second time.
- Space Situational Awareness (SSA) encompasses the monitoring of space debris, tracking of space weather, and the identification of near-Earth objects.

Selection of the Mons Mouton Region for Chandrayaan-4

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has identified a safe landing site in the Mons Mouton region, located near the Moon's South Pole, for the Chandrayaan-4 mission.
- This selection was made based on an analysis of high-resolution camera data from the Chandrayaan-2 orbiter.
- Scientists compared sites MM-1, MM-3, MM-4, and MM-5 within the Mons Mouton (MM) region, with MM-4 being identified as the most suitable.
- The MM-4 region features a low average slope and a relatively flat surface, conditions favourable for the stability of the lander. Furthermore, this region receives prolonged periods of sunlight, which will benefit solar-powered systems.

Discovery of Complex Organic Molecules in Interstellar Comet 3I/ATLAS

- NASA's SPHEREx mission has recently detected the presence of complex organic molecules in the interstellar comet 3I/ATLAS. 3I/ATLAS is the third known interstellar object to enter the solar system; it was discovered in July 2025.
- Organic molecules such as methanol, cyanide, and methane—which are considered fundamental building blocks for life on Earth—have been found in this comet.
- This discovery lends support to the Panspermia hypothesis, according to which the fundamental components of life are widely present throughout the universe and can reach various solar systems via comets.

Defense Technology

Military Quantum Mission Policy Framework Launched

- Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan released the Military Quantum Mission Policy Framework on January 22, 2026.
- This policy provides a comprehensive roadmap for the adoption of quantum technologies in the Indian Army (IA), Indian Navy (IN), and Indian Air Force (IAF).

Key Features

- This vision document aligns with the National Quantum Mission (NQM).
- It aims to strengthen defence capabilities and ensure a technological edge in future warfare scenarios.
- It lays special emphasis on civil-military cooperation, establishment of dedicated governing bodies and tri-service synergy.

The framework is based on four key pillars:

1. Quantum Communication
2. Quantum Computing
3. Quantum Sensing and Metrology
4. Quantum Materials and Tools

Approval for procurement of 114 Rafale fighter jets

- The Defence Procurement Board (DPB) has approved the proposal for the purchase of 114 additional Rafale fighter jets for the Indian Air Force.
- The estimated cost of the deal is around ₹3.25 lakh crore, which will be India's largest ever defence acquisition.

Key Features

- About 80% of the aircraft will be manufactured in India under 'Make in India', while 12-18 aircraft will be sourced directly from France.
- The project aims to cover 30% to 60% indigenous content.
- India is likely to get an upgraded F4 version of Rafale, which will have a state-of-the-art electronic warfare system. The proposal will then go to the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) and eventually to the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS).

Rafale fighter jets

- Rafale is a 4.5th generation omni-role fighter.
- It is capable of missions such as air superiority, ground attack, reconnaissance and nuclear deterrence.
- This includes advanced missiles such as Meteor, Scalp and Hammer and the Spectra Electronic Warfare System.
- A number of special technological enhancements have been made to suit Indian requirements.

Indigenous Digital Upgradation of Pechora Missile System

- The Indian Air Force successfully completed a fully digital indigenous upgrade of its outdated Pechora (S-125 Neva/Pechora) surface-to-air missile system.
- The Pechora missile system is a medium-range air defense system of Soviet origin.
- It was inducted into the Indian Air Force in the 1970s.
- Its outdated analogue technology needed to be modernized.
- The responsibility for its upgrade was entrusted to Bengaluru's Alpha Design Technologies Limited (ADTL). The missile system can engage targets at a distance of 30-35.4 km and an altitude of 100 metres to 18-20 km.

'Guided Pinaca' rocket system

- On 19 January 2026, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flagged off the Guided Pinaka Rocket System in Nagpur.
- He also inaugurated the Medium Calibre Ammunition Facility of SDAL.
- The guided Pinaka has been manufactured by the private company Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited (SDAL).
- The first consignment of Guided Pinaka was sent to Armenia from this plant.
- India conducted the first successful flight test of the Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket (LRGR-120) from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur in Odisha on December 30. During this time, the rocket was fired up to its maximum range of 120 kilometers.



वेरिएंट और रेंज

Mk-I	37-40 किमी (अनगाइडेड)
Mk-I एन्हांसड	45-60 किमी
Mk-II	60-75 किमी
गाइडेड पिनाका	75-90 किमी
LRGR-120 / Mk-III	90-120 किमी (गाइडेड)

V-BAT Unmanned Aerial System (UAS)

- The Indian Army has signed an agreement with American defence technology company Shield AI for the purchase of V-BAT drones.
- These drones will be manufactured in India by JSW Defence near Hyderabad.
- About \$90 million has been invested in this project.
- The agreement also includes licenses for Hivemind Autonomy Software, which will assist the Indian Army in developing mission-specific autonomy.

V-BAT Drones: Key Technical Features

- V-BAT is a Group-3 category vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) drone.
- It does not require a runway to fly.
- It is capable of flying for more than 12 to 13 hours.
- It uses a heavy-fuel engine.
- It can fly up to an altitude of about 18,000 feet.
- The drone is capable of self-destructing by identifying threats in real time.

Indigenous long-range anti-ship hypersonic glide missile (LR-AShM)

- India's indigenous long-range anti-ship hypersonic glide missile (LR-AShM) was first showcased at the Republic Day parade on January 26, 2026.
- The missile was successfully flight-tested in November 2024.

Key Features of LR-AShM

- LR-AShM is a hypersonic glide missile.
- It has been developed primarily for coastal batteries and warships of the Indian Navy.
- It is an important tactical weapon in the future combat scenario, capable of destroying ships while evading enemy radars. It has been developed at DRDO's Advanced Systems Laboratory, Hyderabad.
- The missile has a range of about 1500 km.
- It can fly at a maximum speed of Mach 10 and a hypersonic speed of Mach 5 on average.
- It flies at extremely high speeds at low altitudes, making it difficult for enemy radars and air defense systems to track it.
- It uses skip-glide technology, which helps in covering long distances and changing targets at the final stage.
- It is equipped with a two-stage solid fuel propulsion system, which provides it with the necessary hypersonic speed.

'Suryastra' Multi Caliber Rocket Launcher System

- The Indian Army has signed a ₹293 crore contract with private defence manufacturer NIBE Limited for the supply of the 'Suryastra' Advanced Long Range Rocket Launcher System with technical cooperation from Israel. Under this, advanced long-range rocket launcher systems with a strike capability of 150 km and 300 km will be supplied in collaboration with Israel.
- This will increase the Army's deep-strike artillery firepower and operational reach.
- The system, Suryastra, is India's first Made in India Universal Multi-caliber Rocket Launcher, capable of precision surface-to-surface strikes at a range of up to 300 km.
- It is designed to target multiple targets simultaneously at different ranges.
- It is also capable of firing loitering munitions up to 100 km.

Successful Trial of Indigenous MPATGM

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight-tested the indigenous Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) on 11 January 2026.
- The test was conducted at the KK range in Maharashtra.
- The MPATGM is a third-generation fire-and-forget missile system.
- Its top-attack ability enables it to attack the vulnerable upper part of enemy tanks.

Key Features

- It is developed to destroy modern main battle tanks.
- Fire-and-forget technology reduces the risk of soldiers on the battlefield.
- The top-attack profile makes it highly effective against advanced armored platforms.
- Imaging Infrared (IIR) homing seeker, capable of achieving accurate targets day and night.
- Fire control system, which ensures target identification and accurate attack.
- Tandem warhead, capable of penetrating explosive reactive armor.

Successful salvo launch of indigenous 'Pralay' missile

- India successfully conducted a salvo launch of the indigenous 'Pralay' missile from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast on 31 December 2025.
- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) launched two missiles from the same launcher in quick succession.
- 'Pralay' is India's first indigenous tactical semi-ballistic surface-to-surface missile. It has a range of 150 to 500 km and can carry conventional warheads ranging from 350 to 1000 kg.
- The missile is based on solid fuel and is equipped with state-of-the-art guidance and navigation systems.

India's first indigenous pollution control vessel 'Samudra Pratap' commissioned

- India commissioned the first indigenously designed Pollution Control Vessel (PCV) ICGS Samudra Pratap on 5 January 2026 in Goa.
- The vessel is built by Goa Shipyard Limited and is the largest ship of the Indian Coast Guard.

Key Features of Samudra Pratap

- 30 mm CRN-91 cannon for maritime protection
- Two 12.7 mm remote-controlled guns equipped with an integrated fire control system
- Dynamic Positioning System (DPS) and Retractable Stern Thruster
- Flush Type Side Sweeping Arms for Pollution Control
- High-capacity outdoor fire suppression system
- Davit-containing pollution response and marine boats

Dornier-228 aircraft inducted into Indian Coast Guard

- 2 advanced Dornier-228 aircraft manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) have been inducted into the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).
- These aircraft will strengthen India's maritime surveillance capability in the Indian Ocean Region.
- Dornier-228 is a multi-role light transport and maritime surveillance aircraft.
- It has been indigenously developed in India by HAL under a license from Germany.

Key technical characteristics

- The aircraft has a modern glass cockpit.
- It features the Mission Management System (MMS), which aids in real-time intelligence and data integration. The aircraft is equipped with advanced maritime patrol radars, EO-IR sensors and modern communication systems.
- These aircraft have been equipped with more than 75% indigenous components and systems.
- It has short take-off and landing (STOL) capability, allowing it to operate from short and semi-finished runways as well.

INS Sudarshini's Transoceanic Sail Expedition 'Lokyan-26'

- Indian Navy's sail training ship INS Sudarshini sailed on its flagship transoceanic expedition Lokyan-26 on January 20, 2026.
- The ship will cover most of the distance through conventional sailing.
- The expedition will last for approximately 10 months and involves a voyage of over 22,000 nautical miles.
- During this time, the ship will visit 18 foreign ports in 13 countries. The expedition will showcase India's maritime heritage and the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam on the global stage.

First Indian Navy's Training Contingent Arrives in Thailand

- Ships of the Indian Navy's First Training Squadron (1TS) INS Tir, INS Shardul, INS Sujata and Indian Coast Guard Ship ICGS Sarathi arrived at Phuket Deep Sea Port in Thailand on January 25, 2026.
- During the port visit, interactions between the two navies, training activities, yoga sessions, friendly sports competitions, and PASSEX (Passing Exercise) were conducted.

- The squadron visited ports in Singapore, Indonesia and Thailand and undertook a number of activities with local navies and maritime agencies.
- These activities are aimed at strengthening mutual cooperation, operational synergy and regional maritime security.

Russia deploys Oreshnik missile system

- Russia has deployed its nuclear-capable 'Oreshnik' hypersonic missile system in Belarus and entered active service.
- Oreshnik is a medium-range hypersonic ballistic missile (IRBM).
- Its speed is more than Mach-10 and the firepower ranges from 500 to 5,500 km.
- The missile is equipped with MIRV (Multiple Independently Targetable Reentry Vehicle) technology, which allows a single missile to strike multiple targets simultaneously.
- It is difficult to intercept with existing missile defense systems due to its excessive speed.
- The Oreshnik is capable of carrying both nuclear and conventional warheads and can be launched quickly due to being solid fuel based.

China inducts missile destroyer named 'Loudi'

- China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy has commissioned a new Type 052D guided missile destroyer named 'Loudi'.
- The warship is equipped with advanced radar, weapons and communication systems.
- This new type of battleship adopts a new system and architecture.
- It is equipped with superior combat capabilities in Air Defence, Maritime Strike and Task Force Command.
- Loudy can also protect Allied ships in defensive missions with long-range attack and strike missions against targets. With the addition of Loudy, the Chinese Navy has added 11 warships in 2025, including the aircraft carrier Fujian.

China's ballistic missile nuclear submarine Type 096 (Tang-class)

- China launched its next-generation ballistic missile nuclear submarine (SSBN) Type 096 on 14 January 2026. It is also called the Tang-class.

Key Features

- It is a nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine.
- Its estimated submerged displacement is between 15,000 and 20,000 tons.
- It uses advanced stealth technology, keeping its noise level below 100 decibels.
- The submarine is equipped with shaftless rim-driven pump-jet propulsion and raft-mounted machinery. It is equipped with a fourth-generation pressurized water-cold nuclear reactor.
- Its main firepower is the JL-3 submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM).
- These missiles have an estimated range of more than 10,000 to 12,000 km.
- Each missile is equipped with MIRV technology, which can hit multiple targets with a single missile.

Approval for 114 Rafale Fighter Jets for the Indian Air Force

- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has granted preliminary approval for the procurement of 114 Rafale fighter jets for the Indian Air Force.
- The estimated cost of this deal is approximately ₹3.25 lakh crore.
- Out of the total 114 Rafale aircraft, 18 will be received by India in 'fly-away' condition.
- The remaining 96 aircraft will be manufactured in India.

India's Rafale Fleet

- Following this deal, India will possess a total of 176 Rafale aircraft.
- This includes the 36 Rafales already in service with the Indian Air Force.
- Additionally, the Indian Navy has placed an order for 26 Rafale-M aircraft for carrier operations.

Key Features of the Rafale Fighter Jet

- The Rafale has been designed by France's Dassault Aviation.
- It is a 4.5-generation multi-role fighter aircraft.
- It is powered by two SNECMA M88 turbofan engines, which provide super cruise capability.
- It is equipped with advanced missile systems such as Meteor, SCALP, and MICA.
- It has a maximum speed of approximately 2,222 km/h and an operational altitude of 50,000 feet.
- It is capable of carrying approximately 9,500 kilograms of weaponry at a time.

INS Anjadip Inducted into the Indian Navy

- The Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) ship 'Anjadip' was inducted into the Indian Navy in Chennai on February 27, 2026. It is the third vessel in a series of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare ships designed to operate in shallow waters.
- It has been indigenously constructed by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.
- It is named after Anjadip Island, located off the coast of Karwar in Karnataka.

Key Features:

- Length: Approximately 77 meters.
- The largest naval warship powered by water jet propulsion.
- Equipped with state-of-the-art lightweight torpedoes and anti-submarine rockets.
- Sonar system designed for shallow-water operations.
- Capabilities for coastal surveillance and naval mine laying.

Indigenous Cadet Training Ship 'Krishna'

- The Indian Navy's first indigenous Cadet Training Ship (CTS), 'Krishna', was launched at the L&T Shipyard in Kattupalli, Chennai.
- This ship has been entirely indigenously designed and constructed under the 'Buy (Indian-IDDMM)' category.
- It has a length of approximately 122 meters, a displacement of 4,700 tons, and a speed exceeding 20 knots.
- It is capable of remaining at sea for up to 60 days.
- It can accommodate 20 officers, 150 sailors, and 200 cadets.
- Modern classrooms and a training bridge are available for training purposes.
- It is also useful for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations, Search and Rescue (SAR) missions, and can serve as a hospital ship.

BEL-Safran Joint Venture for the HAMMER Weapon System

- Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) approved a Joint Venture Agreement with France's Safran Electronics & Defence on February 16, 2026, for the HAMMER weapon system. Under this agreement, a Private Limited Company will be established in accordance with the Companies Act, 2013.
- This joint venture will function as a "Centre of Excellence" for the manufacturing, supply, maintenance, and repair of guidance kits for the HAMMER weapon system.

HAMMER Weapon System:

- HAMMER: Highly Agile Modular Munition Extended Range.
- It is a precision-guided air-to-ground stand-off weapon developed by the French company Safran.
- It has a strike range of approximately 70 km (capable of conducting attacks from beyond the range of enemy air defences).
- It is a modular guided bomb system that utilizes GPS, INS, infrared, and laser guidance technologies.
- It can be integrated with bombs ranging in weight from 125 kg to 1,000 kg.
- It is capable of destroying targets with high precision, even in adverse weather conditions or jamming environments.

Successful Test of Strela-10 Missile

- The “Blazing Skies Brigade,” under the Indian Army’s Konark Corps, successfully tested the Strela-10 (VSHORADS) missile at the Pokhran Field Firing Range in Rajasthan.
- The missile was launched from a BMP-based mobile platform.
- The missile successfully destroyed simulated enemy aerial targets.
- It has an effective strike range of approximately 6–10 km.
- It is capable of targeting low-altitude aircraft, helicopters, and drones.

Successful Testing of Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) Technology

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested the Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) technology from Chandipur, Odisha.
- This technology is an advanced missile propulsion system based on the principle of the ramjet engine.
- It utilizes atmospheric oxygen for combustion, thereby enhancing fuel efficiency.
- It enables the missile to strike targets at long ranges while travelling at supersonic speeds.
- SFDR-based missiles expand the ‘no-escape zone’ for enemy aircraft.
- This technology serves as the foundation for India’s next-generation air-to-air missile, Astra Mk-3, which is estimated to have a range exceeding 300 km.

Successful Test of Agni-III Ballistic Missile

- On February 6, 2026, India successfully conducted a test of the Agni-III Intermediate-Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM) from the Integrated Test Range located at Chandipur, Odisha.
- During this test, all mission objectives and technical parameters were successfully met.

Key Features

- Agni-III has been developed by the DRDO. It is a two-stage, solid-fuel-based ballistic missile with a strike range of approximately 3,000–3,500 km.
- It is capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear warheads.
- It can carry a payload of approximately 1,500 kilograms.
- The missile utilizes an advanced Inertial Navigation System, ensuring a high level of accuracy, and is equipped with Thrust Vector Control systems in both of its stages.

Defence Acquisition Council Approves Proposals Worth ₹3.60 Lakh Crore

- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) accorded the Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) to capital acquisition proposals worth approximately ₹3.60 lakh crore on February 12, 2026.
- The meeting was chaired by Rajnath Singh.

Indian Air Force (IAF)	Indian Army (Army)	Indian Navy (Navy)	Indian Coast Guard (ICG)
Multi Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA – Rafale), Fighter Missiles, Airship-based High-Altitude Pseudo Satellite (AS-HAPS)	‘Vibhav’ Anti-Tank Mines, Overhaul of T-72 Tanks, Overhaul of BMP-II Infantry Combat Vehicles, Overhaul of Armoured Recovery Vehicles (ARVs)	P-8I Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance Aircraft, 04 MW Marine Gas Turbine-based Electric Power Generator	EO/IR (Electro-Optical/ Infrared) Systems for Dornier Aircraft

Key Approved Equipment

Multi-Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA – 114 Rafale)

- Under this deal, the procurement of 114 Rafale fighter aircraft has been approved.
- Of these, 18 aircraft will be delivered directly in a ‘fly-away’ condition, while 96 will be manufactured in India.
- This is a 4.5-generation fighter aircraft, offering air dominance and deep-strike capabilities.

High-Altitude Pseudo-Satellite (AS-HAPS)

- This is a solar-powered unmanned platform capable of remaining deployed in the stratosphere for extended periods.

- It provides satellite-like surveillance and communication capabilities at a low cost.
- It will be utilized for ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance), electronic intelligence, and telecommunications.

P-8I Maritime Reconnaissance Aircraft

- Manufactured by Boeing, this is a long-range maritime surveillance and anti-submarine warfare aircraft. It is equipped with advanced radars, sensors, torpedoes, and Harpoon missiles.
- Its role is critical for maritime security within the Indian Ocean Region.

'Vibhav' Anti-Tank Mines

- This is a fully indigenously developed 'point-attack' anti-tank mine.
- It will be used to impede the movement of enemy tanks and armoured vehicles.
- It is expected to prove to be an effective defensive asset in border areas.

Overhaul Projects (T-72, BMP-II, ARVs)

- Comprehensive modernization and repair of the Army's existing platforms have been approved.
- This will enhance the operational capabilities of these systems for the next 10–15 years.

04 MW Marine Gas Turbine Electric Generator

- This will be indigenously developed under the 'Make-I' category.
- It will ensure energy self-reliance for naval vessels.

Gripen-E Fighter Aircraft

- SAAB, a leading Swedish defense company, has submitted a proposal to the Indian Air Force for the supply of Gripen-E fighter aircraft.
- The Gripen-E is a 4.5-generation multi-role fighter aircraft designed for operations in highly challenging air environments.
- This aircraft is manufactured by SAAB AB, a Swedish defense and aerospace company.

Key Features

- The aircraft is powered by the General Electric F414G engine, which will also be utilized in India's Tejas Mk-2 and the proposed AMCA.
- The Gripen-E boasts a maximum speed exceeding Mach 2 and is capable of supersonic flight (Super cruise) without the use of afterburners.
- It is equipped with the Raven ES-05 AESA radar, which provides target detection capabilities across a wide area.
- Through the Skyward-G IRST system, the aircraft can track enemy aircraft without utilizing its radar.
- It features the Arexis electronic warfare suite, which jams enemy radars using digital radio frequency technology.

MoU between AgniVastra and the Indian Army for the Supply of Defense Materials

- AgniVastra signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Army on February 11, 2026, for the supply of defense materials.
- Under this MoU, advanced carbon fabrics and composite materials will be supplied.
- These materials are utilized in armor systems, protective gear, structural components, and high-performance defense platforms.

Technology

2 High Milk Producing Hybrid (Synthetic) Cow Breeds — Karan Fries and Vrindavani Registered

- India has registered two high-milk-producing synthetic cow breeds—Karan Fries and Vrindavani—taking the total number of registered livestock and poultry breeds in the country to 246.
- Both these breeds are capable of producing more than 3,000 kg of milk in a ten-month lactation period.

- Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan handed over registration certificates of 16 new livestock and poultry breeds on 14th January 2026.
- Out of the newly registered 16 breeds, 14 breeds are indigenous, while two breeds belong to the synthetic category.
- The Karan Fries breed has been developed in Haryana from the hybridization of indigenous Tharparkar cows and Holstein-Friesian bulls.
- The Vrindavani breed has been developed in Uttar Pradesh from a mix of exotic dairy breeds and indigenous Haryana cows.
- Synthetic breeds have the potential of high milk production, which will revolutionize India's dairy sector.
- With these new registrations, India now has 242 indigenous and 4 synthetic livestock breeds officially registered.

BSNL's VoWiFi (Wi-Fi Calling) Service

- Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) launched VoWiFi (Voice over WiFi) service across the country from 1st January 2026.
- The service allows customers to make calls and send messages through a Wi-Fi network without a mobile signal.
- VoWiFi is an IMS-based service, enabling seamless handover between Wi-Fi and mobile networks.
- It does not require any third-party app and works from an existing mobile number and phone dialer.
- This service is particularly useful in areas with low mobile coverage, such as basements, high-rise buildings, rural, and mountainous areas.
- The VoWiFi service is completely free and also reduces the load on the network.

India's First Made-in-India "People-First" Artificial Intelligence Platform

- Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani has announced Jio's new AI platform.
- It will be India's first made-in-India "People-First" Artificial Intelligence platform.
- It aims to make AI accessible to every Indian.
- The announcement was made during the Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference held in Rajkot.
- Citizens will be able to access AI services in their own language and on their personal devices.
- It aims to increase productivity, improve efficiency, and strengthen digital inclusion.
- Jio is developing India's largest AI-ready data centre in Jamnagar.

Tata Group's AI Innovation City Initiative

- The Tata Group announced plans to develop an AI Innovation City in Maharashtra with an investment of USD 11 billion.
- The project will be set up near the Navi Mumbai International Airport.
- The main focus of this city will be on Artificial Intelligence, semiconductor services and large-scale data center infrastructure.
- The Centre is envisaged to be developed as a world-class innovation and tech services hub.

ASC Arjun: Indian Railways' First Indigenous Humanoid Robot

- Indian Railways launched its first indigenous humanoid robot ASC ARJUN.
- This robot was deployed at Visakhapatnam railway station.
- This initiative is a significant step towards modernizing the Railway Protection Force (RPF).
- ASC Arjun is an indigenously developed humanoid robot, using Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT) technologies.

Key Features

- It is equipped with a face recognition system, which can identify suspicious individuals or criminals.
- When identified, it sends real-time alerts to the RPF control room via IoT.

- It analyzes the crowd density on the platform with the help of AI and alerts security personnel in case of excessive crowding.
- It provides information and safety instructions to passengers in Hindi, English, and Telugu languages.
- It is equipped with fire and smoke detection sensors, which provide instant warning in case of emergency.

The world's largest battery-electric ship

- Australian shipbuilding company Incat Tasmania has begun harbour trials of the world's largest battery-electric ship 'Hull 096'.
- The ship is 130 meters long and weighs 260 tons.
- During the trial, it operated entirely on battery power for the first time.
- It was tested in the Derwent River in the city of Hobart, Australia.
- The ship is fitted with more than 5,000 batteries, with a total capacity of 40 MWh.
- It holds four times more battery power than any ship ever built.
- The zero emission ship can carry 2,100 passengers and 225 vehicles at a time.

Tata Group-OpenAI AI Data Center

- In February 2026, the Tata Group and OpenAI partnered to establish India's first large-scale AI data centre. Under this project, the TCS HyperVault data centre unit will have an initial capacity of 100 megawatts, which can be scaled up to 1 gigawatt.
- This data centre will be powered by green energy and AI-optimized hardware, enabling large-scale AI training and processing.
- The Tata Group will implement ChatGPT Enterprise across its organizations, while OpenAI will establish offices in Mumbai and Bengaluru.

AI-based 'Bharat Vistar' Platform

- Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched 'Bharat Vistar'—an AI-based digital platform for farmers—from Jaipur on February 17, 2026.
- This platform will provide farmers with information regarding weather, market prices, pest control, soil conditions, crop advisories, and government schemes through calls, chatbots, and a mobile app.
- It has been designed as a voice-first AI platform, enabling farmers to access information by simply calling the helpline number 155261, even using a basic mobile phone.
- In its initial phase, the platform will be available in 11 languages—including Hindi and English—and has been rolled out starting with the states of Maharashtra, Bihar, and Gujarat.

BODH and SAHI Initiatives:

- During the India AI Impact Summit, Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda launched the BODH (Benchmarking Open Data Platform for Health AI) initiative.

BODH is a digital platform.

- It has been developed by IIT Kanpur in collaboration with the National Health Authority (NHA).
- Its objective is to test and validate AI tools against real-world health standards prior to their public deployment.
- BODH evaluates the performance and potential biases of AI models, thereby ensuring the reliability of AI-based diagnostic tools before they are deployed in hospitals.

SAHI (Strategy AI for Health Initiative):

- Launched on February 17, 2026, the SAHI initiative provides a national governance framework and policy guidelines for the safe, ethical, and responsible use of AI in healthcare.
- It offers strategic direction for the governance, data management, validation, deployment, and monitoring of AI solutions.

India Develops 2-Nanometer Semiconductor Chip Design

- India has developed the world's most advanced 2-nanometre semiconductor chip design.
- Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw unveiled the 2-nanometre chip—developed by Qualcomm—in Bengaluru on February 7, 2026.

The 2-Nanometre Chip

- 2nm technology is considered the frontier technology in chip design.
- Smaller nodes result in higher performance, lower energy consumption, and improved efficiency.
- This technology is highly useful in sectors such as AI, telecommunications, and high-performance computing.

iLive Connect: The World's First Doctor-Led, AI-Powered Home Healthcare Ecosystem

- India launched 'iLive Connect' on February 7, 2026.
- It is the world's first doctor-led, AI-based home healthcare ecosystem.
- Its objective is to provide 24×7 medical monitoring to senior citizens and high-risk patients from the comfort of their homes.
- It was developed by cardiothoracic surgeon Dr. Rahul Chandola and interventional cardiologist Dr. Viveka Kumar.
- Under this system, data is transmitted to a secure cloud platform, where expert doctors at a central medical command centre conduct continuous monitoring.

Raman-Driven Spin Noise Spectroscopy (RDSNS)

- Recently, scientists at the Raman Research Institute (RRI) developed a new technique known as Raman-Driven Spin Noise Spectroscopy (RDSNS).
- This constitutes a significant achievement in the fields of quantum physics and sensor technology.
- It is a non-invasive optical technique used to measure the properties of cold atoms—specifically their local density and magnetic characteristics—without perturbing them.
- This technique is based on a combination of Spin Noise Spectroscopy (SNS) and the Raman Effect.
- When laser light passes through an atomic sample, subtle fluctuations in the atomic spins cause changes in the polarization of the light; information is extracted by measuring these changes.
- This process utilizes two additional laser beams, referred to as Raman beams, which drive the atoms between two adjacent spin states.
- This technique is capable of precisely measuring the local density of approximately 10,000 atoms within a minuscule volume of just 0.01 mm³.

Lenacapavir HIV Injection

- Zimbabwe has introduced an injectable HIV prevention medication called Lenacapavir.
- It has become the first country in the world to do so.
- This injection is administered twice a year and provides protection for approximately six months.
- In the first phase, approximately 46,500 high-risk individuals have been targeted.
- This injection is being provided free of cost to young women, as well as to pregnant or breastfeeding mothers.
- Lenacapavir was developed by Gilead Sciences, a biopharmaceutical company based in California.
- Lenacapavir is the first injectable pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV that is administered twice a year.

Universal Nasal Spray Vaccine

- Recently, researchers at Stanford University developed a universal nasal spray vaccine.
- It can provide protection against several respiratory diseases, such as COVID-19, influenza, and pneumonia.
- It is a mucosal vaccine, administered as a nasal spray rather than via injection.

Key Features:

- It has been developed to provide protection against pathogens such as SARS-CoV-2, Influenza A/B, and Streptococcus pneumoniae.
- It utilizes synthetic Nanoparticle and immune-boosting adjuvants.
- When sprayed into the nose, it activates IgA antibodies, which neutralize the virus before it can reach the lungs. By keeping the body's natural immune system active, it can offer protection against various types of respiratory infections.
- It can reduce the viral load entering the body by a factor of 100 to 1,000 times.
- IgA (Immunoglobulin A) is a crucial protein of the immune system, found on the body's mucosal surfaces—such as the nose, throat, lungs, and intestines.

Launch of Indigenous Tetanus and Adult Diphtheria (Td) Vaccine

- Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda launched the indigenously manufactured Tetanus and Adult Diphtheria (Td) vaccine in Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh, on February 21, 2026.
- With this, the Central Research Institute (CRI), Kasauli, has become India's first government institute to manufacture vaccines under 'Good Manufacturing Practice' (GMP) standards.
- Tetanus is a non-communicable disease caused by the bacterium Clostridium tetani.
- It produces the tetanospasmin toxin, which affects the nervous system.
- Diphtheria is a highly contagious respiratory disease caused by the bacterium Corynebacterium diphtheriae.
- It spreads through the coughing or sneezing of an infected person.

Exercises

'Saanjh Shakti' Exercise

- The Indian Army conducted Exercise 'Saanjh Shakti' from 8-9 January 2026.
- The exercise focused on reinforcing coordination between the Armed Forces and civilian agencies.
- It was aimed at improving emergency response, disaster management and public safety in complex security situations.
- The exercise was conducted at Dighi Hills Range, Pune, Maharashtra.

Military Exercise 'Dharma Guardian' 2026

- This is a military exercise conducted between India and Japan.
- Its 7th edition was held from February 24 to March 9, 2026, at the Foreign Training Node located in Chaubattia, Uttarakhand.
- A contingent from the Ladakh Scouts participated on behalf of India, while the 32nd Infantry Regiment of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) participated on behalf of Japan.

Exercise 'Vajra Prahar 2026'

- This is a joint Special Forces exercise between India and the United States.
- It was conducted from February 23 to March 15, 2026, at the Special Forces Training School located in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh. Its objective is to strengthen defense cooperation, enhance interoperability, and improve joint operational capabilities.

Exercise MILAN 2026

- This is the Indian Navy's flagship multilateral biennial naval exercise.
- Its 13th edition was conducted by the Indian Navy from February 15 to 25, 2026, in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (Eastern Naval Command). Its theme was "Camaraderie, Cohesion, and Collaboration."
- Its objective is to enhance maritime security, strategic cooperation, and coordination among navies.

Phases of the Exercise

- Harbour Phase: International Maritime Seminar, Technical Exhibition, MILAN Village, and cultural programs.
- Sea Phase: Maneuvers at sea, anti-submarine warfare, and air defense exercises.

NATO's 'Arctic Sentry' Mission

- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has launched a new military operation named 'Arctic Sentry' to strengthen its presence in the Arctic region.
- This operation was initiated against the backdrop of diplomatic tensions that had arisen between the United States and Denmark over Greenland.
- Arctic Sentry is a multi-domain military activity that integrates various ongoing military exercises within the Arctic region.
- The primary objective of this mission is to bring all military activities of NATO nations in the Arctic under a unified command.

Joint Air Exercise 'Buddy Squadron'

- The Air Forces of South Korea and the United States launched the joint air exercise 'Buddy Squadron' at Osan Air Base, Pyeongtaek.
- This exercise was conducted from February 9 to February 13, 2026.
- Objective: To strengthen tactical coordination and operational readiness between the air forces of both nations.

'In-Situ' Air Exercise

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF) conducted a joint 'in-situ' air exercise near the Strait of Malacca.
- 'In-situ' training refers to joint military exercises conducted under realistic conditions at, or in close proximity to, the actual mission location.
- Its objective is to strengthen operational coordination, interoperability, and India-Thailand defense cooperation in air operations.

Exercise Vayu Shakti-26

- Exercise Vayu Shakti-26 was conducted on February 27, 2026, at the Pokhran Air-to-Ground Range in Jaisalmer.
- It showcased capabilities for rapid airlift, rescue, and evacuation operations, both domestically and abroad.

Exercise Agni Varsha

- The Indian Army conducted 'Exercise Agni Varsha' at the Pokhran Field Firing Range in Rajasthan on February 24, 2026. Its objective was to test the Army's operational capabilities, coordination, and combat skills under realistic, war-like conditions.
- This integrated fire and manoeuvre exercise was led by the Indian Army's Southern Command.

Army-ITBP Joint Exercise 'Agni Pariksha' in Arunachal Pradesh

- A joint training exercise, 'Agni Pariksha', was conducted in Arunachal Pradesh between the Indian Army and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).
- The objective of this exercise was to enhance mutual coordination, jointness, and operational effectiveness in combat-like situations.
- The exercise saw the participation of the Spear Corps, Artillery Regiments, Infantry Battalions, and ITBP units.

Joint Military Exercise Khanjar-XIII

- This is an annual joint Special Forces exercise between India and Kyrgyzstan.

- It was conducted from February 4 to 17, 2026, at Misamari, Assam.
- Objective: To enhance coordination between the Special Forces of both nations in urban warfare and counter-terrorism operations.
- India's Parachute Regiment (Special Forces) and Kyrgyzstan's Scorpion Brigade participated in the exercise.

Indian Navy's International Events

- The Indian Navy organized three major events in Visakhapatnam between February 15 and 25, 2026.
- MILAN 2026: A biennial multilateral naval exercise, inaugurated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, with the theme "Camaraderie, Cooperation, Collaboration."
- IONS Naval Chiefs' Conclave: Held on February 20, 2026, during which India assumed the Chairmanship of IONS for the 2026–2028 term from the Royal Thai Navy.

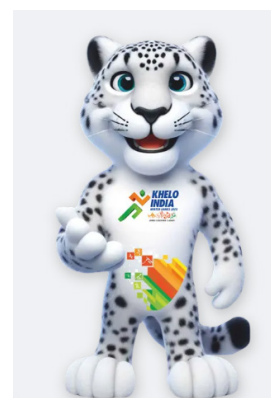
International Fleet Review (IFR) 2026:

- The International Fleet Review 2026 was organized in Visakhapatnam between February 15 and 25, 2026.
- This is a traditional naval event in which the President (the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces) inspects the naval fleet.
- It was hosted by the Eastern Naval Command of the Indian Navy.
- Its themes were "United through Oceans" and "Bridges of Friendship."
- Navies from over 70 countries, comprising 72 delegations and 19 foreign warships, participated in the event

6 Sports

Khelo India Winter Games 2026

- The 6th edition of Khelo India Winter Games 2026 will be held in Leh and Gulmarg.
- The first phase was conducted from 20-26 January 2026 at Leh, Ladakh.
- The following two ice sports, ice hockey and ice skating, were included in this phase.
- The second phase will be held in Gulmarg, Jammu and Kashmir.
- This stage includes the following four snow sports: ski mountaineering, alpine skiing, snowboard, and Nordic skiing.
- For the first time, Winter Olympic Games figure skating was included in the ice skating program.
- They are organized by the Department of Youth Services and Sports and the Sports Authority of India.
- The logo of the Khelo India Winter Games 2026 reflects the energy, resilience and national spirit of the Winter Games.
- The mascot of the Khelo India Winter Games 2026 is "Sheen-a-She.
- This Snow Leopard symbolizes the spirit of Indian winter sports and showcasing Himalayan heritage on the national stage.
- The competition takes place in the team championship format, with the medals won by the athletes added to their respective team's medal tally.
- At the end of the competition, the team with the most gold medals is declared the overall winner.



Key Achievements and Performance

- The Indian Army retained the gold medal by defeating Chandigarh 3-2 in the men's ice hockey final.
- Scarma Tsultim from Ladakh was the most successful athlete of this stage by winning 4 medals in ice skating. At the end of the first phase, Haryana topped the medal tally with 4 gold medals.

Khelo India Winter Games 2026 Phase 1 Medal Tally

Rank	State/UTs/Team	Gold Medal	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal	Total Medals
1	Haryana	4	1	2	7
2	Ladakh	2	5	4	11
3	Maharashtra	2	3	2	7
4	Telangana	2	2	2	6
5	Karnataka	1	2	2	5

Vidarbha won the Vijay Hazare Trophy for the first time.

- Vidarbha won the Vijay Hazare Trophy for the first time by defeating Saurashtra by 38 runs in the final held in Bengaluru. Batting first, Vidarbha scored 317 runs in 50 overs.
- Saurashtra's team was reduced to 279 runs in 48.5 overs.

- Player of the match: Atharva Taide (Vidarbha) (128 runs)
- Player of the Tournament: Aman Mokhade (Vidarbha)
- This was the 33rd edition of the Vijay Hazare Trophy.
- It is India's premier domestic ODI cricket tournament, which is organized by the BCCI.

Khelo India Beach Games 2026 (KIBG 2026)

- It was held from January 5-10, 2026, at Ghoghla Beach (Blue Flag certified) in the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (DNHDD).
- This was the second edition of the Khelo India Beach Games.
- It was organized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) under the 'Khelo India' initiative.
- This year's mascot was 'Pearl', a vibrant dolphin that symbolizes marine conservation and sportsmanship.
- Its tagline was "Khel ke Sitaare, Diu ke Kinaare".
- It consisted of a total of 8 sports, out of which 6 were medal games and 2 were demonstration sports.
- Medal Games: Beach Volleyball, Beach Soccer, Beach Sepak Trak, Beach Kabaddi, Pencak Silat and Open Water Swimming.
- Demonstration Sports: Traditional Indian disciplines such as Mallakhamba and Tug-of-War (Rasakashi).
- It finished first with a total of 11 medals, including 3 gold, 2 silver and 6 bronze.
- Tamil Nadu finished second with 3 gold, 2 silver, 3 bronze medals.
- Manipur finished third with 3 gold, 2 silver, 2 bronze medals.



Elena Rybakina: Australian Open 2026 Women's Singles Champion

- Elena Rybakina won the title by defeating world No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 in the women's singles final of the Australian Open 2026. The match was played at the Rod Laver Arena in Melbourne.
- This is Rybakina's first Australian Open title.
- This is the second Grand Slam title of his career; Earlier, he won Wimbledon 2022.

Novak Djokovic became the first player to win 400+ times in Grand Slam singles

- Serbian tennis player Novak Djokovic registered his 400th win in Grand Slam singles matches.
- He became the first player in the world to achieve this feat.
- He equalled Roger Federer's record with his 102nd win at the Australian Open.
- Djokovic has won 24 Grand Slam titles so far.
- He also holds the record for being the longest-serving world number one ranking.
- If they win the Australian Open 2026, they will become the first player to win 25 Grand Slam titles.

PV Sindhu becomes first Indian shuttler to win 500 singles

- PV Sindhu became the first Indian shuttler to win 500 singles matches on 22 January 2026.
- She is the sixth player in the world to achieve this feat.
- Sindhu has won 500 out of a total of 732 singles matches.
- She won a silver medal at the 2016 Rio Olympics and a bronze medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.
- She was awarded the Arjuna Award in 2013 and the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna in 2016.
- As of January 2026, she is ranked 13th in the world rankings.

Rupa Bauer becomes Asia's No. 1 Indian woman player in Taekwondo

- 24-year-old Rupa Bauer from Sippy village in Arunachal Pradesh achieved a historic feat in Taekwondo.
- He was ranked Asia's No. 1 and the world's No. 6 in the Poomsae category.
- She is the first Indian woman Taekwondo player to achieve this feat.
- Rupa will represent India at the 2026 Asian Games.

Aryan Varsney becomes India's 92nd Chess Grandmaster

- Aryan Varsney became the 92nd Chess Grandmaster to win the Grandmaster (GM) title.
- He is the eighth player from Delhi to become a Grandmaster.
- Aryan Varsney achieved his final GM Norm at the Andranik Margaryan Memorial Tournament held in Armenia.

Grandmaster Title

- Grandmaster is the highest title in chess.
- This title is awarded by FIDE.
- For this, players are required to achieve the three GM norms and exceed the minimum prescribed Elo rating.

Sourav Kothari wins National Billiards title

- India's legendary player Sourav Kothari won the Senior Men's National Billiards title.
- In the final match, he defeated his opponent S. Srikrishna 4-0.
- Apart from this, Maharashtra's Aarav Sancheti won the sub-junior snooker title.

Atika Mir becomes the first Indian woman to break into the top-5 at the IAME UAE Championship

- Jammu and Kashmir's Atika Mir finished in the top-5 on her debut in the IAME UAE Karting Championship.
- She achieved this feat at the Yas Marina Circuit (F1 track) in Abu Dhabi.
- She became the first Indian to make it to the top-5 globally.
- She also became the first woman to finish in the top-5 in the history of the IAME UAE Championship.

Amelia Valverde appointed as senior coach of Indian women's football team

- The All India Football Federation on 20th January 2026 appointed Amelia Valverde as the head coach of the Indian senior women's football team.
- Amelia Valverde is from Costa Rica.
- She has been the coach of the Costa Rica team in the 2015 and 2023 Women's World Cups.
- She received the CONCACAF Female Coach of the Year award in 2016 and the Best Female Manager award in 2023-24.

Sjoerd Marijne appointed as head coach of Indian women's hockey team

- Sjoerd Marijne has been appointed as the head coach of the Indian women's hockey team.
- He was previously India's coach in the 2017-2021 tenure.

Saina Nehwal retires from badminton

- India's badminton player Saina Nehwal announced her retirement on 20 January 2026.
- She last competed at the Singapore Open in June 2023.
- She won a bronze medal at the 2017 World Championships and a gold medal at the 2018 Commonwealth Games.
- Saina Nehwal became the first Indian woman to reach the quarter-finals of women's singles at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.
- In 2009, she became the first Indian player to win the Indonesia Open BWF Super Series title.
- At the 2012 London Olympics, she won India's first Olympic medal in badminton by winning a bronze medal in women's singles.
- In 2015, she became the first Indian woman to become world No. 1 in the women's singles badminton rankings.
- She was awarded the Arjuna Award in 2009 and the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna in 2010.
- Saina was also awarded the Padma Shri in 2010 and the Padma Bhushan in 2016.

Jinson Johnson announces retirement

- Indian middle-distance runner Jinson Johnson announced his retirement from competitive athletics.
- He is a national record holder and Asian Games gold medalist.
- His best performance came at the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games, where he won the gold medal in the 1500m (3min 44.72sec) and the silver medal in the 800m.
- He became the second Indian male sprinter to qualify for the Olympics in the 800m after Sriram Singh.

ICC Player of the Month (December 2025)

- South Africa captain Laura Wolvaardt was named the ICC Women's Player of the Month for December 2025. He scored an unbeaten 115 in the T20I series against Ireland.
- Australia fast bowler Mitchell Starc was named the ICC Men's Player of the Month for December 2025.
- He became the highest wicket-taker in the Ashes series with 31 wickets.
- He was also named the Player of the Series for the Ashes series.

Nat Sciver-Brunt scores first century of Women's Premier League

- In the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2026, Nat Sciver-Brunt scored the first century of the Women's Premier League.
- She achieved this feat against Royal Challengers Bangalore while playing for Mumbai Indians.
- She scored an unbeaten 100 off 57 balls and the innings included 16 fours and 1 six.

Deepti Sharma becomes highest wicket-taker in women's T20 cricket

- Indian women's cricketer Deepti Sharma became the highest wicket-taker in women's T20 International cricket.
- She broke the record of Australia's Megan Schutt (151 wickets) by taking the 152nd wicket in the match played against Sri Lanka in Thiruvananthapuram.
- She is also currently ranked No. 1 in the ICC Women's T20I bowling rankings.

Virat Kohli became the second highest run-scorer in international cricket

- Virat Kohli has become the second highest run-scorer in international cricket.
- He surpassed Kumar Sangakkara's record of 28,016 international runs while playing an innings of 93 runs against New Zealand.
- Virat Kohli now has a total of 28,068 runs in Tests, ODIs and T20 Internationals.
- In this list, he is behind only Sachin Tendulkar, who has the most runs to his name.

MS Dhoni Goodwill Ambassador of Bajaj Pune Grand Tour 2026

- Former Indian cricket captain MS Dhoni has been appointed as the Goodwill Ambassador of the Bajaj Pune Grand Tour 2026.
- The competition was held in Pune from 19th to 23rd January, 2026.
- India hosted the first international level professional road cycling race.
- It was India's first UCI-recognized multi-stage professional road cycling race.
- The Pune Grand Tour 2026 is India's first men's Continental road cycling race in the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) 2.2 category.

NTPC Khelo India National Ranking Archery Tournament 2026

- It was organized from 21st to 23rd January 2026 in Ambaji, Gujarat.
- More than 500 archers from 28 States and 8 Union Territories participated.

11th India International Youth Sailing Championship 2026

- The championship was organized at Chennai Port from 4th to 10th January 2026.
- It is India's oldest international youth sailing competition.
- It was attended by 117 young sailors from 13 countries and included 5 sailing categories.

National Sports Governance (National Sports Bodies) Rules, 2026

- The Central Government notified the National Sports Governance Rules, 2026 to give effect to the National Sports Governance Act, 2025. These aim to ensure transparency, accountability and player-centric governance in sports administration.
- These rules define the governance structure of national sports bodies and regional sports federations.
- These include the composition of the general body and executive committee, the election process, and the eligibility conditions.
- Under this, it is mandatory to include a minimum of 4 Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit (SOMs) in the General Assembly of every National Sports Body.
- Out of these, 50 per cent representation is required to be women. Its eligibility includes a minimum age of 25 years, retirement from active sports, and a cooling-off period of one year.
- It is mandatory to have at least four women in the Executive Committee of every National Sports Body.
- Sports bodies can reserve specific posts for women through their bye-laws.
- The rules prescribe a phased and time-bound election process.
- Persons convicted and sentenced to imprisonment by a court will not be eligible to contest elections or hold office.

Padma Awards given to sportspersons 2026

- The Government of India has honoured 9 sportspersons and coaches associated with the world of sports under the Padma Awards 2026.

Padma Awards 2026: List of Sports Winners

S. No.	Name	Award
1	Vijay Amritraj	Padma Bhushan
2	Baldev Singh	Padma Shri
3	Bhagwandas Raikwar	Padma Shri
4	Harmanpreet Kaur	Padma Shri
5	K. Pozanievel	Padma Shri
6	Praveen Kumar	Padma Shri
7	Rohit Sharma	Padma Shri
8	Savita Punia	Padma Shri
9	Vladimir Mestavirishvili (posthumously)	Padma Shri

Vijay Amritraj

- Indian tennis legend Vijay Amritraj was awarded the Padma Bhushan.
- He represented India at the Seoul Olympics 1988 and won 16 singles and 14 doubles titles in his career. He achieved the 18th position in the world singles rankings in 1980.
- Vijay Amritraj reached the Grand Slam singles quarterfinals four times.

Rohit Sharma

- Rohit Sharma was awarded the Padma Shri for leading the Indian team to title victories in the T20 World Cup 2024 and the Champions Trophy 2026.

Harmanpreet Kaur

- Harmanpreet Kaur was awarded the Padma Shri for her contribution to the Indian women's cricket team winning the first ever ODI World Cup title.

Savita Punia

- Indian women's hockey team goalkeeper Savita Punia was awarded the Padma Shri.

- She was the vice-captain of the team at the Tokyo Olympics 2020, where India finished fourth.
- She became the second Indian goalkeeper to play 300 international matches.
- Legendary Georgian wrestling coach Vladimir Mestvirishvili was posthumously awarded the Padma Shri.
- He became the first foreign coach to receive the Padma Shri. And he trained many Indian Olympic medalists.
- Hockey player and coach Baldev Singh received the Padma Shri for his contribution to sports and coaching. He has also received the Dronacharya Award in 2009 for his contribution to the coaching field.

MoU for Women's FIH Hockey World Cup Qualifier 2026

- The Government of Telangana and Hockey India have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to host the Women's FIH Hockey World Cup Qualifier 2026 .
- The tournament will be held in Hyderabad from 8th to 14th March 2026.
- A total of eight teams will participate in this competition.
- The participating teams are India, England, Scotland, Korea, Italy, Uruguay, Wales and Austria.
- The top three teams will qualify for the FIH Hockey World Cup 2026 .
- Note: The FIH Hockey World Cup 2026 will be held in Belgium and the Netherlands.
- The tournament is scheduled from 15th to 30th August 2026.

2026 Winter Olympics

- The 2026 Winter Olympics (XXV Winter Olympic Games) were held from February 6 to 22, 2026, in Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy.
- Approximately 2,900 athletes from 92 National Olympic Committees participated in this event.
- The Games featured 116 medal events across 8 sports and 16 disciplines.

Medal Tally

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Norway	18	12	11	41
2	United States of America	12	12	9	33
3	Netherlands	10	7	3	20

- Several countries, including India, failed to win any medals in this edition.

India Wins ICC U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2026

- In February 2026, India's U-19 men's cricket team won a record sixth ICC U-19 World Cup title by defeating England by 100 runs in the final match played at the Harare Sports Club in Zimbabwe.
- The 16th edition of the tournament was held in Zimbabwe and Namibia from January 15 to February 6, 2026. Vaibhav Suryavanshi played a historic innings of 175 runs off 80 balls. This stands as the highest individual score in a U-19 World Cup final. In the final, India posted a total of 411/9 in 50 overs, marking the highest team score ever recorded in a U-19 World Cup final.
- The England team was bowled out for 311 runs in 40.2 overs.
- Vaibhav Suryavanshi was named the Player of the Match in the final and the Player of the Tournament overall.

Women's Premier League 2026: RCB Wins the Title

- On February 5, 2026, Royal Challengers Bangalore won the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2026 title for the second time. In the final match played in Vadodara, RCB defeated the Delhi Capitals by six wickets.
- Batting first, the Delhi Capitals posted a total of 203 runs for the loss of 4 wickets.
- RCB secured the victory by successfully chasing down the highest target ever achieved in a Women's Premier League final.
- Smriti Mandhana played a decisive innings, scoring 87 runs off 41 balls.
- RCB became the only franchise to have won both the IPL and Women's Premier League titles.

Key Awards and Honours

- Smriti Mandhana was named the Player of the Match in the final.
- Sophie Devine was declared the Player of the Tournament.
- Nandini Sharma received the Emerging Player of the Season award.
- Smriti Mandhana was awarded the Orange Cap for scoring the most runs.
- Sophie Devine was honored with the Purple Cap for taking the most wickets.

Pankaj Advani Wins Liber Win Championship Cup 2026

- Indian billiards and snooker player Pankaj Advani won the inaugural title of the Liber Win Championship Cup 2026. He defeated Kamal Chawla 6–3 in the final, played at the Karnataka State Billiards Association (KSBA) in Bengaluru.
- Following this victory, Advani has been appointed as the Indian Brand Ambassador for Liber Win.

Asian Rifle/Pistol Championship 2026

- This championship was held from February 2 to 14, 2026, at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range in New Delhi. In this event, India won a total of 94 medals—including 51 gold, 23 silver, and 20 bronze—securing the first position in the medal tally.
- Kazakhstan finished in second place with 26 medals (3 gold, 16 silver, 7 bronze), while Uzbekistan took the third spot with 4 medals (3 gold, 1 silver).
- More than 300 athletes from 20 countries participated in the event.
- Competitions were held in disciplines such as 10m Air Rifle, 10m Air Pistol, 25m Pistol, and 50m Rifle 3 Positions.

FIDE Freestyle Chess World Championship 2026

- Norwegian Grandmaster Magnus Carlsen won the inaugural FIDE Freestyle Chess World Championship, held from February 13–15, 2026, at the Weissenhaus in Germany.
- He defeated American Fabiano Caruana 2.5–1.5 in the final.
- With this victory, Carlsen claimed his 21st world title across various formats.
- The event was organized by FIDE and Freestyle Chess Operations GmbH.

ITF W100 Bengaluru 2026

- This tournament was held from February 16 to 22, 2026, at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium in Bengaluru (Karnataka). Belgium's Hanne Vandewinkel won the ITF Women's W100 Bengaluru 2026 title.
- She defeated India's Shrivalli Bhamidipaty Adakar 6–0, 6–1 in the final.
- Shrivalli Bhamidipaty Adakar became the first Indian woman to reach an ITF W100 final since Sania Mirza (2009). She rose to become India's number-two ranked tennis player, while Sahaja Yamalapalli remained India's top-ranked player.
- Additionally, Japan's Misaki Matsuda and Eri Shimizu won the women's doubles title.
- In the final, they defeated the pair of Ankita Raina (India) and Priska Madelyn Nugroho (Indonesia) 6–4, 3–6, 10–5.

Delhi Open 2026

- Greece's Stefanos Sakellaridis won the men's singles title at the Delhi Open 2026.
- In the final, he defeated Britain's Oliver Crawford 7-5, 5-6, 7-6.
- This marks his first ATP Challenger Tour singles title.

Doubles Winners:

- Siddhant Banthia (India) and Alexandar Donski (Bulgaria) won the doubles title.
- They defeated Niki Kaliyanda Poonacha (India) and Prucha Isaro (Thailand).
- This is the third time that an Indian tennis player has won the doubles trophy at the Delhi Open.
- The Indian pairs of Saketh Myneni-Sanam Singh and Yuki Bhambri-Mahesh Bhupathi had won the doubles titles in 2015 and 2016, respectively.

Asian Indoor Athletics Championships 2026

- This championship was held in Tianjin, China, from February 6 to 8, 2026.
- China topped the medal table with a total of 34 medals, including 10 gold, 11 silver, and 13 bronze.
- India secured the sixth position in the medal tally, winning a total of 5 medals.
- Tejaswin Shankar won India's sole gold medal by triumphing in the men's heptathlon event.
- Additionally, Pooja won a silver medal in the high jump, and Tajinderpal Singh Toor won a silver medal in the shot put.
- Ancy Sojan won a bronze medal in the long jump, and J. Adarsh Ram won a bronze medal in the men's high jump event.

Santosh Trophy 2025-26: Services Wins Eighth Title

- The Services football team won their eighth Santosh Trophy title on February 8, 2026, defeating Kerala 1-0 in the final during extra time.
- The final match was played at the Dhemaji Football Stadium in Assam.
- A prize money of ₹5 lakh was awarded to the winners, Services, while the runners-up, Kerala, received ₹3 lakh.
- The tournament was held from December 15, 2025, to February 8, 2026.
- Abhishek Pawar of Services scored the decisive goal.
- The Services team comprises players from the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force.

India Wins SAFF U-19 Women's Football Championship 2026 Title

- India's U-17 Women's National Football Team clinched this championship on February 7, 2026, by defeating Bangladesh 4-0 in the final match held at the Pokhara Rangashala Stadium in Nepal.
- The tournament was held from January 31 to February 7, 2026, marking its 7th edition.
- The competition was organized by the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF).
- India, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bhutan participated in the event.
- India won this title for the third time, having previously secured victories in 2022 and 2024.
- Among the individual awards, Bangladesh's Alpi Akter was named the Most Valuable Player (MVP) and finished as the top goalscorer.
- India's Munni received the Best Goalkeeper award, while the Indian team was presented with the Fair Play Award.

Pro Wrestling League 2026: Haryana Thunders Crowned Champions

- The Haryana Thunders won the 2026 Pro Wrestling League title.
- In the final held at the Noida Indoor Stadium, the Haryana Thunders defeated the Delhi Dangal Warriors.
- After eight bouts, the score remained tied at 4-4, leading to a decisive final match.
- In the women's 62 kg category, Iryna Koliadenko secured a 5-4 victory, clinching the championship for Haryana.

Key Awards

- Turan Bayramov (Delhi Dangal Warriors): Named Player of the Tournament.
- Chandramohan (Punjab Royals): Finished as the tournament's highest-scoring player.
- Neha Sangwan (Haryana Thunders): Received the Player of the Match award for her performance in the final.

Para Throwball National Federation Cup 2026: Jharkhand Women's Team Wins Gold Medal

- The Jharkhand women's team won the gold medal at the Para Throwball National Federation Cup 2026. In the final, Jharkhand defeated Rajasthan 21-17 to clinch the title.
- Additionally, in the men's category, Andhra Pradesh won the gold medal.
- Telangana finished as the runner-up, while Haryana secured the bronze medal.

Awards & Honors

Padma Awards 2026

- The President of India has approved a total of 131 Padma Awards for the year 2026.
- These include 5 Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan and 113 Padma Shri Awards.
- There are also 2 duet awards on the list, which have been considered the same award.
- The awardees include 19 women.
- In addition, 6 persons from the Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI category and 16 posthumous awardees are also included in the list.

Padma Vibhushan (5)

S. No.	Name	Field	State/ Country
1	Shri Dharmendra Singh Deol (posthumously)	Art	Maharashtra
2	Mr. K. T. Thomas	Public Affairs	Kerala
3	Ms. N. Rajam	Art	Uttar Pradesh
4	Shri P. Narayanan	Literature and Education	Kerala
5	Shri V.S. Achuthanandan (posthumously)	Public Affairs	Kerala

Padma Bhushan (13)

S. No.	Name	Field	State/ country
1	Ms. Alka Yagnik	Art	Maharashtra
2	Shri Bhagat Singh Koshyari	Public Affairs	Uttarakhand
3	Sri Kallipatti Ramasamy Palaniswami	Medical	Tamil Nadu
4	Mr. Mammooty	Art	Kerala
5	Dr. Nori Dattatreya MD	Medical or surgical treatment	United States
6	Shri Piyush Pandey (Posthumously)	Art	Maharashtra
7	Shri S.K.M. Mailanandan	Social Work	Tamil Nadu
8	Shri Shatawadhani R. Ganesh	Art	Karnataka
9	Shri Shibu Soren (Posthumously)	Public Affairs	Jharkhand
10	Mr. Uday Kotak	Trade and Industry	Maharashtra
11	Shri V.K. Malhotra (Posthumously)	Public Affairs	Delhi
12	Shri Vellopalli Natsen	Public Affairs	Kerala
13	Shri Vijay Amritraj	Sports	United States

Padma Shri Awards (Total 113)

S. No.	Name	Field	State/ country
1	Mr. A. E. Muthunaigam	Science and Engineering	Kerala
2	Mr. Anil Kumar Rastogi	Art	Uttar Pradesh
3	Shri Anke Gowda M.	Social Work	Karnataka

4	Ms. Armida Fernandez	Medical or surgical treatment	Maharashtra
5	Mr. Arvind Vaidya	Art	Gujrat
6	Mr. Ashok Khade	Trade and Industry	Maharashtra
7	Mr. Ashok Kumar Singh	Science and Engineering	Uttar Pradesh
8	Mr. Ashok Kumar Haldhar	Literature and Education	West Bengal
9	Mr. Baldev Singh	Sports	Punjab
10	Mr. Bhagwandas Raikwar	Sports	Madhya Pradesh
11	Mr. Bharat Singh Bharti	Art	Bihar
12	Mr. Bhiklya Ladkya Dhinda	Art	Maharashtra
13	Shri Vishwa Bandhu (Posthumously): (Yes) Yes, Sir.	Art	Bihar
14	Mr. Brij Lal Bhatt	Social Work	Jammu and Kashmir
15	Sri Buddha Rashmi Mani	Other (archaeology)	Uttar Pradesh
16	Dr. Budhari Tati MD	Social Work	Chhattisgarh
17	Mr. Chandramouli Gaddamanugu	Science and Engineering	Telangana
18	Mr. Charan Hembram	Literature and Education	Odisha
19	Mr. Chiranji Lal Yadav	Art	Uttar Pradesh
20	Ms. Deepika Reddy	Art	Telangana
21	Mr. Dharmalal Chunnilal Pandya	Art	Gujrat
22	Mr. Gadde Babu Rajendra Prasad	Art	Andhra Pradesh
23	Mr. Ghaffaruddin Mewati Jogi	Art	Rajasthan
24	Mr. Gambhir Singh Yonzone	Literature and Education	West Bengal
25	Mr. Garimela Balkrishna Prasad (Posthumous)	Art	Andhra Pradesh
26	Ms. Gayathri Balasubramaniam & Ms. Ranjani Balasubramaniam (Two)	Art	Tamil Nadu
27	Mr. Gopal Ji Trivedi	Science and Engineering	Bihar
28	Mr. Guduru Venkata Rao	Medicine	Telangana
29	Mr. H.V. Hande	Medicine	Tamil Nadu
30	Mr. Haley Warr.	Social Work	Meghalay
31	Mr. Hari Madhab Mukhopadhyay (Posthumous)	Art	West Bengal
32	Shri Haricharan Saikia	Art	Assam
33	Ms. Harmanpreet Kaur Bhullar	Sports	Punjab
34	Mr. Inderjit Singh Sidhu	Social Work	Chandigarh
35	Mr. Janardhan Bapurao Bothe	Social Work	Maharashtra
36	Mr. Jogesh Deuri	Other (Agriculture)	Assam
37	Mr. Jooser Wasi	Science and Engineering	Maharashtra
38	Mr. Jyotish Debnath	Art	West Bengal
39	Mr. K. Pajanivel	Sports	Puducherry
40	Mr. K. Ramasami	Science and Engineering	Tamil Nadu
41	Mr. K. Vijay Kumar	civil service	Tamil Nadu
42	Mr. Kavindra Purkayastha (Posthumously)	Public Affairs	Assam

43	Mr. Kailash Chandra Pant	Literature and Education	Madhya Pradesh
44	Ms. Kalamandalam Vimala Menon	Art	Kerala
45	Mr. Kewal Krishna Thakral	Medicine	Uttar Pradesh
46	Mr. Khem Raj Sundariyal	Art	Haryana
47	Ms. Kollakal Devaki Amma ji	Social Work	Kerala
48	Mr. Krishnamurthy Balasubramaniam	Science and Engineering	Telangana
49	Mr. Kumar Bose	Art	West Bengal
50	Mr. Kumarasamy Thangaraj	Science and Engineering	Telangana
51	Prof. (Dr.) Lars-Christian Koch	Art	Germany
52	Ms. Lyudmila Viktorovna Khokhlova	Literature and Education	Russia
53	Mr. Madhavan Ranganathan	Art	Maharashtra
54	Mr. Maganti Murali Mohan	Art	Andhra Pradesh
55	Mr. Mahendra Kumar Mishra	Literature and Education	Odisha
56	Mr. Mahendra Nath Rai	Literature and Education	West Bengal
57	Mr. M. Jagdish Kumar	Literature and Education	Delhi
58	Ms. Mangala Kapoor	Literature and Education	Uttar Pradesh
59	Mr. Mir Hajibhai Kasambhai	Art	Gujrat
60	Mr. Mohan Nagar	Social Work	Madhya Pradesh
61	Mr. Narayan Vyas	Other (Archaeology)	Madhya Pradesh
62	Mr. Naresh Chandra Dev Varma	Literature and Education	Tripura
63	Mr. Nilesh Vinodchandra Mandlewala	Social Work	Gujrat
64	Mr. Nooruddin Ahmed	Art	Assam
65	Mr. Othuvar Thiruthani Swaminathan	Art	Tamil Nadu
66	Dr. Padma Gurmet	Medical or surgical treatment	Ladakh
67	Mr. Palakonda Vijaya Ananda Reddy	Medical or surgical treatment	Telangana
68	Ms. Pokhila Lekthepe	Art	Assam
69	Dr. Prabhakar Basavaprabhu Kore	Literature and Education	Karnataka
70	Mr. Prateek Sharma	Medical or surgical treatment	United States
71	Mr. Praveen Kumar	Sports	Uttar Pradesh
72	Mr. Prem Lal Gautam	Science and Engineering	Himachal Pradesh
73	Mr. Prosenjit Chatterjee	Art	West Bengal
74	Dr. Punniamurthy Natesan MD	Medical or surgical treatment	Tamil Nadu
75	Mr. R. Krishnan (Posthumous)	Art	Tamil Nadu
76	Mr. R.V.S. Mani	Civil service	Delhi
77	Mr. Rabilal Tudu	Literature and Education	West Bengal
78	Mr. Raghupat Singh (Posthumous):	Other (Agriculture)	Uttar Pradesh
79	Mr. Raghuvveer Tukaram Khedkar	Art	Maharashtra
80	Mr. Rajastapathi Kaliappa Gounder	Art	Tamil Nadu
81	Mr. Rajendra Prasad	Medical or surgical treatment	Uttar Pradesh
82	Mr. RAMA REDDY MAMIDI (posthumously):	Other (Animal Husbandry)	Telangana
83	Mr. Ramamurthy Sridhar	Other (radio broadcasts)	Delhi

84	Mr. Ramchandra Godbole and Ms. Sunita Godbole (Two)	Medical or surgical treatment	Chhattisgarh
85	Mr. Ratilal Borisagar	Literature and Education	Gujrat
86	Mr. Rohit Sharma	Sports	Maharashtra
87	Ms. S.G. Sushilamma	Social Work	Karnataka
88	Mr. Sangyusang S. Pongener	Art	Nagaland
89	Sant Niranjana Das	Other (Spiritualism)	Punjab
90	Mr. Sarat Kumar Patra	Art	Odisha
91	Mr. Saroj Mandal	Medical or surgical treatment	West Bengal
92	Mr. Satish Shah (Posthumous)	Art	Maharashtra
93	Mr. Satyanarayan Nuwal	Trade and Industry	Maharashtra
94	Ms. Savita Punia	Sports	Haryana
95	Prof. Shafi Hobby	Literature and Education	Jammu and Kashmir
96	Mr. Shashi Sekhar Vempati	Literature and Education	Karnataka
97	Mr. Shrirang Deoba Lad	Other (Agriculture)	Maharashtra
98	Ms. Shubha Venkatesh Iyengar	Science and Engineering	Karnataka
99	Mr. Shyam Sundar	Medical or surgical treatment	Uttar Pradesh
100	Mr. Seemanchal Patro	Art	Odisha
101	Ms. Sivashankri	Literature and Education	Tamil Nadu
102	Dr. Suresh Hanagawadi MD	Medical or surgical treatment	Karnataka
103	Swami Brahmadev Ji Maharaj	Social Work	Rajasthan
104	Mr. T.T. Jagannathan (Posthumous)	Trade and Industry	Karnataka
105	Mr. Taga Ram Bhil	Art	Rajasthan
106	Mr. Tarun Bhattacharya	Art	West Bengal
107	Mr. Tei Gubin	Social Work	Arunachal Pradesh
108	Mr. Thiruvarur Baktavatsalam	Art	Tamil Nadu
109	Ms. Trupti Mukherjee	Art	West Bengal
110	Mr. Vizhinathan Kamakoti	Science and Engineering	Tamil Nadu
111	Mr. Vempati Kutumba Shastri	Literature and Education	Andhra Pradesh
112	Mr. Vladimir Mestvirishvili (posthumously)	Sports	Georgia
113	Shri Yumnam Jatra Singh (posthumously)	Art	Manipur

Padma Awards

- The Padma Awards are one of the highest civilian honours of India.
- These are provided in 3 categories:
 1. Padma Vibhushan
 2. Padma Bhushan
 3. Padma Shri
- The awards are given in various fields including art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports and civil service.
- The award for 'Special Service' is 'Padma Vibhushan', 'Padma Bhushan' for distinguished service of high order and 'Padma Shri' for distinguished service in any field.
- The Padma Awards were instituted in 1954.

- The nominations for the award are accepted through the Rashtriya Puraskar portal of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- There is no cash or pension accorded to the Padma Awards.
- The Padma Awards are announced on the occasion of Republic Day every year.
- These honours are conferred by the President of India at ceremonies held at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Gallantry Awards for Armed Forces Personnel (2026)

- On the eve of the 77th Republic Day, the President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu approved Gallantry Awards to 70 Armed Forces personnel.
- These include 6 posthumous awards.
- These awards include 1 Ashok Chakra, 3 Kirti Chakra, 13 Shaurya Chakra (including 1 posthumous), 1 Bar-II Sena Medal (Gallantry), 44 Sena Medals (Gallantry) (including 5 Posthumous), 6 Nav Sena Medals (Gallantry) and 2 Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry).
- Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla (Flying (Pilot), Air Force) was awarded the Ashok Chakra.

Kirti Chakra

S. No.	Rank & Name	Service
1	Major Arshdeep Singh	Armed, 1 Assam Rifles, Army
2	Naib Subedar Doleshwar Subba	2 Para (SF), Army
3	Group Captain Prashanth Balakrishnan Nair	Flying (pilot), Air Force

Shaurya Chakra

S. No.	Rank & Name	Service
1	Lt Col Ghatge Aditya Sreekumar	21 Para (SF), Army
2	Major Anshul Baltoo	Jak Lee, 32 Assam Rifles, Army
3	Major Shivkant Yadav	5 Para (SF), Army
4	Major Vivek	Mechanized Infantry, 42 RR, Army
5	Major Leishangthem Deepak Singh	11 Para (SF), Army
6	Captain Yogendra Singh Thakur	6 Para (SF), Army
7	Subedar P. H. Moses	1 Assam Rifles, Army
8	L/DFR Baldev Chand	Armed, 4 RR (Posthumously), Army
9	Rifleman Mangalem Song Weifei	3 Assam Rifles, Army
10	Rifleman Dhurba Jyoti Dutta	33 Assam Rifles, Army
11	Lieutenant Commander Dilna K	Navy
12	Lt Cdr Roopa A	Navy
13	Assistant Commandant Vipin Wilson	Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)

Colonel Sophia Qureshi gets Vishisht Seva Medal

- Colonel Sophia Qureshi of the Army was selected for the Vishisht Seva Medal on 26 January 2026.
- She held a press briefing with Wing Commander Vyomika Singh and Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri after Operation Sindoor.
- Col Sophia is a communication specialist and in 2016, she led the multinational exercise Force-18 conducted with ASEAN-plus countries. She was the first woman officer to lead the exercise.
- She represented India in the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo during 2016 to 2017.

Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla honoured with Ashok Chakra

- Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla of the Indian Air Force was awarded the Ashok Chakra.

- Shubhanshu Shukla stayed on the International Space Station for 18 days under NASA's Axiom-4 mission. He began his space journey on 25 June 2025 and returned to Earth on 14 July 2025.
- Born in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, Shubhanshu is the only Indian to go to the International Space Station and the second Indian to go to space overall.
- They will also be part of ISRO's Gaganyaan space mission.
- The Ashok Chakra is the country's highest peacetime gallantry award.
- As per tradition, the Ashok Chakra winners participate in the Republic Day parade every year.

Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards - 2025

- The President of India has approved the conferment of Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards - 2025 to 30 persons on 25th January, 2026.
- The total awards in this series are broken down as follows:
 - 06 Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Medal
 - 06 Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak
 - 18 Jeevan Raksha Padak
- Out of these awards, 6 persons have been conferred this honour posthumously.

Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak

S. No.	Name	condition	State/ Department
1	Shri Manohar Singh Chauhan	Posthumously	Madhya Pradesh
2	Shri Rajendra Prasad Mishra	—	Madhya Pradesh
3	Shri P.S. Gowrishankar Raja	Posthumously	Tamil Nadu
4	Hero Ashutosh Biswas	Posthumously	Ministry of Defence
5	Mr. Deepak Kumar	Posthumously	Ministry of Defence
6	Naib Subedar Manjit	Posthumously	Ministry of Defence

Republic Day Parade 2026: Navy and Maharashtra get top honours

- Awards for the best marching contingents and best tableaux were given during the Republic Day Parade 2026.

Best Marching Contingents (as judged by the judges)

- Best marching contingent among the three Services: Indian Navy
- Best among CAPFs/Other Auxiliary Forces: Delhi Police

Top three tableaux of States/UTs

- Maharashtra – Ganeshotsav: A symbol of self-reliance
- Jammu and Kashmir – Handicrafts and Folk Dances
- Kerala – Water Metro and 100% Digital Literacy: Aatmanirbhar Kerala for Aatmanirbhar Bharat

Best tableaux in Central Ministries/Departments

- Ministry of Culture – Vande Mataram: The Call of the Soul of a Nation

Special Rewards

- Central Public Works Department (CPWD) – Commemoration of 150 years of Vande Mataram

People's Choice Award as per MyGov Portal

Best Marching Troops (Poll)

- In the Army: Assam Regiment
- In CAPF/Other Auxiliary Forces: CRPF

Top Three Tableaux (States/UTs)

1. Gujarat – Mantra of Swadeshi: Self-reliance – Freedom: Vande Mataram
2. Uttar Pradesh – Culture of Bundelkhand
3. Rajasthan – Golden Touch of the Desert: Usta Art of Bikaner

Best Tableau in Central Ministries (Janmat)

- Ministry of School Education and Literacy – National Education Policy 2020: Taking Indian School Education on the Path of Viksit Bharat

Sikkim Police honoured with President's Police Colour Award

- Sikkim Police has been awarded the President's Police Colour Award.
- With this honor, Sikkim became the 15th state in India to receive this award after independence.
- It is the third state in North East India to receive this honour.
- The President's Police Colour Award is commonly referred to as 'Nishan'.
- It is awarded to police forces for exceptional service, discipline, valor and professional excellence.

Gallantry/Service Medals for Police and Other Services

- A total of 982 personnel of Police, Fire, Home Guards, Civil Defence and Correctional Services were awarded Gallantry and Service Medals on the occasion of Republic Day 2026.
- A total of 125 Gallantry Medals were awarded which includes 121 Police personnel and 04 Fire Service personnel.
- The awardees include 35 from Left Wing Extremism affected areas, 45 from Jammu and Kashmir region, 05 from North Eastern Region and 40 from other areas.
- These medals are awarded for exceptional bravery and for protecting life and property or preventing crime by taking great risks.

Service Medal

- President's Medal for Distinguished Service (PSM): Total 101
 - 89 Police Services
 - 05 Fire Services
 - 03 Civil Defence & Home Guards
 - 04 Correctional Services
- The awards were conferred on personnel for their dedication, courage and outstanding contribution in the internal security, disaster management and correctional services of the country.

Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2026

- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) announced the winners of the Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2026 on January 23, 2026.

Award Winners

- Institutional Category: Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA)
- SSDMA was established in 2005.
- It deployed 1,185 Aapda Mitras and played a crucial role in rescue operations during the 2016 Mantam landslide and the 2023 Teesta floods.
- Individual Category: Lt Col Sita Ashok Shelke, Indian Army
- He led the 2024 Wayanad flood relief campaign.
- They restored connectivity via the Bailey Bridge, mobilized 150 tons of equipment and trained more than 2,300 personnel.

Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar

- The award is announced on 23rd January every year from 2022.
- In the institutional category, Rs 51 lakh and a certificate are given.
- In the individual category, Rs 5 lakh and a certificate are awarded.

C-DOT Awarded SKOCH Award-2025

- The Centre for Development of Telematics was awarded the SKOCH Award-2025 for its Cell Broadcast Solution (CBS).
- The award was presented during the 104th SKOCH Summit on the theme “Resource Developed India”.
- The SKOCH Award is given to government and private institutions for outstanding contribution in the field of governance and development.

C-DOT’s Cell Broadcast Solution

- It is an integrated disaster and emergency warning platform.
- It connects various agencies on a common platform, including the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

Ati Vishisht Rail Service Award – 2025

- Indian Railways felicitated 100 officers and staff under the 70th Ati Vishisht Rail Service Awards – 2025.
- The awards were conferred for their exceptional service and outstanding contribution.
- The award ceremony was held on 9th January 2026 at Yashobhoomi Convention Centre, New Delhi.
- The objective of these awards is to honour individuals who have contributed to strengthening railway operations, safety and public service delivery.
- The Ati Vishisht Rail Seva Award is one of the highest service honours of Indian Railways.
- It recognizes outstanding contributions in various fields, including:
 - Innovation: Initiatives that improve processes and increase productivity.
 - Courage and Selfless Service: Exceptional courage to protect passengers and railway property.
 - Operation Excellence: Excellent performance in safety, maintenance, and infrastructure protection.
 - Institutional Excellence: Best performing railway zones.
 - Exemplary Service: Notable contributions made in various fields.

Music composer Ilayaraaja gets Padmapani award

- Veteran music composer Ilayaraaja has been conferred with the prestigious ‘Padmapani’ award.
- The honour will be presented to him at the 11th Ajanta-Ellora International Film Festival.

Padmapani Awards

- It is a prestigious honour of the Ajanta – Ellora International Film Festival.
- The award is given for exceptional contribution in the field of cinema and art.
- This includes a memento, a citation, and a cash prize of ₹2 lakh.
- Ilayaraaja is counted among the greatest composers of Indian cinema.
- The 11th Ajanta-Ellora International Film Festival was held in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar (Maharashtra) from 28 January to 1 February 2026.

Major Swati Shanta Kumar honoured with UN honour

- Indian Army officer Major Swati Shanta Kumar was honoured with the United Nations Secretary General Award 2025. She was given this honor in the gender category.
- She is currently serving in the United Nations South Sudan Mission (UNMISS).
- Her project “Equal Partners, Lasting Peace” was voted the best among the nominations received from all UN peacekeeping operations.
- The award is given to initiatives that promote gender equality and gender-sensitive peacekeeping.
- Major Swati led the Indian engagement team under the project “Equal Partners, Lasting Peace”.

Shrinivas Dempo honoured with Italy’s prestigious civilian honour

- Italy honoured Goan industrialist Shrinivas Dempo with the Cavaliere dell’Ordine della Stella d’Italia award. This honor is one of Italy’s highest civilian titles.

- He was awarded this honor for his support to Italian citizens living in India.
- Shrinivas Dempo was recognized for his continuous efforts to strengthen institutional and community ties between India and Italy.

Dr. Chandrakant Lahariya receives Wylie Research Heroes Award

- Dr. Chandrakant Lahariya won the Wylie Research Heroes Award 2025 on 22nd January 2026.
- He was awarded this honor in the category "Impact Beyond the Academic Field".
- He is the first and only Indian to receive this award.
- A total of five global winners were selected in the year 2025.

Other winners:

- Dr. Katie Brooker (Australia)
- Prof. Trevor Charles (Canada)
- Prof. Deborah Esson (Nigeria)
- Dr. María Elena Indelicato (Portugal)

Wiley Research Heroes Award

- The award is given to researchers whose work has a direct impact on public policy and social welfare. Each winner is awarded a prize money of approximately US\$2,000 and global recognition.
- The award encourages inclusive, innovative and practical impact research.

Oscars 2026: 5 Indian films qualify for Best Film

- At the 98th Academy Awards (Oscars 2026), 5 Indian films have qualified for the Best Picture category.
- The list was released by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS).

Indian films eligible for Best Picture

- Kantara: A Legend – Chapter 1 (Kannada) – Director: Rishab Shetty
- Tanvi the Great (Hindi) – Director: Anupam Kher
- Mahavatar Narasimha – Multilingual Animated Feature Film
- Tourist Family (Tamil) – Director: Abhishan Jeevinth (Debut Film)
- Sister Midnight – Hindi-UK Co-produced film, Lead role: Radhika Apte

83rd Golden Globe Awards 2026

- The 83rd Golden Globe Awards took place on January 11, 2026, at the Beverly Hilton in California.
- The annual ceremony honored the films of 2025 and outstanding contributions to American television productions.
- Comedian Nikki Glazer hosted the event for the second year in a row.
- Leonardo DiCaprio's film 'One Battle After Others' won the most 5 Golden Globe Awards.
- The film won Best Film (Musical or Comedy), Best Supporting Female Actor (Teyana Taylor), Best Director and Best Screenplay (Paul Thomas Anderson).

Other major film awards

- Best Film: Drama: Hamnet
- Best Non-English Language Film: The Secret Agent
- Best Animated Film: K-pop Demon Hunters

Winners of the acting and technical categories

- Best Actor in a Leading Role in a Drama: Jessie Buckley for Hamnet
- Best Male Actor in a Drama: Wagner Moura for "The Secret Agent"
- Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female) - Comedy or Musical: Rose Byrne
- Best Male Actor in a Musical or Comedy: Timothée Chalamet
- Best Original Song: "Golden" for "K-Pop Demon Hunters"

Major Winners of the TV Series category

- Best Drama Series: The Pit
- Best Comedy/Musical Series: The Studio
- Best Limited Series: Adolescence
- Best Stand-Up Comedy Performance by Ricky Gervais for Mortality
- Note: Tunisian filmmaker Joubert Zalsi won the world's largest AI film award for his film 'Lily '
 - He was presented with a million dollar award during the 1 Billion Followers Summit held in Dubai.
 - The award was organized in collaboration with Google Gemini.

Uttarakhand wins Best State Award for Aviation Promotion

- Uttarakhand was awarded the "Best State for Augmentation of Aviation Ecosystem" on 30th January 2026 at Wings India 2026.
- Airports, heliports, and regional air connectivity were strengthened through the Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Development Authority (UCADA).

Wings India 2026

- It is India's largest civil aviation conference and exhibition.
- It brings together policy-makers, aviation companies, investors, and global stakeholders on one platform.
- The awards are based on actual progress in aviation policy and infrastructure.

Indira Gandhi Peace Prize to Graça Machel

- Mozambique's social activist and former education minister Graça Machel has been selected for the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2025.
- This was announced by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust on 21st January 2026.
- Graça Machel will be given this honor for his contribution in delivering essential services such as education, health and nutrition in difficult circumstances.
- The award consists of a certificate, trophy and a cash prize of Rs. 1 crore.
- She married Mozambique's first president Samora Makele in 1975 and South African President Nelson Mandela in 1988.
- Graça Machel is the only woman in the world to become the First Lady of two different countries.

Toby Kiers Honored with Tyler Award for the Environment

- American mycologist and evolutionary biologist Toby Kiers was awarded the Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement. The award was given for his research on the relationship between plants and fungi and mycorrhizal networks.
- The Tyler Prize is also called the "Nobel of the Environment".
- It carries a prize money of \$250,000.
- The mycorrhizal network is the essential, but invisible ecological structure for life on Earth.

Tyler Award

- The Tyler Prize was established in 1973 by John and Alice Tyler.
- It is managed by the University of Southern California (USC).
- Note: In the year 2015, this award was jointly given to Indian ecologist Madhav Gadgil and American scientist Jane Lubchenco.

Prime Minister Modi Honored with the Israeli Parliament's 'Speaker of the Knesset Medal'

- On February 25, 2026, in Jerusalem, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the "Speaker of the Knesset Medal"—the highest parliamentary honour of Israel's parliament, the Knesset. This honor was presented by the Speaker of the Knesset, Amir Ohana.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi became the first global leader to receive this award.

- This honour was bestowed upon him for his contributions toward strengthening strategic ties between India and Israel, enhancing trade cooperation, and expanding partnerships in the fields of defense, innovation, and technology.
- Prime Minister Modi has received the highest honours from both Israel and Palestine.
- In 2018, he was conferred with the “Grand Collar of the State of Palestine” by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

India’s Rubal Nagi Wins Global Teacher Prize 2026

- Indian educator Rubal Nagi won the Global Teacher Prize 2026 at the World Government Summit.
- She was presented with a \$1 million award by GEMS Education.
- This honour was conferred by the Crown Prince of Dubai, Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.
- She was recognized for her initiative to transform neglected walls into educational murals.
- These murals teach children reading, writing, and mathematics, as well as health and environmental awareness.
- Through the Rubal Nagi Art Foundation, more than 800 educational centres have been established across India.
- These centres provide structured education to out-of-school children, helping them return to formal schooling.
- This award is organized by the Varkey Foundation in collaboration with UNESCO and honours outstanding teachers.

Vasai Cathedral Receives UNESCO Award

- The Cathedral of Our Lady of Grace, located in Vasai (Papdi village), Maharashtra, has been honored with an ‘Award of Merit’ at the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation 2025.
- This recognition was bestowed in acknowledgment of the church’s community-funded conservation efforts and its commitment to preserving historical heritage.
- Constructed in the 16th century, this cathedral stands as a significant example of Portuguese colonial architecture.

Key Architectural Features:

- A structure built using stone and mud (without the use of cement or bricks).
- Hand-carved religious ornamentation.
- A roof featuring traditional Mangalore tiles.
- A historic bell tower and columned corridors.

BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year 2025

- Indian cricketer Smriti Mandhana was named the BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year 2025 for her contributions to the Women’s World Cup.
- Additionally, Divya Deshmukh received the BBC Emerging Player of the Year 2025 award for her historic victory at the FIDE Women’s World Cup.

Other Key Award Winners:

- Preeti Pal – BBC Para-Sportswoman of the Year (two bronze medals at the Paris Paralympics 2024).
- Anjali Bhagwat – BBC Lifetime Achievement Award.
- Indian Women’s Cricket Team – BBC Star Performers of the Year.
- Indian Women’s Ice Hockey Team – BBC Changemakers of the Year.
- This award was instituted in 2019 and honors India’s outstanding female athletes.

Veerabhadran Ramanathan Awarded the 2026 Crafoord Prize

- Renowned Indian-origin climate scientist Veerabhadran Ramanathan has been honored with the 2026 Crafoord Prize.
- The Crafoord Prize is commonly referred to as the “Nobel Prize of Geosciences.”

- He demonstrated that climate change is driven not solely by carbon dioxide, but by the combined effect of various heat-trapping gases. His 1975 research paper revealed that, in addition to CO₂, chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) also significantly exacerbate global warming.
- This scientific foundation played a pivotal role in the inception of the Montreal Protocol (1987), under which CFCs were phased out.

The Crafoord Prize

- The Crafoord Prize is administered by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.
- It was established in 1980 by Swedish industrialist Holger Crafoord and Anna-Greta Crafoord.
- The prize is awarded for fundamental research in the fields of astronomy, mathematics, geosciences, biosciences, and polyarthritis.
- The prize money amounts to approximately 6 million Swedish Kronor (approximately 560,000 US Dollars).

Dalai Lama Wins First Grammy Award

- Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama has won his first Grammy Award at the age of 90.
- He received this honour at the 68th Grammy Awards ceremony held in Los Angeles.
- He was awarded this prize for his spoken-word album, "Meditations."
- The Dalai Lama won in the category of "Best Audio Book, Narration, and Storytelling Recording."
- His album, "Meditations: The Reflections of His Holiness the Dalai Lama," features a blend of his serene narration and Hindustani classical music.

Grammy Awards 2026

- Kendrick Lamar won five awards at the 68th Annual Grammy Awards held in Los Angeles.
- These include Record of the Year for "Luther"—a duet with SZA—and Best Rap Album for "GNX."

Major Winners

- Album of the Year: Bad Bunny – Debí Tirar Más Fotos
- Record of the Year: Kendrick Lamar & SZA – Luther
- Song of the Year: Lady Gaga – Abracadabra
- Best Audio Book, Narration, and Storytelling: Dalai Lama
- Best New Artist: Olivia Dean
- Best Rap Album: Kendrick Lamar – GNX

BAFTA Awards 2026

- The 79th British Academy Film Awards (BAFTA 2026) were held on February 22, 2026, at the Royal Festival Hall in London.
- The ceremony was organized by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA).
- The Indian film 'Boong' won the Best Film award in the Children's and Family Film category.
- The film was directed by Lakshmi Priya Devi.
- It was the only Indian film nominated at BAFTA 2026.

Key Award Winners

- Best Film: One Battle After Another
- Best Director: Paul Thomas Anderson (One Battle After Another)
- Best Actress: Jessie Buckley (Hamnet)
- Best Actor: Robert Aramayo (I Swear)
- Best Supporting Actress: Wunmi Mosaku (Sinners)
- Best Animated Film: Zootropolis 2
- Best Documentary: Mr. Nobody Against Putin
- The British Academy Film Awards (BAFTA) is an annual awards ceremony that honours excellence in British and international cinema.

Chang-Crandall Humanitarian Award 2026

- Two senior ophthalmologists from Puducherry—Dr. Haripriya Aravind and Dr. R. Venkatesh—have been honored with the Chang-Crandall Humanitarian Award 2026.
- They have been selected for their contributions to the prevention of blindness caused by cataracts and to vision-disability care.
- This award will be presented on April 11, 2026, in Washington D.C. (USA).
- This award was established by the ASCRS Foundation in 2017.
- It includes a grant of 100,000 US dollars.
- This amount is donated by the recipient to a philanthropic ophthalmology organization.

BIOFACH 2026: India Honoured as 'Country of the Year'

- India has been honoured as the 'Country of the Year' at BIOFACH 2026—the global trade fair for organic products—scheduled to be held in Nuremberg, Germany, in February 2026.
- BIOFACH is the world's largest international trade fair for organic products, held in Germany.
- India was officially declared the 'Country of the Year' on the global stage in recognition of its organic agriculture and export potential.
- India was represented by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).

Wings India 2026 Awards: Delhi Airport Named Best

- At the Wings India 2026 Awards, Delhi International Airport Limited was declared the 'Best Airport of the Year'.
- These awards were organized by the Ministry of Civil Aviation in collaboration with FICCI and the Airports Authority of India (AAI).
- This biennial civil aviation show was held in Hyderabad, Telangana.

Key Airport and Airline Awards

- Best Airport (>25 MPPA): Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru
- Best Airport (10–25 MPPA): Pune Airport
- Best Airport (5–10 MPPA): Lucknow International Airport
- Best Airport (<5 MPPA): Veer Savarkar International Airport, Port Blair
- Best Domestic Airline (Connectivity): Air India Express
- Best State for Aviation: Andhra Pradesh

Swachhata Pakhwada Awards 2025: Paradip Port Adjudged Best

- The Paradip Port Authority has been declared the cleanest major port in the country at the Swachhata Pakhwada Awards 2025.
- This award was presented by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
- This honor was conferred in recognition of sustained efforts in the fields of cleanliness, environmental management, green initiatives, and community engagement.

Person in News

Praveen Vashisht appointed as Vigilance Commission

- Praveen Vashisht was appointed as the Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission on January 16, 2026.
- Prior to this, he was serving as Special Secretary for Internal Security in the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Praveen Vashisht is a 1991 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Bihar cadre.

Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)

- The Central Vigilance Commission functions under the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003.
- The Commission consists of 1 Central Vigilance Commissioner and 2 Vigilance Commissioners.
- The tenure of every Vigilance Commissioner is 4 years or 65 years of age, whichever is earlier.
- The Vigilance Commissioners are appointed by the President of India under Section 4(1) of the Act.
- The oath is administered by the Central Vigilance Commissioner, who is authorised by the President under Section 5(3).

Rakesh Agarwal becomes NIA chief

- Rakesh Agarwal was appointed as the Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on January 14, 2026.
- He is a 1994 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Himachal Pradesh cadre.
- His term will be till August 31, 2028.

National Investigation Agency (NIA)

- The NIA was established in 2008 in the aftermath of the Mumbai terror attacks.
- This agency plays a central role in the investigation of terrorism, terror financing and activities related to proscribed organizations.

Shatrugit Singh Kapur becomes ITBP chief

- Shatrugit Singh Kapoor was appointed as the Director General of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP). He is a 1990 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of Haryana cadre.
- He will hold the post till October 31, 2026.

Praveen Kumar appointed as Director General of BSF

- Praveen Kumar was appointed as the Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF).
- He is a 1993 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the West Bengal cadre.
- His term will end on September 30, 2030.

Nitin Nabin to become BJP national president

- Nitin Nabin was elected as the 12th National President of the Bharatiya Janata Party on 20 January 2026. He is the youngest national president in the history of the BJP and the first leader from Bihar to reach this post. Nitin Nabin is an MLA from Bankipur constituency in Patna (Bihar).
- He became the national working president on December 14.

Muanpuii Saiawi and Amit Kumar Mishra appointed new diplomats to New Zealand and Georgia

- The Government of India announced the important diplomatic appointments of two senior IFS officers.
- Muanpuii Saiawi was appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to New Zealand.
- She is a 2005 batch IFS officer and is currently serving as Joint Secretary.
- His appointment was announced on January 19, 2026. Amit Kumar Mishra was appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Georgia. He is a 2004 batch IFS officer.

RJD chief Tejashwi Yadav appointed as Bihar BJP Working President

- Tejashwi Yadav was made the working president of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) at the party's national executive meeting.

Justice Revati Mohite Dere becomes first woman Chief Justice of Meghalaya

- Justice Revati Mohite Dere was appointed as the first woman Chief Justice of Meghalaya.
- Justice Dere was earlier a judge of the Bombay High Court.
- She is known for her strong judicial experience in constitutional and criminal matters.

A.K. Balasubramanian appointed as AERB Chairman

- India's nuclear scientist A.K. Balasubramanian has been appointed as the chairman of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB).
- The appointment was made by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. **His term will be 3 years.**
- A.K. Balasubramanian has extensive experience in the design, development, safety and commissioning of nuclear power plants.

Anu Garg becomes Odisha's first woman Chief Secretary

- Anu Garg has become the first woman to become the Chief Secretary of Odisha.
- He was appointed on 31 December 2025.
- He replaced former chief secretary Manoj Ahuja.

Harpal Singh appointed Director General of Border Roads Organisation

- Lt Gen Harpal Singh was appointed as the 29th Director General of Border Roads Organisation.
- He was commissioned into the Corps of Engineers in 1991 and has over three decades of military experience.
- The BRO functions under the Ministry of Defence and was established on 7 May 1960.

Nagesh Kapoor becomes 50th Vice Chief of the Air Staff

- Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor became the 50th Vice Chief of the Air Staff of the Indian Air Force on 01 January 2026. He is an experienced fighter pilot with over 3,400 flying hours.
- He served in several senior positions, including Training Command and South Western Air Command.

Vijender Singh becomes member of Asian Boxing Council

- Indian boxer Vijender Singh was appointed as a member of the Asian Boxing Council on 18 January 2026. Vijender Singh is the first boxer from India to win a bronze medal at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.
- He also won bronze medals at the 2009 World Championships and the 2010 Commonwealth Games.

Yoweri Museveni re-elected as Uganda's President

- Yoweri Museveni was elected president of Uganda for the seventh consecutive term in the presidential election. He got 71.65 per cent of the total votes.
- His main rival Bobi Wynn (real name Kyagulani Sentamu) got 24.72 per cent of the votes.

Appointments of new Chief Justices in the High Courts

- The central government on January 1, 2026, issued the notification for the new appointments and transfers of the Chief Justices of the Kerala, Patna, and Meghalaya High Courts.
- The appointments were made on the basis of the recommendations of the Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant.
- Justice Soumen Sen has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court.
- Justice Sangam Kumar Sahu has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Patna High Court.
- Justice Revati Prashant Mohite Dere has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court.

Tejinder Singh takes over as Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of South Western Air Command

- Air Marshal Tejinder Singh took over as the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of South Western Air Command of the Indian Air Force on 01 January 2026.
- He has been Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Training Command of the Indian Air Force.
- He was awarded Vayu Sena Medal in 2007 and Ati Vishisht Seva Medal by the President of India in 2022.

Shaya Mohsin Zindani sworn in as Yemen's Prime Minister

- Yemen's Foreign Minister Shaya Mohsin Zindani has been appointed as the new Prime Minister.
- Recently, Yemen's Prime Minister Salem bin Brake resigned from his post.
- Shaya Mohsin Zindani has also served as the Foreign Minister of Yemen. Currently, the government of Yemen is being governed through the Presidential Leadership Council (PLC).
- This council was formed to unite the anti-Houthi forces with the support of Saudi Arabia.
- It has executive powers, including the appointment of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet.

Mamady Doumbouya wins Guinea's presidential election

- In Guinea, the military leader Mamady Doumbouya won the December 2025 presidential election.
- He removed President Alfa Conde from power in a military coup in September 2021.
- According to the Election Commission, Doumbouya received 86.72% of the vote.

Sunita Williams retires from NASA

- Astronaut Sunita Williams retired from the US space agency NASA after 27 years of service.
- He completed three international space missions in his career.
- She is the second woman of Indian origin to go to space after Kalpana Chawla.
- Sunita became an officer in the US Navy in 1987 and was selected by NASA in 1998.
- In her final mission, she spent 286 days in space and a total of 608 days on the ISS.
- She is also the first astronaut to run a marathon in space.
- The Government of India awarded him the Padma Bhushan in 2008.

President Droupadi Murmu Becomes the First President to Fly in a 'Prachand' Helicopter

- President Droupadi Murmu created history by taking a sortie in the indigenous HAL Prachand (Light Combat Helicopter) at the Jaisalmer Air Force Station.
- She became India's first President to fly as a co-pilot in a 'Prachand' helicopter. During this sortie, she conducted an aerial survey of the border areas and the Pokhran Field Firing Range.
- This special sortie was conducted ahead of the Indian Air Force's major military exercise, "Vayu Shakti 2026."

Sachin Tendulkar Named UN Global Road Safety Champion

- Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar was appointed as the Global Road Safety Champion by the United Nations (UN) on February 24, 2026. He joined the UN-JCDecaux #MakeASafetyStatement campaign to raise awareness regarding road safety.
- This campaign was launched in New Delhi by Jean Todt, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety.

Prof. B. Ravindran Joins UN AI Panel

- Prof. B. Ravindran of IIT Madras was appointed as a member of the United Nations' independent International Scientific Panel on Artificial Intelligence (AI) on February 24, 2026.
- This panel comprises 40 experts from around the world, and Prof. Ravindran will represent India and the Global South (developing nations) on it.
- This is the first global scientific panel established by the United Nations to study the societal impact of AI.
- Prof. B. Ravindran heads the Wadhvani School of Data Science and AI (WSAI) at IIT Madras.

United Nations AI Panel

- This panel was established on August 26, 2025, through a resolution passed by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).
- Its objective is to conduct a scientific study of the societal impact of AI, foster global scientific cooperation, and assist nations in evidence-based policy formulation.

Nidhi Chhibber Assumes Additional Charge as NITI Aayog CEO

- Nidhi Chhibber assumed the additional charge of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NITI Aayog on February 24, 2026.
- She took over the post following the completion of B.V.R. Subrahmanyam's three-year tenure.
- She currently serves as the Director General of the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO).
- She is a 1994-batch IAS officer (Chhattisgarh cadre).
- Nidhi has previously served as the Chairperson of the CBSE.

Yumnam Khemchand Singh Becomes Chief Minister of Manipur

- Yumnam Khemchand Singh took the oath as the Chief Minister of Manipur on February 4, 2026.
- Yumnam Khemchand Singh has served as an MLA from the Singjamei Assembly constituency for two terms.
- He began his political career in the 2000s.
- He has served as the Speaker of the Manipur Legislative Assembly and later also served as a Cabinet Minister.

Thanya Nathan: Kerala's First Visually Impaired Female Judge

- Thanya Nathan, a young lawyer from Kerala, secured the first rank in the Benchmark Disability category in the Civil Judge (Junior Division) examination.
- With this achievement, she has become Kerala's first visually impaired female judge.

Nivedita Dubey Becomes First Woman Member of AAI Board

- Nivedita Dubey became the Member (Human Resources) of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) Board on January 30, 2026.
- She is the first woman to be appointed to this position on the AAI Board.
- She will oversee personnel policies, industrial relations, and commercial management.

Uday Kotak Appointed Chairman of GIFTCL

- In February 2026, the Government of Gujarat appointed industrialist and veteran banker Uday Suresh Kotak as the Chairman of Gujarat International Finance Tec-City Company Limited (GIFTCL).
- He succeeded retired IAS officer and former Finance Secretary Hasmukh Adhia.
- Uday Kotak is the founder of Kotak Mahindra Bank and served as its MD and CEO until September 1, 2023.

Aditya Pandya: India's Youngest Male Analog Astronaut

- Aditya Pandya, a 17-year-old student from Gujarat, has become India's youngest male analog astronaut.
- He achieved this feat after successfully completing a lunar habitat simulation mission organized by AAKA Space Studio.
- This mission was conducted from February 1 to 8, 2026, in the white plains of Dholavira, Gujarat.
- It was a container-based lunar analog mission, designed to simulate physical and operational conditions akin to those on the Moon.
- AAKA Space Studio works on planetary analog environments and is registered with ISRO as a Space Tutor.

Prasanna Kumar D Becomes ICAI President

- The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) elected CA Prasanna Kumar D as its 74th President on February 12, 2026. His tenure for the year 2026–27 commenced with immediate effect.
- The ICAI functions under the Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA).
- He succeeded the former President, CA Charanjit Singh Nanda.
- CA Mangesh Pandurang Kinare was elected as the Vice President of the ICAI for the year 2026–27.

Tarique Rahman Becomes Prime Minister of Bangladesh

- Tarique Rahman, Chairman of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), took the oath as the 11th Prime Minister of Bangladesh on February 17, 2026.
- The President of Bangladesh, Mohammed Shahabuddin, administered the oath of office to him.
- In the 2026 general elections, the BNP and its allies formed the government by winning 212 out of 299 seats.
- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla represented India at the swearing-in ceremony of Bangladesh's Prime Minister, Tarique Rahman, in Dhaka.

Mia Mottley Becomes Prime Minister of Barbados

- Barbados's Prime Minister, Mia Mottley, secured a victory in the general elections for the third consecutive time. Her party, the Barbados Labour Party (BLP), won all 30 seats in the House of Assembly.
- The party received approximately 69.83% of the votes, while the Democratic Labour Party (DLP) received approximately 27.31%.
- Barbados is an island nation located in the Atlantic Ocean within the Caribbean region.
- It is part of the Lesser Antilles group in the West Indies and is the easternmost island of the Caribbean.
- Its capital and largest city is Bridgetown.

Rob Jetten Becomes the New Prime Minister of the Netherlands

- Rob Jetten was sworn in as the Prime Minister of the Netherlands on February 23, 2026.
- He has become the youngest Prime Minister of the Netherlands (at 38 years of age).
- He is also the Netherlands' first openly gay Prime Minister.
- He succeeded former Prime Minister Dick Schoof.
- The Netherlands
- Location: Northwestern Europe.
- It is also known as Holland.
- Capital: Amsterdam (Government headquarters are located in The Hague).

Andrei Gyurov Becomes Bulgaria's Interim Prime Minister

- In February 2026, Bulgarian President Iliana Malinova Iotova appointed Andrei Gyurov as Acting Prime Minister. He will lead the interim government until the national elections scheduled for April 2026. From 2021 to 2023, he served as a member of the National Assembly.

Japan Elections 2026: LDP's Historic Victory

- In the elections held in Japan in February 2026, the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) achieved a historic victory.
- This victory was secured under the leadership of Japan's first female Prime Minister, Sanae Takaichi.
- The LDP alone won 316 seats—well exceeding the absolute majority (261 seats) required in the Lower House (comprising 465 seats).
- Its coalition partner, the Japan Innovation Party (JIP/Ishin), won 36 seats.
- The ruling coalition secured a combined total of 352 seats, thereby obtaining a majority of more than two-thirds.
- Opposition parties secured only 111 seats; the main opposition group, the Centrist Reform Alliance, won 49 seats.

Anutin Charnvirakul's Victory in Thailand's General Elections

- In February 2026, Anutin Charnvirakul, Thailand's Acting Prime Minister, secured a victory in the general elections held for the 500-member House of Representatives.
- He is the leader of the conservative Bhumjaithai Party (BJT) and had assumed the office of Prime Minister following a period of political instability in September 2025.
- The Bhumjaithai Party secured a strong mandate to form the next government by winning a total of 194 seats (175 constituency seats and 19 party-list seats).

Soraya Aghaei

- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has elected Soraya Aghaei as its first female member from Iran.
- She has become the youngest current member of the IOC.
- She is the 107th member of the IOC and the third Iranian representative in its history.
- She has joined the committee under the leadership of the IOC's first female Chair, Kirsty Coventry.
- With this, the representation of women in the IOC's total membership has reached 45%.
- Soraya Aghaei became Iran's first female badminton Olympian at the Tokyo 2021 Olympics.

Demises

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar passes away

- Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Ajit Pawar died on 28 January 2026 in the Liarjet 45 plane crash at Baramati Airport in Pune.
- He was elected to the Lok Sabha from Baramati in 1991 and later
- Since 1991, he has been elected MLA from Baramati assembly seat for 8 consecutive terms.
- He was Deputy Chief Minister 6 times between 2010 and 2026.

Mark Tully passes away

- Renowned author and British-Indian journalist Sir William Mark Tully passed away on January 25.
- He served as the BBC's Delhi bureau chief for 22 years.
- The Government of India honored him with the Padma Shri in 1992 and the Padma Bhushan in 2005.
- He authored 9 books related to India, including 'No Full Stops in India' and 'The Heart of India'.

Odia singer Abhijit Majumdar passes away

- Odisha's renowned music director and singer Abhijit Majumdar passed away on 25 January 2026.
- Abhijit Majumdar was known as the 'Melody King' in the Odia film industry.

Inderjit Singh Bindra passes away

- Former Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) president Inderjit Singh Bindra passed away on 25 January 2026. He served as the President of BCCI from 1993 to 1996. From 1978 to 2014, he was the President of the Punjab Cricket Association for 36 consecutive years.

Davinder Singh Garcha passes away

- Olympic gold medallist Indian hockey player Davinder Singh Garcha passed away on January 10.
- He was a member of India's gold medal-winning hockey team at the 1980 Moscow Olympics.
- He scored 19 goals while playing more than 30 international matches for India.
- He was awarded the Dhyan Chand Award in 2021 for his sporting achievements.

Former Union Minister Kabindra Purkayastha passes away

- Senior BJP leader and former Union Minister Kabindra Purkayastha passed away on 7 January 2026.

- Kabindra Purkayastha was the Minister of State for Communications in the first government of Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 1998-99.
- He was first elected to the Lok Sabha from Silchar in 1991, 1998 and 2009.

Manoj Kothari passes away

- Former world billiards champion Manoj Kothari passed away on 5th January 2026.
- He won the 1990 World Billiards Championship and the World Doubles Billiards Championship in 1997.

Award

- Dhyan Chand Award (2005)
- Lifetime Achievement Award (2025) – Billiards and Snooker Federation of India

Renowned ecologist Madhav Gadgil passes away

- India's ecologist Madhav Dhananjay Gadgil passed away on 7th January 2026 in Pune.
- He was counted among India's most influential environmental scientists.

Major Awards and Honors

- Padma Shri – 1981
- Padma Bhushan – 2006
- UN Champion of the Earth Award 2024 (Lifetime Achievement)
- Volvo Environmental Awards
- Tyler Award for Environmental Achievement

Former Union Minister Suresh Kalmadi passes away

- Senior Congress leader and former Union Minister Suresh Kalmadi passed away on 6 January 2026.
- He was a three-time Lok Sabha MP from Pune and was the only Minister of State for Railways to present the Railway Budget in Parliament.
- Kalmadi was the president of the Indian Olympic Association from 1996 to 2011.

Mukul Roy Passes Away

- India's former Union Railway Minister, Mukul Roy, passed away on February 23, 2026.
- He was a veteran politician from West Bengal and one of the founding members of the Trinamool Congress (TMC).
- He served as a member of the Rajya Sabha for two terms and was also elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) from Krishnanagar North.
- He served as the Minister of State for Shipping from 2009 to 2011, and as the Union Railway Minister from March to September 2012.

Demise of Manishankar Mukhopadhyay (Shankar)

- Renowned Bengali author Manishankar Mukhopadhyay passed away on February 20, 2026.
- He was counted among the great contemporary writers of Bengali literature.
- Major Works: Chowringhee, Jana Aranya, Seemabaddha
- Honors: Sahitya Akademi Award (2021), Bankim Award, Farha Blue Qazi International Award.

Demise of Ricky Andrew J. Syngkon

- Ricky Andrew J. Syngkon, the Member of Parliament (MP) from the Shillong Lok Sabha constituency in Meghalaya, passed away on February 19, 2026.
- He began his political career with the Voice of the People Party (VPP).
- He became an MP for the first time in the 2024 general elections, defeating Vincent H. Pala of the Congress party.

Places in News

Patna Bird Sanctuary and Chhari-Dhand become new Ramsar sites

- Patna Bird Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh and Chhari-Dhand wetland in Gujarat have been declared as Ramsar sites.

Patna Bird Sanctuary (Uttar Pradesh)

- This sanctuary is located in the Etah district of Uttar Pradesh.
- With an area of about 1.09 square kilometers, it is the smallest bird sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh.
- It is a rain-fed shallow freshwater wetland of the Gangetic plain, which dries up largely in summer.

Chhari-Dhand Wetland (Gujarat)

- The wetland is located in Nakhatrana taluka of Kutch district of Gujarat.
- In the Sindhi language, 'Chhari' means saline and 'Dhand' means shallow lake.
- It is a seasonal wetland, which is filled with water during the monsoon.
- It is an important stopover point for migratory birds as it is located on the Central Asian Flyway.

Key facts about Ramsar sites in India

- Total Ramsar sites in India: 98
- State with the highest number of Ramsar sites: Tamil Nadu (20 sites)
- Second place: Uttar Pradesh (11 sites)
- Largest Ramsar site by area: Sundarbans (West Bengal)
- Smallest Ramsar Site: Renuka Wetland (Himachal Pradesh)
- India was a signatory to the Ramsar Convention on February 1, 1982.
- India's first Ramsar sites were Chilika Lake and Keoladeo National Park.

India's first state-funded BSL-4 lab

- The Union Home Minister laid the foundation stone of India's first state-funded Bio-Safety Level-4 (BSL-4) lab in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. This initiative will strengthen health security, biotechnological research and national capacity to combat deadly pathogens.
- BSL-4 is the highest level of biosecurity, where research on highly contagious and deadly pathogens takes place under strict international protocols.
- Here research on diseases such as Ebola, Nipah, Marburg, CCHF and Kyasnur Forest Disease (KFD) will be possible.
- This will be India's second civilian BSL-4 laboratory.
- The project will be developed under the Gujarat State Biotechnology Mission (GSBTM) and operated by the Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre (GBRC).

Country's first fully paperless district court

- The Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant virtually inaugurated the country's first fully paperless district court at Kalpetta in Wayanad district of Kerala on 6th January 2026.
- All the processes in this court, from case filing to final decision, will be completely digital.
- The completely paperless system has been developed in-house by the Kerala High Court.
- The Kalpetta District Court follows a complete digital workflow. Plaintiffs can file cases online and upload documents electronically.
- Its hearing notices, court proceedings and interim orders are issued digitally.

India's First "Bio-Happy District"

- Keyi Panyor district of Arunachal Pradesh has been selected to be developed as India's first "Bio-Happy District".
- The project has been initiated by the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF).
- It is being implemented in collaboration with the district administration.
- The concept of bio-happiness was coined by the late scientist Dr. M.S. Swaminathan.
- Its focus is on biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of natural resources, and human well-being.
- Under this, livelihood, agro-biodiversity and ecological stability will be assessed in the district.

Country's largest integrated inland rainbow trout fish farm inaugurated

- India's largest integrated inland rainbow trout farm was inaugurated in Telangana's Ranga Reddy district. The farm has been set up by SmartGreen Aquaculture with an investment of about ₹50 crore.
- Through advanced temperature control, water recycling and bio-secure technology, the project makes cold-water fisheries possible in warmer regions.

Launch of Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Power Sector

- The Union Minister of Power, Government of India, Shri Manohar Lal launched the Centre of Excellence for Regulatory Affairs in the Power Sector at the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi on January 19, 2026. The centre has been set up in collaboration with IIT Delhi, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and Grid Controller of India Limited.
- It aims to strengthen India's regulatory capacity in the rapidly changing power sector.
- The Centre will act as a national level institution for regulatory research, capacity building, consultancy support and knowledge dissemination.

India's First Green Ammonia Complex

- India's first green ammonia complex will be set up at Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh.
- The project is being developed by AM Green and involves production of green hydrogen and green ammonia. The foundation stone of the project was laid on 18th January 2026.

Key Features

- With an investment of around ₹83,000 crore, it will be one of the largest clean energy projects in India. This will be India's first and the world's largest green ammonia complex.
- It will have a planned capacity of 1.5 million tonnes per annum.
- The project will be developed through brownfield conversion of Ammonia-Urea Complex of Nagarjuna Fertilizers and Chemicals.

Rangareddy (Telangana): Country's first 'Future City'

- The Government of Telangana is developing Future City in an area of about 765 sq km in Rangareddy district near Hyderabad. The project covers 56 villages in 7 tehsils, which are divided into 9 zones.
- The city will be active 24x7 and will be developed as the growth engine of Telangana.
- It will be India's first zero carbon emission city, with a focus on clean and improved air quality.
- It has a special focus on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and AI education will be introduced from the school level itself.
- The education system will be linked with skills and industry so that students are future-ready.
- Modern road infrastructure is being developed in this city, which will include metro corridors, service roads, green belts, footpaths and cycle tracks.

Living Root Bridges of Meghalaya: Nomination for UNESCO World Heritage

- The Government of India has submitted the official nomination for the recognition of the world-famous Living Root Bridges of Meghalaya as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- The nomination dossier was submitted to the Director-General of UNESCO in Paris on 29 January 2026.

- The living root bridges of Meghalaya were included in the UNESCO tentative list from the year 2022.
- The living root bridge is called 'Jingkieng Jri' in the local language.
- These bridges are made from the roots of *Ficus elastica* (Indian rubber tree).
- The Khasi and Jaintia tribes direct the roots across the river with the help of hollow stems of bamboo or areca nut.
- A bridge takes 15 to 30 years to fully develop, but these can last up to 500 years.

Odisha's Buddhist Diamond Triangle: Included in UNESCO tentative list

- Odisha's famous Buddhist Diamond Triangle has been included in the tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- The proposal was sent by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in December 2025, which was accepted by UNESCO.

Major Sites of the Buddhist Diamond Triangle

1. **Lalitgiri:** It is the oldest site of this triangle, believed to have been established around the 2nd century BCE.
Here, the relics of Lord Buddha were found in a stone casket inside a large stupa.
 2. **Ratnagiri:** It has been a major center of Vajrayana Buddhism between the 5th and 13th centuries. The site is famous for its exquisite carvings, monastic gates, and giant Buddha statues.
 3. **Udayagiri:** There are two major monasteries named Madhavapura Mahavihara and Simhaprastha Mahavihara. The excavations have yielded inscriptions, stepped wells and Buddha statues with Bhumisparsa posture. These three sites depict the evolution of the Hinayana, Mahayana and Vajrayana phases of Buddhism.
- At present, around 70 sites from India are included in the tentative list of UNESCO.

India's First Government Hospital-Based AI Clinic

- India's first government hospital-based AI clinic was launched at GIMS in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
- The clinic was established under the GIMS Centre for Medical Innovation.
- It aims to provide AI-based diagnosis and decision support to doctors and patients.
- The clinic will become a hub of education and research in collaboration with IIT Kanpur, IIT Madras, and IIT Lucknow.

India's first state to have dedicated menopause clinics

- The Maharashtra government launched India's first dedicated menopause clinic towards empowering women's health.
- The initiative was launched on 14th January 2026, coinciding with Makar Sankranti.
- These clinics will be operational in all government hospitals, district and sub-district hospitals and urban health centers in the state.
- Services will be made available every Wednesday in the form of a special OPD.

Key Services and Features

- Medical consultation and treatment of the symptoms associated with menopause will be provided.
- Women will be given guidance related to diet and lifestyle improvement.
- Special tests will be conducted for prevention and early detection of calcium and vitamin-D deficiency with special focus on preventive health.

Satellite launch facility to be developed at Hope Island in Andhra Pradesh

- The Andhra Pradesh government will develop a satellite launching facility under the Space City project at Hope Island located in Kakinada Bay.
- The state's Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu announced the project on 17 January 2026.
- Hope Island is located on the Godavari estuary and is part of the Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary.
- The location is more than 600 km from ISRO's Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

Hope Island

- The island is made up of sediments from the Godavari River and acts as a natural disaster-resistant barrier.
- It provides safe sea routes to Kakinada Anchorage Port and Deep-Sea Port.

India's 3D-Printed Automatic Weather Station

- The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) has developed 3D-printed Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) under Mission Mausam.
- From February 2026, their first installation started in Delhi.
- These stations will automatically collect real-time data of temperature, humidity, wind and rainfall and will be solar-powered.

Inauguration of Integrated Command and Control Centre

- Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah inaugurated the Integrated Command and Control Centre in Andaman and Nicobar Islands on 3rd January 2026.
- It will combine surveillance, communication and coordination between agencies on one platform.
- Several other security and development projects with a total cost of ₹373 crore were also initiated.
- **Discovery of Ancient Buddhist Stupas at Baramulla (Zehampora)**
- About 2,000 years old Kushan era Buddhist stupas, monastic buildings and urban-type settlements have been discovered in the village of Jehanpora in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district.
- Situated along the banks of the Jhelum River, these stupas were studied through drone surveys, aerial photography and mapping.
- The region was located on an ancient trade and pilgrimage route, connecting Gandhara with Kashmir.

Approval for Dagadharthi Greenfield Airport

- The Andhra Pradesh government has approved the setting up of Dagadharthi Greenfield Airport in Nellore district.
- With this approval, Dagadharthi will become the 8th airport in the state.
- The project will strengthen the aviation, industrial infrastructure and multi-modal transport network of Andhra Pradesh.
- It is located in close proximity to two major ports, namely Krishnapatnam Port and Ramayapatnam Port.
- It has already received the original approval from the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India.

Smart and Integrated Fishing Harbours approved in Andaman & Nicobar

- The Union Department of Fisheries (DoF) on 27th January 2026 approved the Andaman and Nicobar Administration's proposal to develop a smart and integrated fishing harbour at Mayabunder.
- It will receive 100% central financial assistance under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).
- The project will be developed under the Blue Port Initiative.
- The harbour will utilise the capacity of about 6 lakh square kilometers of EEZ of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- About 60,000 metric tons of tuna and similar species are available here.
- The project will be helpful in curbing illegal, unregistered and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

Ahmedabad: India's First National Biobank (for LSDs)

- In February 2026, the Government of India launched the country's first government-supported National Biobank for Lysosomal Storage Disorders (LSDs) in Ahmedabad (Gujarat).
- It has been established at the Institute of Human Genetics, under the aegis of the Foundation for Research in Genetics and Endocrinology (FRIGE).
- A biobank is a central repository where biological samples—such as DNA, blood, plasma, and urine—along with associated data, are stored.

- Lysosomal Storage Disorders (LSDs) are rare genetic metabolic diseases.
- In these conditions, enzyme deficiencies lead to the accumulation of toxic substances within cells, thereby affecting the brain, liver, spleen, and skeletal system.
- This biobank will serve as a national resource for the development of new drugs, diagnostic techniques, and therapeutic interventions.

Aundha (Hingoli): L&T to Construct LIGO-India Project

- Recently, Larsen & Toubro (L&T) was awarded the contract to construct LIGO-India (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory) in Aundha, located in the Hingoli district of Maharashtra.
- The project will involve high-precision civil infrastructure, 8-km-long ultra-high vacuum beam tubes, and vacuum equipment.
- This project is one of India's flagship 'Mega Science Projects'.
- LIGO is an interferometer-based observatory designed to detect gravitational waves.

LIGO

- Gravitational waves are ripples in space-time generated by highly energetic events, such as those involving black holes or neutron stars.
- The theory behind these waves was first presented by Albert Einstein in 1916 as part of his General Theory of Relativity.
- LIGO utilizes laser interferometry to measure the extremely minute distortions in space caused by passing gravitational waves.

Goa: India's First Waterjet Production and Testing Facility

- In February 2026, Paramesh Shivamani, Director General of the Indian Coast Guard, inaugurated Marine Jet Power's (MJP)—India's first—waterjet production and testing facility in Goa.
- This facility has been established under a Technology Transfer (ToT) framework, making India the third country—after the USA and South Korea—to achieve this distinction.
- This center will facilitate indigenous testing capabilities, strengthen the domestic supply chain, and contribute to the development of a regional maritime technology hub.
- Currently, over 100 MJP waterjet systems are installed on Indian Coast Guard vessels, and 42 additional systems are being prepared for ships currently under construction.

India's First Quantum Valley

- The foundation stone for India's first Quantum Valley was laid on February 7, 2026, in Amaravati (Thullur Mandal, Uddandarayunipalem), Andhra Pradesh.
- The Amaravati Quantum Valley is India's first integrated quantum ecosystem—a high-tech campus spanning 50 acres.
- It has been designed to integrate research, manufacturing, and skill development.
- This project is supported by the National Quantum Mission (NQM) and aims to position India as a global hub for quantum computing and AI.
- The Government of Andhra Pradesh, in collaboration with industry partners and start-ups—including IBM, TCS, L&T, C-DOT, and C-DAC—has established India's first 133-qubit Quantum Computer Centre.
- This facility will focus on Research and Development (R&D), innovation, manufacturing, and skill development.
- Andhra Pradesh's first quantum computer is scheduled to become operational starting in December 2026.
- On the occasion of International Quantum Day, April 14, 2026, two indigenous quantum computers will be launched at SRM to serve as reference facilities.
- The Government of Andhra Pradesh has announced a prize of ₹100 crore to encourage Nobel Prize-caliber innovations within the quantum domain.

- Under the AQV project, TCS and IBM are collaborating to ensure nationwide access to IBM's quantum computers via a cloud platform.
- Furthermore, the Amaravati Quantum Valley Innovation Centre has also been launched.
- Additionally, WISER and Vanguard have jointly announced the establishment of India's premier quantum workforce development centre in Amaravati.

Vadodara (Gujarat): Airbus Inaugurates Centre of Excellence for Aerospace Studies

- Airbus has inaugurated a Centre of Excellence for aerospace studies and research at the Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya in Vadodara (Gujarat).
- The objective of this centre is to strengthen India's aerospace ecosystem, with a focus on research and innovation.
- This centre will support the study and development of advanced aerospace technologies of the future.

V.O. Chidambaranar: India's First Port Equipped with an Advanced Anti-Drone System

- V.O. Chidambaranar Port, located in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu, has become India's first port to deploy an advanced anti-drone system.
- An agreement for this project was signed between the VOC Port Authority and Central Electronics Limited.
- This initiative has been undertaken to bolster the security of port infrastructure, maritime routes, and coastal areas.
- Its objective is to enhance airspace surveillance, ensure compliance with evolving coastal defense standards, and improve emergency response capabilities.
- The anti-drone system incorporates integrated RF and radar-based drone detection and jamming technology, specifically designed for the port.

Northeast India's First Emergency Landing Facility (ELF)

- On February 14, 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Northeast India's first Emergency Landing Facility (ELF) in the Dibrugarh district of Assam.
- As part of this event, the Prime Minister performed a historic landing in a C-130J aircraft.
- An Emergency Landing Facility (ELF) is a specially designed section of a National Highway.
- Here, military and civilian aircraft can land and take off in the event of an emergency or during wartime.
- This facility has been developed along an approximately 4.2-kilometre stretch of the Moran Bypass (NH-37 / NH-127).
- It is capable of handling the landing and take-off of fighter aircraft weighing up to 40 tons and heavy transport aircraft weighing up to 74 tons.
- The Moran ELF serves as an alternative landing option for Dibrugarh Airport or the Chabua Air Force Station.

Inauguration of India's 22nd IIM in Guwahati

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the temporary campus of IIM Guwahati at Lachit Ghat, Guwahati, on February 15, 2026.
- This is the second Indian Institute of Management in Northeast India and the 22nd in the country.
- Its permanent campus will be constructed at Palasbari, near Guwahati, at a cost of ₹555 crore.
- Classes will be conducted temporarily at the transit campus located in Tech City, Bongora, under the mentorship of IIM Ahmedabad.

National Data Center for the Northeast

- The Prime Minister inaugurated the National Data Centre for the Northeast at Amingaon in Kamrup on February 15, 2026.
- This facility is equipped with an approved load of 8.5 megawatts and advanced rack capacity.

- It will host mission-critical government applications and serve as a disaster recovery hub under Digital India.

Inauguration of the Kumar Bhaskar Varma Bridge

- On February 14, 2026, the Prime Minister inaugurated the Kumar Bhaskar Varma Bridge, constructed over the Brahmaputra River in Guwahati, Assam.
- Approximately 2.86 kilometres in length, this 6-lane extradosed pre-stressed concrete (PSC) bridge has been built at a cost of approximately ₹3,030 crore. It is the first extradosed bridge in Northeast India.
- Keeping the earthquake-prone nature of the region in mind, this bridge has been equipped with base isolation technology and a bridge health monitoring system.

India's First Underwater Twin-Tube Road Tunnel

- The Central Government has approved India's first underwater twin-tube road tunnel beneath the Brahmaputra River in Assam. This project will connect Numaligarh and Gohpur.
- The total length will be approximately 33.7 km, of which a 15.79 km long tunnel will be constructed beneath the river.
- Its estimated cost is ₹18,662 crore, and it will be implemented by the NHAI and the BRO.
- This tunnel will be situated at least 32 meters below the riverbed and will feature separate tubes for onward and return traffic.
- This project will facilitate the rapid movement of troops and military equipment up to the China border (LAC).
- It will provide safe, all-weather connectivity and reduce dependence on bridges.
- This will boost logistics, trade, tourism, and socio-economic development in Assam and other Northeastern states.

Cochin Airport: The Country's First Airport to Operate Hydrogen Buses

- Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) is poised to become the country's first airport to introduce hydrogen-powered buses for passengers. To this end, an agreement has been signed between CIAL and the Kerala Hydrogen Valley Innovation Cluster (K-HVIC).
- In the initial phase, three hydrogen fuel cell buses will be deployed.
- CIAL has established a green hydrogen plant within the airport premises in collaboration with Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL).
- This 1-megawatt (MW) capacity plant produces approximately 200 kilograms of hydrogen per day.

Inauguration of Lengteikai Bridge

- Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma inaugurated the Lengteikai Bridge, built over the Tlawng River in Aizawl, on February 17, 2026; the bridge has been christened the "Faith Bridge."
- This bridge was constructed by the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH).
- The bridge measures 100 meters in length and 7.5 meters in width, with 1.5-meter-wide footpaths constructed on both sides.
- The bridge is capable of bearing a load of up to 385 metric tons.

Gorakhpur International Cricket Stadium

- In February 2026, the Government of Uttar Pradesh and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) signed an MoU for the construction of an international cricket stadium in Gorakhpur.
- The estimated cost of this project is ₹339 crore.
- This stadium will have a seating capacity of 30,000 spectators.
- It will feature a cricket pitch, practice areas, floodlights, modern dressing rooms, and media facilities.
- Oil companies will contribute ₹100 crore towards the project, comprising contributions from IOCL (₹60 crore), BPCL (₹30 crore), and HPCL (₹10 crore).

New Insights into the Indus Civilization from the Bhirrana Site

- Studies of pottery and animal remains discovered at Bhirrana suggest that the roots of the Indus Civilization date back approximately 8,000 years.
- Excavations at this site were conducted by L.S. Rao along the banks of the ancient channels of the Ghaggar River.
- If confirmed, this would imply that the inception of organized urban life predates even the era of Egypt's first Pharaohs.
- Traditionally, the sequence of development has been posited as Mesopotamia first, followed by Egypt, and subsequently the Indus Civilization.
- Radiocarbon dating of the pottery and animal remains indicates that human settlements existed here prior to the previously accepted timeline of 2600 BCE.
- This raises the possibility that the origins of the Indus Civilization may predate even the Egyptian dynasties, which began around 3100 BCE.

Discovery of the City of Charax Spasinu

- Recently, a team of international archaeologists identified the ancient, lost city of Charax Spasinu in southern Iraq.
- This city was situated at the confluence of the Tigris and Eulaeus rivers.
- In 324 BC, Alexander the Great founded it under the name "Alexandria on the Tigris" to maintain control over the waterways of Mesopotamia.
- Around 127 BC, King Hyspaosines fortified the city by constructing embankments and renamed it Charax Spasinu, which became the capital of the Characene Kingdom.
- It served as a major hub for the fusion of Greek and Mesopotamian cultures.

India's First 'Musical Road'

- India's first musical road (Melody Road) has been inaugurated in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Here, music can be heard when vehicles are driven at a specific speed.
- This musical stretch is located on the Mumbai Coastal Road, running in a northerly direction from Nariman Point towards Worli.
- Especially cut rumble strips have been constructed on the surface of this road.
- When vehicles pass over it at a speed of 70–80 km/h, the tune of the famous song "Jai Ho" is heard, generated by the vibrations produced by the tires.
- This technology is inspired by Hungarian engineering techniques.
- The Mumbai Coastal Road is approximately 10.5 km long.
- Note: The world's first musical road was built in Denmark in 1995 and was known as the Asphaltofon.

Approval for Two New Telescopes in Ladakh

- The Central Government has approved the establishment of two new telescopes in Ladakh, along with the upgrade of an existing telescope, in the Union Budget 2026-27.
- Specifically, the National Large Solar Telescope (NLST) and the National Large Optical–Near Infrared Telescope (NLOT) will be established as new facilities, while the Himalayan Chandra Telescope (HCT) will undergo an upgrade.
- These facilities will be situated within India's first Dark Sky Reserve—Hanle, Ladakh.
- National Large Solar Telescope (NLST)
- The NLST will be a solar telescope featuring a 2-meter aperture, to be installed at Merak, near Pangong Tso.
- It will operate across visible and near-infrared wavelengths.
- This facility will aid in the study of solar magnetism, solar flares, and space weather phenomena.
- It will serve as India's third ground-based solar observatory.
- Currently, the solar observatories at Kodaikanal and Udaipur are already operational.

- National Large Optical–Near Infrared Telescope (NLOT)
- This will be a 13.7-meter segmented-mirror telescope.
- Leveraging Ladakh’s high altitude and pristine atmospheric conditions, it will capture high-quality images with minimal atmospheric distortion.
- It is set to rank among the world’s largest telescopes operating within the optical–infrared range.

Miscellaneous

Atlas of Climate Adaptation in Indian Agriculture (ACASA–India)

- The Government of India has recently launched the ‘Climate Adaptation Atlas in Indian Agriculture’.
- The Atlas was released to mark the completion of 15 years of the National Climate Resilient Agricultural Innovation Programme.
- Objective: To make Indian agriculture more resilient to climate change and data-driven.
- This atlas has been developed by the National Agricultural Research and Education System (NARES) led by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.
- Its development has been supported by the Borlaug Institute for South Asia and CIMMYT.

Key Features

- It is a web-enabled digital platform.
- It offers location-specific and data-driven agricultural optimization solutions.
- Assesses climate risk at a microscopic level of 25 square kilometers.
- It covers 15 major crops and 6 livestock species of India.
- Provides open-source data and tools for researchers and policymakers.
- It aids in the preparation of droughts, floods, and other extreme weather events.

Kerala declares *Bacillus subtilis* as the state microorganism

- Kerala has officially declared *Bacillus subtilis* as its state microorganism.
- Kerala has become the first state in India to grant formal state recognition to a microorganism.
- *Bacillus subtilis* is a beneficial probiotic bacterium found naturally in soil, fermented foods, and the human gut. It is helpful in improving intestinal health, boosting immunity, and maintaining soil fertility.
- It is also considered to play an important role in the control of plant diseases. This was announced by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on 23rd January 2026 in Thiruvananthapuram.
- Note: India already has a national microorganism *Lactobacillus bulgaricus* which is used for the production of curd. It was formally announced in 2012.

‘Pancham’ Chatbot

- ‘Pancham’ is a Panchayat Assistance and Messaging chatbot developed in collaboration with UNICEF.
- The Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched the Panchayat Assistance and Messaging Chatbot ‘Pancham’ on 25th January 2026.
- It aims to digitally empower Panchayat elected representatives and functionaries.
- ‘Pancham’ has been developed as a digital ally for Panchayats, providing guidance, simplified workflow and easy access to information.

#SkilltheNation Challenge

- President Droupadi Murmu launched the #SkilltheNation Challenge under the SOAR initiative on 1 January 2026. The programme has been launched by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).
- SOAR’s full name is Skilling for AI Readiness. SOAR aims to make students and professionals proficient in Artificial Intelligence (AI) related capabilities.
- Through this initiative, the emphasis has been laid on making India capable of global competition by creating an AI-ready workforce.

Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) joins BRICS Network University

- Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana has been formally incorporated into the BRICS Network University under the theme of Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security.
- PAU is the only state agricultural university in the country to have been selected in this network.
- The Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), Delhi, is representing the institute category.
- The platform provides an opportunity to bring together diverse agro-ecological expertise for food security, climate adaptation, and sustainable livelihoods.
- **Note:** India will chair BRICS in 2026 and host the 18th summit.

India's first Vande Bharat Sleeper Train flagged off

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched India's first Vande Bharat sleeper train from Malda in West Bengal on January 17, 2026. This train is operating between Howrah (Kolkata) and Guwahati (Kamakhya).
- This train completes the night journey in about 14 hours. Vande Bharat Sleeper Train is an upgraded version of Vande Bharat Express, designed for long distance night travel.

Indian Army declares 2026 the 'Year of Networking and Data-Centricity'

- The Indian Army has declared the year 2026 as the 'Year of Networking and Data-Centricity'.
- The initiative aims to establish data as a core operational resource.
- The emphasis will be on real-time data sharing, digital integration and data-driven decision making.

New Delhi World Book Fair 2026

- The 53rd edition of the New Delhi World Book Fair 2026 was held from 10–18 January 2026.
- Qatar – Guest of Honour Country
- Spain – Focus Country
- There will be a special pavilion for children.
- Organizers: National Book Trust (NBT), India and ITPO were the co-organizers and venue partners.

Jallikattu 2026 begins in Tamil Nadu

- In Tamil Nadu, Jallikattu 2026 was allowed on 3 January 2026 at Thachankurichi village in the Pudukkottai district.
- Thachankurichi village has traditionally been the site of the first Jallikattu ceremony every year.
- The event has been allowed under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 (Tamil Nadu Amendment Act, 2017) with regulation and safety conditions.
- Jallikattu is a traditional sport associated with Tamil culture and harvest festivals like Pongal.

Notification of Environment (Protection) Fund Rules, 2026

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India notified the Environment (Protection) Fund Rules, 2026 on 15th January 2026. Under this, the money received from the fine will be used directly for environmental improvement. They aim to invest the monetary penalties imposed on environmental violations into ecological restoration and monitoring systems.

Sources of Funds

- Punishments imposed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- Fines levied under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
- Amount received under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.
- Revenue Sharing Arrangement. 75% of the total penalty amount will go to the Consolidated Fund of the concerned State or Union Territory.
- The remaining 25% will be used by the Central Government for national level green initiatives.

Administrative Provisions

- The administrative expenditure on fund management will be limited to 5 per cent of the total amount.
- Project Management Units will be set up at the Central and State levels.
- Regular audit of the fund will be done by the Comptroller and Auditor General.

Mizoram declared 'Ginger Capital of India'

- NITI Aayog has officially declared Mizoram as the 'Ginger Capital of India' based on the significant increase in ginger production. Apart from this, the ginger processing unit set up at Sairang Horticulture Centre, about 21 km from Aizawl, was also inaugurated. According to the Mizoram Agricultural Marketing Board, more than 3.38 crore kg of ginger was procured in the year 2025.

UIDAI 's 'Udai' launch

- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) launched the official mascot 'UDAI' to provide information on Aadhaar services. It aims to explain the services and processes associated with Aadhaar in simple language and in a friendly manner and reduce the distance between common citizens.
- Arun Gokul from Thrissur (Kerala) won the first prize in the Mascot Design Competition.
- Apart from this, the first prize of the mascot naming contest was won by Riya Jain, Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh).

Kaziranga Elevated Corridor Project

- Prime Minister Modi performed Bhoomi Pujan of the Kaziranga Elevated Corridor project worth over Rs 6,950 crore at Kaliabor in Nagaon district of Assam on 18th January 2026.
- This 86-kilometre-long eco-friendly project will develop the Kaliabor-Numaligarh stretch of National Highway-715 into a four-lane highway.
- The project includes a 35 km elevated wildlife corridor, a 21 km bypass and a 30 km road upgrade.
- The corridor will ensure safe movement of wildlife, reduce human-wildlife conflict, and enhance road safety.

Bhoramdev Corridor Development Project

- Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai laid the foundation stone of the Bhoramdev Corridor Development Project on 1st January 2026.
- It will be developed in Kabirdham district of Chhattisgarh.
- The project will be developed at a cost of ₹146.40 crore under Swadesh Darshan Scheme 2.0.
- It aims to develop the Bhoramdev temple complex and surrounding religious-archaeological sites as an integrated tourist circuit.
- Bhoramdev Temple, also known as Khajuraho in Chhattisgarh, is famous for its ancient architecture and religious significance.

Assam becomes first state to set up 8th Pay Commission

- Assam took the first initiative in the country by constituting the 8th State Pay Commission.
- The commission was formed before the end of the 7th Pay Commission (1 January 2026).
- Former Chief Secretary Subhash Das has been appointed as the Chairman of the Commission.
- The Commission will recommend revision of pay and pension of state employees and pensioners.
- According to experts, the implementation of the revised salary structure is possible in FY 2027-28 or FY 2028-29.

President Droupadi Murmu inaugurates 'Granth Kutir'

- The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the 'Granth Kutir' at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi on January 23, 2026. It is a cultural and literary center.
- It preserves about 2,300 books and 50 rare manuscripts.
- The manuscripts are written on traditional materials such as palm leaf, paper, bark, and cloth.
- The aim of Granth Kutir is to preserve the rich intellectual and literary heritage of India.

MoU between Indian Army and IISc Bengaluru

- The Indian Army signed an agreement with IISc Bengaluru to develop the indigenous Artificial Intelligence system. Defence startup IndyAstra will also be a partner in this project.
- This MoU has been done under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
- Earlier, the Indian Army had also signed an agreement with IIT Hyderabad in 2015 for AI research.

Mumbai-Nagpur gas pipeline

- Public sector gas transport and marketing company GAIL (India) Limited in January 2026 announced a 694 km road in Maharashtra. Completed the long Mumbai-Nagpur Natural Gas Pipeline (MNPL) project.
- The pipeline was laid in a utility corridor only 3 meters wide along the Samruddhi Mahamarg.
- This is the first such project in India, in which a transport corridor was used as a utility corridor.

Project features

- Out of the total 694 km, about 675 km of pipelines were laid in an area of only 3 meters wide.
- The high-capacity pipeline with a diameter of 24 inches was installed in a space far less than the normal required width (20–30 m).
- MNPL has a capacity of about 16.5 million standard cubic meters per day.
- It will provide city gas distribution in 16 districts, gas to about 95 lakh households and more than 1,700 CNG stations.

Approval for Kalai-II Hydroelectric Project

- The central government approved the 1,200 MW Kalai-II hydroelectric project on the Lohit river in Arunachal Pradesh's Anjaw district.
- The Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) of the Union Environment Ministry recommended environmental clearance for the project.
- It will be developed by THDC India Limited.
- It will have a 161-meter-high concrete dam and an underground powerhouse with 8 turbines.

Approval for Kamala Hydroelectric Project

- The Public Investment Board (PIB) has approved Arunachal Pradesh's Kamala Hydroelectric Project.
- The Kamala Hydroelectric Project was earlier known as Subansiri Middle Hydroelectric Project.
- The project is located on the Kamala River in Arunachal Pradesh.
- It is being developed in Kamle, Kra Daadi and Kurung Kumey districts.
- It is a storage-based hydroelectric project, which includes flood mitigation systems.
- The project is expected to generate about 6,870 million units of electricity per annum.
- The project will include a 216-meter-high concrete gravity dam.
- It will control the flow of the river and provide flood protection to the low-lying areas of the Brahmaputra valley. The project will be developed under the BOOT (Build-Own-Operate-Transfer) model.
- NHPC will hold 74% equity stake in it and the Government of Arunachal Pradesh will hold 26%.

India's first 3D flex aqueous angiography

- For the first time in India, 3D flex aqueous angiography was performed at the Army Hospital (Research and Referral) in Delhi Cantt.
- 3D flex aqueous angiography is a state-of-the-art eye examination technology that shows the flow of fluid inside the eye (aqueous humor) in real-time and 3D view.
- It uses a stand-mounted spectralis system and a 3D operating microscope.
- It involves placing an extremely microscopic stent within the eye, controlling the eye pressure.

Evidence related to ancient India found near Taxila in Pakistan

- Excavation was carried out in the Bhir Mound area near Taxila located in Rawalpindi, Pakistan.
- Excavations have yielded remains dating back about 2,000 years.
- These remains belong to the Kushan Empire.
- Bronze coins and pieces of lapis lazuli (sapphire) have been found in the excavation.
- The coins belong to the period of the Kushan Emperor Vasudeva.
- Pieces of lapis lazuli are believed to date back to the sixth century BC.
- The coins date back to the second century CE. The obverse side of the coins bears the image of Emperor Vasudeva, while the reverse side depicts a female religious deity.

Punjab's first Dog Sanctuary

- Punjab launches state's first dog sanctuary in Ludhiana.
- This is a pilot project, which aims to find a humane solution to the problem of stray dogs.
- The goal of the sanctuary is to reduce the incidence of dog bites in urban areas.
- The centre will operate as per the Supreme Court's animal welfare guidelines.

Tamil Nadu launches India's first DeepTech Startup Policy

- Tamil Nadu launched India's first dedicated DeepTech Startup Policy on 8 January 2026.
- The name of this policy is Tamil Nadu DeepTech Startup Policy 2025-26 .
- The iTNT Hub will act as the nodal implementing agency for TNDTSP.
- The policy aims to support 100 deep tech startups and mobilize public and private investment of Rs. 100 crore, including venture capital and co-investment.
- Through this policy, there will be 10 technology transfer or licensing agreements from academic and R&D institutions, which can be commercialized by industry or startups.
- This will promote a 25% increase in annual patent filing by deep tech startups.
- More than 10,000 students and professionals will be trained in advanced skills (artificial intelligence, machine learning, robotics, biotechnology, etc.) in the technological field through various programs.
- Under this, 10 research fellowships will be awarded. The institution must employ at least 25% of its total workforce (excluding contract employees) within Tamil Nadu.

Mukhya Mantri Eti Koli Duti Pat Yojana

- The Assam government has launched the Mukhyamantri Eti Koli Duti Pat Yojana for tea garden workers. The objective of this scheme is to provide one-time financial assistance to tea workers.
- The scheme was launched by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma at Doomdooma in Tinsukia district.
- It was presented as a mark of respect to the contributions of tea tribes and indigenous communities.
- Under this scheme, more than 6 lakh tea workers will get a one-time assistance of ₹5,000.

Tri-Service Veterans' Day Parade in Mumbai

- The Tri-Services Veterans' Day Parade was held on 11 January 2026 at Marine Drive, Mumbai, Maharashtra. The parade was conducted with the participation of veterans of the Army, Navy and Air Force. The event was a symbol of India's military heritage and the nation's gratitude to the veterans.

PM Vishwakarma Haat 2026

- PM Vishwakarma Haat 2026 was organised in New Delhi from 18th to 31st January, 2026.
- The event was organized by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- The event provides an exclusive platform to promote traditional handicrafts and artisans under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme.

Operation Trashi-1

- Operation Trashi-1 was launched in Sonar village of Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The purpose of this operation was to find and eliminate terrorists in the area.

"Agni Sarassulo Vikasinchina Kamalam Droupadi Murmu"

- The author of this book is Yarlagadda Lakshmi Prasad.
- A book on President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu was released by Lakshamma, a woman sanitation worker at Andhra University in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

"Mother Mary Comes to Me" Book

- Booker Prize-winning author Arundhati Roy launched her new memoir "Mother Mary Comes to Me".

Book "Chalice of Ambrosia: Ram Janmabhoomi - Challenge and Response"

- The author of the book is Shri Surendra Kumar Pachauri, former Secretary to the Government of India. This book is based on topics related to Ram Janmabhoomi.

The First State to Present a Dedicated Senior Citizens' Budget

- Kerala presented the country's first separate budget for senior citizens within its budget for the financial year 2026–27. This budget consolidates and presents all government expenditures related to senior citizens in a unified manner.
- Its objective is to enhance transparency and to clearly illustrate the impact of the growing elderly population on public finances.
- It encompasses pensions, healthcare services, social security, and other welfare schemes.
- A total allocation of ₹46,236.52 crore has been earmarked for the senior citizens' budget, constituting approximately 19.07% of the state's total budget.

Kerala: India's First Comprehensive Graphene Policy Approved

- The Government of Kerala, under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, has approved India's first comprehensive Graphene Policy.
- Its objective is to establish Kerala as a global hub for the research, development, and production of graphene.

Key Features:

- Graphene units will be provided with a 50% land lease subsidy, financial assistance of up to 45% on Capital Expenditure (CAPEX), and exemptions on stamp duty and electricity duty.
- A ₹87 crore Graphene Innovation Centre is being developed in Kochi, along with the 'Graphene Aurora' project in Palakkad.
- Large-scale production and the industrial ecosystem will be boosted through the establishment of a Graphene Park by the Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA).
- Under this policy, collaborations will be forged with the University of Oxford and the University of Manchester for research and commercialization purposes.
- Graphene is a single-layer, two-dimensional carbon material renowned for its exceptional strength and high electrical conductivity.

Puducherry Digital Food Subsidy Pilot Project

- The Government of India has launched a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)-based digital food subsidy pilot project in Puducherry.
- This initiative has been implemented under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY).
- Under this initiative, beneficiaries will receive the subsidy amount directly into their CBDC (e₹) wallets in the form of digital tokens.
- These tokens have been designed as 'programmable money,' ensuring that they can be utilized solely for purchasing food grains from authorized merchants and Fair Price Shops (FPS).
- The objective is to strengthen the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system and to enhance transparency, security, and accountability in the distribution of food subsidies.
- CBDC is the digital form of the country's fiat currency, issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- It comprises two variants: Wholesale (e₹-W), intended for transactions between financial institutions, and Retail (e₹-R), designed for use by the general public.

Kerala Declares Tidal Flooding a State-Specific Disaster

- Kerala has become the first state in India to declare tidal flooding a state-specific disaster.
- Tidal flooding—also known as 'sunny day flooding'—is a type of inundation that occurs in coastal areas due to a rise in sea levels, even in the absence of rain or storms.
- The primary causes of this phenomenon include the gravitational influence of the Moon and the Sun, the subsidence of coastal areas, and the destruction of natural barriers such as mangroves. During spring tides, seawater flows backward through rivers and backwaters, inundating low-lying areas.
- In Kerala, the impact of this phenomenon is most pronounced in the central coastal districts, such as Ernakulam (specifically Vypin, Chellanam, and Edakochi) and Alappuzha.

Sujivika Portal

- It was launched by the Union Minister of Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh, on February 24, 2026, on the occasion of the 40th Foundation Day of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT).
- It is an AI-powered data portal for biotech products.
- It serves as a digital intelligence platform for trade statistics, presenting import data for biotech products in an organized and accessible format.
- This portal provides sector-wise analysis of biochemical products, industrial enzymes, and other biotechnology imports.

Kerala Nativity Card Bill

- The Kerala Cabinet has approved the 'Kerala Nativity Card Bill'.
- Under this initiative, migrants will be provided with a permanent digital identity.
- Kerala has become the first state in India to formulate a legislative framework to grant a permanent 'digital identity' to its migrants.
- According to the Bill, individuals born in Kerala—or those whose parents or ancestors were born in Kerala—and who have not acquired foreign citizenship will be eligible for this card.
- Individuals born outside Kerala due to employment reasons will also be eligible, provided their ancestors were natives of Kerala.
- The authority to issue this card shall rest with the Tahsildar.

Goa Publishes State-Level "Bird Atlas"

- In February 2026, the Government of Goa published the "Bird Atlas of Goa" during the 9th Bird Festival of Goa. Following Kerala, Goa is the second state in India to publish a comprehensive, state-level bird atlas.
- This was a citizen science-based initiative. This atlas will provide a crucial foundation for biodiversity conservation, scientific research, and wildlife policy-making.

Launch of NeVA in the Bihar Legislative Assembly

- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla launched the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) in the Central Hall of the Bihar Legislative Assembly in Patna on February 7, 2026.
- This initiative marks a significant step towards making legislative proceedings digital and paperless.

NeVA (National e-Vidhan Application)

- NeVA is a cloud-based digital platform. It has been developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC).
- This platform enables the paperless conduct of legislative proceedings.
- It makes documents such as agendas, rules of procedure, notices, and bulletins available to legislators in an electronic format.

NITI Aayog's Clean Energy Transition Blueprint for Andhra Pradesh

- NITI Aayog has presented a clean energy transition blueprint for Andhra Pradesh under the ASSET (Accelerating Sustainable State Energy Transition) platform. The objective of this plan is to position Andhra Pradesh among India's top three renewable energy hubs by 2035.

MoU between IIRIS and NLU Jodhpur

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between IIRIS Consulting and the National Law University, Jodhpur (NLUJ), on February 24, 2026, to establish an Information Security and Forensics Society. This marks the first dedicated Chair for Information Security and Forensic Science to be established within an Indian law university.
- Its objective is to bridge legal theory with the practical skills of digital investigations and to foster industry-academia collaboration. Under this initiative, a Centre of Excellence (CoE) will be established to encourage research and innovation in the fields of information security and forensic science.

RBI Launches Second Secure Data Centre in Odisha

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has inaugurated the country's second high-security data centre in Bhubaneswar (Odisha).
- This facility has been established within the Greenfield Campus of Info Valley-II in the Khordha district. Its objective is to ensure the security and operational continuity of the nation's critical financial infrastructure.

Key Features:

- This data centre holds Tier IV Design Certification (the world's highest standard for data centres).
- It will host the RBI's core computer systems, databases, and applications.
- It will be utilized for cash management, digital payments, banking transactions, and financial data monitoring. The location has been strategically selected to be situated away from border regions and areas prone to high seismic risk.
- The RBI's primary data centre is located in Kharghar (Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra).

"To Grow, Connect Here" – Digital Skills Campaign

- Union Minister Jayant Chaudhary launched this nationwide campaign on February 23, 2026.
- Its objective is to promote digital skills development through the Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH).
- Over 1.5 crore candidates are already registered on SIDH.
- It has emerged as one of India's largest integrated digital skills platforms.

Unveiling of Rajaji's Statue at Rashtrapati Bhavan

- President Droupadi Murmu unveiled a statue of C. Rajagopalachari (Rajaji) during the 'Rajaji Utsav' held at Rashtrapati Bhavan on February 23, 2026.
- This statue has been installed on the Grand Stairs near the Ashoka Mandap.
- It replaced the statue of the British architect Edwin Lutyens.
- C. Rajagopalachari was a renowned freedom fighter, lawyer, and statesman.
- He served as India's first—and only—Indian Governor-General (1948–1950).

Centenary Celebration of the Ol Chiki Script

- President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the centenary celebration, held in New Delhi on February 16, 2026, to mark the completion of 100 years of the Ol Chiki script.
- This event was organized by the Ministry of Culture.
- The Ol Chiki script was invented in 1925 by Pandit Raghunath Murmu; it comprises 30 phonetic characters and accurately represents the sounds of the Santhali language.

UN Fellowship Training Programme on SALW Control

- The Indian Army organized a United Nations Fellowship Training Programme on SALW control in Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh) from February 16 to March 6, 2026.
- SALW stands for Small Arms and Light Weapons.
- This programme was hosted in Asia for the first time for the Asia-Pacific region.
- It was organized by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) through the UNRCPD, while it was conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Defence.

'Stree Suraksha' Scheme

- Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan officially launched the state government's 'Stree Suraksha' scheme on February 11, 2026. Under this scheme, a monthly pension of ₹1,000 will be provided to unemployed women and transgender women.
- In the first phase, the initial instalment was directly transferred to the accounts of 1,018,042 beneficiaries.

Key Features

- Monthly Assistance Amount: ₹1,000
- Target Group: Women and transgender women belonging to economically backward sections
- Age Limit: 35 to 60 years

Operation Trishi-I

- 'Operation Trishi-I' was conducted against terrorism in the rugged mountainous regions of the Kishtwar district in Jammu and Kashmir.
- This operation was jointly executed by the Indian Army's White Knight Corps (16 Corps), the Jammu and Kashmir Police, and the CRPF.
- The primary focus areas of the operation were the forest tracts of Chatru and Dichhar.
- Its objective was to dismantle the networks of foreign terrorists, particularly those belonging to Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM).

Operation Megaburu

- This operation was conducted against Maoists in the Saranda forest region of the West Singhbhum district in Jharkhand.
- During this operation, security forces eliminated 16 Maoists, including the top CPI (Maoist) leader Patiram Manjhi, alias Anal Da. This joint operation was carried out by the CRPF and the Jharkhand Police.

'Operation Shastra'

- The Delhi Police launched a special operation named 'Operation Shastra' in February 2026.
- Its objective is to curb the emerging digital criminal culture and 'gun culture' in the capital.
- This campaign was conducted against criminals and youths who display weapons on social media.

New Guidelines for the Singing/Playing of 'Vande Mataram' (2026)

- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has issued new, detailed guidelines regarding the observance and ceremonial usage of 'Vande Mataram'.

Key Highlights of the New Guidelines

- All six stanzas of 'Vande Mataram' have been designated as the official version.
- If an event features both the National Song and the National Anthem, 'Vande Mataram' shall be sung immediately before 'Jana Gana Mana'. It shall be mandatory for all persons present to stand in the 'Attention' posture while the song is being sung or played.
- Standing shall not be mandatory when the song is played in cinema halls during the screening of a film or newsreel.

Inauguration of Lab Automation Portal 'SATYA'

- Union Minister of State Jitin Prasada inaugurated the Standardization Testing and Quality Certification (STQC) Lab Automation Portal, 'SATYA', on February 9, 2026.
- This portal provides expedited services to industries and the general public, while also ensuring enhanced forecasting capabilities, as well as greater transparency and trust within the certification process.
- For start-ups and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), it reduces procedural complexities.

Rajasthan: India's Largest Wool-Producing State

- In February 2026, Rajasthan became India's largest wool-producing state.
- Rajasthan produced 16,013.50 thousand kilograms of wool, accounting for approximately 47.5% of the country's total production.
- Jammu and Kashmir ranked second with 7,770 thousand kg, while Karnataka stood third with 6,472 thousand kg.

Places in News

Conferences

India AI Impact Summit 2026

- India will host the India AI Impact Summit 2026 from 19-20 February 2026 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.
- The conference will bring together policy-makers, researchers, industry leaders, startups, and civil society.
- It aims to use AI for social welfare, sustainable development, and economic progress. This summit is based on three formulas – People, Planet and Progress.



86th All India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC 2026)

- The conference was held from 19th to 21st January, 2026 at the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly Complex in Lucknow. AIPOC is the apex national forum of presiding officers of Indian legislatures.
- The first AIPOC was held in Shimla (Himachal Pradesh) in the year 1921.
- Its theme was “Strong Legislature – Prosperous Nation”. The conference held special discussions on the use of technology, capacity building and public accountability in legislatures.
- The Conference was attended by 36 Presiding Officers from 24 States and Union Territories.

Roundtable on Promotion of Seafood Exports

- A Roundtable Conference with Ambassadors and High Commissioners was organized by the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying on 21st January 2026 in New Delhi. It aims to boost bilateral trade and strengthen connectivity to international markets.
- The main theme of the conference was ‘Seafood Export Promotion’.
- The event was presided over by Union Minister Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh.
- The conference was attended by Ambassadors and High Commissioners from 83 partner countries from Asia, Africa, Europe, North America, Oceania and Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Note: India is the world’s second-largest producer of aquaculture products.

International Conference on Democracy and Election Management (IICDEM) 2026

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) hosted the first India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management (IICDEM) 2026 on 21-23 January 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- The conference was organised by the India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM).
- It was the largest global conference on democracy and election management hosted by India.
- It was also attended by international organizations, foreign missions in India and experts in the electoral field.

India Power Summit 2026

- The India Electricity Summit 2026 will be held from 19th to 22nd March, 2026 at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi. It aims to foster a global dialogue on clean energy transition, grid resilience, and sustainable power systems. **Theme:** “Electrifying Growth. Empowering Sustainability. Connecting Globally.”

Third International Conference on Indian Languages inaugurated

- The Vice President of India, C. P. Radhakrishnan, inaugurated the 3rd International Conference on Indian Languages in New Delhi on 9th January 2026.
- The conference was attended by scholars, language experts and international delegates.
- The main topic of discussion was the preservation, study and global promotion of Indian languages.

National Textile Ministers' Conference 2026

- The conference was held in Guwahati, Assam on 8-9 January 2026.
- The conference was organized by the Union Ministry of Textiles in collaboration with the Government of Assam. It was attended by Textiles Ministers and senior officials of all States and UTs.
- The theme of the conference was "India's Textiles: Weaving Growth, Heritage & Innovation".

Sammakka-Saralamma (Medaram) Jatara

- Sammakka-Saralamma is a three-day biennial festival of the Jatara Koya tribal community.
- The festival is held on the banks of the Jampanna Vagu River in the Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary in Telangana. It is held in the month of Magh (February) and was declared a state festival in 1996.
- It is considered to be one of the largest indigenous spiritual gatherings in the world.

Spituk Gustor Festival

- It was held in Ladakh on 16-17 January 2026.
- The festival is held at the Spituk Monastery, one of the oldest Buddhist monasteries in Ladakh.
- Its main attraction is the sacred Cham dances performed by the monks.
- These dances use colourful masks and traditional costumes.

Meeting of the 3rd Inland Waterways Development Council (IWDC 3.0)

- The 3rd Inland Waterways Development Council (IWDC 3.0) meeting was held on 23rd January 2026 in Kochi, Kerala. The meeting was chaired by Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal.
- The objective was to review the progress made in the Inland Water Transport sector and prepare a future action plan.

"Bagurumba Dohou 2026" Cultural Programme

- The event took place on 17th January 2026 at Sarusajai Stadium, Guwahati, Assam.
- More than 10,000 artists from 81 Assembly Constituencies of 23 districts of Assam collectively performed Bagurumba dance at the event. Bagurumba is a nature-inspired folk dance of the Bodo community, symbolizing peace, fertility, joy and collective harmony.

India-AI Impact Summit 2026

- The India-AI Impact Summit 2026 was held at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi from February 16 to 20, 2026. This event marked the first major AI conference to be hosted in the Global South.
- It was organized by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) in collaboration with NASSCOM, NITI Aayog, and academic institutions.
- Its primary focus was centered on three core pillars: People, Planet, and Progress.
- The theme of the summit was "AI for All (Sarvajan Hitaya, Sarvajan Sukhaya)."
- Its official partner was the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF).
- During the summit, the Government of India unveiled the country's first comprehensive AI governance framework.
- Its objective is to foster safe and trustworthy AI innovation across sectors such as healthcare, education, agriculture, finance, and public administration.
- Rather than enacting a separate statute, this framework is grounded in seven guiding principles.
- These include Trust is the Foundation, People First, Innovation over Restraint, Fairness & Equity, Accountability, Understandable by Design, and Safety, Resilience & Sustainability.

BioAsia 2026

- Its 23rd edition was held on February 17–18, 2026, at the HITEX Exhibition Centre in Hyderabad.
- It is Asia's premier life sciences and health-tech forum.
- The theme of the conference was "TechBio Unleashed – AI, Automation and the Biology Revolution."
- It was organized by the Government of Telangana.

International Conference on Dam Safety 2026 (ICDS 2026)

- This conference was held on February 13–14, 2026, at the J.N. Tata Auditorium of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru (Karnataka).
- The conference was organized under Phases II and III of the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP).
- The event involved the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD&GR) of the Ministry of Jal Shakti; the Water Resources Department of the Government of Karnataka; the Central Water Commission (CWC); IISc; and the World Bank.
- During the conference, DAMCHAT (an AI-based knowledge platform) and the Jal Shakti Data Management Platform were launched.

World Ocean Science Congress 2026

- The World Ocean Science Congress 2026 was inaugurated on February 22, 2026, at Dona Paula, Goa.
- It was inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Goa, Pramod Sawant.
- The theme of this conference was "Ocean Health and a Sustainable Future." It focused on ocean health, climate change resilience, marine ecosystems, and a sustainable blue economy.

Asia Economic Dialogue (AED) 2026

- The 7th edition of the Asia Economic Dialogue (AED) 2026 was held in Pune from February 26 to 28, 2026. It was organized by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Pune International Centre.
- Theme: "Geo-economics Beyond Globalisation: Tariffs, Technology and Strategic Alignment"
- More than 45 speakers from 9 countries participated in 12 sessions during this conference.
- Objective: To strengthen regional and global economic cooperation and to establish Asia's role in shaping the future of the global economy.

First Northeast Rice Festival in Nagaland

- Nagaland hosted the "Northeast Rice Festival: Grains of Heritage."
- It was held on February 26–27, 2026, at the Agri Expo Centre in Chümoukedima.
- Objective: To promote the traditional rice varieties of the Northeast region and to encourage traditional agricultural tools and seed conservation practices.

9th International Spice Conference 2026

- This conference was held in Kochi (Kerala) from February 23 to 26, 2026.
- It was organized by the All India Spices Exporters Forum (AISEF).
- The theme of the conference was "Spice 360 – Future Ready."
- Policymakers, industry experts, researchers, and innovators from across the globe participated in the event.

National Conference on Women's Safety at the Workplace (SHE-Box)

- The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development organized a National Conference on Women's Safety at the Workplace in New Delhi on February 14, 2026.
- Objective: To ensure safe, dignified, and harassment-free workplaces for women across all sectors.
- More than 1.48 lakh organizations are registered on the 'SHE-Box' portal, and over 60,000 Internal Committees are actively functioning.
- Over the past six years, women's labour force participation has increased from 23% to 42%.

Plastindia 2026

- Plastindia 2026 was held from February 5 to 10, 2026, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- It is one of the world's leading plastics exhibitions.
- Its theme was "Bharat Next," which focuses on the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India) and Viksit Bharat.
- It was organized by the Plastindia Foundation in collaboration with the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and the Ministry of MSME.
- It was India's first 100% zero-waste plastics exhibition.
- During the event, Union Minister Chirag Paswan released the 'Plastic Industry Status Report 2025'.

Bharat Bodhan AI Conclave 2026

- The Bharat Bodhan AI Conclave 2026 was held on February 12-13, 2026, at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. On this occasion, the Bodhan AI Centre of Excellence was inaugurated.
- An initiative was launched to develop the 'Bharat EduAI Stack' to promote AI-enabled education across the country. Its objective is to identify existing gaps and opportunities in AI-based education.

Losar Festival

- The Losar Festival was celebrated by the Tibetan community in McLeod Ganj (Dharamsala), Himachal Pradesh, from February 18 to 20, 2026.
- It marks the Tibetan New Year.
- Its origins lie in the traditions of the pre-Buddhist Bon religion.

International Shivratri Festival

- A seven-day International Shivratri Festival was organized in the city of Mandi, Himachal Pradesh.
- It was celebrated on the occasion of the city marking the completion of its 500th year in 2026.
- This festival was initiated in 1527 AD by Raja Ajbar Sen, the founder of Mandi.
- It continues for seven days, commencing on the day following Phalguna Krishna Chaturdashi (Mahashivratri).
- Following the dedication of the kingdom to Lord Madhorai (Vishnu) by Raja Suraj Sen in the 17th century, this fair has come to symbolize the confluence of Shaivite and Vaishnavite traditions.

Herath Festival 2026

- Herath is the most ancient and significant socio-religious festival of the Kashmiri Pandit community.
- The word 'Herath' is derived from the Sanskrit term Hararatri, which means 'the Night of Shiva'.
- This festival is celebrated on the Phalguna Krishna Trayodashi.
- According to one belief, it was on this very day that Lord Shiva was united in marriage with Goddess Parvati; alternatively, another belief holds that Lord Shiva manifested himself in the form of the 'Jwalalingam'. The primary focal point of this festival is the Shankaracharya Temple, where special prayers and rituals are performed.

Sarthal Winter Festival

- The second Sarthal Winter Festival was organized in the Sarthal Valley of the Kathua district in Jammu and Kashmir.
- This festival is associated with the Mata Sarthal Devi Temple.

6th National Crop Nutrition Summit 2026

- It was organized on February 5-6, 2026, at the National Stock Exchange (NSE) premises in Mumbai.
- It was organized by the Indian Micro-fertilizers Manufacturers Association (IMMA).
- The theme of the summit was "Converge, Collaborate & Co-create."
- Objective: To focus on the growing importance of soil health, micronutrients, and sustainable agricultural inputs in Indian agriculture.

Reports & Indexes

Numbeo Security Index 2026

- The index was released by the crowd-sourced global database, Numbeo.
- Qingdao city in China's Shandong province has become the safest city in the world.

Top 5 Safest Cities Globally

Rank	City	Country	Score
1	Qingdao	China	89.2
2	Abu Dhabi	United Arab Emirates (UAE)	88.9
3	Doha	Qatar	84.5
4	Sharjah	United Arab Emirates (UAE)	84.5
5	Dubai	United Arab Emirates (UAE)	83.9

Top 5 Safest Cities in India

Rank in India	Global Rank	City	State	Score
1	46	Mangaluru	Karnataka	74.4
2	87	Ahmedabad	Gujarat	68.5
3	106	Jaipur	Rajasthan	65.3
4	123	Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu	62.0
5	132	Thiruvananthapuram	Kerala	61.0

Top 5 safest countries

Rank	country	Score
1	United Arab Emirates (UAE)	86.0
2	Qatar	84.8
3	Andorra	84.8
4	Taiwan	83.0
5	Macao (China)	81.8
70	India	55.8

- New Delhi (Delhi) became the least safe city in India, ranking 255th globally with a score of 40.9.

Asia Manufacturing Index 2026

- The report has been released by Hong Kong-based consulting firm Dejan Shira & Associates.
- The index assessed 11 Asian countries across 8 pillars and 43 sub-parameters.
- China ranked first because of the industrial ecosystem and scale. Malaysia is second and Vietnam is third.
- Singapore was fourth and South Korea was fifth.

India's Performance

- India has been ranked sixth for the second consecutive year.
- India ranks first in terms of workforce.
- India ranks third in economic growth, with an estimated GDP growth of 6.4–7.3%.
- India ranked fifth in innovation and fourth in infrastructure.
- India ranks ninth in tax policy and international trade.
- India ranks seventh in logistics.

Henley Passport Index 2026

- This index is prepared by Henley & Partners.
- The strength of the passport is measured on the basis of visa-free and visa-on-arrival access.
- The index is based on data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA).
- The 2026 edition evaluates 277 countries and territories.
- Singapore ranks first with 192 destinations.
- Japan and South Korea are jointly second with 188 destinations.
- India has been ranked 80th globally in the Henley Passport Index 2026.
- Indian passport holders have visa-free, visa-on-arrival or e-visa facility at 55 destinations.
- India's ranking has improved from 85th position in 2025.
- Afghanistan is the country with the weakest passport with 24 destinations.

Responsible Nations Index (RNI) 2026

- This index has been started by the World Intellectual Foundation.
- It evaluates the behaviour of countries towards citizens, the environment and the global community.
- The index compares 154 countries on the basis of ethical governance, sustainable development and international cooperation.

Top 5 countries	Last 5 countries
1. Singapore (score: 0.61945)	154. Central African Republic (Score: 0.35715)
2. Switzerland (Score: 0.58692)	153. Syria (Score: 0.37254)
3. Denmark (Score: 0.58372)	152. South Sudan (Score: 0.37389)
4. Cyprus (score: 0.57737)	151. Yemen (Score: 0.38265)
5. Sweden (Score: 0.57397)	150. Somalia (Score: 0.39995)

- India has been ranked 16th out of 154 countries in the Responsible Nations Index (RNI).
- India's score in this ranking was 0.551513.

ILO's 'Employment and Social Trends, 2026' Report

- According to the International Labour Organization, the global unemployment rate is projected to be 4.9% in 2025.

Key Global Findings

- Stagnation in employment quality: Limited decline in extreme work-poverty in 2015–25.
- Increase in informality: 2.1 billion workers in informal employment by 2026.
- Structural change slows: Transition to productive areas weakened.
- Inequality: 186 million unemployed in 2026; Employment gap 408 million.
- Gender and youth gap: Low female participation; Youth unemployment 12.4% (2025).
- Productivity and Income: Labour income share 52.6% (lower than 2019).
- AI and Business Risks: AI Pressures on Early High-Skill Jobs.

Conclusion in the context of India

- India will continue to be one of the fastest growing economies in the Asia-Pacific.
- India's share in global manufacturing is ~3% (China 27%, US 17%).
- Green Talent Gap: The demand for green skills is growing faster than supply.

Global Risk Report 2026

- The report was released by the World Economic Forum.
- This report outlines a serious and complex global scenario for the coming decade.
- According to this report, the world is now entering an "Age of Competition".
- This competition is growing at the military level as well as through trade sanctions, economic sanctions, technological controls, and information warfare.
- According to the WEF, a global risk is an event or hazard that can have serious negative effects on a large scale.
- The report is based on surveys of global leaders, policy-makers and experts.
- Its risks are categorized into five categories:
 1. Geopolitical
 2. Economic
 3. Social
 4. Technological
 5. Environmental

Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2024

- NITI Aayog has released the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2024.
- This is the fourth edition of the EPI, while the first edition was published in August 2020.
- The index comprehensively assesses the export potential and preparedness of India's states and union territories.
- EPI 2024 includes a total of 4 pillars, 13 sub-pillars, and 70 indicators.

Pillar	Description	Weights (%)
Export Infrastructure	Physical and Logistics Facilities for Exports	20%
Business Ecosystem	Industry, Investment, Finance and Business Environment	40%
Policy & Governance	Policy Framework, Rules and Administrative Efficiency	20%
Export Performance	Real Export Achievements and Growth	20%

Performance-Based Categories

- Leaders – High Export Readiness
- Challengers – Moderate preparation, potential for improvement
- Aspirers – In the early stages of the export ecosystem

Top Performers in the Leaders category

Rank	Large states	Small States, North-Eastern States and Union Territories
1	Maharashtra	Uttarakhand
2	Tamil Nadu	Jammu and Kashmir
3	Gujarat	Nagaland
4	Uttar Pradesh	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu
5	Andhra Pradesh	Goa

'Chief Economist Outlook' report

- The report was released by the World Economic Forum.
- The report analyses the new global economic architecture that is being built amidst geopolitical tensions and technological changes.
- The global growth rate for the year 2026 is estimated to be around 3.1 percent.
- According to this, the debt-to-GDP ratio reaching 95 percent is affecting governments' ability to undertake social and developmental expenditure.
- Trade tensions and technical sanctions between the US and China are impacting global supply chains.
- The growth outlook for India and the South Asia region is reported to be the strongest.
- According to the IMF, India's growth rate is projected at 6.4 percent in 2026.

PESA Rankings

- The rankings were released by the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
- PESA Full Form: Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act
- In this ranking, Maharashtra got the first position, Madhya Pradesh got the second position and Himachal Pradesh got the third position. Among the 10 PESA states under the 5th Schedule, Maharashtra was the leader in the implementation of the PESA Act.
- The ranking aims to strengthen Gram Sabha-centric self-governance, promote evidence-based policy interventions, and identify areas in need of targeted support.

Performance of States in PESA Rankings	
State	Performance
Maharashtra	Front Runner
Madhya Pradesh	
Himachal Pradesh	
Rajasthan	Performer
Chhattisgarh	
Telangana	
Andhra Pradesh	Aspirant
Gujarat	
Odisha	Beginner
Jharkhand	

National Legislative Index (NLI)

- The Lok Sabha Speaker announced the National Legislative Index during the 86th All India Presiding Officers' Conference held in Lucknow.
- The National Legislative Index is a proposed data-based assessment framework.
- It aims to compare and rank various legislatures based on their functionality and performance.
- It will be helpful in making an objective assessment of productivity, quality of functioning and overall performance of legislatures.
- Through this, healthy competition among the State Legislatures will be promoted.

Uttarakhand Police tops in country in ICJS 2.0 rankings

- The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) released the ranking of the Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System 2.0 (ICJS 2.0) (2nd Edition).
- Uttarakhand Police secured the first position in the country with 93.46 marks.
- Haryana Police (93.41 points) stood second and Assam Police (93.16 points) stood third.
- Uttarakhand Police was the best performer in digital policing and crime data management.

ICJS 2.0

- The Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) is a consolidated digital platform.
- It connects police, courts, prosecution, prisons, forensic labs, fingerprint databases, and crime record systems.

Chhattisgarh ranks first in APAAR ID generation

- Chhattisgarh ranked first among the big states of the country in the creation of APAAR ID for students.
- By early January 2026, the state achieved coverage of about 89 percent of students.
- APAAR Full Form: Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry.
- APAAR ID is a permanent digital academic identity of students.
- Academic records, achievements, certificates, and credits are securely stored.

India's Non-Fossil Fuel Based Installed Electricity Capacity Touches 266.78 GW

- India's non-fossil fuel-based installed electricity capacity increased to 266.78 GW in 2025.
- This is a growth of 22.6% compared to 2024.
- More than 49 GW of new non-fossil fuel capacity was added during the year 2025.
- Solar power capacity increased from 97.86 GW to 135.81 GW.
- Solar energy growth in 2025 was 38.8 percent.
- Wind power capacity also increased from 48.16 GW to 54.51 GW.

Digital Well-Being Index (DWBI) 2026

- On the occasion of Safer Internet Day 2026, on February 10, 2026, Snap Inc. released the fourth edition of the Digital Well-Being Index (DWBI).
- This annual study assesses the digital experiences of users aged 13 to 24.
- The survey was conducted in India, the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, Germany, and France.
- In this index, India ranked first among the six countries.
- India scored 69 out of 100 points, which is two points higher than the previous year.

Rankings

- India (69 points)
- United States (67 points)
- United Kingdom (64 points)
- Australia (63 points)
- Germany (61 points)
- France (60 points)

Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2025

- This index was released by Transparency International (TI).
- In this index, Denmark secured the first position among 182 countries (with a score of 89 points).
- The scores in this index range from 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean).
- In 2025, the global average score stood at 42 (the lowest in over a decade).

India's Position

- India ranked 91st in this index (compared to 96th place the previous year).
- India's score was 39, which is 1 point higher than that of the previous year.

Top 5 Least Corrupt Countries	Top 5 Most Corrupt Countries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Denmark (89), ■ Finland (88), ■ Singapore (84), ■ New Zealand (81), ■ Norway (81) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ South Sudan (9), ■ Somalia (9), ■ Venezuela (10), ■ Yemen (13), ■ Libya (13)

Global Research and Development (R&D) Expenditure 2024

- According to the latest data from the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), India ranked 7th in global Research and Development (R&D) expenditure in 2024.
- India's total R&D investment amounted to approximately US\$ 75.73 billion.
- These figures are based on the Global Innovation Index 2025 (GII 2025) and related R&D estimates.

Top 5 R&D Investor Countries

Rank	Country	R&D Expenditure (Billion Dollars)
1	China	785.9
2	United States of America	781.8
3	Japan	186.0
4	Germany	132.2
5	South Korea	126.4

- In 2024, global Research and Development (R&D) expenditure rose to US\$ 2.87 trillion. This represents an annual increase of approximately 3% compared to 2023.
- The share of R&D expenditure in global GDP has increased from 1.48% in 2000 to approximately 2% in 2024.

Network Readiness Index 2025

- This index was released by the Portulans Institute.
- The United States secured the first position with a score of 79.13 (for the fourth consecutive year).
- It was followed by Finland (second) and Singapore (third).
- India ranked 45th out of 127 economies in this index (scoring 54.43/100).
- Among low-middle-income economies, India ranked second (with Vietnam taking the first spot).
- The rankings comprise 52 high-income, 34 upper-middle-income, 32 lower-middle-income, and 9 low-income economies.
- The top 10 also include Denmark, Sweden, the Netherlands, Germany, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, and South Korea.

Global AI Brain Race 2026

- This report evaluates over 100 countries based on criteria such as AI research, infrastructure, economic integration, talent, governance, and responsible AI practices.
- The United States secured the top spot with a score of 82 points, while China ranked second with 59 points. Singapore ranked third with 37 points.
- India ranked sixth with a score of 32 out of 100.
- The AI Brain Race reflects the global competition among nations to achieve leadership in Artificial Intelligence innovation, infrastructure, and policy frameworks.

Henley Passport Index 2026

- This index was released in February 2026 by the British consultancy firm, Henley & Partners.
- The index ranks countries based on the visa-free and visa-on-arrival facilities available to their passport holders.
- India's ranking has improved to the 75th position. (Previously, India was at the 80th position in January 2026.)
- Indian passport holders enjoy visa-free or visa-on-arrival access in 56 countries.
- Singapore secured the top spot with visa-free access to 192 countries.
- Japan and South Korea tied for the second position, with access to 187 countries.
- Afghanistan ranked 101st (last), with visa-free or visa-on-arrival access in only 24 countries.

Global Soft Power Index 2026

- This index was released by Brand Finance.
- This index evaluates the 193 member countries of the United Nations across 55 metrics.
- India's rank dropped by two places compared to 2025, falling from 30 to 32.
- India's total score stood at 48 points.
- The primary reason for India's decline was weak performance in pillars such as Governance and Net Positive Impact.

Rank	Country
1	United States of America
2	China
3	Japan
4	United Kingdom
5	Germany

LEED 2025 Rankings

- LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.
- These rankings were compiled by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) and Green Business Certification Inc. (GBCI) for countries outside the United States.
- In this list, China secured the first position, while India ranked second.
- China took the top spot with approximately 26.65 million GSM of LEED-certified space across 1,939 projects.
- India ranked second with over 16.11 million GSM of space across 611 projects. (It held the third position in 2024.)
- In 2024, more than 7,500 commercial projects globally achieved LEED certification, covering a total area exceeding 147 million GSM.

Delhi Airport: APAC's 5th Busiest Airport in 2025

- According to the latest data from OAG, Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI) has emerged as the 5th busiest airport in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region in 2025.
- The airport recorded a one-way departure seat capacity of 46.18 million.
- This ranking is compiled based on scheduled airline seat supply.
- The primary drivers behind this growth are the rising demand for domestic air travel in India, improved airport infrastructure, and the rapid expansion of airlines.

APAC's Busiest Airports in 2025

- Tokyo International (Haneda) – Japan
- Shanghai Pudong International – China
- Guangzhou Baiyun International – China
- Beijing Capital International – China
- Delhi (Indira Gandhi International Airport) – India

Important Days

Day	Date	Key Points
DRDO's Foundation Day	January 1	DRDO was established on 1 January 1958. DRDO Chairman and Secretary, Department of Defence Research: Dr Samir V Kamat.
Savitribai Phule Jayanti	January 3	Savitribai Phule was an eminent social reformer and poetess. She is called the first female teacher of modern India.
World Braille Day	January 4	This day is celebrated in memory of the birthday of Louis Braille. It aims to establish Braille as an important communication medium for visually impaired persons.
National Bird Day 2026	January 5	It aims to underline the role of birds in ecological balance.
Earth Rotation Day 2026	January 8	It commemorates the 1851 pendulum experiment of French physicist Léon Foucault.
Pravasi Bharatiya Divas	January 9	This day is celebrated to commemorate the return of Mahatma Gandhi to India from South Africa on 9 January 1915. It started in 2003.
World Hindi Day	January 10	It aims to promote the international presence of the Hindi language.
National Youth Day	January 12	National Youth Day in India is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. In the year 1984, 12 January was officially declared as National Youth Day.
Indian Army Day 2026	January 15	The Army Day Parade in 2026 was held in Jaipur, Rajasthan. This was the first time that the parade was held outside a cantonment.
Lokpal Foundation Day	January 16	The day commemorates the enactment of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013.
National Startup Day	January 16	The Startup India initiative was launched on 16 January 2016. The 5th edition of the National Startup Day Summit and Awards 2026 was held in Bengaluru.
Statehood Day of Manipur, Tripura and Meghalaya	January 21	Under the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971, the three states were granted full statehood in 1972. The Act came into effect from January 21, 1972.
Parakram Diwas	January 23	It is celebrated on the birth anniversary of freedom fighter Subhas Chandra Bose. (129th Birth Anniversary 2021) declared this day as Parakram Diwas.
National Girl Child Day	January 24	It aims to raise awareness about the rights, empowerment and equal opportunities of the girl child. It was started by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in 2008.
National Voters' Day	January 25	This day commemorates the establishment of the Election Commission of India in 1950. The theme for 2026 was "Mera Bharat, Mera Vote – Citizen at the heart of Indian Democracy".

National Tourism Day	January 25	It aims to highlight the role of tourism in the economy. It was declared as National Tourism Day with the establishment of the Ministry of Tourism on 25 January 1949.
International Clean Energy Day	January 26	Objective: To promote a just and inclusive transition to clean energy. The theme for 2026 is "Clean Energy for People and the Earth".
International Customs Day	January 26	The theme for 2026 is "Customs Protects Society through Vigilance and Commitment".
National Geographic Day	January 27	This day is celebrated to commemorate the establishment of the National Geographic Society in 1888.
International Data Privacy Day	January 28	It aims to raise awareness of the protection of personal data and privacy in the digital age.
Martyr's day	30 January	It is celebrated as the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Martyrs' Day is also celebrated on March 23, which commemorates the sacrifice of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev.































































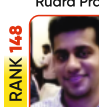

















Day	Date	Key Points
Indian Coast Guard Day	1 February	Celebrated to mark the establishment of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).
World Wetlands Day	2 February	Celebrated in memory of the Ramsar Convention, 1971. Theme 2026: "Wetlands and Traditional Knowledge: Celebrating Cultural Heritage".
World Cancer Day	4 February	Promotes awareness, prevention, early detection and treatment of cancer. Theme 2026: "United by Unique".
International Day of Human Fraternity	4 February	Promotes shared humanity, mutual respect and dialogue. Theme 2026: "Dialogue instead of division".
World Pulses Day	10 February	Highlights the role of pulses in food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture. Theme 2026: "Pulses of the world: from modesty to excellence".
National Deworming Day (NDD)	10 February	Campaign to protect children aged 1-19 years from soil-transmitted helminth infections.
Safer Internet Day (SID)	10 February	Promotes safe and responsible use of the internet. Theme 2026: "Smart Technology, Safe Choices, Safe and Responsible Use of AI".
International Day of the Arabian Leopard	10 February	Observed to raise awareness for the conservation of the Arabian leopard. Declared by UNGA in 2023.
International Day of Women and Girls in Science	11 February	Promotes gender equality in STEM fields. Theme 2026: "From Vision to Impact: Bridging the Gender Gap".
World Unani Day	11 February	Celebrated on the birth anniversary of Hakim Ajmal Khan. Theme 2026: "Innovation and Evidence in Unani Medicine".
International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as and when associated with Terrorism	12 February	Promotes awareness and global cooperation against violent extremism. Theme 2026: "Prevention in the Age of New Technologies".

International Epilepsy Day	9 February	Observed on the second Monday of February. Objective: awareness about epilepsy. Theme 2026: "The Epilepsy Pledge".
National Productivity Day	12 February	Celebrated on the foundation day of National Productivity Council (NPC). Objective: increase productivity in industries and MSMEs.
National Productivity Week	12-18 February	Theme 2026: "Clusters as Growth Engine: Maximizing Productivity in MSMEs".
World Radio Day	13 February	Celebrated in memory of the establishment of UN Radio in 1946. Theme 2026: "Radio and AI: AI is a tool, not a voice."
National Women's Day	13 February	Celebrated on the birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu, the first woman President of INC (1925).
International Childhood Cancer Day	15 February	Promotes awareness and better treatment for childhood cancer.
Global Tourism Resilience Day	17 February	Focuses on making the tourism sector more resilient and prepared for crises.
Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram Statehood Day	20 February	Became full-fledged states in 1987 (24th and 23rd states respectively).
World Day of Social Justice	20 February	Objective: eradication of poverty, equality and social justice. Theme 2026: "Renewed Commitment to Social Development and Social Justice".
World Peace and Understanding Day	23 February	Promotes global peace, ethical leadership and international cooperation.
Central Excise Day	24 February	Celebrated in memory of the Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944.
International Polar Bear Day	27 February	Raises awareness about threats to polar bears due to climate change.
World NGO Day	27 February	Recognizes the contribution of NGOs in society.

ॐॐॐॐॐॐ **SAMYAK** वाहक बना है हजारों अभ्यर्थियों की सफलता में ॐॐॐॐॐॐ

<p>RAS 2013</p>  <p>1st RANK</p> <p>Anil Kumar Singh</p>	<p>RAS 2016</p>  <p>2A RANK</p> <p>Shailesh Khairwa</p>	<p>RAS 2018</p>  <p>1st RANK</p> <p>Mukta Rao</p>	<p>IAS 2020</p>  <p>13th RANK</p> <p>Gaurav Budania</p>	<p>RAS 2021</p>  <p>1st RANK</p> <p>Vikrant Sharma</p>	<p>RAS 2023</p>  <p>1st RANK</p> <p>Kushal Choudhary</p>	<p>NEXT</p>  <p>1st RANK</p> <p>you</p>
---	---	--	--	--	---	--

सम्यक् मार्गदर्शन = सर्वश्रेष्ठ परिणाम

TOPPERS 2023 ★	<p>RANK 02</p>  <p>Ankita Parasar</p>	<p>RANK 03</p>  <p>Parameshwar</p>	<p>RANK 04</p>  <p>Ranjan Sharma</p>	<p>RANK 09</p>  <p>Kamal Choudhary</p>	<p>RANK 10</p>  <p>Vikash Siyag</p>	<p>RANK 11</p>  <p>Kuldeep Kumawat</p>	<p>RANK 13</p>  <p>Madan Lal Delu</p>	<p>RANK 14</p>  <p>Balveer Dhaka</p>
	<p>RANK 16</p>  <p>Priyanka Choudh.</p>	<p>RANK 19</p>  <p>Rajendra Swami</p>	<p>RANK 20</p>  <p>Ashok Goar</p>	<p>RANK 21</p>  <p>Neha Bhojwani</p>	<p>RANK 24</p>  <p>Ritu Bhojwani</p>	<p>RANK 26</p>  <p>Anshika Agarwal</p>	<p>RANK 30</p>  <p>Virendra Echolya</p>	<p>RANK 31</p>  <p>Dinesh</p>
TOPPERS 2021 ★	<p>RANK 02</p>  <p>Priya Bajaj</p>	<p>RANK 04</p>  <p>Vishwajeet</p>	<p>RANK 05</p>  <p>Bharti Gupta</p>	<p>RANK 06</p>  <p>Akanksha Dubey</p>	<p>RANK 07</p>  <p>Kanchan Choudhary</p>	<p>RANK 08</p>  <p>Shubham Sharma</p>	<p>RANK 09</p>  <p>Nidhi Udsaria</p>	<p>RANK 10</p>  <p>Satya Narayan</p>
	<p>RANK 13</p>  <p>Deepshikha</p>	<p>RANK 15</p>  <p>Karmveer singh</p>	<p>RANK 16</p>  <p>Divya Soni</p>	<p>RANK 18</p>  <p>Gaurav Saraswat</p>	<p>RANK 19</p>  <p>Divya Bishnoi</p>	<p>RANK 20</p>  <p>Sejal Shekhawat</p>	<p>RANK 23</p>  <p>Pooja Pareek</p>	<p>RANK 27</p>  <p>Paramjeet</p>
TOPPERS 2018 ★	<p>RANK 03</p>  <p>Shivakshi Khandal</p>	<p>RANK 04</p>  <p>Nikhil Kumar</p>	<p>RANK 05</p>  <p>Varsha Sharma</p>	<p>RANK 06</p>  <p>Yashwant Meena</p>	<p>RANK 07</p>  <p>Ravi Goyal</p>	<p>RANK 09</p>  <p>Vikash Prajapat</p>	<p>RANK 12</p>  <p>Gaurav Budania</p>	<p>RANK 14</p>  <p>Garima Sharma</p>
	<p>RANK 15</p>  <p>Niharika Sharma</p>	<p>RANK 17</p>  <p>Mahesh Gagoriya</p>	<p>RANK 18</p>  <p>Hukmi Rulaniya</p>	<p>RANK 20</p>  <p>Rishi Sudhanshu</p>	<p>RANK 21</p>  <p>Sarita Sharma</p>	<p>RANK 23</p>  <p>Kriti Sharma</p>	<p>RANK 25</p>  <p>Kalpit</p>	<p>RANK 26</p>  <p>Neha Mishra</p>
TOPPERS 2016 ★	<p>RANK 05</p>  <p>Upendra Sharma</p>	<p>RANK 06</p>  <p>Sanjay Gora</p>	<p>RANK 12</p>  <p>Mrityunjay Mishra</p>	<p>RANK 22</p>  <p>Shivcharan Sharma</p>	<p>RANK 23</p>  <p>Manish Sharma</p>	<p>RANK 27</p>  <p>Arun Kumar</p>	<p>RANK 39</p>  <p>Rudra Pratap</p>	<p>RANK 46</p>  <p>Arshdeep Barar</p>
	<p>RANK 60</p>  <p>Mamta Gaur</p>	<p>RANK 95</p>  <p>Ravi Goyal</p>	<p>RANK 97</p>  <p>Khushbu Ameta</p>	<p>RANK 105</p>  <p>Shalini Bajaj</p>	<p>RANK 110</p>  <p>Bhanu Pratap</p>	<p>RANK 128</p>  <p>Chhavi Sharma</p>	<p>RANK 148</p>  <p>Anadaram Parihar</p>	<p>RANK 151</p>  <p>Manish Kumar</p>
TOPPERS 2013 ★	<p>RANK ST-01</p>  <p>Mukesh Meena</p>	<p>RANK BI-02</p>  <p>Komal Jain</p>	<p>RANK ST-WE-2</p>  <p>Sanju Meena</p>	<p>RANK ST-WE-4</p>  <p>Kusum Meena</p>	<p>RANK WE-6</p>  <p>Sunita Yadav</p>	<p>RANK SC-6</p>  <p>Manish Kr. Jatav</p>	<p>RANK SC-WE-9</p>  <p>Pratibha Nimesh</p>	<p>RANK WE-10</p>  <p>Khushboo Sharma</p>
	<p>RANK OBC WE-19</p>  <p>Santra Devi</p>	<p>RANK SC-30</p>  <p>Krishna Pratap</p>	<p>RANK OBC WE-38</p>  <p>Ashish Yadav</p>	<p>RANK 38</p>  <p>Anshul Singh</p>	<p>RANK OBC WE-58</p>  <p>Vidya Choudhary</p>	<p>RANK WE-67</p>  <p>Karishma Kavia</p>	<p>RANK WE-72</p>  <p>Pooja Diggi</p>	<p>RANK 95</p>  <p>Harish Sharma</p>

ॐॐॐॐॐॐ **IAS & RAS** में सफलता - सम्यक् है तो संभव है ॐॐॐॐॐॐ

