

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

**APRIL : 2026**

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# RAJASTHAN AFFAIRS

## Key Programmes, Schemes and Campaigns

### Jaipur Metro Expansion Plan

- A meeting regarding the expansion of the Jaipur Metro was held in Rajasthan on March 20, 2026.
- During this meeting, it was decided to incorporate key locations into the planning for the new metro phase and to take population density into consideration.
- Note: In the Rajasthan Budget 2025-26, an announcement was made regarding the preparation of a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for extending the metro up to Jagatpura and Vaishali Nagar.
- The Chief Minister issued directives to formulate a master plan for extending the metro to Amer, Bagrana (Agra Road), Jagatpura, and ISBT Hirapura.

### State-Level Event on International Day of Forests

- This event was organized on March 21, 2026, at the Rajasthan International Centre in Jaipur.
- The program was held under the chief patronage of the Minister of State for Forests and Environment, Shri Sanjay Sharma.
- It was organized around the theme “Forests and Economy.”
- Inauguration of ‘Atal Van’:
- “Atal Van” (Atal Forest), developed in the Shahpura Tehsil of Jaipur district, was inaugurated.
- This forest has been developed across an area of approximately 30 hectares.
- It incorporates several innovative features related to biodiversity conservation, including an Interpretation Centre, a walking trail, a watchtower, and solar fencing.
- Additionally, a coffee table book based on the “Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam” (A Tree in Mother’s Name) campaign was released.
- To combat climate change, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with the Rajasthan Rural Livelihood Development Council (Rajeevika) under the CRESEP project.

- To promote technological innovation in forest management, new modules (PoC-3 and PoC-4) of the “DigiVan” digital platform were launched (made live).
- These modules will assist in wildlife habitat monitoring and carbon credit management.
- To strengthen wildlife conservation, 20 ‘Prey-Base Augmentation Centres’ were established at a cost of ₹30 crore across protected areas in Kota, Baran, Pali, Sirohi, Churu, Mukundra, and Ajmer.

### Chief Minister’s Developed Village-Ward Campaign

- This campaign was launched on March 19, 2026, on the occasion of Rajasthan Day.
- The campaign will run from March 19 to May 15, 2026.
- This initiative was launched to advance the goal of a “Developed Rajasthan” by transforming it into a mass movement.
- Under this initiative, a development roadmap tailored to local requirements will be prepared for all Gram Panchayats (village councils) and urban wards across the state.
- The agriculture, flora, mineral resources, traditional arts, and industries specific to each region will be identified.
- In agriculture-centric regions, special emphasis will be placed on processing, market linkages (Mandis), and value addition to boost income and employment opportunities.
- As part of this initiative, master plans will be formulated based on data collected by teams operating at the Panchayat and ward levels.
- This scheme will be evidence-based, incorporating comprehensive social, economic, and cultural information.

### TB-Free India Campaign

- On the occasion of World TB Day, the “TB-Free India Campaign—100 Days” was launched in Rajasthan from Jaipur on March 24, 2026.

- Under this campaign, 'Ayushman Arogya Camps' will be organized in villages identified as high-risk areas.
- The objective is to extend healthcare services to the last person in society and to ensure the early detection of TB cases.
- As part of this 100-day campaign, all individuals aged 14 years and above will undergo medical examinations at these camps.
- These examinations will include TB screening, along with checks for haemoglobin levels, blood sugar, blood pressure, Body Mass Index (BMI), and chest X-rays.
- If a Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT) confirms the presence of TB, the concerned patient will immediately be provided with free-of-cost, standard-protocol treatment.
- Note: In the year 2025, Rajasthan achieved a national record by screening over 17.5 million (1.75 crore) potential TB patients.

### **FMD (Foot and Mouth Disease) Vaccination Campaign**

- The seventh phase of this campaign was launched on March 16, 2026, by the Minister of Animal Husbandry, Joraram Kumawat, at the Ramdev Gaushala (Cow Shelter) located in Bagru.
- This initiative has been launched to protect livestock from Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD).
- Under this campaign, a target has been set to vaccinate a total of 23.2 million cattle and buffaloes across all districts of the state.
- This initiative aims to make Rajasthan free from FMD by the year 2030.

### **Changes in the Approval Process for the 'One District One Product' Policy and MSME Policy**

- Under the "One District One Product Policy-2024" and the "Rajasthan MSME Policy-2024," the authority to scrutinize and approve applications has been vested in the General Managers of the District Industries and Commerce Centres.
- Previously, this task was performed by a District-Level Task Force Committee, which has now been dissolved.

- This change will expedite the disposal of applications, enabling beneficiaries to receive their benefits more quickly.

### **Expansion of 'Madhuhari Clinics'**

- The scope of 'Madhuhari Clinics'—dedicated to the screening and treatment of diabetes—is set to be expanded.
- This facility, previously operational in 61 district hospitals across Rajasthan, will now be extended to 198 hospitals.
- Under this initiative, clinics will be established in 137 new hospitals.
- Facilities for the screening and treatment of 'Diabetic Foot' have also been made available starting from April 2026.
- This includes Medical Colleges located in SMS Jaipur, JLN Ajmer, Jodhpur, RNT Udaipur, Bikaner, Kota, and Jhalawar.

### **'Samarth 2.0' Scheme**

- The Central Government will spend ₹2,940 crore on the 'Samarth 2.0' scheme between 2026 and 2031.
- The objective of this scheme is to modernize the entire value chain of the textile sector.
- Under this initiative, 1.5 million people will be trained and prepared for high-tech industries.
- **Key textile hubs in Rajasthan** — such as Bhilwara, Pali, and Balotra — will derive special benefits from this scheme.
- This scheme will be instrumental in modernizing traditional industries and making them technologically advanced.
- India aims to achieve textile exports worth \$100 billion by 2030.
- Under this scheme, institutions such as IIT Delhi have been integrated with the industry, and digital classrooms and modern laboratories will be established in colleges.

### **One District One Product (ODOP) Scheme**

- Under the Central Government's ODOP scheme, 41 distinct products have been identified across 41 districts of Rajasthan.
- Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal shared this information in the Rajya Sabha on March 13, 2026.

- This initiative is being spearheaded by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- The objective of the scheme is to select one key product from each district and promote its branding, marketing, and export.
- The State Government has identified the traditional or specialized products of all 41 districts under this scheme.

District	Product	Sector
Ajmer	Granite & Marble Products	Manufacturing
Alwar	Automobile Parts	Manufacturing
Balotra	Textile Products	Textile
Banswara	Marble Products	Manufacturing
Baran	Garlic Products	Agriculture
Barmer	Embroidery	Handloom
Beawar	Quartz & Feldspar Powder	Manufacturing
Bharatpur	Agro-based Products	Food Processing
Bhilwara	Textile Products	Textile
Bikaner	Bikaneri Namkeen	Food Processing
Bundi	Rice	Agriculture
Chittorgarh	Granite & Marble	Manufacturing
Churu	Wooden Products	Handicrafts
Dausa	Stone Products	Manufacturing
Didwana-Kuchaman	Marble & Granite	Manufacturing
Deeg	Stone-based Products	Manufacturing
Dholpur	Stone-based Products	Manufacturing
Dungarpur	Granite Products	Manufacturing
Hanumangarh	Agro-based Products	Agriculture
Jaipur	Gems & Jewellery	Manufacturing
Jaisalmer	Yellow Stone	Manufacturing
Jalore	Granite Products	Manufacturing
Jhalawar	Kota Stone	Manufacturing
Jhunjhunu	Wooden Handicrafts	Handicrafts
Jodhpur	Wooden Furniture	Handicrafts

Karauli	Sandstone	Manufacturing
Khairthal-Tijara	Automobile Parts	Manufacturing
Kota	Kota Doria	Handloom
Kotputli-Behror	Automobile Parts	Manufacturing
Nagaur	Fenugreek (Pan Methi) & Spices	Food Processing
Pali	Textile Products	Textile
Phalodi	Senna (Sonamukhi) Products	Food Processing
Pratapgarh	Thewa Jewellery	Handicrafts
Rajsamand	Granite & Marble	Manufacturing
Salumber	Quartz	Manufacturing
Sawai Madhopur	Marble Products	Manufacturing
Sikar	Wooden Furniture	Handicrafts
Sirohi	Marble Products	Handicrafts
Sri Ganganagar	Mustard Oil	Food Processing
Tonk	Slate Stone	Manufacturing
Udaipur	Marble & Granite	Manufacturing

### Rajasthan Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 2026

- This Bill was passed by voice vote in the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly on March 10, 2026.
- Under this legislation, individuals with more than two children will now be eligible to participate in municipal body elections.
- Additionally, through an amendment to the Rajasthan Municipalities Act, 2009, leprosy has been removed from the list of dangerous diseases.

### Maharana Pratap Sports University

- The Maharana Pratap Sports University will be established in Amer, Jaipur.
- The Bill related to this initiative was passed by voice vote in the Legislative Assembly on March 10, 2026.
- Approximately 200,000 square meters of land have been identified for this purpose.

- The estimated cost of the project exceeds ₹101 crore.
- This university will offer facilities for study and training in disciplines such as Sports Science, Sports Coaching, Physical Education, Sports Medicine, Sports Management, Sports Technology, and Adventure Sports.
- Its objective is to promote sports education, research, and training, as well as to produce experts and coaches.
- The jurisdiction of this university will extend across the entire state.
- All sports colleges within the state may be affiliated with this university; initially, one college from each administrative division will be affiliated.
- A Board of Management will be constituted under the chairmanship of the Vice-Chancellor.
- An Advisory Council will also be established, with a distinguished national-level personality appointed as its Chairperson.

### **Rajasthan Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2026**

- This Bill was passed by voice vote in the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly on March 9, 2026.
- Under this legislation, individuals with more than two children will now be eligible to contest elections for Panchayati Raj Institutions.
- Previously, under the Act of 1994, such individuals were disqualified from contesting elections.
- Currently, due to increased education and awareness, the population growth rate has declined; consequently, this provision was deemed irrelevant.

### **University of Ayurveda, Yoga, and Naturopathy, Ajmer**

- The Bill pertaining to this university was passed by voice vote in the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly on March 9, 2026.
- This was announced during the Budget Year 2024-25.
- This university will strengthen higher education and research. It will promote Indian systems of medicine such as Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy.

### **Administrative Structure**

- A Management Board, Faculty Boards, Boards of Studies, a Finance and Accounts Committee, and Boards for Research, Sports & Student Welfare, and Innovation will be constituted within the university.
- The Management Board will be established following the appointment of the Vice-Chancellor by the Chancellor.
- Arrangements for studies across various faculties will be made in alignment with the National Education Policy.

### **Property Control Bill in Disturbed Areas – 2026**

- The Rajasthan Legislative Assembly passed the “Rajasthan Prohibition of Transfer of Immovable Property in Disturbed Areas and Protection of Tenants Bill – 2026.”
- Its objective is to prevent incidents involving the forced sale of property under duress on religious grounds.
- This legislation does not specifically mention any particular religion or community and has been framed with the aim of maintaining social equilibrium.

### **Key Provisions**

- An area shall be declared a “Disturbed Area” only in situations involving riots or severe communal tension.
- A Monitoring and Advisory Committee will be constituted for this purpose.
- The duration of the notification shall be 3 years, which may be either reduced or extended.
- No transfer or registration of property at a price lower than the prevailing market value shall be permitted without the prior approval of the Additional District Magistrate (ADM).
- Any transfer executed without such permission shall be deemed invalid.
- The Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) shall adjudicate upon property-related applications within a period of three months.
- Violations of these regulations may attract imprisonment ranging from 3 to 5 years, along with a fine of up to ₹1 lakh.
- These regulations shall not be applicable to properties mortgaged with banks or financial institutions, nor to properties undergoing auction.

## Rajasthan Shops and Commercial Establishments (Amendment) Bill – 2026

- The Rajasthan Legislative Assembly passed this Bill by voice vote on March 5, 2026.

### Key Amendments

- The daily working duration has been increased from 9 hours to 10 hours, while the weekly limit remains unchanged at 48 hours.
- The maximum continuous working period before a mandatory rest break has been increased from 5 hours to 6 hours, with a minimum rest period of half an hour now being mandatory.
- These changes are expected to boost commercial activities and lead to an increase in employment opportunities.
- This will result in better wages and amenities for workers, as well as improvements in productivity and skill development.

### Labour-Related Provisions

- The minimum age for apprentices has been raised from 12 years to 14 years.
- The employment of children under the age of 14 in shops or commercial establishments has been prohibited.
- No changes have been made to the existing rules regarding night shifts for women.

## Rajasthan Jan Vishwas (Amendment) Bill, 2026

- On March 5, 2026, the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly passed the Rajasthan Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026.
- This Bill is significant for administrative reforms and for strengthening public trust.
- It will promote both 'Ease of Living' and 'Ease of Doing Business.'
- The Bill simplifies legal processes by eliminating penal provisions—such as imprisonment—for minor violations.

### Key Provisions

- Under the Warehousing Act, 1958, the penalty of imprisonment for unlicensed storage has been removed, and the monetary fine has been increased to up to ₹50,000.

- For the non-domestic use of a domestic drinking water connection, the penalty of imprisonment has been removed and replaced with a provision for a daily fine ranging from ₹200 to ₹1,000.
- The Bill aims to encourage investment and entrepreneurship, while also including provisions for strict action against habitual offenders.

### Temple Corridor Projects

- The country, under the aegis of the Central Government A total of 54 temple pilgrimage corridors and pilgrimage development projects are currently underway.
- These projects are being implemented across 28 states and Union Territories.
- Of these, the highest number—4 projects—have been sanctioned in Rajasthan.

### Desuri-Charbhuja Sky-way Project

- Development work has been proposed for an 83-km section of the Pali-Nadol-Desuri-Charbhuja route (NH-162E).
- A 9-km-long sky-way will be constructed at Desuri Nal; this will be a single-pillar elevated structure situated above ground level.
- The estimated cost of this project is approximately ₹2,000 crore.
- The project will include the construction of 9 new bypasses and several realignments to divert traffic away from populated areas.
- This sky-way will minimize the need for cutting into the mountainsides and ensure the preservation of safe passage for wildlife.
- It will prevent the obstruction of water flow during the monsoon season, thereby mitigating issues related to traffic congestion and landslides.
- The road will be constructed to accommodate a design speed of 100 km/h.

## Prominent Personalities

### Anwar Khan Manganiyar

- Anwar Khan Manganiyar, a folk artist from Rajasthan, has been appointed as the Vice-Chairman of the Sangeet Natak Akademi.

- This marks the first time that a folk artist has been appointed to this position.
- Among his famous songs, “Kesariya Balam” is particularly popular.

### **Jogeshwar Garg: Appointed Chairman of Rajasthan Kudo**

- Jogeshwar Garg has been appointed as the Chairman of Rajasthan Kudo.
- This sport is a blend of Karate, Judo, Taekwondo, Boxing, Wrestling, and Jujutsu.
- Head guards and other protective gear are utilized for safety in this sport; consequently, it is considered a relatively low-risk discipline.
- In this sport, Rudrani Patel from Jodhpur, Rajasthan, won the World Title in the Under-11 category.
- The sport of Kudo originated in Japan in 1982.
- To date, six World Cups have been organized, including the 2017 World Cup held in Mumbai.

### **Shri Alok Gupta**

- Shri Alok Gupta assumed the office of Chairman of the Rajasthan Housing Board on March 23, 2026.
- Alok Gupta is a senior officer of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS).

### **Reconstitution of the Rajasthan Cricket Association (RCA) Ad-hoc Committee**

- Following the reconstitution of the Rajasthan Cricket Association’s Ad-hoc Committee, Mohit Yadav has been appointed as its Convener.
- Previously, Jaideep Bihani and D.D. Kumawat had served as Conveners.

### **Members Included**

1. Mohit Yadav (Alwar District Cricket Association) – Convener
2. Dhananjay Singh Khimsar (Jodhpur District Cricket Association)
3. Ashish Tiwari (Sikar District Cricket Association)
4. Arjun Beniwal (Hanumangarh District Cricket Association)
5. Arisht Singhvi (Jodhpur District Cricket Association; Former Ranji and IPL Player)

### **Justice Arun Bhansali: The Sole Chief Justice from Rajasthan Serving in High Courts**

- Justice Arun Bhansali is currently the only judge hailing from Rajasthan to serve as the Chief Justice of a State High Court.
- He was appointed as the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court on February 5, 2024.
- Justice Arun Bhansali was appointed as a Judge of the Rajasthan High Court on January 8, 2013.

### **Vani Jain Appointed Brand Ambassador for the National Sports Department**

- The WPSF—an organization dedicated to Women and Child Development—has appointed chess player Vani Jain as the Brand Ambassador for the National Sports Department.
- Vani Jain is a talented chess player who organizes training camps at various locations to coach children.
- She also plays an active role in the successful organization of competitions.
- This responsibility was entrusted to her in recognition of her contributions to both sports and society.

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## **Places in News**

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### **Degana: First E-Auction for Lithium Mining in Rajasthan**

- The Union Ministry of Mines has issued tenders for the mining of critical and strategic minerals.
- Lithium and tungsten blocks located in the Degana region of Nagaur will be auctioned.
- Other minerals such as Rubidium, Niobium, and Tin have also been discovered in this region.
- The tendering process for this initiative commenced on March 30, 2026.
- This marks the first instance in Rajasthan where an e-auction has been conducted for the mining of a critical mineral like lithium.
- Lithium is utilized in the batteries of mobile phones, laptops, and electric vehicles.
- Currently, India remains dependent on China and other nations for this mineral.

### **Rajasthan Mandapam – The Country’s Largest Convention Centre**

- The country’s largest modern convention centre, named “Rajasthan Mandapam,” is set to be constructed in Jaipur.
- This self-financed project was launched during the Entrepreneurs’ Summit held on Rajasthan Day.
- It will be developed across a 91-acre site situated near the Dravyavati River.
- The design for the project has been conceptualized by Dr. Anoop Bartaria.
- Its primary attractions will include the country’s largest expo centre—spanning 700,000 square feet—and the “Padma Mandapam,” a hall with a seating capacity of 7,000.
- A 300-meter-long artificial lake will be created on the Dravyavati River, adjacent to the facility’s rear entrance.
- World-class residential zones, a food park, an organic park, and a duck park are also slated for development within this complex.
- The construction is being undertaken jointly by RIICO and NBCC—a ‘Navratna’ Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Government of India.

### **Tourism Development in the ‘City of Hundred Islands’**

- Banswara is popularly known as the “City of Hundred Islands.” Its Mahi region is set to be developed as a major hub for tourism.
- Until now, the Mahi Dam area had been utilized solely for irrigation and power generation purposes.
- Eco-friendly tourism activities are now set to be developed and promoted within this region.
- New attractions—such as water sports, nature tourism, and scenic viewpoints—will be developed in this region.
- To this end, a high-level committee has been constituted.
- This committee will be chaired by the Divisional Commissioner of Udaipur.
- The committee will formulate a master plan for the catchment area of the Mahi Dam and the surrounding islands.

### **Inauguration of a 131-Foot-Tall Hanuman Statue in Nathdwara**

- A 131-foot-tall statue of Lord Hanuman was inaugurated in Nathdwara (Rajsamand) on March 26, 2026.
- This is the tallest Hanuman statue in the state of Rajasthan.
- It is known as ‘Shri Shriji ke Hanumanji’.
- This statue has been constructed atop Giriraj Hill at an elevation of approximately 500 feet.
- The statue is situated in front of the ‘Vishwas Swaroopam’ statue of Lord Shiva.
- Its sculptor is Naresh Kumawat.

### **Honda’s First EV Unit to be Established in Tapukara**

- Honda’s first electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing plant will be established in Tapukara, located in the Alwar district.
- The company’s first EV model was unveiled by Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma on March 14, 2026.

### **Jauhar Memorial Museum to be Built in Chittorgarh**

- A four-story, modern museum dedicated to the tradition of Jauhar will be constructed.
- It will feature six exhibition halls showcasing the struggles of the medieval era, as well as the traditions of Jauhar and Saka.
- Visitors will be able to experience historical events through the use of VR (Virtual Reality) and AR (Augmented Reality) technologies.
- Additionally, comparative information—drawing parallels with historical examples such as Sparta and Masada—will also be provided.
- A Jauhar tribute ceremony was held in Chittorgarh on March 15, 2026, with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath serving as the Chief Guest.

### **International-Standard Dermatology Institute in Jaipur**

- The country’s first international-standard dermatology institute has been established within the Charak Bhawan complex of the Sawai Man Singh (SMS) Hospital in Jaipur.

- It is regarded as the second most state-of-the-art institute of its kind in the world, following the one in London.
- Advanced medical services will be available here at minimal rates.
- This institute has been equipped with six types of modern laser devices, including Diode, Fractional CO<sub>2</sub>, Excimer, Nd: YAG, and Alexandrite lasers.
- It also offers facilities for hair regrowth using PRP technology, as well as skin tightening and wrinkle removal using HIFU machines.

### Archaeological Remains Discovered in Khetri (Tyonda)

- Archaeological excavations are currently underway at Reerh ka Teela (Raida), located near Tyonda village in the Khetri Tehsil.
- The remains recovered from this site suggest that it served as a significant hub for human activity during ancient times.
- The excavation has yielded numerous artefacts related to temple architecture, such as carved pillars, sections of doorframes, and ornate stone blocks.
- This site may have functioned as a centre for manufacturing stone tools—essentially a “factory site”—during the prehistoric era.
- During the excavation, a large quantity of pottery shards—including red pottery—was also discovered.

### Kota-Bundi Greenfield Airport

- On March 7, 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the Kota-Bundi Greenfield Airport at Shambhupura, Kota, via video conferencing.
- The estimated cost for its construction is approximately ₹1,507 crore.
- The airport will feature a state-of-the-art terminal spanning 20,000 square meters, capable of handling 1,000 passengers simultaneously.
- A runway measuring 3,200 meters in length and 45 meters in width will be constructed at the site.
- In the future, large aircraft—specifically those in the A-321 category—will be able to land here with ease.

### Grain ATMs in 3 Districts

- Grain ATMs are set to be established in Jaipur, Bharatpur, and Bikaner.
- This initiative will make the ration distribution process more transparent and accessible 24 hours a day.
- Effective April 1, 2026, the allocation of wheat at Fair Price Shops has been implemented based on a minimum unit of 50 kilograms.
- In the event of an over- or under-distribution, an adjustment will be made in the following month.
- In addition to this Wheat will be made available at concessional rates to SC, ST, and OBC hostels.

### Food Security Initiatives

- The Food Security Portal was relaunched on January 26, 2025, benefiting eligible underprivileged individuals.
- More than 7.5 million new beneficiaries were added to fill vacancies that arose due to the non-completion of e-KYC.

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## Awards and Honours

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### Jitendra Kumar Soni Receives Sahitya Akademi Award for Rajasthani Language

- The Sahitya Akademi Awards for the year 2025 were announced across 24 Indian languages.
- The award ceremony was held in New Delhi on March 31.
- Jaipur Collector Jitendra Kumar Soni was conferred the award for his Rajasthani short story collection, “Bharkhama.”
- “Bharkhama” is a significant collection of short stories depicting rural life, struggles, and cultural values; a Rajasthani film has also been produced based on this work.
- Hindi writer Mamta Kalia was honored for her memoir, “Jeete Ji Allahabad.”
- The works selected for this award include 8 poetry collections, 4 novels, 6 short story collections, 2 essay collections, 2 memoirs, one work of literary criticism, and one autobiography.
- Each winner was presented with a copper plaque, a shawl, and a cash prize of ₹100,000.

### **Rajasthan Receives National Award for Outstanding Performance in Water Management Projects**

- Rajasthan was honored at the national level in the field of water resource management.
- The Union Ministry of Jal Shakti (Water Resources) presented the state with a shield and a Certificate of Appreciation for the timely completion of the first census of major and medium irrigation projects.
- This honour was conferred during the World Water Day Conclave held at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre.
- In Rajasthan, the Water Resources Department has been designated as the nodal department for this census.
- Additionally, the Director (Canals), Jaipur, has been appointed as the State Nodal Officer.

### **Food and Nutrition Security Dashboard Wins SKOCH Gold Award 2025**

- The Food and Nutrition Security Analysis Dashboard, developed by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Rajasthan, was honored with the SKOCH Gold Award 2025 on March 28, 2025.
- This dashboard presents a district-wise analysis of the status of food and nutrition security within the state.
- The platform is based on international standards and provides accurate information to policymakers.
- It facilitates improved implementation of schemes and aids in the decision-making process.

### **Samridhhi Apartment Scheme Receives SKOCH Gold Award**

- The Samridhhi Apartment Scheme of the Rajasthan Housing Board has been honored with the SKOCH Gold Award.
- This award was presented to Housing Commissioner Rashmi Sharma at a ceremony held at the India Habitat Centre in Delhi.
- Under this scheme, flats measuring 960 and 1,100 square feet were constructed.

### **Rajasthan State Gas Receives 'Diamond Award'**

- Rajasthan State Gas Limited (RSGL) has been honored with the national 'Diamond Award' for its IoT-based smart gas distribution system.
- This honour was conferred by the India Smart Grid Forum in New Delhi on March 14, 2026.
- The company received this award for the effective utilization of smart technology and innovation at its CNG mother stations.
- Through this initiative, the operations of CNG stations are being managed via a real-time monitoring system utilizing IoT technology.
- This has resulted in enhanced efficiency regarding data integration, automated management, tracking, and operational processes.

### **Anil Bishnoi Receives 'Wildlife Friend' Honour**

- Anil Bishnoi, a resident of Hanumangarh district, was conferred with the 'Wildlife Friend' (Vanya Prani Mitra) Honour for the year 2026 in recognition of his remarkable work in the field of wildlife conservation.
- He received this honour from WWF-India and the PK Foundation during a ceremony held on March 23, 2026.
- Anil Bishnoi has been working continuously for the conservation of blackbucks for approximately the past 35 years.

### **Rajasthan's Deepak Chauhan Honored at Asia-Pacific Conference**

- The 12<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Conference of the International Association of Prosecutors (IAP) was held from March 11 to 13 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.
- This conference was organized by the All India Prosecutors Association (AIPA).
- Deepak Chauhan, an advocate at the Rajasthan High Court, was honoured after being invited as a special guest to the conference.
- Representatives from 31 countries participated in this conference to discuss the criminal justice system, international legal cooperation, and prosecution mechanisms.

### Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan – State-Level Honours

- The Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (Prime Minister’s Safe Motherhood Campaign) is being implemented by the Central Government—including in Rajasthan—to provide antenatal check-ups, counselling, and treatment services to pregnant women.
- The effective implementation of this campaign has led to a significant decline in the maternal mortality rate within the state.
- On March 19, 2026, doctors and institutions that rendered outstanding services were honored at the state level.

Category	Sub-category / Location	First Place	Second Place	Third Place
Government Institutions	CHC	Bhinmal (Jalore)	Sumerpur (Pali)	Merta (Nagaur)
Private Practitioners	—	Dr. Ranjana Gupta (Kota)	Dr. Priyanka Maheshwari	Dr. Nidhi Bansal
District Level Award	High Priority Districts	Udaipur	Rajsamand	Bundi
District Level Award	Non-High Priority Districts	Jaipur	Bikaner	Kota

### Chetna Bhati Receives ‘Panna Dhai’ Award

- On International Women’s Day, Additional Superintendent of Police Chetna Bhati was conferred with the “Panna Dhai Suraksha evam Samman Puraskar” (Panna Dhai Security and Honor Award) at a state-level ceremony held in Hanumangarh.
- She was honored with a cash prize of ₹21,000, a certificate, and a memento.
- This award was presented by the Department of Women and Child Development in recognition of her outstanding work in the field of women’s and girls’ welfare.

## Various Agreements/ MoUs

### Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Rajeevika and Micro Finance

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) valid for a period of three years has been signed between the Rajasthan Rural Livelihood Development Council (Rajeevika) and the Centre for Micro Finance, Jaipur.
- The objective of this agreement is to strengthen the ‘Model Cluster Level Federations’ promoted by Rajeevika, and to provide technical support for the effective implementation of components related to Food, Nutrition, Health, and WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene). Signing of International Agreement for Water Management

- An MoU was signed on March 18, 2026, between Rajasthan’s Department of Watershed Development and Soil Conservation and the Australia-India Water Centre (AIWC).
- The objective of this agreement is to promote research, innovation, training, and capacity building.
- This initiative will strengthen the goals of water security, environmental conservation, and sustainable development.

## Sports

### Asia Cup Archery: Rajat Chauhan Wins 1 Gold and 2 Bronze Medals

- Rajasthan’s Rajat Chauhan won 1 gold and 2 bronze medals at the Asia Cup Ranking Archery tournament held in Bangkok.
- He secured the first position in the ranking round by scoring 712 points.

- The team comprising Rajat and Chikita won the gold medal in the Mixed Team event.
- In the Men's Team event, the team consisting of Rajat, Uday Kamboj, and Rishabh Yadav won the bronze medal.
- Additionally, Rajat won a bronze medal in the individual event.

### **National Para Fencing Championship: Rajasthan's Komal Wins 2 Medals; Odisha Emerges Champion in Both Categories**

- The National Para Fencing Championship was held from March 25 to 27, 2026, at the Indoor Hall of Sawai Mansingh Stadium.
- In this event, Rajasthan's Komal Gurjar won two bronze medals.
- Komal Gurjar won a bronze medal in the Women's Category 'A' Épée event, as well as in the team event for the same discipline.
- The men's and women's teams from Odisha clinched the championship titles in both categories.
- The team from Haryana secured the second position in both categories.

### **Gold Medal for Khushboo Gill in Para Athletics**

- Rajasthan's para-athlete Khushboo Gill won a gold medal in the Shot Put event at the 24<sup>th</sup> National Para Athletics Championship.
- This competition was held from March 17 to 21, 2026, at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.
- Khushboo Gill set a new record with a throw of 11.58 meters, breaking her own national record.

### **Other Achievements:**

- Gold Medal at the Khelo India Games 2025
- Silver Medal at the Delhi World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2025

### **Rajasthan Wins 3 Medals at the Beach National Wushu Championship**

- At the 1st Beach Taijiquan National Wushu Championship held in Chennai, players from Rajasthan won a total of 3 medals (1 Silver and 2 Bronze).
- This competition was held from March 20 to 23 at the Blue Flag Beach.

### **Medal Winners:**

1. Kishan Kachhawa — Silver Medal in the Taijiquan event
2. Riddhi Parik — Bronze Medal in the Taijiquan event
3. Riddhi Parik and Abhigya Sharma — Bronze Medal in Pair Taijiquan

### **Rajasthan Wins Silver Medal in Masters Netball**

- Rajasthan's Masters Netball team won a silver medal at the 5<sup>th</sup> Khelo Masters National Games 2026.
- This competition was held in Chandigarh between March 20 and 22, 2026.
- In the final match, Punjab defeated the Rajasthan team by a margin of 43–31.

### **Lucky Wins Silver and Nitika Wins Bronze in Air Pistol**

- At the India Open Shooting Championship held in Bhopal, Lucky Agarwal (Deaf) from Jaipur won a silver medal.
- Additionally, Nitika Charya secured a bronze medal in the Senior Women's category.
- These medals were won in the 10m Air Pistol event.

### **Asia Cup: Rajasthan's Rajat and Swati Selected for the Indian Team**

- Rajat Chauhan and Swati Dudhwal have been included in the Indian team for the Asia Cup.
- This competition will be held in Bangkok from March 21 to 28.
- The coach of this team is Yogendra Singh from Rajasthan.

### **Rajasthan's Power Corporations' Powerlifting Team Wins Championship with 6 Medals**

- At the 47<sup>th</sup> All India Electricity Powerlifting and Bodybuilding Championship (March 13–15, 2026) held in Kota, the team representing Rajasthan's power corporations won the championship title.
- The team won a total of 6 medals, including 2 gold, 1 silver, and 3 bronze medals.

### **Masters Weightlifting: Rajasthan Women's Team Crowned National Champions**

- In the National Masters Weightlifting Championship held in Loharu, Haryana, the Rajasthan women's team won the national title with a haul of 6 gold and 1 silver medal.
- Female athlete Poonam Saini lifted the heaviest weight to secure the title of "Best Woman Weightlifter."
- The men's team finished as runners-up, winning 12 gold, 6 silver, and 3 bronze medals.
- In the men's category, Prem Narayan Saini lifted a total of 260 kg (120 kg Snatch + 140 kg Clean & Jerk) to win the title of "Best Lifter India."

### **Naresh Kumar Wins Bronze at World Para Athletics Grand Prix**

- At the World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026, Naresh Kumar from Jaipur won a bronze medal in the F55 category shot put event.
- This competition was held from March 8 to March 13, 2026, at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi.
- Indian athletes secured the top spot in the medal tally, winning a total of 208 medals (75 gold, 69 silver, and 64 bronze).

### **Rajasthan Powerlifting Team Crowned Champions; Ajit Wins Gold**

- The Rajasthan team secured first place in the All India Electricity Sports Control Board Powerlifting and Bodybuilding Championship held in Kota.
- Madhya Pradesh finished in second place, while Maharashtra took the third spot.
- In this event, Rajasthan's Ajit Singh won a gold medal in the 93 kg weight category, and Harish Kumar Meena won a gold medal in the 105 kg category.

### **Boxing: Harsh Selected for Indian Team**

- Harsh Chaudhary from Jaipur has been selected for the Indian team for the Asian Boxing Championship.
- He will represent India in the 90 kg weight category.
- This championship is scheduled to be held in Mongolia from March 28 to April 11, 2026.

### **Krishna Nagar Wins 2 Gold Medals at Para Badminton Nationals**

- Paralympic medalist Krishna Nagar won two gold medals at the 7th Senior National Para Badminton Championship.
- He clinched the title in the Men's Singles SH6 category by defeating Sudarshan M.S.
- He secured his second gold medal in the Mixed Doubles SH6 category, partnering with Nithya Sree Sumathy Sivan.
- In the final match, this pair defeated Sudarshan M.S. and Shreya Kumari.
- In this competition, Aryan Sharma from Rajasthan won the gold medal in the SL4 Men's category.
- Additionally, Koshika Devda and Cheshtha from Rajasthan won bronze medals in the SU5 and SH6 Women's Doubles categories, respectively.

### **"Sports and Fitness for All" Program**

- The Government of Rajasthan has allocated an annual provision of ₹50 crore under the "Khelo Rajasthan" initiative.
- Under this initiative, the "Sports and Fitness for All" program will be organized.
- The program will feature Olympic sports alongside traditional games such as Sitoliya, Kho-Kho, and Tug-of-War.
- A total of 12 sports disciplines will be organized as part of this program.
- The state-level competitions are scheduled to commence on April 20 and will continue until December 15, 2026.

### **Aryan Yadav Wins Gold Medal at Inter-University Games**

- Jaipur-based boxer Aryan Yadav won the gold medal in the 75 kg category at the All India Inter-University Games.
- The competition was held at Kurukshetra University.
- Aryan has become the champion of this tournament for the second consecutive time.

### **India Wins Titles in Both Categories in Ball Badminton**

- In the Indo-Malaysia Ball Badminton Test Series held in Selangor, Malaysia, the Indian men's

and women's teams won all their matches, securing a double gold medal victory.

- Hemlata Bakolia (Jaipur) from Rajasthan was a member of the women's team in this competition.
- Ganesh Sharma (Tonk) and Chirag Solanki (Bikaner) participated as members of the men's team.

## 2 Medals for Rajasthan Teams in Sub-Junior Volleyball

- In the 46th Sub-Junior National Volleyball Championship, both the boys' and girls' teams from Rajasthan won bronze medals.
- In the boys' category, the Rajasthan team secured third place by defeating Uttarakhand 3-1.
- In the girls' category, Rajasthan clinched the bronze medal by defeating Haryana 3-0.
- Earlier this year, the Rajasthan women's team had also won a bronze medal in the 72nd Senior National Volleyball Championship held in Varanasi.

## Yogesh Kumar Wins Gold Medal at Under-21 World Shooting Championship

- Rajasthan's international shooter, Yogesh Kumar, won a gold medal in the individual category of the 50m Free Pistol event at the Under-21 World Shooting Championship held in Cairo.
- Yogesh also helped India win a gold medal in the team event.
- Yogesh Kumar secured a silver medal in the 50m Pistol event.

## Women's Handball Championship

- LPU-Phagwara emerged as the winner of the 20th All India Hanuman Singh Women's Handball Championship (2025-26), held at the Sawai Man Singh Stadium in Jaipur.
- In the final, LPU-Phagwara defeated Northern Railway 26-23.
- The host team, Rajasthan, and the BSF jointly secured third place.
- Bhavna Sharma (LPU-Phagwara) was named the "Best Player of the Tournament."
- Pooja Jat from Rajasthan received the "Best Goalkeeper" award.

## Miscellaneous

### 'Nagori Pan Methi' Registered as a Community Variety

- The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPV&FRA) under the Government of India has registered 'Nagori Pan Methi' as a community variety.
- This achievement was attained during the "International Year of Women Farmers 2026," as declared by the United Nations.
- Geeta Devi, a representative of the farming community, has been recognized as its statutory custodian.
- This will provide economic and social benefits to thousands of women farmers in the region.
- Previously, this variety of fenugreek (methi) was sold under the name 'Kasuri Methi,' which prevented local farmers from receiving due recognition.
- Now, following this registration, no external entity shall be permitted to misuse its name or logo.

### The Country's First State to Sign an MoU Under 'Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0'

- Rajasthan has become the first state in the country to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Central Government under the new guidelines of the Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0.
- This agreement was executed on March 17, 2026, at the Ministry of Jal Shakti in New Delhi.
- The objective of this initiative is to strengthen the water supply system within the state and ensure the delivery of clean drinking water to every household.

### PM-KUSUM Scheme: Rajasthan's Notable Achievements

- Under Components A and C of the KUSUM scheme, 1,617 solar power plants with a cumulative capacity of 3,585 MW have been installed to date across the villages and hamlets of Rajasthan.
- On March 27, 2026, 12 new solar power plants were installed by Rajasthan's DISCOMs (Power Distribution Companies).

- These plants possess a combined capacity of 23.60 MW.
- Four plants each have been installed in Jaipur, Ajmer, and Jodhpur.
- Recently, Rajasthan Discoms were honored with the Gold Award for their outstanding performance in feeder-level solarisation.

Component	Installed Plants (Number)	Total Capacity (MW)	National Rank
Kusum Component-A	496	686 MW	First Position
Kusum Component-C	1121	2899 MW	Second Position

### Rajasthan Day Celebrations 2026

- At the initiative of Chief Minister Shri Bhajanlal Sharma, the observance of Rajasthan Day on the occasion of Chaitra Shukla Pratipada (the first day of the bright half of the month of Chaitra) was commenced starting from the year 2025.
- Related celebrations were held from March 14 to March 19, 2026.
- The event commenced on March 14 with a seven-day 'Cleanliness Week' (Swachhata Saptah).
- On March 15, the state-level 'Viksit Rajasthan Run' (Developed Rajasthan Run) was organized in Jaipur.
- Also on March 15, the 'Know Rajasthan' digital quiz was launched, and the state-level inauguration of the ODOP (One District One Product) Fair and Exhibition took place in Jaipur.
- On March 16, 'Rajasthan Tribal Pride Day' (Rajasthan Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas) was celebrated at Beneshwar Dham in Dungarpur.
- The 'Rajasthan Festival' (Rajasthan Utsav) was celebrated between March 17 and March 19, 2026.
- On March 17, a state-level Youth Conference was organized in Jaipur to celebrate 'Rajasthan Youth Power Day' (Rajasthan Yuva Shakti Diwas).
- As part of this event, a Nature Hike (trekking) was organized on March 18, extending from Kheri Gate to Sagar Lake in Amer (covering a distance of 6 km).
- Additionally, a Heritage Walk was organized in Jaipur city on March 18, 2026.
- On March 19, a grand cultural evening was held at the Albert Hall.
- March 18 was observed as 'Farmers and Live-stock Rearers' Prosperity Day' (Kisan evam Pashupalak Samriddhi Diwas).

- The main ceremony of Rajasthan Day was held in Jalore on March 19. During this event, a 'Beneficiary Conference' was organized, featuring interactions with beneficiaries and the direct transfer of benefits.
- On March 19, a state-level cultural program was organized in Jaipur.

### Entrepreneur Interaction Ceremony

- On the occasion of Rajasthan Day, an 'Entrepreneur Interaction Ceremony' (Udyami Samvad Samaroh) was held at the Rajasthan International Centre on March 18, 2026.
- On March 18, 2026, three key policies were unveiled in the state: the Rajasthan Industrial Park Promotion Policy, the Rajasthan Aerospace and Defence Policy, and the Rajasthan Semiconductor Policy.
- Rajasthan Industrial Park Promotion Policy: Will facilitate the development of industrial infrastructure.
- Rajasthan Aerospace and Defence Policy: Will position the state as a major hub for aerospace and defense manufacturing.
- Rajasthan Semiconductor Policy: Will secure a significant position for the state within the semiconductor manufacturing and electronics value chain.
- Note: A total of 34 new policies have been implemented by the Government of Rajasthan over the past 2.5 years.

### Rajasthan CAMPA Meeting

- A meeting of the Steering Committee of Rajasthan CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority) was held at the Secretariat on March 9, 2026, under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary V. Srinivas.

- Its primary objective is to develop infrastructure for compensatory afforestation, forest and wildlife conservation, and field staff.
- During this meeting, directives were issued for the effective monitoring of CAMPA's activities.
- On this occasion, the CAMPA Annual Report for 2024-25 was also released.
- An Annual Work Plan amounting to ₹232.18 crore was approved for the financial year 2026-27.

### **Rajasthan Sets World Record in Food Safety Training**

- The Food Safety Commissionerate established a world record by providing training to over 48,000 food business operators on March 17 and 18, 2026.
- This campaign was conducted with the objective of raising awareness against food adulteration within the state.

### **Increase in Honorarium for Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions**

- The Government of Rajasthan has implemented a 10% increase in the honorarium paid to Zila Pramukhs, Pradhans, and Sarpanchs.
- Consequently, Sarpanchs will now receive an honorarium of ₹7,347; Pradhans, ₹12,858; and Zila Pramukhs, ₹18,368.
- Former Sarpanchs currently serving as administrators will not be entitled to receive any honorarium.
- Currently, former Sarpanchs have been serving as administrators in the state's Panchayats for approximately 1.25 years.

### **National Printing Expo 2026**

- This expo was inaugurated by Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari on March 28, 2026, at the JECC located in Sitapura.
- More than 200 companies from across the country showcased modern printing technologies and machinery at this expo.
- A new paper-cutting technology named 'V-Cut' was also launched during the event.

### **'Battlefield Thunder' Military Exercise**

- This exercise was conducted by the Indian Army at the Pokhran Field Firing Range in Jaisalmer.

- As part of this exercise, precision strikes were executed using modern multi-barrel rocket launchers.
- The indigenous Pinaka and BM-21 Grad systems were the key highlights of the event.
- Additionally, the exercise tested enhanced coordination involving drones and surveillance systems.

### **Rajasthan Surpasses National Average in Vaccination Coverage**

- In Rajasthan, the percentage of full vaccination coverage stood at 21.1% in 1992-93, which rose to 80.4% by 2020-21.
- In the year 2024-25, this figure further increased to reach 91.8%, surpassing the national average.
- According to NFHS-5 data, Rajasthan's vaccination coverage percentage was approximately 4 points higher than the national average.
- Effective vaccination efforts in Rajasthan have led to a significant decline in maternal and child mortality rates.
- In Rajasthan, children are provided protection against approximately 11 serious diseases through 10 different types of vaccines.
- These include BCG, Hepatitis B, Pentavalent, Polio, Rotavirus, PCV, Measles-Rubella, IPV, DPT Booster, and Td.

### **Conservation and Digitization of Ancient Texts and Manuscripts**

- The survey of ancient texts and manuscripts commenced in Rajasthan on March 16, 2026.
- This initiative was conducted by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, under the "Gyan Bharatam Mission."
- The objective is to complete this survey across the entire state within the three-month period of March, April, and May.
- As part of this mission, a specialized mobile app has been developed, which people can download to register details regarding the manuscripts in their possession.
- Based on the information obtained through this app, a digital collection and preservation of manuscripts will be undertaken.
- The process of scanning and digitizing manuscripts commenced on January 12, 2026.

- To ensure the effective operation and coordination of this campaign, the “State Manuscript Heritage Council” has been established.

### **‘Operation Anti-Venom’ Campaign**

- The Jaipur Range Police launched ‘Operation Anti-Venom’ with the objective of making the state drug-free.
- This campaign was conducted from March 15 to March 31, 2026, under the direction of IG Rahul Prakash.
- Under this initiative, strict action was taken against drug traffickers, their financiers, and those involved in illegal cultivation, in accordance with the NDPS Act.
- The objective of this campaign was not merely to seize drugs, but to take effective action against the entire network and its financiers.

### **Jaipur’s Position in Various Schemes and Programs**

- Jaipur district secured the first position in the state under the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Poverty-Free Village Scheme.
- It also attained the first position in the Critical Care Hospital category under the Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission.
- Under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), it secured the first position by achieving 100% success in solid waste collection and the removal of garbage vulnerable points (GVPs).
- The Rajasthan Department of Women and Child Development and the Energy Department successfully met all targets under the Twenty-Point Programme.
- Jaipur district secured the second position in the Block Public Health Unit category.
- Jaipur also achieved 100% of its targets in the Bank Sakhi, Krishi Sakhi, and Pashu Sakhi programs.

### **The Book: “The Pinnacle of Parliamentary Culture—2 Years of Innovation”**

- Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma released the book titled “The Pinnacle of Parliamentary Culture—2 Years of Innovation” on March 10, 2026.
- This book has been authored by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Vasudev Devnani.

### **1.6 Million Women Become ‘Lakhpati Didis’**

- In Rajasthan, more than 1.6 million women have been empowered to become “Lakhpati Didis” (women earning over ₹100,000 annually).
- Under this initiative, livelihood assistance amounting to ₹679 crore has been provided to 1.39 lakh Self-Help Groups.

### **Namo Bharat Rail Corridor (RRTS)**

- In this regard, the Government of Rajasthan has decided to financially participate in the first phase of the project, in accordance with the revised DPR. Under this project, industrial areas such as Shahjahanpur, Ghiloth, Neemrana, and Behror will gain high-speed rail connectivity with Delhi and Gurugram.
- Approximately 1.13 kilometres of track will be developed within Rajasthan as part of this project.
- Due to Haryana’s decision to bear the costs only up to Bawal, an additional financial burden of ₹510 crore will fall upon Rajasthan.
- This project will directly benefit industrial zones, including the KBNIR Township.

### **Increase in Rajasthan’s Health Budget**

- According to WHO standards, 7.5% of the GDP should be spent on healthcare; Rajasthan has successfully reached this benchmark.
- In the year 2026-27, the state’s health budget has increased to ₹32,531 crore.

### **Announcements by the State Forest and Environment Department**

- Two “Shri Ram Vatikas” will be developed in every district of Rajasthan.
- A life-size statue of Atal Bihari Vajpayee will be installed in Shahpura, Jaipur.
- Nature Guide training will be provided to the youth by the Wildlife Training Institute located in Alwar. Under the “One District-One Species” initiative, Seed Forests will be established in every district.
- The compensation for fatalities resulting from wildlife attacks has been increased to ₹10 lakh.
- Rapid Response Teams will be constituted in Dholpur, Karauli, Sawai Madhopur, and Alwar.
- Each district has been allocated ₹90 lakh for wildlife rescue operations.

## Conferences, Meetings, and Festivals

### Rajasthan Global Capability Centres Conclave 2026

- This event was organized in Jaipur on March 25, 2026. Its objective is to position Rajasthan as a premier hub for global investment and technological innovation.
- Through Rajasthan's Global Capability Centres Policy—2025, the service and digital sectors are being strengthened by attracting multinational companies. Under this policy, a target has been set to establish over 200 GCCs and create approximately 150,000 jobs by the year 2030.

### Gangaur Festival 2026

- The state-level celebration of the Gangaur Festival was held in Jaipur on March 20, 2026.
- It was organized by the Department of Tourism and the District Administration, Jaipur.
- The procession (Sawari) proceeded from March 21 to 22, 2026, passing through Tripolia Gate, Choti Chopad, and Gangauri Bazaar, and concluding at Talkatora/Poundrik Park.
- A live broadcast of the Gangaur procession was arranged through the Rajasthan Foundation for Indians living abroad and the Rajasthani diaspora.

### National Mining Conference

- This conference was organized by the Union Ministry of Mines, Government of India, at the SCOPE Convention Centre in New Delhi on March 23–24, 2026.
- The main theme of the conference was: "Effective Utilization of District Mineral Foundation (DMF) Funds under the Aspirational Districts and Blocks Programme."

### Rajasthan Lalit Kala Akademi's Art Fair

- This fair was inaugurated on March 17, 2026, at Shilpgram, located within the Jawahar Kala Kendra in Jaipur. It was inaugurated by Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari.
- The fair was held from March 17 to March 21.
- This event was held as part of the Rajasthan Day celebrations.

- Through this event, the state's folk culture and artistic traditions were showcased.

### Raj Sakhi Saras Fair – Jodhana 2026

- The Raj Sakhi District-level Saras Fair, titled "Jodhana 2026," was held in Jodhpur from March 14 to March 20.
- The target of empowering 28,000 women in the Jodhpur district to become "Lakhpati Didis" (women earning over one lakh rupees annually) was achieved.
- As an incentive for their outstanding work, 210 tablets were distributed to women and cadres who performed exceptionally well during the event.
- Competence centres for digital and financial literacy will operate within these offices.
- **Note:** Under Rajivika, offices will be constructed for 100 Cluster Level Federations at a cost of ₹25 crore.

### Shekhawati Panch-Gaurav Rajasakhi and Udyog Mela (Industrial Fair)

- This fair was held from March 13 to March 20, 2026, at the Urban Haat in Sikar.
- Its objective was to provide a platform for the women of the Shekhawati region to showcase their talent, skills, and entrepreneurship.
- The theme of this fair was "Empowered Woman, Prosperous Shekhawati – One District, One Product."
- It featured an exhibition of local products, handicrafts, food items, and various household products manufactured by women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

### Maa Pannadhay Nari Shakti Mahotsav

- This festival was organized on March 8 and 9 at Shilpgram, located within the Jawahar Kala Kendra in Jaipur.
- It was inaugurated by Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma.
- During the event, a 10-foot-tall statue of Maa Pannadhay was unveiled. The festival featured talk shows, self-defense training sessions, cultural programs, and exhibitions focused on themes related to women's empowerment, health, self-reliance, and leadership.

### 'Shakti Kavach' Campaign

- Under this campaign, 1,000 young girls will be provided with free vaccination to protect against cervical cancer.
- This initiative is crucial for safeguarding the health of young girls and raising awareness.

## Reports and Indices

### Rajasthan's Status in Various Schemes

First in India	Second in India	Third in India
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (2.18 crore policies)</li> <li>■ PM-KUSUM Scheme Component A &amp; C</li> <li>■ Tribal Welfare &amp; Empowerment: Best Performing State in Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan</li> <li>■ Farmer Registry Scheme: Beneficiary ID creation</li> <li>■ Swachhta Hi Seva Abhiyan 2025: Conversion of targeted units</li> <li>■ Along with 13 schemes ranked first in India</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Agriculture Department: Digitization of processes</li> <li>■ PM Vishwakarma Yojana: Loan approval &amp; disbursement</li> <li>■ PM Krishi Sinchai Yojana – "Per Drop More Crop": 1.31 lakh hectare micro-irrigation installation</li> <li>■ National Gopal Ratna Award: Best Dairy Cooperative Society &amp; Best Artificial Insemination Technician</li> <li>■ In Poshan Maah 2025 activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ PM-KUSUM Scheme: Component B &amp; C-FLS</li> <li>■ Jal Sanchay Janbhagidari 1.0 Campaign: Based on implementation performance</li> <li>■ Ayushman Bharat (PM-JAY): Claim settlement &amp; hospital empanelment</li> <li>■ TB-Free Gram Panchayat: Declaration &amp; 100-day campaign</li> <li>■ One District One Product Programme: Implementation category</li> <li>■ Along with 6 schemes ranked third in India</li> </ul>

### Fiscal Health Index

- This index was released by NITI Aayog.
- In this index, Rajasthan has slipped from the 12<sup>th</sup> position to the 14<sup>th</sup> position.
- In this report, the state has been placed in the "Aspirational" category (requiring improvement).
- Despite this, the state's performance in terms of "Quality of Expenditure" is better compared to other indicators.
- Rajasthan's overall score stood at 27.6, whereas at the national level, scores range between 12.4 and 73.1.
- According to the report, the state is under financial pressure and requires improvement in expenditure management and revenue collection.
- In this index, states have been classified into four categories: Front Runner, Performer, Achiever, and Aspirational.

### Debt and Financial Challenges

- Rajasthan faces significant debt pressure, resulting in persistent fiscal stress.
- Total liabilities range between approximately 35% and 45% of the GSDP.
- About 15% to 20% of the state's revenue is being spent solely on interest payments.
- Due to heavy indebtedness, the availability of financial resources for developmental activities is becoming limited.
- In the revenue collection sub-index, Rajasthan recorded a score of 29.4, indicating a moderate level of performance.

### QS Rankings: BITS Pilani Included Among Top 50 Educational Institutions

- QS (Quacquarelli Symonds)—an organization that analyzes global higher education—has released its 16<sup>th</sup> annual university ranking index.

- This list of the world's top 50 institutions includes four Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), and the Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS), Pilani.
- This time, a total of 99 Indian institutions have been included in this list.

### Report by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances: Rajasthan Ranks Sixth

- In the 40th report by the Central Government's Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Rajasthan secured the sixth position, while Telangana ranked first.
- In Rajasthan, the resolution of grievances takes an average of 27 days, whereas the national average is 22 days, and in Telangana, it is 8 days.
- In the year 2025, out of a total of 37,311 grievances, 34,854 (approximately 93%) were disposed of, while 2,457 cases remained pending.

Top Districts in Complaint Resolution	Top Districts in Quick Resolution
1. Sawai Madhopur	1. Jhalawar
2. Bhilwara	2. Sawai Madhopur
3. Bharatpur	3. Dungarpur
4. Tonk	4. Rajsamand
5. Alwar	5. Pratapgarh

### Ministry of Power Ranking Report

- According to the latest report released by the Union Ministry of Power, a competitive ranking report covering 54 electricity distribution companies (DISCOMs) across the country has been issued.

### Status of Rajasthan's 3 Major DISCOMs

- Jodhpur DISCOM – 30<sup>th</sup> Rank
- Jaipur DISCOM – 37<sup>th</sup> Rank
- Ajmer DISCOM – 42<sup>nd</sup> Rank

DISCOM	Before (Score / Grade)	Now (Score / Grade)
Jodhpur	43.70 / B-	50.47 / B
Jaipur	51.30 / B-	42.27 / B-
Ajmer	62.50 / B	37.51 / B-

- The cumulative loss of these three DISCOMs is estimated to exceed ₹90,000 crore.

### National-Level Scenario

- Across the country, 31 DISCOMs have been categorized into the 'A' and 'A+' grades.
- Four out of the top five companies hail from Gujarat, including those serving Ahmedabad, Surat, North Gujarat, and Central Gujarat.

### District Academic Rankings (February 2026)

- In the rankings released by the School Education Department of Rajasthan, Karauli district secured the first position.
- Jhunjhunu ranked second, while Hanumangarh stood third.
- Additionally, Dungarpur, Sikar, Sawai Madhopur, Bharatpur, Alwar, and Ganganagar are also included in the top 10.
- The objective of these rankings is to facilitate the regular review of the education system and to strengthen accountability.
- Evaluations are conducted based on academic outcomes, school operations, and administrative indicators.

### Alwar Tops the List for Per Capita Income in Rajasthan

- In the year 2024–25, Alwar secured the first position in Rajasthan with a per capita income of ₹2,68,321.
- Furthermore, Jaipur climbed from the third to the second position with a per capita income of ₹2,60,991.
- Over the past five years, Rajsamand demonstrated the most significant progress with a growth rate of 76%, while Bikaner ranked second.
- Between the years 2020–21 and 2024–25, an average growth of 60% was recorded across 11 major districts.
- In Rajasthan, only 8 districts have a per capita income equal to or higher than the state average.
- Banswara ranks last in Rajasthan in terms of per capita income.

### Per Capita Income in Major Districts of Rajasthan (in Rupees)

District	2020–21	2024–25	Growth (%)
Alwar	173,510	268,321	54.6%
Jaipur	152,032	260,991	71.7%
Jaisalmer	136,242	234,051	71.8%
Rajsamand	128,034	225,260	76%
Bhilwara	163,404	222,367	36.1%

### Rajasthan’s Position in Renewable and Solar Energy

- Rajasthan’s installed renewable energy capacity—spanning both renewable and solar sectors—has reached 43.8 GW, placing it at the forefront nationally.
- The state contributes approximately 27% to the country’s total solar energy output and over 16% to its overall renewable energy capacity.

### PM-KUSUM Scheme

- 1,340 decentralized projects with a combined capacity of 3,035 MW have been established under this scheme.

- Rajasthan ranks first in the country under Component-A of the KUSUM scheme and second under Component-C.
- As of December 2025, 2,682 million units of electricity have been procured at a rate of ₹3.21 per unit.
- The Department of Industries and Commerce has implemented reforms to simplify the application and approval processes for various schemes and policies.

## Apps and Portals

### Lado Protsahan Yojana Portal

- Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma launched the ‘Lado Protsahan Yojana’ portal on March 8, 2026, during a state-level event held in Hanumangarh to mark International Women’s Day.
- Applications for the scheme can be submitted through this portal.
- Under this scheme, financial assistance totaling ₹1.5 lakh is provided in seven instalments upon the birth of an eligible girl child.
- On this same occasion, development projects worth over ₹1,000 crore were inaugurated or had their foundation stones laid.



# 2. NATIONAL AFFAIRS

## Operation Urja Suraksha

- Amidst escalating tensions in West Asia involving the United States, Israel, and Iran, India has launched 'Operation Urja Suraksha' (Operation Energy Security).
- The objective of this operation is to safeguard India's energy vessels transiting through the Strait of Hormuz.
- Under this mission, the Indian Navy is providing security cover to ships transporting crude oil, LPG, and LNG.
- To this end, more than five warships—including destroyers and frigates—have been deployed in the Gulf of Oman.
- The Strait of Hormuz is situated between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.
- It separates Iran from Oman and the UAE.
- It is a narrow sea passage approximately 140 miles long and 25–33 km wide.

## Census 2027: Digital Tools and Mascots Launched

- Union Minister Amit Shah launched four digital tools and the mascots "Pragati" and "Vikas" for Census 2027.
- This will be India's first fully digital census.
- "Pragati" (Progress) and "Vikas" (Development) symbolize the equal participation of women and men.
- 4 Digital Tools: House-listing Block Creator (HLBC) App, HLO Mobile App, Self-Enumeration Portal, and Census Management and Monitoring System (CMMS) Portal.
- The objective of these tools is to make the data collection process easier and more effective.



## Formation of 7 New Groups to Address the West Asia Crisis

- On March 24, 2026, Prime Minister Naren-

dra Modi announced the formation of 7 new groups to address the long-term impacts of the West Asia conflict.

- The objective of these groups is to address the impacts on energy supplies, trade routes, and global supply chains.

S. N.	Empowered Group	Description
1	Strategic Issues	Issues related to defence, external affairs, and internal security under the chairmanship of the Foreign Secretary
2	Economy, Finance & Supply Chain	Focus on export-import and economic stability
3	Petroleum, LNG, LPG & Energy	Ensuring fuel supply under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
4	Fertilizers & Agricultural Inputs	Uninterrupted supply of fertilizers for the sowing season
5	Prices & Supply of Essential Commodities	Measures to control prices and prevent hoarding
6	Transport & Logistics	Exploring alternative trade routes affected
7	Information, Communication & Public Outreach	Public awareness and communication regarding the situation

## Gujarat: Uniform Civil Code (UCC) to be Implemented

- The Gujarat Legislative Assembly passed the 'Gujarat Uniform Civil Code Bill, 2026' in March 2026.
- With this, Gujarat has become the second state—after Uttarakhand—to implement the UCC.

- This law provides a uniform legal framework for marriage, divorce, inheritance, and live-in relationships.
- This law will apply to the residents of the state; however, Scheduled Tribes and certain protected groups have been exempted from its purview.
- Registration of live-in relationships has been made mandatory for couples residing in the state.
- Failure to register within one month may result in imprisonment of up to three months or a fine of up to ₹10,000.
- Polygamy has been prohibited under this law, and a marriage will be considered valid only if neither party has a living spouse.

### **Supreme Court Verdict Regarding Recognition of Scheduled Castes**

- According to the Supreme Court, Scheduled Caste (SC) status shall be granted exclusively to individuals belonging to the Hindu, Sikh, and Buddhist religions.
- This verdict was delivered by a bench comprising Justice P.K. Mishra and Justice Manmohan.
- This decision is based on the provisions of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950.
- The Court clarified that this status ceases upon conversion to other religions, including conversion to Christianity.
- The Court further stated that such individuals cannot claim protection under the SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act.

### **‘Saksham’: India’s First AI-Based Skill Census**

- ‘Saksham’—India’s first AI-based skill census—has been launched in Maharashtra.
- Its objective is to assess the skills of the youth aged between 18 and 40 years.
- This survey will be conducted by Sapio Analytics.
- It will cover 55,000 households in Mumbai, utilizing AI and GIS technology to conduct skill mapping at the local level.

- The educational background, existing skills, and training requirements of individuals will be assessed through a door-to-door survey.
- Under this initiative, the goal is to train 15,000 youths by 2027, with a specific target of providing employment or self-employment opportunities to 5,000 of them.

### **Prime Minister Modi’s Visit to Kerala and Tamil Nadu**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Kerala and Tamil Nadu on March 11, 2026.
- During this visit, he inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for various development projects worth approximately ₹16,450 crore.
- The foundation stone for a Polypropylene Unit—costing over ₹5,500 crore—was laid at the Kochi Refinery in Kerala.
- Additionally, the foundation stone for City Gas Distribution Networks—at a cost of ₹3,680 crore—was laid in the Nilgiris and Erode districts of Tamil Nadu.
- This initiative will provide piped gas connections to lakhs of households and lead to the establishment of several CNG stations.

### **Defence Forces Vision 2047**

- Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh released the “Defence Forces Vision 2047” document on March 10, 2026.
- This document has been prepared by the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff.
- Its objective is to transform the Indian Armed Forces into a modern, technologically advanced, and multi-dimensional military power by 2047.
- It emphasizes better coordination among the Army, Navy, and Air Force.
- It promotes the utilization of Artificial Intelligence, cybersecurity, and modern training techniques.



# 3. ECONOMY AFFAIRS

## BHAVYA Scheme

- The Union Cabinet approved the 'Bharat Industrial Development Scheme' (BHAVYA)—worth ₹33,660 crore—on March 18, 2026.
- Under this scheme, 100 'Plug-and-Play' industrial parks will be developed across the country.
- Its objective is to develop world-class industrial infrastructure and boost the manufacturing sector.

### Key Features:

- The scheme will be implemented in collaboration with the State governments and the private sector.
- Projects will be selected through a competitive process (Challenge Mode).
- Industrial parks will be developed across an area ranging from 100 to 1,000 acres.
- The government will provide assistance of up to ₹1 crore per acre.
- This will include the development of core, value-added, and social infrastructure.
- A maximum of 25% of the total project cost will be spent on external infrastructure (connectivity, etc.).

- The objective of this scheme is to facilitate the establishment of Small Hydro Power projects with a cumulative capacity of approximately 1,500 MW across the country.

### Key Features:

- The scheme will be implemented by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- Projects with a capacity ranging from 1 MW to 25 MW will be supported.
- For the North-eastern states and border areas, assistance of ₹3.6 crore per MW or 30% of the project cost (subject to a maximum of ₹30 crore) will be provided.
- For other states, assistance of ₹2.4 crore per MW or 20% of the project cost (subject to a maximum of ₹20 crore) will be provided.

## Small Hydro Power (SHP) Development Scheme

- The Union Cabinet has approved the Small Hydro Power Development Scheme, with an outlay of ₹2,584.60 crore, for a period of five years, spanning from 2026-27 to 2030-31.

## Launch of 3 Key Initiatives by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB)



- Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw launched three major initiatives on March 23, 2026.

Initiative	Objective	Key Features
National AI Skill Development Initiative	To create an AI-skilled workforce in media and creative sectors	Training of 15,000 participants in collaboration with Google and YouTube; two-phase program (basic + advanced); focus on animation, VFX, gaming, etc.
MyWAVES (WAVES OTT)	To provide a platform for citizen participation in content creation	User-generated content platform; supports short, vertical, and episodic content; multilingual interface; promotes initiatives like "Create in India"
Advanced EPG & Built-in Satellite Tuner	To make TV viewing simpler, affordable, and accessible	Enables viewing of DD Free Dish channels without a set-top box; advanced program guide; low cost and improved user experience

### Revised UDAN Scheme

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the revised UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme in March 2026.
- The objective of this scheme is to strengthen regional air connectivity within the country and expand aviation infrastructure.
- This scheme focuses specifically on enhancing connectivity in underdeveloped and underserved regions.
- It will boost economic growth, trade, and tourism in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.
- The scheme will be implemented for a period of 10 years, spanning from the financial year 2026-27 to 2035-36.
- A total outlay of ₹28,840 crore has been allocated for this scheme.
- Under this initiative, approximately 120 new destinations will be added, and around 4 crore passengers are expected to benefit.

### Extension of the IVFRT Scheme

- In March 2026, the Union Cabinet approved the extension of the IVFRT scheme for a period of 5 years, until March 2031.
- IVFRT stands for Immigration, Visa, Foreigners Registration & Tracking.
- A total budget of ₹1,800 crore has been allocated for this scheme.
- Its objective is to integrate and simplify immigration, visa processing, and the registration of foreign nationals.
- This scheme aligns with the Immigration and Foreigners Act of 2025.
- The scheme will be implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs through the Bureau of Immigration.
- It is a Mission Mode Project under the National e-Governance Plan.
- The next phase of the scheme will focus on leveraging emerging technologies, improving infrastructure, and optimizing services.

### RELIEF Scheme

- This scheme was launched by the Central Government on March 19, 2026, to provide assistance to exporters affected by the crisis in West Asia.

- RELIEF stands for Resilience & Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation. This scheme has been launched under the Export Promotion Mission (EPM).
- It will be implemented through ECGC Ltd.
- It will provide relief to exporters in areas such as increased logistics costs, insurance premiums, and automatic extensions.
- This is a time-bound scheme designed to help alleviate the financial burden on exporters.
- Under this scheme, insured exporters will receive up to 100% additional risk coverage, along with up to 95% coverage on future shipments.
- Uninsured MSMEs will be provided compensation of up to 50% of their additional expenses (subject to a maximum of ₹50 lakh).
- This scheme is applicable to exports destined for Gulf and West Asian countries.
- A budget of ₹497 crore has been allocated for this scheme.

### Approval for 23 Quantum Labs under the National Quantum Mission

- On March 16, 2026, the Government of India approved the establishment of Quantum Teaching Laboratories across 23 institutions under the National Quantum Mission (NQM).
- The objective is to promote education, research, and skill development in the field of quantum technology.
- Additionally, the India International Science Festival 2026 will be held in Pune.
- On National Technology Day 2026 (May 11), more than 500 innovations will be showcased at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

### RBI Amends Capital Adequacy Norms

- On March 10, 2026, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) amended the capital adequacy norms applicable to banks.
- This modification has been undertaken to incorporate Counterparty Credit Risk (CCR), in alignment with Basel standards.
- Under these revised norms, banks are now required to comply with capital requirements at both standalone and consolidated levels.
- At the consolidated level, it will be mandatory to include the CCR exposure of all related entities.

- The rules for calculating Potential Future Exposure (PFE) for derivative contracts have also been revised.

### **National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) Initiatives**

- Union Minister C.R. Patil inaugurated the new office of the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) at R.K. Puram, New Delhi, in March 2026.
- On this occasion, several digital initiatives were launched to strengthen dam safety.

#### **Key Digital Initiatives:**

- Website: A new website was launched featuring a GIS-based system, through which information regarding the country's dams is available via maps.
- **NETRA:** This is an AI-based platform that provides easy access to regulations and documents related to dam safety.
- **NETRA:** NDSA Engine for Tracking and Review using Artificial Intelligence.
- Rashtriya Dam Suraksha Darpan (RBSD): This platform assists in the analysis of dam-breach scenarios and in risk management.

### **Minimum Support Price (MSP) Assistance for Cotton**

- The Union Cabinet has approved an MSP fund exceeding ₹1,718 crore.
- This amount will be provided to the Cotton Corporation of India.
- This assistance is designated for the 2023-24 cotton season.
- Its objective is to provide protection to farmers under the Minimum Support Price mechanism.
- This assistance will be applicable when market prices fall below the MSP.

### **India's Revised Climate Plan**

- India has approved its revised climate plan for the 2031–2035 period.
- The country aims to reduce the emission intensity of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 47% by 2035, compared to 2005 levels.
- India achieved its target of 52% non-fossil fuel-based electricity capacity as early as the beginning of 2026.

- The new target is to increase this share to 60% by 2035.

### **'PRARAMBH 2026' Campaign**

- This campaign was launched by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on March 20, 2026.
- The full form of PRARAMBH is 'Policy Reform and Responsible Action for Mission Viksit Bharat'.
- It is an awareness campaign for the implementation of the Income Tax Act 2025 (April 1, 2026).
- Its objective is to create awareness among taxpayers and to establish a citizen-centric tax regime.
- This campaign is being conducted through various mediums such as print, TV, radio, digital, and social media.
- It is based on Ethics, Accountability, and Inclusive AI, under the M.A.N.A.V. framework.
- Under this initiative, 'Income Tax Website 2.0' and the AI chatbot 'Kar Saathi' have been launched.

### **'Fare Se Fursat' Scheme**

- The 'Fare Se Fursat – One Route, One Fare' scheme was launched by the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation on March 18, 2026.
- This scheme was initially introduced as a pilot project under the UDAN scheme.
- Its objective is to provide affordable and fixed airfare facilities on regional routes.
- Under this scheme, passengers will be able to purchase tickets at a uniform rate, regardless of the time of booking.
- The scheme is being operated by Alliance Air on 6 selected routes.
- These routes include Delhi–Rewa, Rewa–Raipur, Delhi–Jaipur, Kolkata–Guwahati, Tirupati–Rajahmundry, and Chennai–Hyderabad.

### **India's First Hybrid Passive Index Fund Launched**

- Edelweiss Asset Management Company has launched India's first Hybrid Passive Index Fund.
- This fund combines equities and Government Securities (G-Secs).
- Under this fund, 70% of the investment will be

allocated to equities, and 30% to Government Securities.

- This fund operates on the principle of automated monthly rebalancing.
- The minimum investment amount for this fund has been set at ₹100.

### **Committee Formed for SEZ Policy Reforms**

- The Government of India has constituted a 17-member committee to undertake reforms in the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) policy.
- The objective of this committee is to boost exports and implement comprehensive reforms within the policy framework.
- The committee comprises representatives from various ministries and institutions.
- It will submit its report, along with its recommendations, within six months.
- This committee will also study the integration of SEZs and other export promotion schemes.



# 4. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

## WTO Ministerial Conference (MC-14)

- The 14th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization was held in Yaoundé, Cameroon, from March 26 to 29, 2026.
- Its key themes included WTO reform, agriculture, e-commerce, and investment facilitation.
- The conference was chaired by Cameroon's Minister of Trade.
- The conference took place amidst global economic uncertainty and geopolitical tensions.



## WTO 14th Ministerial Conference (MC-14)

- The 14th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization was held in Yaoundé, Cameroon, from March 26 to 30, 2026.
- It featured discussions on critical issues related to global trade.
- The conference was chaired by Cameroon's Minister of Trade, Luc Magloire Mbarga Atangana.
- The Indian delegation was led by Piyush Goyal.
- The "Yaoundé Package" was drafted during the conference, which will be subject to further negotiations in Geneva.
- The conference concluded without a consensus due to disagreements regarding the moratorium on e-commerce.

### Key Outcomes:

- For the first time in 26 years, the moratorium on e-commerce was allowed to lapse; consequently, WTO members are no longer legally prohibited from imposing customs duties on electronic transmissions.

- Non-violation remedies under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) also lapsed. Developing countries had advocated for the retention of this safeguard for public health purposes.
- Members agreed to continue negotiations on reducing subsidies for deep-sea fishing and planned to present concrete recommendations at MC15.
- India opposed the inclusion of the China-led Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD) agreement within the WTO framework.
- 66 member countries made progress on an agreement to establish global rules for e-commerce, covering areas such as data flows, online transactions, and consumer protection.
- India and African nations called for a permanent solution regarding Public Stockholding (PSH) for food security purposes, seeking greater flexibility in domestic food subsidies.
- Note: The Ministerial Conference is the WTO's highest decision-making body and is typically held every two years.
- E-commerce Moratorium: In 1998, WTO member countries agreed not to impose customs duties on electronic transmissions (such as software downloads, digital music, movies, and e-books); this moratorium was subsequently extended periodically over time.

## Argentina Withdraws from WHO

- Argentina formally completed the process of withdrawing from the World Health Organization (WHO) in March 2026.
- Argentina had communicated this decision via a diplomatic note sent to the UN Secretary-General on March 17, 2025.
- This move came into effect following a one-year notice period, in accordance with the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (VCLT).
- Additionally, the United States had also withdrawn from the WHO in January 2026.

### **Reliance to Invest in New Oil Refinery Project in the US**

- In March 2026—after a hiatus of nearly 50 years—the United States announced the construction of a new oil refinery.
- This project involves investment from Reliance Industries.
- The refinery is to be established at the Port of Brownsville in Texas.
- Its objective is to enhance energy security and bolster domestic production.

#### **Key Features:**

- This project will boost the US's refining capacity and reduce its reliance on imports.
- It entails an investment of approximately \$300 billion.
- The refinery will process 1.2 billion barrels of shale oil and produce large volumes of petroleum products.

### **India–Uzbekistan Pharma-Nutraceutical Corridor**

- India and Uzbekistan have launched a Pharma and Nutraceutical Corridor.
- Its objective is to enhance access to the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the broader Eurasian healthcare market.
- This initiative will foster cooperation in trade, investment, and research.
- This corridor will provide companies with regulatory alignment and easier access to the market.
- Its formal commercial launch is scheduled for May 2026 in Tashkent.

### **2 New Countries Added to FATF Grey List**

- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has added Kuwait and Papua New Guinea to its Grey List.
- The list now comprises a total of 22 countries.
- The Grey List identifies countries that fail to effectively prevent Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Counter-Terrorist Financing (CFT).
- This decision was taken during the 5th FATF Plenary meeting held in Mexico City.

### **Visit of the President of Finland to India**

- The President of Finland, Alexander Stubb, visited India from March 4 to 7, 2026.
- The objective of this visit was to enhance cooperation in the digital sector, sustainable development, innovation, and trade.
- During this visit, relations between the two countries were elevated to the level of a strategic partnership.
- Bilateral talks were held between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Stubb.
- President Stubb participated as the Chief Guest at the Raisina Dialogue 2026.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Alexander Stubb held bilateral discussions to strengthen cooperation in trade, innovation, digital technologies, sustainability, and multilateral forums.
- India and Finland agreed to focus on digital technologies, Artificial Intelligence (AI), quantum computing, green hydrogen, and 6G technology.

### **Visit of the Prime Minister of Canada, Mark Carney, to India**

- The Prime Minister of Canada, Mark Carney, paid an official visit to India from February 27 to March 2, 2026.
- This was his first visit to India, aimed at strengthening bilateral relations.
- He visited Mumbai and New Delhi.
- Discussions were held between India and Canada on sectors such as trade, energy, and artificial intelligence.
- India and Canada initiated negotiations on the CEPA (Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement).
- Both countries have set a target to boost bilateral trade to \$50 billion by 2030.
- Several Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were exchanged between India and Canada in fields such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), healthcare, agriculture, innovation, education, and culture.

### **Romania Joins the International Solar Alliance**

- Romania ratified the Framework Agreement of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

- With this, it formally became the 118th member of the ISA.
- It had previously signed the agreement in 2023.

### **International Solar Alliance (ISA):**

- **Formation:** Established in 2015, through the collaboration of India and France, during the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP-21) conference held in Paris.
- It is an intergovernmental organization.
- **Objective:** To promote solar energy and to enrich countries situated between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn in the field of solar energy.
- Its headquarters is located in Gurugram, Haryana, India.
- India serves as the President of the ISA, while France is the Co-President country.
- The alliance comprises 118 member countries.

### **Chile Becomes the First Country in the Americas to Eliminate Leprosy**

- According to the World Health Organization (WHO), Chile has eliminated leprosy as a public health problem.
- It has become the first country in the Americas to achieve this milestone.
- Globally, it is the second country to do so, following Jordan.
- According to the WHO, a prevalence of fewer than 1 case per 10,000 people is considered elimination.
- This initiative is part of the global goal to eliminate the disease by 2030.



# 5. SPACE & DEFENCE TECHNOLOGY

## Space Technology

### 'Agnite': Successful Test of the World's First Fully 3D-Printed Booster Engine

- Chennai-based space technology start-up Agnikul Cosmos successfully tested its booster engine, 'Agnite'.
- This is the world's largest rocket engine to be manufactured using a single-piece 3D-printing technique.
- Agnite is one meter long and is the first engine of its kind to be tested with electric motor-driven pumps.
- It is constructed from Inconel, a high-performance nickel super alloy used in aerospace applications involving extreme temperatures.

### Gujarat Becomes India's First State to Launch a Sounding Rocket

- Gujarat successfully launched its first sounding rocket in March 2026 from Bavaliyari village, near Dholera.
- This test was conducted by the Ahmedabad-based start-up, Omspace Rocket and Exploration Pvt. Ltd.
- It was a single-stage sub-orbital rocket that flew to an altitude of approximately 3 km.
- The rocket was equipped with a mini-satellite designed for collecting weather data.
- It was manufactured using carbon fiber and advanced materials under the 'Make in India' initiative.

### ISRO's Cryogenic Engine Test

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully conducted a sea-level hot test of the CE20 cryogenic engine on March 10, 2026, at the ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC) located in Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu.
- This 165-second test was conducted at a thrust level of 22 tons.
- This test is crucial for enhancing the capability of the LVM3 rocket.

- A Nozzle Protection System was utilized during the test, ensuring its safety.
- This engine has now completed a total of 20 successful hot tests.

### ISRO-ESA Space Cooperation Agreement

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the European Space Agency (ESA) have signed a new agreement regarding Earth observation missions.
- Its objective is to enhance the accuracy and reliability of satellite data.
- This collaboration will aid in climate monitoring, environmental studies, and disaster management.
- This agreement will specifically support the Fluorescence Explorer (FLEX) mission, which will study vegetation health.

## Defence Technology

### 'Vayu Ban' Project

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) has launched the 'Vayu Ban' project, under which drones will be launched from helicopters.
- This indigenous project will be spearheaded by the IAF's Directorate of Aerospace Design (DAD).
- Under this initiative, a drone will be released from a flying helicopter and will automatically proceed toward its target.
- This drone is capable of transmitting real-time video and, if necessary, executing a precision strike.
- It will have a range of over 50 km and a flight endurance of approximately 30 minutes.
- It will be equipped with electro-optical and infrared sensors to assist in surveillance and target identification.
- It will be capable of operating even in situations where GPS signals are jammed.
- The goal is to complete the development, testing, and deployment of this system within one year.
- With this project, India will join the ranks of nations such as the United States and China.

### Stealth Frigate ‘Taragiri (F41)’

- The Indian Navy commissioned the stealth frigate ‘Taragiri’ on April 3, 2026.
- This vessel is more advanced and streamlined compared to earlier frigate designs.
- It has been designed to possess superior stealth capabilities, characterized by a reduced radar signature.
- It incorporates over 75% indigenous components.
- It is powered by a Combined Diesel or Gas (CODOG) propulsion system.
- This system provides high speed and extended operational endurance.
- It is equipped with supersonic surface-to-surface and medium-range surface-to-air missiles.
- It also possesses advanced anti-submarine warfare capabilities.

### Successful Test of ADC-150

- Defence The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Navy (IN) successfully conducted trials of the indigenously developed Air Droppable Container (ADC-150) from February 21 to March 1, 2026.
- This trial was conducted off the coast of Goa using a P-8I aircraft.

### Air Droppable Container ‘ADC-150’

- The ADC-150 has been developed entirely indigenously.
- This system is capable of delivering payloads of up to 150 kilograms to ships at sea.
- It enables the rapid delivery of essential supplies to naval ships operating in deep waters, far from the coast.
- It will be utilized to deliver essential materials, equipment, and medical aid during emergency situations.

### ‘AVATAAR’: India’s First Amphibious Surveillance Drone

- Deep-tech start-up AquaAirX Autonomous Systems has launched India’s first amphibious surveillance drone, ‘AVATAAR’.
- AVATAAR stands for Amphibious Vehicle for Autonomous Tactical Aerial & Aquatic Reconnaissance.

- This drone is capable of operating in both air and water environments.
- It is useful for maritime surveillance, intelligence gathering, and reconnaissance missions.
- It features advanced capabilities such as sonar, cameras, AI-based navigation, and underwater communication systems.
- It is capable of collecting data even in conditions of low visibility.

### Signing of Contracts for ALH Mk-III (MR) and VL-Shtil Missiles

- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed defense contracts worth ₹5,083 crore for the procurement of Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) Mk-III (Maritime Role) for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and Vertical Launch (VL) – Shtil surface-to-air missile systems for the Indian Navy (IN).

### ALH Mk-III Helicopters:

- Six of these helicopters will be procured from HAL at a cost of ₹2,901 crore.
- These are intended for the Indian Coast Guard.

### VL-Shtil Missile System:

- These missile systems will be procured from Russia at a cost of ₹2,182 crore.
- This will bolster the air defense capabilities of the Indian Navy.

### Fuel Barge Contract for the Indian Navy

- The Indian Navy has signed a contract with Shoft Shipyard for the construction of four self-propelled fuel barges.
- Each barge will have a capacity of 500 tons.
- These barges will ensure fuel supply to naval ships and submarines.
- They will be constructed in accordance with Indian standards.
- This project promotes the ‘Make in India’ and ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’ initiatives.

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## Technology

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### Successful Testing of Indigenous Floating LiDAR Buoy

- The National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) has successfully tested an indigenously

developed Floating Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) buoy system.

- This technology enhances weather forecasting and cyclone prediction capabilities.
- It is also instrumental in the assessment and development of offshore wind energy.
- LiDAR technology measures wind speed and direction using laser beams.
- It can provide accurate data up to an altitude of 300 meters, particularly in deep-sea environments.
- This system is designed to operate with stability under varying marine conditions.

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## Exercises

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### Joint Military Exercise LAMITIYE-2026

- India and Seychelles conducted the joint military exercise 'LAMITIYE-2026' from March 9 to March 20, 2026, at the Seychelles Defence Academy (SDA) in Victoria, Seychelles.
- For the first time, all three branches of the Indian Armed Forces (Army, Navy, and Air Force) participated in this exercise.
- The Indian Navy's warship INS Trikand and the Air Force's C-130 aircraft were also part of the exercise.
- The objective of this exercise is to strengthen military cooperation and coordination. Military Exercise 'Cold Response 2026'
- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) launched the 'Cold Response 2026' military exercise in Norway and Finland.
- This exercise was conducted from March 9 to March 19, 2026.
- Approximately 25,000 troops from 14 nations participated in it.

- Its objective was to strengthen military capabilities and presence in the Arctic region.

### Military Exercise Kakadu 2026

- The Indian Navy participated in 'Military Exercise Kakadu 2026'.
- The Kakadu Fleet Review was held at Sydney Harbour on March 21, 2026.
- During this event, the Indian warship INS Nilgiri conducted maritime exercises in Australia.
- This exercise was conducted across a vast area extending from Jervis Bay to Darwin.
- The objective of this exercise is to strengthen maritime cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.

### Exercise Sea Dragon 2026

- The Indian Navy participated in the U.S.-led multinational exercise 'Sea Dragon 2026' in March 2026.
- This exercise was conducted at the Andersen Air Force Base located in Guam.
- Its primary objective was to strengthen Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) training.
- Forces from India, the USA, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand participated in this exercise.

### Exercise 'Amogh Jwala'

- The Indian Army conducted Exercise 'Amogh Jwala' at Babina, Uttar Pradesh, from March 6 to March 18, 2026.
- Its objective was to test the Army's readiness in multi-dimensional warfare scenarios.
- The exercise utilized Apache helicopters, fighter aircraft, drones, and counter-drone systems.
- The exercise showcased advanced surveillance systems, precision firepower, and real-time communication capabilities.



## 6. SPORTS

### Lionel Messi Achieves 900-Goal Milestone

- Lionel Messi has become the second male player to score 900 goals in his official career.
- He achieved this milestone while playing for Inter Miami CF.
- Messi completed his 900 goals in 1,142 matches.
- He is the second player to achieve this feat, following Cristiano Ronaldo.
- Ronaldo achieved this milestone in 1,236 matches and currently has 965 goals to his name.

### Lokesh Sathyanathan Sets Long Jump Record

- Lokesh Sathyanathan became the first Indian to clear the 8-meter mark in the indoor long jump.
- He achieved a jump of 8.01 meters at the Tyson Invitational 2026 (USA).
- He delivered this performance at the Randall Tyson Indoor Centre.
- He finished in eighth place among 16 competitors in the event.
- In this event, Cordell Tinch of the USA secured first place with a jump of 8.29 meters.

### Kimi Antonelli Wins First Chinese Grand Prix 2026

- On March 15, 2026, Italy's Kimi Antonelli won his first Formula 1 Chinese Grand Prix 2026.
- The race was held at the Shanghai International Circuit (China).
- George Russell finished in second place, and Lewis Hamilton finished in third.
- This was the second round of the 2026 Formula One World Championship.
- This marked the 19th edition of the Chinese Grand Prix and was held in Shanghai for the 19th consecutive time.

### World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026

- India secured the top spot at the World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026, held in New Delhi, by winning 208 medals.
- India won 75 gold, 69 silver, and 64 bronze medals.

- The competition was held from March 11 to March 13, 2026, at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Delhi.
- Russia finished in second place with 35 medals (15 gold, 14 silver, and 6 bronze), while Bosnia and Herzegovina finished in third place with 3 medals (1 gold and 2 silver).
- More than 90 track and field events were conducted during the competition.

### Australian Grand Prix 2026

- George Russell won the Australian Grand Prix 2026 for Mercedes in the F1 2026 season opener.
- This race was the first race of the 2026 F1 season.
- The Mercedes team secured first and second place.
- Kimi Antonelli finished in second place and Charles Leclerc in third.
- This was Russell's sixth Grand Prix victory.

### Mayank Chakraborty Becomes India's 94th Grandmaster

- 17-year-old Mayank Chakraborty from Assam has become India's 94th chess Grandmaster.
- He is the first Grandmaster from Northeast India.
- He achieved this feat at a tournament held in Stockholm, Sweden.
- He completed his final GM norm by securing first place with a score of 7/9 points.
- He also fulfilled the mandatory FIDE rating requirement of 2500.

### Cycling League of India (CLI)

- The world's first franchise-based cycling league—the Cycling League of India—is set to be launched in India.
- Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya unveiled the logo of the Cycling League of India (CLI) on March 5, 2026.
- Its objective is to promote the sport of cycling and establish a professional framework for it.
- The league will feature 8 franchise teams.
- Each team will consist of 10 cyclists.
- It will also include international and junior players.
- Competitions will be conducted in various formats.

### Jammu & Kashmir: Ranji Trophy 2025–26 Winners

- Jammu & Kashmir won the Ranji Trophy 2025–26 title for the first time.
- They defeated Karnataka in the final held at the Rajnagar Stadium in Hubballi, Karnataka.
- This marks Jammu & Kashmir’s maiden title.
- The match ended in a draw, but J&K was declared the winner based on a substantial first-innings lead.
- Auqib Nabi was awarded the ‘Player of the Tournament’ title for taking 62 wickets.

### Odisha Awarded Hosting Rights for World Indoor Athletics Championships 2028

- India was awarded the hosting rights for the World Indoor Athletics Championships 2028 in March 2026.
- The competition will be held at the Kalinga Indoor Athletics Stadium in Bhubaneswar (Odisha).
- This event is a biennial competition organized by World Athletics.
- India will be hosting this championship for the first time.
- India has become the fourth Asian nation to secure the hosting rights for this event.
- The 2026 edition of the event will be held in Poland, and the 2030 edition in Kazakhstan.

### Commonwealth Youth Games 2027 to be Held in Malta

- Malta will host the 8th Commonwealth Youth Games in 2027.
- The event is scheduled to take place from October 29 to November 4, 2027.
- Approximately 1,200 young athletes from 74 nations will participate in the games.
- This will be the largest Para Sports program held to date.
- The competitions will be held across 7 venues located in Malta and the island of Gozo.

- A total of 8 sports disciplines will be included in this event.
- Sailing and Water Polo have been included in this event for the first time.
- Other sports featured in the event include Athletics, Netball, Squash, Swimming, Triathlon, and Weightlifting.

### Khelo India Tribal Games 2026

- The Khelo India Tribal Games 2026 will be held in Chhattisgarh from March 25 to April 3.
- The event will take place across Raipur, Jagdalpur, and Surguja.
- More than 6,000 participants, including approximately 2,300 athletes, are expected to take part.
- Its objective is to promote tribal talent and provide them with a national platform.
- The games featured include Archery, Athletics, Football, Hockey, Swimming, Weightlifting, Wrestling, Mallakhamb, and Kabaddi.
- This event offers an opportunity to showcase tribal culture and sporting talent.

### India Awarded Hosting Rights for Asia Cup Archery 2027

- India will host the second stage of the Asia Cup Archery in New Delhi in 2027.
- This will be the first international archery event to be held in India in 22 years.
- This decision was taken following a meeting of officials from World Archery Asia.

### Other Major Tournaments:

- The Asian Para Archery Championships 2026 will be held in Ahmedabad.
- The South Asian Archery Championships 2026 will take place in Kolkata.
- The first stage of the Asia Cup Archery 2026 will be held in Bangkok.
- Various stages of the Archery World Cup 2026 will be hosted in Mexico, China, and Turkey.



# 7. AWARDS AND HONOURS

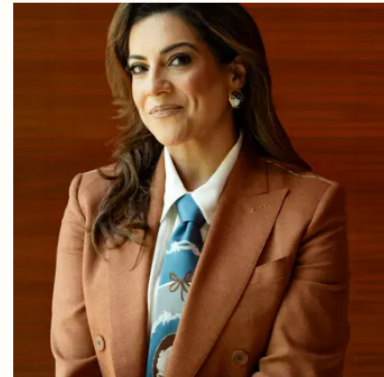
## TIME Woman of the Year 2026



**Safina Husain Wants to Lift Up India's 'Left-Behind' Girls**



**Physician-Scientist Reshma Kewalramani Runs One of Biotech's Biggest Companies**



**How Reshma Saujani's Viral Moment Led to a Win for Affordable Childcare**

- TIME magazine has named Safina Husain as one of the 16 most influential women of 2026.
- Safina Husain, the founder of the non-profit organization (NPO) 'Educate Girls', has been included in the TIME Women of the Year 2026 list.
- Additionally, Indian-origin figures Reshma Kewalramani and Reshma Saujani are also featured on this list.
- Safina Husain is the founder of 'Educate Girls', an initiative dedicated to out-of-school girls in India's rural, remote, and tribal communities.
- 'Educate Girls' became the first Indian organization to receive the Ramon Magsaysay Award in 2025.
- This list honors influential women on a global stage.

### R. Vairamuthu Receives the 60th Jnanpith Award

- Renowned Tamil poet and writer R. Vairamuthu has been selected for the Jnanpith Award 2025 (60th edition).
- This honor has been conferred upon him for his outstanding contribution to Tamil literature and his distinctive poetic style.
- He is regarded as a prominent and influential figure in contemporary Tamil literature.

- He has authored over 37 books, and his works feature a profound expression of social and cultural themes. He has become the third Tamil writer to receive the Jnanpith Award.

### R. Vairamuthu

- He has received the National Film Award (Best Lyrics) seven times.
- He has been honored with the Padma Shri (2003) and the Padma Bhushan (2014).
- He has also received the Sahitya Akademi Award.

### Jnanpith Award

- The Jnanpith Award is India's highest literary honor.
- It was established in 1961, and the first award was presented in 1965.
- This award is conferred for outstanding literary contributions in Indian languages and English.
- It comprises a cash prize of ₹11 lakh, a bronze statuette of Goddess Saraswati, and a citation.
- The 59th Jnanpith Award (2024) was conferred upon Vinod Kumar Shukla.
- The first Jnanpith Award was presented to G. Sankara Kurup.
- The first female recipient of the award was Ashapura Devi (1976).

- He became the youngest winner (44 years old) in the history of this award.
- He serves as the Director of the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH).
- He is the first United Nations official and former politician to receive this honour.
- He was recognized for his contributions to water management and crisis resolution.
- He highlighted weak governance as the primary cause of water crises.

### **Tata Sons Chairman N. Chandrasekaran Awarded Honorary Knighthood by the UK**

- Tata Sons Chairman N. Chandrasekaran was awarded an Honorary Knighthood (KBE) by the Government of the United Kingdom (UK) in March 2026.
- He received this honour for his efforts in strengthening India-UK trade relations.
- The honour was conferred by British High Commissioner Lindy Cameron in New Delhi.
- This award is bestowed upon foreign nationals for their contributions to business, public life, and international relations.
- Recipients who are non-UK citizens are entitled to append 'KBE' to their names.
- Previously, prominent Indians such as Ratan Tata, Lakshmi Mittal, and Sunil Bharti Mittal have also received this honor.

### **Rituparna Sengupta Receives Women Empowerment Award at the UK House of Commons**

- Indian actress Rituparna Sengupta was honored at the UK House of Commons in March 2026.
- She was presented with the Women Empowerment Award for her contributions to the fields of art and culture.
- The event was organized on the occasion of International Women's Day.
- Rituparna had previously won the National Film Award (Best Actress) for the film Dahan.
- She was also awarded the Filmfare Critics Award in 2014 for the film Alik Sukh.

### **Kalpna Soren Receives Women Empowerment Award at BRICS**

- Kalpna Soren received the Women Empower-

ment Trailblazer Award at the BRICS 2026 event in March 2026.

- This honour was conferred upon her for her contributions to women-led development and inclusive progress.
- She has inspired women in Jharkhand to become entrepreneurs and to be socially active.
- Her work has been particularly focused on rural and tribal regions.
- The award was presented at an event organized by the BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
- Debjani Ghosh was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the same event.

### **“Chyimi” Wins ‘Best Director’ Award at New York Short Animation Festival 2026**

- The animated short film “Chyimi” won the ‘Best Director’ award at the New York Short Animation Festival (NYSAF) 2026.
- It was directed by Dr. Partha Sarathi Mahanta, who serves as the Inspector General of Police (IGP) in the Assam Police.
- This achievement has brought global recognition to Indian animation.

### **Javed Ashraf Receives France’s Highest Civilian Honor**

- Former Indian Ambassador Javed Ashraf was conferred with France’s highest civilian honor, the Legion of Honour (Commander Rank).
- This honour was bestowed upon him for his role in strengthening India-France strategic relations.
- He became the first Indian Ambassador to receive this distinction.

### **K.V. Subramanian Becomes First Indian Economist to Win Chicago Alumni Award**

- K.V. Subramanian became the first Indian economist to receive the prestigious Alumni Award from the University of Chicago.
- He previously served as India’s Chief Economic Advisor.
- He has represented India at the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- Currently, he is a professor at the Indian School of Business (ISB).

### **BCCI Naman Awards 2026**

- These awards were presented by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) in New Delhi in March 2026.
- This event honored players for their outstanding performance and contributions to Indian cricket during the 2024-25 season.
- Roger Binny and Rahul Dravid were presented with the C.K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award.
- Mithali Raj received the Lifetime Achievement Award in the women's category.

#### **Key Awards:**

- Shubman Gill: Best International Men's Cricketer (Polly Umrigar Award).
- Smriti Mandhana: Best International Women's Cricketer Award.
- Shafali Verma: Best Domestic Women's Player Award.
- Harshit Rana and N. Shri Charan: Best International Debut Award.

### **Qatar Airways Named World's Best Airline for 2026**

- Qatar Airways was declared the World's Best Full-Service Airline for 2026.
- This marks the 9th consecutive time it has secured this position.
- Cathay Pacific and Singapore Airlines ranked second and third, respectively.
- These rankings are determined based on passenger experience, services, and onboard amenities.
- Qatar Airways is renowned for its superior dining, modern cabins, and high levels of customer satisfaction.

### **Skytrax Awards 2026**

- Singapore Changi Airport was named the World's Best Airport for the year 2026.
- This marks Changi Airport's 13th title; it also received four other major awards.
- These include Best Dining, Best Immigration Services, and Best Airport in Asia.

### **Achievements of Delhi Airport (IGI)**

- Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport climbed to the 28th position globally.
- It is the only Indian airport to feature in the global top 30 rankings.
- It won the title of 'Best Airport in India and South Asia' for the 8th consecutive time.
- It ranked third globally in the category of airports handling over 70 million passengers.
- It secured the second position for Best Staff and the seventh for Best Layover Airport.

### **Other Indian Winners**

- Hyderabad Airport received an honour for Best Staff.
- Goa (Mopa) Airport was declared the Cleanest Airport.
- Bengaluru Airport received the title of Best Regional Airport.



# 8. PROMINENT PERSONALITIES

## Appointment of New Governors and Lieutenant Governors in 9 States/Union Territories

- On March 6, 2026, President Droupadi Murmu made new appointments and transfers of Governors and Lieutenant Governors across 9 states and Union Territories.

Name	Appointment/Transfer	Position	State/Union Territory
Lt. Gen. Syed Ata Hasnain	Newly Appointed	Governor	Bihar
Jishnu Dev Varma	Newly Appointed	Governor	Maharashtra
Shiv Pratap Shukla	Newly Appointed	Governor	Telangana
Nand Kishore Yadav	Newly Appointed	Governor	Nagaland
R. N. Ravi	Transferred	Governor	West Bengal
Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar	Transferred	Additional Charge	Tamil Nadu
Kavinder Gupta	Transferred	Governor	Himachal Pradesh
Taranjit Singh Sandhu	Newly Appointed	Lieutenant Governor	Delhi
Vinai Kumar Saxena	Transferred	Lieutenant Governor	Ladakh

### K.V. Raman Murthy Becomes SEBI Member

- In March 2026, K.V. Raman Murthy was appointed as a Whole-Time Member of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- His tenure will be for a period of three years or until further orders.
- He is an officer of the 1991 batch of the Indian Defence Accounts Service (IDAS).
- Prior to this, he served as the Additional Controller General in the Ministry of Defence.
- With his appointment, the number of Whole-Time Members at SEBI has risen to four.
- Apart from K.V. Raman Murthy, the other members are Kamlesh Chandra Varshney, Sandip Pradhan, and Amarjeet Singh.
- Mr. Tuhin Kanta Pandey is the current Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Board of India.

### Selection of Stuti Pradhan

- Recently, Stuti Pradhan from Sikkim was selected for the World Youth Parliament 2026.
- She will represent India and work to strengthen the role of youth in addressing global issues.

- The World Youth Parliament is an international platform where youth representatives from various countries participate.
- Stuti Pradhan is known for her debating skills and leadership abilities.
- She had previously secured a victory at the state level in the 'Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament 2025'.
- She was honored as a special guest in Sikkim on Republic Day 2026.

### Sudarsan Pattnaik Becomes Brand Ambassador for Census 2027

- The Government of India has appointed Sudarsan Pattnaik as the Brand Ambassador for Census 2027.
- This decision was taken to enhance awareness and public participation in the census process.
- Through his sand art, he will raise awareness among the public regarding the importance of the census.
- The government has sanctioned an amount of ₹11,718.24 crore for Census 2027.

- Sudarsan Pattnaik was honored with the Padma Shri award in 2014.
- In 2017, he set a Guinness World Record by building the world's largest sandcastle.

### **Prime Minister Modi Becomes the World's Most Popular Leader**

- In an international survey conducted by the American data analytics firm 'Morning Consult,' Prime Minister Narendra Modi was declared the world's most popular leader.
- He received a popularity rating of 68%.
- Swiss President Guy Parmelin and South Korean President Lee Jae-myung secured the second spot with a rating of 62%.
- US President Donald Trump received a rating of 39% and failed to make it into the top 10.
- Narendra Modi is one of India's longest-serving leaders.

### **Narendra Modi Becomes the Longest-Serving Head of Government**

- Narendra Modi has become India's longest-serving elected Head of Government.
- He has completed a tenure spanning a total of over 8,931 days.
- This includes his time served as both the Chief Minister of Gujarat and the Prime Minister.
- He has broken the record previously held by Pawan Kumar Chamling.
- He served as the Chief Minister of Gujarat from 2001 to 2014.
- He assumed the office of Prime Minister in 2014 and won elections three times (2014, 2019, 2024).
- He became the first non-Congress Prime Minister to secure an absolute majority.
- He is also the first Prime Minister to have been born after India's independence.

### **Dheeraj Seth Becomes Vice Chief of Army Staff**

- Lieutenant General Dheeraj Seth has been appointed as the new Vice Chief of Army Staff of the Indian Army.
- He assumed office on April 1, 2026.
- This is the second-highest-ranking position within the Army.

- Dheeraj Seth joined the Armoured Corps in 1986.
- He has commanded both the Southern Command and the XXI Strike Corps.

### **Balendra Shah Becomes Nepal's Youngest Prime Minister**

- Balendra Shah became Nepal's youngest Prime Minister on March 27, 2026.
- He is a leader of the National Independent Party (RSP) and is 35 years old.
- He was sworn in by President Ram Chandra Poudel in Kathmandu.
- He succeeded Sushila Karki, who had served as the interim Prime Minister following the political crisis of 2025.
- The National Independent Party (RSP) secured a clear majority in the Nepali Parliament by winning 182 out of 275 seats.
- With this victory, the National Independent Party (RSP) has formed the first full-majority government in Nepal.

### **José Antonio Kast Becomes President of Chile**

- José Antonio Kast became the 38th President of Chile in March 2026.
- He had won the 2025 presidential election, and his term will last for four years.
- He assumed office by receiving the traditional symbol, the 'Piocha de O'Higgins'.
- Representing India, Union Minister Kirti Vardhan Singh attended the ceremony.

### **Mojtaba Khamenei Becomes Iran's New Supreme Leader**

- Mojtaba Khamenei was appointed as Iran's new Supreme Leader on March 8, 2026.
- This appointment was made by the Assembly of Experts following the death of his father, Ali Khamenei.
- He has become Iran's third Supreme Leader.
- This decision was reached following a decisive vote by members of the Assembly of Experts—the constitutional body responsible for appointing and overseeing the Supreme Leader.

## Demises

### Datta Meghe Passes Away

- Datta Meghe, a senior leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and former Member of Parliament, passed away on March 22, 2026.
- He became a member of the Maharashtra Legislative Council (MLC) in 1978 and served three consecutive terms until 1991.
- He served as a Member of the Lok Sabha (MP) four times, representing the constituencies of Nagpur, Ramtek, and Wardha.
- He also served as a member of the Rajya Sabha from 2002 to 2008.

### Demise of Biren Singh Engti

- Senior Congress leader and former Union Minister Biren Singh Engti passed away on March 10, 2026.
- He was elected as a Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) five times from the Diphu constituency (Assam).
- He served as a Minister of State in various ministries between 1986 and 1989.
- He also served as the Chief Executive Member of the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council.

### Demise of K.P. Unnikrishnan

- Senior Congress leader and former Union Minister K.P. Unnikrishnan passed away on March 3, 2026.
- He hailed from Kozhikode, Kerala.
- He holds the distinction in Kerala's political history of being the leader who represented a single Lok Sabha constituency (Vadakara in Kozhikode) for the longest duration.

### Demise of Senior Journalist H.K. Dua

- Renowned journalist and former diplomat H.K. Dua passed away on March 4, 2026.
- He was conferred with the Padma Bhushan in 1998.
- He served as the editor of prominent newspapers such as the Hindustan Times, the Indian Express, and The Tribune.
- He also served as India's Ambassador to Denmark.

### Demise of Lionel Jospin

- Former Prime Minister of France, Lionel Jospin, passed away on March 22, 2026.
- In 1981, he was appointed as the head of the Socialist Party.
- He served as the Prime Minister of France from 1997 to 2002.



## 9. PLACES IN NEWS

### Hyderabad: The Country's First Pilot Plant for Rare Earth Magnets

- In March 2026, the Government of India established the country's first pilot plant for rare earth magnets in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- This plant has been set up at the ARCI (Advanced Research Centre).
- It will manufacture Nd-Fe-B (Neodymium-Iron-Boron) magnets.
- This initiative is part of a government scheme (PLI) worth ₹7,280 crore.
- Its objective is to reduce dependence on China and to make India self-reliant in the EV, defense, and energy sectors by 2026.
- Its target is to establish an integrated capacity of 6,000 metric tonnes per annum (MTPA).
- This plant integrates the entire production process into a single system.
- It will be utilized for technology testing, process improvement, and industry collaboration.

### Gurugram: India's First LPG ATM

- India's first Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) Automated Teller Machine (ATM) was launched at Central Park Flower Valley in Sector 33, Sohna, Gurugram, Haryana.
- It was introduced by the 'Maharatna' Public Sector Undertaking (PSU), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL).
- This initiative is part of the 'BharatGas Insta LPG' pilot project, aimed at promoting automated gas distribution in urban areas.
- Its objective is to provide fast, safe, and easy access to LPG, 24x7.
- Customers can obtain a cylinder by verifying their identity using a mobile number and an OTP.
- Payments are made digitally via UPI or debit cards.
- Lightweight composite cylinders (weighing approximately 15 kg) are available at this facility.
- The machine has the capacity to hold a maximum of 10 cylinders.

### India's First Riverine Lighthouse

- For the first time in India, Riverine lighthouses are being constructed on an inland waterway—specifically on the Brahmaputra River.
- Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal laid the foundation stone for this project in Guwahati on March 5, 2026.
- These lighthouses will be built at four locations along the Brahmaputra River on National Waterway-2 (NW-2):
  1. Bogibeel (Dibrugarh District, Assam)
  2. Pandu (Kamrup Metro District, Assam)
  3. Silghat (Nagaon District, Assam)
  4. Biswanath Ghat (Biswanath District, Assam)
- Each lighthouse will stand 20 meters tall and will be powered by solar energy.
- This project will enhance water transport safety and navigation.
- Additionally, museums, cafeterias, and other amenities will be developed to boost tourism.

### Noida International Airport

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first phase of the Noida International Airport on March 28, 2026.
- The project has a cost of approximately ₹11,200 crore.
- It has been designed as a sustainable and future-oriented infrastructure project.
- Its goal is to become a 'Net-Zero Emission' airport.
- It is one of India's largest Greenfield airport projects.
- It has been developed as the second international airport for the Delhi-NCR region.
- It will complement the operations of the Indira Gandhi International Airport.
- Its initial capacity is 12 million passengers per year, which can be further expanded to 70 million.
- It also includes facilities for cargo operations and a multi-modal logistics hub.

**Kalinjar Fort Hill: National Geo-heritage Site**

- The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has declared Kalinjar Fort Hill, located in the Banda district of Uttar Pradesh, as a National Geo-heritage Site.
- This site is renowned for its unique geological and historical significance.
- It features a rare geological formation known as the 'Eparchean Unconformity,' which represents a time gap of approximately 1.3 billion years.
- In this region, 1.2-billion-year-old Kaimur Sandstones rest atop the approximately 2.5-billion-year-old Bundelkhand Granites.
- This formation is crucial for understanding the evolution of the Vindhya Range.

**Nellore (Andhra Pradesh): World's First Autonomous Marine Shipbuilding Centre**

- Sagar Defence Engineering Pvt. Ltd. laid the foundation stone for the world's first autonomous marine shipbuilding and systems centre in the Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh in March 2026.
- This centre will make shipbuilding more efficient and sustainable through the use of robotics and Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- It will comprise shipbuilding units, testing facilities, a Research and Development (R&D) centre, MRO (Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul) facilities, and a training center.
- This centre will utilize smart manufacturing technologies such as robotic welding, cutting, painting, and 3D printing.

**In Jammu and Kashmir Integrated Aqua Park Project Approved**

- The Central Government has approved an Integrated Aqua Park project worth ₹100 crore in the Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir.
- This announcement was made during the National Conference on Cold Water Fisheries held in Srinagar.
- During the event, the Central Government released model guidelines for the development of cold water fisheries.
- These guidelines encompass scientific seed production, aquaculture, biodiversity conservation, and value chain development.

**Lakshadweep: India's First Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) Plant**

- India's first Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) plant is being developed in Kavaratti, Lakshadweep.
- OTEC technology generates electricity by utilizing the temperature difference between warm and cold ocean waters.
- This project will provide both clean energy and potable water (through desalination). It will offer sustainable energy solutions for island regions.
- It is being developed by the Ministry of Earth Sciences and the NIOT.

**Reliance MET City Becomes First Project with LEED Platinum Pre-certification**

- The 'Metropolis' project by Reliance MET City, located in Jhajjar, Haryana, has become the first project in India to receive LEED Platinum pre-certification.
- This certification was awarded by Green Business Certification Inc.
- It is considered a high global standard for sustainable urban development.
- The LEED system evaluates aspects such as the environment, energy, water, transportation, and quality of life.
- Its objective is to ensure the efficient use of resources and minimize environmental impact.

**Inauguration of Biotechnology Research Facility in Kerala**

- Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated a Central Facility for Recombinant Cells and Sensors in Kerala.
- This facility has been established at the Biotechnology Research and Innovation Centre—Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (BRIC-RGCB)—in Thiruvananthapuram.
- Its aim is to promote research in drug discovery, medical genomics, and agricultural genomics.
- It will facilitate high-level research and drug development.

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**Miscellaneous**

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**PRISM-SG Portal**

- Union Ministers Nitin Gadkari and Ashwini Vaishnav launched the 'PRISM-SG Portal' for road-rail bridge projects on March 25, 2026.

- The full form of PRISM-SG is the Portal for Rail-Road Inspection & Stages Management – Steel Girders.
- Its objective is to digitize the approval and inspection processes for road-rail bridges and railway projects.
- This portal provides an end-to-end digital workflow.
- It features real-time monitoring and data-driven analytics capabilities.
- It ensures better coordination among various departments and agencies.
- The time required for approvals and inspections has been reduced from 12 months to 3–4 months.

### **Griha Sugam Portal**

- The National Housing Bank (NHB) launched the ‘Griha Sugam Portal’ in March 2026.
- Its objective is to simplify and digitize the home loan process for defense personnel, paramilitary forces, and government employees.
- This portal is a digital platform where users can compare, apply for, and track home loans all in one place.
- Eligible beneficiaries can apply online through their respective administrative units, thereby eliminating the need to visit a bank branch.

### **SEBI’s AI System ‘Sudarshan’**

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has launched an AI-based system named ‘Sudarshan’.
- It is an in-house Artificial Intelligence (AI) system.
- Its objective is to monitor online financial content.
- This system scans audio, video, and text content.
- To date, more than 1.2 lakh misleading posts have been removed.
- It helps in identifying illegal financial advice and false claims.

### **100-Day TB Campaign**

- On the occasion of World Tuberculosis Day (March 24), a 100-day TB campaign was launched in Agartala, Tripura.
- This campaign was organized by the Health and Family Welfare Department of Tripura in collaboration with the National Health Mission.

- Its objective is to raise awareness regarding TB and strengthen control measures.
- TB is a treatable infectious disease; therefore, emphasis has been placed on timely testing and treatment.
- TB spreads through the air and primarily affects the lungs.
- It is caused by a bacterium known as Mycobacterium tuberculosis.

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## **Major Conferences**

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### **Raisina Dialogue 2026**

- The 11th edition of the Raisina Dialogue was held in New Delhi from March 5 to 7, 2026.
- It was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and the President of Finland, Alexander Stubb, served as the Chief Guest.
- The conference was organized by the Observer Research Foundation and the Ministry of External Affairs.
- Its theme was “Saṁskāra – Assertion, Accommodation, Advancement.”
- The conference focused on global politics, economics, and technological challenges.

### **Jal Mahotsav 2026**

- On March 8, 2026, the Central Government launched the nationwide campaign, Jal Mahotsav 2026 (Water Festival 2026), from Raheej village in the Gandevi block of Gujarat’s Navsari district.
- This campaign was held from March 8 to March 22.
- Its objective is to enhance public participation in rural water management.
- This campaign promotes the sustainability of water resources under the Jal Jeevan Mission.
- Its tagline was “Gaon Ka Utsav, Desh Ka Mahotsav” (The Village’s Celebration, The Nation’s Festival).

### **Bharat Tex 2026**

- Bharat Tex 2026 was launched by the Union Ministry of Textiles (MoT) on March 11, 2026.
- It is India’s premier global textiles event and stands as one of the world’s largest integrated textile fairs.

- It will be held from July 14 to 17, 2026, at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.
- Its objective is to establish India as a global textile hub.
- It is based on the Prime Minister's '5F Vision' (Farm to Fibre, Fibre to Factory, Factory to Fashion, Fashion to Foreign Markets).

### **India Electricity Summit 2026**

- The first edition of the India Electricity Summit (BES 2026) was held in New Delhi from March 19–22, 2026.
- Its objective was to strengthen India's energy transition and power sector reforms.
- The summit was inaugurated by Union Minister Manohar Lal.
- Its theme was "Electrifying Growth, Empowering Sustainability, Connecting Globally."
- The event was organized by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).

### **Mobile World Congress 2026**

- The Mobile World Congress 2026 was held in Barcelona, Spain, from March 2–5, 2026.
- It is the world's largest mobile and technology event.
- Its theme was "The IQ Era," which focuses on the integration of AI and connectivity.
- The event was organized by the Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA).
- India was represented by Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia.

### **National Arogya Mela 2026**

- The National Arogya Mela 2026 was held in Shegaon, Maharashtra, from February 25–28, 2026. (Inaugurated by: President Droupadi Murmu)
- Experts and institutions associated with the healthcare sector participated in the event.
- It showcased all systems of medicine, including Allopathy and AYUSH.
- Its objective is to promote affordable and accessible healthcare services.
- It was organized by the Ministry of AYUSH and the All India Ayurvedic Congress.



# 10. INDICES AND REPORTS

## Fiscal Health Index 2026

- The Fiscal Health Index 2026 was released by NITI Aayog.
- This index assesses the financial status and performance of the states.
- Odisha secured the first position with a score of 73.1, while Goa and Jharkhand ranked second and third, respectively.

### State Categories:

- Front-runners: Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, etc.
- Performers: Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, and Rajasthan.
- Aspirational: West Bengal, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and Punjab.

## Export Data (NIRYAT) FY25

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I), released the National Import-Export Record (NIRYAT) data—an annual analysis of trade for the financial year 2024-25 (FY25)—in March 2026.
- India's total textile exports stood at USD 36,610 million.
- According to this data, Tamil Nadu emerged as India's largest textile-exporting state.
- Tamil Nadu's exports amounted to USD 7,997.17 million, accounting for 21.84% of the total exports.
- Gujarat and Maharashtra secured the second and third positions, respectively.

## Uttarakhand Ranks First in ICJS 2.0

- Uttarakhand secured the first position nationwide in the Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) 2.0 and the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) dashboard.
- Uttarakhand obtained a score of 93.46 points.

- Haryana and Assam ranked second and third, respectively.
- The states have implemented the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam.
- Under this framework, the police, courts, prisons, and forensic systems have been interconnected through a 'One Data, One Entry' system. This has strengthened digital integration within the criminal justice system.

## World Happiness Report 2026

- This report is jointly released by Gallup, the Oxford Wellbeing Research Centre, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).
- According to this report, Finland remains the happiest country in the world for the ninth consecutive time.
- Finland's life evaluation score stood at 7.764.
- Finland, Iceland, Denmark, Costa Rica, Sweden, Norway, the Netherlands, Israel, Luxembourg, and Switzerland comprise the top 10.
- Afghanistan ranked 147th, emerging as the least happy country.

## India's Position

- India ranked 116th in 2026, with a score of 4.536.
- India's ranking has improved compared to previous years. India trails behind Pakistan (104th place) and Sri Lanka (99th place), while ranking ahead of Bangladesh (127th place) and Afghanistan (147th place).

## SIPRI Report 2025

- The Swedish think tank, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), released its latest report titled 'Trends in International Arms Transfers, 2025'.
- According to this report, Ukraine ranked first in arms imports during the 2021–2025 period.
- India remained the world's second-largest arms importer.

- India's share of global imports stood at 8.2%.
- Saudi Arabia ranked third.
- The United States, France, and Russia were the top three global arms exporters.
- Globally, arms imports witnessed an increase of approximately 10%.
- India remained the largest recipient of French arms (accounting for 24% of France's exports) and the largest destination for Russian arms exports (48%).

### QS World University Rankings 2026

- Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) released the 16th edition of the QS World University Rankings by Subject for 2026.
- The Indian Institute of Technology – Indian School of Mines (IIT-ISM), Dhanbad (Jharkhand), secured the 21st rank globally in Mineral and Mining Engineering.
- The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad secured the 21st rank in Business, Management, and Marketing.
- India secured a ranking in the Marketing subject category for the first time.
- The United States continues to lead the rankings, holding the top spot in 37 subjects, while the United Kingdom (UK) ranks second.
- The United States tops the list with 228 institutions, followed by China with 158 and the UK with 114, while India features 99 institutions.
- With 120 new entries, India emerged as the world's fourth-largest higher education system.

### Forbes Billionaires List 2026

- Forbes released its 40th annual list of the world's billionaires in March 2026.
- Elon Musk remained the world's richest person for the second consecutive year (with a net worth of approximately \$839 billion).
- Larry Page of Alphabet (Google) ranked second, while Sergey Brin of Alphabet Inc. (Google) ranked third.
- Mukesh Ambani remained India's richest person, with a net worth of \$99.7 billion.
- The list includes a total of 3,428 billionaires, with a combined net worth of \$20.1 trillion.

- The United States ranks first with 989 billionaires, while China ranks second and India ranks third with 229 billionaires.
- The list includes 481 women, accounting for 14% of the total.
- Alice Walton remained the world's richest woman for the second consecutive year.

### Global Terrorism Index 2026

- This index was released in March 2026 by the Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP).
- The report identifies Pakistan as the country most affected by terrorism.
- Pakistan received a score of 8.574, recording 1,139 deaths and 1,045 incidents in 2025.
- Other affected countries include Burkina Faso (2nd), Niger (3rd), Nigeria (4th), and Mali (5th).
- India ranked 13th with a score of 6.428.
- In the GTI, countries are ranked based on a score ranging from 0 to 10.
- In the year 2025, terrorist incidents were approximately six times higher compared to 2020.
- However, the total number of incidents declined by 22%, reaching 2,944—the lowest figure since 2007.

### Hurun Global Rich List 2026

- According to the Hurun Report 2026, India ranked third globally in terms of the number of billionaires.
- India is home to a total of 308 billionaires, including 57 new entrants.
- Mukesh Ambani retained his position as the richest person in both India and Asia.
- Elon Musk remained the world's richest person, followed by Jeff Bezos and Larry Page.
- Globally, for the first time, the number of billionaires exceeded 4,000.
- The collective wealth of India's billionaires was estimated at approximately ₹112 lakh crore.
- China ranked first globally, accounting for 75% of the world's self-made female billionaires.
- Diane Hendricks of ABC Supply (USA) is the world's richest self-made woman.
- Roshni Nadar Malhotra is India's richest woman.

### **UN Report on Women's Rights**

- The United Nations (UN) released a report titled "Ensuring and Strengthening Access to Justice for All Women and Girls."
- According to this report, women possess only 64% of the legal rights enjoyed by men.
- The report notes that in many countries, the legal definition of rape is not based on consent.
- In approximately 75% of countries, child marriage remains legally permissible.
- In 44% of countries, there are no laws mandating equal pay for equal work.
- To date, no country in the world has achieved complete gender equality.

### **India Becomes World's 5th Largest Coal Reserve Holder**

- According to Union Coal Minister G. Kishan Reddy, India possesses the world's fifth-largest coal reserves.
- These reserves can meet the country's energy needs for 60–70 years.
- The Central Government has implemented several reforms in the coal sector and has made the allocation process more transparent.
- Approximately 74% of electricity generation in the country comes from coal-based thermal power plants.
- India is the world's second-largest producer and consumer of coal.



# 11. IMPORTANT DAYS

## Zero Discrimination Day (ZDD)

- It is observed annually on March 1st.
- Its objective is to promote equality and inclusion.
- 2026 Theme: "People First"

## World Civil Defence Day

- It is observed annually on March 1st.
- This day is celebrated in honour of civil defence personnel.
- 2026 Theme: "Managing Environmental Risks for a Resilient and Sustainable Future"

## World Seagrass Day

- This day is observed annually on March 1st.
- Objective: To raise awareness regarding the importance of seagrass in marine ecosystems.

## World Wildlife Day

- It is observed annually on March 3rd.
- This day is celebrated to raise awareness regarding wildlife conservation.
- 2026 Theme: "Medicinal and Aromatic Plants: Conserving Health, Heritage and Livelihoods"

## World Hearing Day

- It is observed annually on March 3rd.
- This day is celebrated to raise awareness regarding hearing-related issues.
- 2026 Theme: "From communities to classrooms: hearing care for all children"

## Day of the Fight Against Sexual Exploitation

- It is observed annually on March 4th.
- Its objective is to raise awareness and support victims.

## National Safety Day

- It is observed in India on March 4th.
- It focuses on workplace safety and accident prevention.
- Theme: "Engage, Educate & Empower People to Enhance Safety"

## World Obesity Day

- It is observed annually on March 4th.
- This day is observed to raise awareness about obesity.
- 2026 Theme: "8 Billion Reasons to Act on Obesity"

## World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development

- It is celebrated annually on March 4.
- This day highlights the role of engineering in sustainable development.
- Theme for 2026: "Smart Engineering for a Sustainable Future through Innovation and Digitalization"

## Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness Day 2026

- This day is observed annually on March 5.
- Its objective is to raise awareness regarding the threat posed by weapons and to promote peace.

## Jan Aushadhi Diwas 2026

- Jan Aushadhi Diwas is observed annually on March 7.
- Its objective is to promote the use of affordable and quality generic medicines.

## International Women's Day 2026

- International Women's Day is observed annually on March 8.
- Its objective is to honour the achievements of women and to promote their rights.
- 2026 Theme: "Rights, Justice, Action for All Women and Girls"

## International Day of Women Judges 2026

- This day is observed annually on March 10.
- Its objective is to promote women's participation in the justice system.
- 2026 Theme: "Women Judges on the Bench and Beyond: Protecting Access to Justice."

### **CISF Raising Day**

- Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) Raising Day is celebrated every year on March 10.
- It is observed to commemorate the establishment of the Central Industrial Security Force in 1969. This force safeguards the country's industrial and critical infrastructure.

### **World Kidney Day**

- World Kidney Day is celebrated every year on the second Thursday of March.
- In 2026, it was observed on March 12.
- Its objective is to raise awareness regarding kidney health.
- The theme for 2026 is: "Kidney Health for All: Caring for People, Protecting the Planet."

### **World Rotaract Day**

- World Rotaract Day is celebrated every year on March 13.
- Its objective is to honour the contributions of youth in the fields of service and leadership.

### **International Day of Mathematics**

- This day is celebrated every year on March 14.
- Its objective is to highlight the significance of mathematics across various fields.
- The theme for 2026 is: "Mathematics and Hope."

### **International Day of Action for Rivers**

- This day is observed on March 14 to highlight the importance of river conservation and water security. The theme for 2026 is: "Protect Rivers, Protect People."

### **World Consumer Rights Day**

- This day is celebrated every year on March 15 to raise awareness regarding consumer rights.
- Its objective is to empower consumers and ensure their safety.
- The theme for 2026 is: "Safe Products, Confident Consumers."

### **International Day to Combat Islamophobia**

- This day is observed globally on March 15.
- Its objective is to combat anti-Muslim discrimination and promote social harmony.

### **National Vaccination Day**

- National Vaccination Day is celebrated every year on March 16.
- It is observed to commemorate the introduction of the first oral polio vaccine in 1995.
- Its objective is to raise awareness regarding the importance of timely vaccination.

### **Ordnance Factory Day**

- Ordnance Factory Day is observed every year on March 18. It is celebrated to commemorate the establishment of the first ordnance factory in Cossipore, Kolkata, in 1801.

### **Global Recycling Day**

- Global Recycling Day is observed every year on March 18.
- Its objective is to conserve natural resources and promote environmental sustainability.
- The theme for 2026 is: "Don't think waste – Think Opportunity."

### **International Day of Happiness**

- The International Day of Happiness is observed every year on March 20. Its objective is to make happiness and well-being an integral part of human life and policy-making.
- The theme for 2026 is: "Caring and Sharing."

### **World Sparrow Day**

- World Sparrow Day is observed every year on March 20. Its objective is to raise awareness regarding the declining population of sparrow birds. The theme for 2026 is: "Creating Bird-Friendly Cities & Communities."

### **World Theatre Day for Children and Youth**

- This day is observed every year on March 20.
- Its objective is to promote the cultural rights of children and youth.

### **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**

- This day is observed every year on March 21 by the United Nations. Its objective is to raise awareness against racism and discrimination.
- It focuses on the rights of affected communities, particularly people of African descent.

### **World Down Syndrome Day**

- This day is observed every year on March 21.
- Its objective is to promote the rights, inclusion, and well-being of people affected by Down syndrome. The theme for 2026 is: "Together Against Loneliness."

### **International Nowruz Day**

- International Nowruz Day is observed every year on March 21.
- Its objective is to promote cultural exchange, peace, and unity.
- It was first celebrated on March 21, 2010.

### **World Poetry Day**

- World Poetry Day is celebrated annually on March 21. Its objective is to promote linguistic diversity and preserve endangered languages.
- The theme for 2026 is: "Poetry as a Bridge for Peace and Inclusion."

### **World Glacier Day**

- World Glacier Day is celebrated annually on March 21. Its objective is to focus attention on the need for glacier conservation.

### **International Day of Forests**

- The International Day of Forests is celebrated annually on March 21.
- Its objective is to raise awareness regarding the importance and conservation of forests.
- The theme for 2026 is: "Forests and Economies."

### **World Puppetry Day**

- World Puppetry Day is celebrated annually on March 21. Its aim is to promote puppetry and honour the artists. Its first observance took place on March 21, 2003.

### **Bihar Foundation Day**

- Bihar's 114th Foundation Day was celebrated on March 22, 2026.
- It is celebrated to commemorate the state's separation from Bengal in 1912.
- This year's theme is "Advanced Bihar, Bright Bihar."
- Bihar is situated in the eastern part of India. It comprises 40 Lok Sabha, 16 Rajya Sabha, and 243 Legislative Assembly seats.

### **World Water Day**

- World Water Day is observed annually on March 22 by the United Nations.
- Its objective is to raise awareness regarding the importance of water and the global water crisis.
- 2026 Theme: "Water and Gender."

### **Martyrs' Day**

- Martyrs' Day is observed annually in India on March 23. This day is celebrated in memory of the sacrifice made by Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru, and Sukhdev Thapar.

### **World Tuberculosis Day**

- World Tuberculosis Day is observed annually on March 24.
- Objective: To raise awareness about TB (Tuberculosis) and to accelerate efforts toward its eradication.
- 2026 Theme: "Yes! We Can End TB! Led by Countries, Powered by People."

### **International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims**

- This day is observed annually on March 24 by the United Nations.
- Its objective is to honour the victims of gross human rights violations and to promote justice.

### **International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade**

- This day is observed annually on March 25 by the United Nations.
- Its objective is to pay tribute to the millions of people affected by the transatlantic slave trade.
- Theme for 2026: "Justice in Action"

### **Jan Aushadhi Week 2026**

- Jan Aushadhi Week was observed from March 1 to March 7, 2026.
- Its aim is to raise awareness regarding affordable and quality generic medicines.
- It was organized by the Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India.
- Theme: "Jan Aushadhi: Affordable and Trustworthy—Good Health, Great Savings."