

# THE HINDU REVIEW

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**APRIL 2026**

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## Most Important Article of April Month

### PM Modi Launches Kaynes Semiconductor Plant in Gujarat – A Big Boost for India's Chip Industry

Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Kaynes Semicon Plant in Sanand, Gujarat on the March 31, 2026. This inauguration signals the India's growing strength in the semiconductor manufacturing and with ambition to become the global tech leader. This facility has begun now the production of the advanced components which are crucial for the industries like electric vehicles and electronics.

#### Kaynes Semicon Inauguration

After the inauguration of the Kaynes Technology semiconductor plant it will start the domestic chip production by the company. It is located in Sanand in Gujarat and this facility is the part of the India's broader plan to build the strong semiconductor ecosystem.

The Prime Minister also highlighted that this is not the isolated development but it is part of a rapidly growing the semiconductor ecosystem and also various projects are underway across the country.

This plant will also position the India as the reliable partner in the global semiconductor supply chain and to reducing dependence on imports.

#### Boost to 'Make in India' and Global Supply Chains

The Kaynes facility is made under the vision of 'Make in India, Make for the World'. The significant portion of the production is already linked to the global markets and also it includes partnerships with companies of the United States.

Key highlights include the,

- The supply of Intelligent Power Modules (IPMs) to the global firms
- Also the strong export potential which connecting India to Silicon Valley supply chains
- Also integration into the global semiconductor ecosystem

#### Powering EVs and Future Technologies

The semiconductor components which are produced at the plant and specially the Intelligent Power Modules are vital for the emerging technologies.

These modules will support the,

- Electric vehicles (EVs) and its sustainable mobility
- Industrial automation and heavy machinery
- Also an advanced electronics and energy efficient systems

#### India Semiconductor Mission

The Prime Minister also emphasized the importance of the India Semiconductor Mission which was launched in 2021.

This mission aims to,

- Develop the complete semiconductor ecosystem
- To promote domestic manufacturing and design capabilities
- Also to reduce dependence on global chip imports

Currently In India the projects of worth over ₹1.6 lakh crore are underway across the multiple states and it shows the country's commitment to the future ecosystem.

#### Semiconductor Mission 2.0 and Workforce Development

Also, India is now moving towards the next phase with the Semiconductor Mission 2.0. This will be focusing on to the building a full supply chain while including materials and equipment.

The government is also investing into the talent development,

- To target to train 85,000 semiconductor professionals
- Also to support for startups through the Chips to Startup program
- Also the participation of 400+ universities and innovators

### India Census 2027 Digital: Phase 1 Start on April 1, 2026 Details

India will set to begin the Census 2027 from the next year in 2027. It is the 16th Census in the history and 8th after the Independence. As the Phase 1 will be starting from the April 1, 2026. It was announced by the Mritunjay Kumar Narayan and this will be the first-ever fully digital census to be conducted in the country. While using mobile apps and online self-enumeration portal also available in the multiple languages and this exercise marks the major shift into the data collection along with aim to for greater accuracy, transparency and efficiency.

#### Census 2027 Phase 1: Key Highlights and Timeline

The first phase of the Census 2027 which is known as the House Listing and Housing Census (HLC). It will be conducted from the April to September 2026 across the all states and Union Territories in India

This phase will be focused on the collecting data related to the,

- The housing conditions and the structure
- Also the household amenities like water, electricity, sanitation
- The ownership of the assets and living standards of individual

The main feature is the introduction of the Self-Enumeration (SE) which will allow the citizens to fill the correct data online before the enumerators can visit their households.

This timeline also follows the structured approach which is the,

- 15 days of the self enumeration
  - Also it will followed by 30 days of door-to-door enumeration
- With this hybrid model it ensure the both convenience and verification of data

#### State-Wise Schedule: How the Census Will Roll Out Across India

The schedule of Census Phase 1 has been the carefully planned in the correct manner to ensuring the smooth execution in across the country.

All states are part of the phase 1 census process and which starting from the April 1st to September 30th. States will complete the 1st phase exercise in this given window.

This couple of months long schedule will ensure the better resource management and the efficient data collection across nation.

**Phase 2: Population Enumeration in 2027**

On the other side the second phase of Census 2027 will be known as Population Enumeration (PE). And it will take place in the month of February 2027.

In the 2nd phase it will collect the detailed data at the individual level such as,

- Demographics (age, gender and marital status)
- Education and occupation
- Pattern related to Migration
- Fertility and socio-economic indicators

Also the caste enumeration will take place during this phase. With this it is also making the significant exercise for the policy planning and various social justice initiatives.

**What Makes Census 2027 Unique? Key Innovations**

The Census 2027 marks the major transformation in India's data collection system.

First of all the Digital-First Approach in which the enumerators will use the mobile applications instead of paper forms.

Also the data will be uploaded in real-time and will reduce the errors.

On the Self-Enumeration Portal the citizens can fill their details online in 16 languages when they want to do.

These type of innovations are aimed to make the census more reliable and user-friendly.

**Phase – 1 Schedule For the States Date**

State/UT	Self-Enumeration Period	Housing & Census Period
Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Delhi (NDMC & Cantonment), Goa, Karnataka, Lakshadweep, Mizoram, Odisha, Sikkim	1 Apr -15 Apr	16 Apr – 15 May
Gujarat*, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	5 Apr – 19 Apr	20 Apr – 19 May
Uttarakhand	10 Apr – 24 Apr	25 Apr – 24 May
Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana	1 May – 30 May	16 Apr – 30 Apr
Bihar	17 Apr – 1 May	2 May – 31 May
Telangana	26 Apr – 10 May	11 May – 9 Jun
Punjab	30 Apr – 14 May	15 May – 13 Jun

State/UT	Self-Enumeration Period	Housing & Census Period
Delhi (MCD), Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Jharkhand	1 May – 15 May	16 May – 14 Jun
Uttar Pradesh	7 May – 21 May	22 May – 20 Jun
Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Puducherry	17 May – 31 May	1 Jun – 30 Jun
Himachal Pradesh	1 Jun – 15 Jun	16 Jun – 15 Jul
Kerala, Nagaland	16 Jun – 30 Jun	1 Jul – 30 Jul
Tamil Nadu, Tripura	17 Jul – 31 Jul	1 Aug – 30 Aug
Assam	2 Aug – 16 Aug	17 Aug – 15 Sep
Manipur	17 Aug – 31 Aug	1 Sep – 30 Sep
West Bengal	To be decided	To be decided

**PM Modi Inaugurates Samrat Samprat Museum on Mahavir Jayant**

Honorable Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Samrat Samprat Museum in the Gandhinagar on his visit to Gujarat on the March 31, 2026. With this inauguration it is marking the significant step to preserving India's rich Jain heritage. The inauguration was coincided with the auspicious occasion of the Mahavir Jayant and with this it has added the special spiritual significance to the event. The Museum was located at the Shri Mahavir Jain Aradhana Kendra in the Koba village, Gandhinagar.

**Samrat Samprat Museum: A Journey Through Jain Civilization**  
This newly inaugurated the Samrat Samprat Museum stands as the comprehensive repository of the Jain culture and their traditions.

It is named after Samprat and this museum honors the ruler who is known for spreading Jainism and promoting non-violence across his empire.

The museum houses over the nearly 2,000 rare artefacts and it is also offering the visitors a deep dive into Jain philosophy and their historical evolution.

Also intricately carved from the stone idols to the ancient manuscripts it is in every exhibit it shows the spiritual richness and artistic mastery of the Jain traditions.

The use of the modern audio-visual technology will enhance the visitor experience and it will be making it both educational and cultural presentation.

Seven Galleries Showcasing India's Spiritual and Cultural Legacy  
The museum with proper idea has been divided into the seven distinct galleries and each of the gallery is focusing on different aspects of Jainism and Indian civilization.

These galleries present the,

- Ancient manuscripts and also illustration texts depicting Jain teachings
- Also the stone and metal idols which represent Tirthankaras
- Miniature paintings, coin and silver chariots
- And the traditional artefacts which are reflecting the centuries-old craftsmanship

The structured layout also enable the visitors to understand the chronological development of Jainism from origin to the influence all over India.

Significance of Mahavir Jayanti and Jain Values

The inauguration on Mahavir Jayanti highlights the importance of the Bhagwan Mahavir's teachings.

In the message PM Modi emphasized that,

- The principles of truth, non-violence and compassion it is still remain highly relevant today
- Jain philosophy which promotes equality, kindness and the social responsibility
- These values are essential to addressing modern global challenges

Who Was Samrat Samprati? A Historical Insight

Samprati ruled during the 224-215 BCE and he was regarded as one of the greatest patrons of Jainism.

He was often compared to his grandfather Ashoka for his role to spreading religious values but the Samprati on the other side had focused specifically on to the Jain teachings.

His contributions also include the,

- Building several Jain temples across India
- Also supporting monks and spreading the message of ahimsa
- And importantly to promoting ethical governance based on non-violence

The museum named after him symbolizes his enduring legacy.

**NASA's Artemis II Mission Begins: First Crewed Moon Journey in Over 50 Years Takes Off**

The historic moment for the space exploration NASA has successfully launched the Artemis II mission on the April 1, 2026. This is marking the first crewed journey towards the Moon since after 1972. NASA's powerful Space Launch System rocket had lifted the four astronauts into space for the 10-day mission around the Moon and will take it back to earth. This mission is not just about landing but it is about testing systems which could soon return the humans to the lunar surface.

Artemis II Launch Beginning of New Era

The Artemis II mission was launched from the Kennedy Space Center at 6:35 p.m. ET and it draw the attention towards thousands of spectators.

The mission representing the,

- The revival of human lunar exploration
- And major step towards the future Moon landings
- Also to continue on of the legacy of the Apollo missions

As compare to Apollo 8 this mission will orbit the Moon without the landing and will be ensuring that spacecraft systems are safe for the future missions.

Meet the Artemis II Crew Astronauts

This mission carries the four astronauts aboard on the Orion spacecraft and each of astronaut has their big achievement.

- Reid Wiseman – Commander
- Victor Glover – First Black astronaut to travel to deep space
- Christina Koch – First woman will to journey into deep space
- Jeremy Hansen – First non-American on a Moon mission

This diverse crew highlights the shift toward the inclusive space exploration.

Mission Details: 10 Day Journey Around the Moon

The Artemis II mission is designed for the deep-space test flight.

Key Mission Timeline

April 1, 2026: Launch of the mission

April 1-2: Testing the systems in Earth orbit

April 6: Lunar flyby

April 10: Return to the Earth

The spacecraft will travel over the 695,000 over the mission performance.

Unique Trajectory and Record-Breaking Distance

Unlike the previous missions the Artemis II will follow a free-return trajectory.

It means that,

- The spacecraft will use the Moon's gravity to return to Earth
- It can safely return to the earth back even if propulsion fails

The mission will reach about the 252,799 miles from Earth and it will making the farthest distance humans have ever traveled and also surpassing the Apollo-13.

How the Launch Unfolded & Key Technical Milestones

Artemis II launch has involved the several precise and critical stages by using the Space Launch System (SLS) rocket and Orion spacecraft.

Lift-off and Initial Thrust

- The launch was took place at Kennedy Space Center
- Twin boosters have generated over the 75% of total thrust
- Total thrust has reached 8.8 million pounds

Booster Separation

- The separation was occurred within the first few minutes of the launch
- Also the reduced weight and allowed the smoother ascent

Core Stage Separation

- With this it has marked the end of the first propulsion phase
- Also transitioned to upper-stage operations

Solar Array Deployment

- Orion also deployed the solar array wings (SAWs)
- These provide continuous power for the life support, communication and also for navigation systems.
- Each step of the mission is crucial to ensuring mission safety and long-duration space travel capability.

Why Artemis II Matters for the Future of Space Exploration  
Artemis II is not just the symbolic mission but it is the critical test for future deep-space exploration.

The mission will,

- Validate the life-support systems for the long-duration space travel
- Also the test navigation and communication systems in deep space
- Will ensure the safety of the astronauts for future lunar landings

It will also lay the ground work for the Artemis III in which it aims to land humans on the Moon Surface and which is including the first woman.

**Indian Navy INS Aridaman: Features, Role, and Strategic Importance Explained**

Indian Navy has inducted its third nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine which is INS Aridaman. With this induction it significantly strengthens the India's sea-based nuclear deterrence and also enhances the strategic military power. This development comes alongside the commissioning of the INS Taragiri and it marking the powerful expansion of the India's naval strength under the leadership of Defense Minister of India Rajnath Singh.

What is INS Aridaman

INS Aridaman is part of the India's Arihant-class submarines which is designed to carry nuclear-armed ballistic missiles.

After this induction India now has three operational SSBNs (Ship Submersible Ballistic Nuclear submarines) at sea for the first time in the naval history.

This is important because it has strengthened the second-strike capability and also enhance the strategic deterrence. It will strengthen the India's position as the major naval power in world.

The submarine will ensure that India can respond even after the potential nuclear attack.

Advanced Features of INS Aridaman

INS Aridaman is the more advanced and the powerful compared to its predecessors.

- It has the approximately around 7,000-tonne displacement.
- It will be equipped with the more vertical launch system (VLS) tubes.
- Aridaman can carry the K-15 and K-4 nuclear-capable missiles.
- This K-4 missiles have the range of up to 3,500 km

- Nuclear submarine is powered by the advanced nuclear reactors and it will be enabling long underwater endurance. These capabilities allow the Indian submarine to remain hidden underwater for several months and also making it highly effective in the strategic warfare.

Understanding Nuclear Triad: India's Strategic Edge

India's nuclear strength is also based on the concept of the nuclear triad which includes the,

- Land-based missiles in which Agni series missiles featured
  - Also the Air-based delivery systems and also Equipped with the fighter aircrafts
  - Sea-based platforms for the submarines like INS Aridaman
- After the induction of INS Aridaman India will strengthen its position among the select group of nations like United States, Russia and China that have the full nuclear triad capabilities.

INS Aridaman vs Previous Submarines

India's earlier submarines include the INS Arihant which was commissioned in 2016 and also the INS Arighaat which was commissioned two years ago in 2024.

INS Aridaman improves its capabilities by the carrying more missiles along with having the longer operational endurance and also to featuring enhanced technology and stealth.

Also for the future the fourth submarine is also under construction and which is indicating continued expansion.

Future Plans: Expanding Submarine Power

India is actively working to strengthen the underwater fleet by doing,

- The development of the nuclear-powered attack submarines (SSNs)
- Also to plans to build indigenous submarines
- And leasing of the submarine from Russia expected to deliver by the 2027-28

What is a Nuclear Triad?

The nuclear triad is the strategic military capability which allows the country to launch the nuclear weapons from three platforms land, air, and sea.

It ensures the survivability of the nuclear forces and also the credible deterrence against enemy.

It has also the ability to respond even after the first strike they get.

Currently the few of countries in the world possess this type of his capability and it making the strategic advantage.

**RBI MPC Meeting 2026, Kept Repo Rates Unchanged at 5.25%**

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India, in its **60th meeting held from April 6 to 8, 2026**, decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at **5.25%**. The meeting was chaired by Sanjay Malhotra and reflects a cautious approach amid global uncertainties and domestic resilience.

Key Policy Decisions

- Repo Rate: Unchanged at 5.25%
- Standing Deposit Facility (SDF): 5.00%
- Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) & Bank Rate: 5.50%
- Policy Stance: Neutral

The MPC unanimously voted to maintain the current rates, emphasizing a “wait and watch” approach due to evolving global and domestic conditions.

**Growth Outlook for India**

The Indian economy continues to show strong resilience:

- GDP Growth (2025-26): Estimated at **7.6%**
- GDP Projection (2026-27): **6.9%**

**Key growth drivers include:**

- Strong private consumption
  - Increased investment demand
  - Robust services and manufacturing sectors
- However, risks such as global conflicts and supply disruptions may impact growth momentum.

**Inflation Outlook**

- **CPI Inflation (Feb 2026): 3.2%**
- **Projected Inflation (2026-27): 4.6%**

**Factors influencing inflation:**

- Rising global energy prices
- Supply chain disruptions
- Weather-related risks (like El Niño)

Core inflation remains moderate, indicating controlled underlying price pressures.

**Global and Domestic Challenges**

The MPC highlighted several external risks:

- Ongoing geopolitical tensions in West Asia
- Disruptions in global supply chains
- Volatility in commodity and energy prices

Domestically, India remains stable due to:

**Strong financial institutions**

- Government focus on manufacturing and infrastructure
- Healthy demand conditions
- Rational Behind the Decision

**The MPC chose to keep rates unchanged due to:**

- Balanced inflation levels but rising risks
- Strong but vulnerable growth outlook
- Uncertainty in global economic conditions

The committee emphasized flexibility and readiness to act based on future data and developments.

**Upcoming MPC Schedule**

- Minutes Release: April 22, 2026
- Next MPC Meeting: June 3–5, 2026

**Important Facts for Exams**

- Repo rate is the rate at which RBI lends money to commercial banks
  - MPC is responsible for setting India’s monetary policy
  - Inflation target of RBI is 4% (±2%)
- RBI headquarters: Mumbai

**PM Mudra Yojana Marks 11 Years of Supporting Small and Micro Entrepreneur**

India is celebrating 11 successful years of the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), a major government scheme that has helped millions of small entrepreneurs start and grow their businesses. Launched on April 8, 2015, by Narendra Modi, the scheme focuses on providing easy, collateral-free loans to people who were earlier unable to access formal banking services.

What is Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana?

The **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana** is a government initiative that **provides loans of up to Rs.20 lakh to small and micro businesses**. It mainly supports non-corporate and non-farm sectors such as small shops, service providers and rural businesses.

The **main aim of the scheme is “Fund the Unfunded”**, meaning to help those who were earlier ignored by banks and financial institutions.

**Importance of MSMEs in India**

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises play a very important role in India’s economy. **They:**

- Create jobs for millions of people
- Support big industries
- Help in balanced development of cities and villages
- Meet both local and global market demands

Because of their importance, schemes like PMMY are crucial for their growth.

**Key Features of PMMY**

The scheme offers loans in four categories based on the stage of business:

- **Shishu:** Loans up to Rs.50,000
- **Kishor:** Loans from Rs.50,000 to Rs.5 lakh
- **Tarun:** Loans from Rs.5 lakh to Rs.10 lakh
- **Tarun Plus:** Loans from Rs.10 lakh to Rs.20 lakh

**These loans are:**

- Given without any collateral
- Available for manufacturing, trading and service sectors
- Also cover activities like dairy, poultry, and beekeeping
- Offered with flexible repayment options as per RBI guidelines

**Major Achievements in 11 Years**

**Over the last decade, PMMY has made a big impact:**

- 57.79 crore loans have been given
- Total loan amount reached Rs.40.07 lakh crore
- Around two-thirds of loans went to women entrepreneurs
- About one-fifth of loans were given to first-time entrepreneurs

This shows how the scheme has helped common people become business owners.

**Support for Women and Weaker Sections**

The scheme has especially helped:

- Women entrepreneurs (around 67% beneficiaries)
- SC/ST and OBC communities (about 51% beneficiaries)
- Small and first-time business owners

This has increased financial inclusion and reduced dependence on local money lenders.

Government’s View on the Scheme

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that PMMY has brought a “**silent transformation**” in the country by giving confidence to millions of people to start their own businesses. Minister of State for **Finance Pankaj Chaudhary** also highlighted that the scheme has created self-employment opportunities and reduced exploitation by informal lenders.

Three Main Pillars of Financial Inclusion

The success of PMMY is based on three important goals:

- **Banking the Unbanked:** Bringing people into the banking system
- **Securing the Unsecured:** Providing financial protection
- **Funding the Unfunded:** Giving loans to those without access

These pillars ensure that even the poorest sections can grow financially.

Year-Wise Growth of the Scheme

Over the years, the scheme has grown steadily. **From Rs.1.37 lakh crore in 2015-16, the loan amount has increased to over Rs.5.65 lakh crore in 2025-26 (till March 2026).** This shows rising trust and demand for the scheme.

**Chetak Screen Awards 2026 Honors Excellence in Indian Cinema: Full List of Winners**

In the top category there was a strong fight between the nominations and some of them stand out performance won the award at night.

Some of the main Awards highlights the,

- Best Film: Homebound
- Best Director: Aditya Dhar (Dhurandhar)
- Best Actor (Male): Ranveer Singh (Dhurandhar)
- Best Actor (Female): Yami Gautam (Haq)

These awards highlight a mix of commercial success and critical acclaim.

Chetak Screen Awards 2026 – Winners List

**Top Awards**

- **Best Film:** Homebound
- **Best Director:** Aditya Dhar (Dhurandhar)
- **Best Actor (Male):** Ranveer Singh (Dhurandhar)
- **Best Actor (Female):** Yami Gautam (Haq)

**Acting Awards**

**Supporting Roles**

- **Best Supporting Actor (Male):** Akshaye Khanna (Dhurandhar)
- **Best Supporting Actor (Female):** Shalini Vatsa (Homebound)

**Breakthrough Performances**

- **Breakthrough Actor (Male):** Ahaan Panday (Saiyaara)
- **Breakthrough Actor (Female):** Aneet Padda (Saiyaara)
- **Breakthrough Director:** Shazia Iqbal (Dhadak 2)

**Technical & Creative Awards**

- **Best Cinematography:** Dhurandhar – Vikash Nowlakha
- **Best Editing:** Dhurandhar – Shivkumar V. Panicker
- **Best Product on Design:** Dhurandhar – Saini S. Johray
- **Best Sound Design:** Dhurandhar – Bishwadeep Chatterjee
- **Best Special Effects (VFX):** Dhurandhar

**Writing & Dialogue**

- **Best Story & Screenplay:** Homebound
- **Best Dialogue:** Dhurandhar – Aditya Dhar

**Music Awards**

- **Best Song:** Saiyaara (Title Track)
- **Best Lyrics:** Gulzar (Gustaakh Ishq)
- **Best Playback Singer (Male):** Faheem Abdullah (Saiyaara)
- **Best Playback Singer (Female):** Shreya Ghoshal (Saiyaara)
- **Best Background Score:** Dhurandhar – Shashwat Sachdev

**Other Key Awards**

- **Best Choreography:** Dhurandhar – Shararat
- **Best Costume Design:** Chhaava & Dhurandhar (joint recognition)
- **Best Makeup & Hairstyling:** Dhurandhar
- **Best Act on:** Dhurandhar

**Special Category**

**Best Film for Gender Sensitivity:** Haq

**OTT Awards**

- **Best OTT Film:** Stolen
- **Best OTT Actor (Male):** Abhishek Banerjee (Stolen)
- **Best OTT Actor (Female):** Sanya Malhotra (Mrs)
- **Best OTT Director:** Karan Tejpal (Stolen)
- **Best OTT Script:** Stolen

**Dhurandhar: The Biggest Winner of 2026**

The film Dhurandhar has dominated the across multiple categories and it has proved its excellence in the both performance and technical aspects.

**Key Awards Won by Dhurandhar**

- Best Actor (Male) – Ranveer Singh
- Best Director – Aditya Dhar
- Best Supporting Actor – Akshaye Khanna
- Best Background Score – Shashwat Sachdev
- Best Cinematography
- Best Editing
- Best Acting
- Best Sound Design
- Best Product on Design
- Best Special Effects

**Homebound Wins Best Film**

Despite the dominance of Dhurandhar movie Homebound has emerged victorious in the Best Film category. This film highlights the strong storytelling and emotional depth.

This film had already recognized at the global stage and nominated for the Oscars 2026 too.

This win reflects the importance of the strength of narration and audience connection.

**Global Trade Hits New High in 2025: Key Winners, Losers, and India's Positions**

Global trade showcased the strong performance in the 2025 as the exports of goods reached at \$26.3 trillion and it is reflecting the 7% rise compared to the previous year. This data are according to the World Trade Organization (WTO), as per this numbers the surge was driven by the rising demand and mainly in technology and services. Countries like China and the United States of America continue to dominate and India remains at the 19th position which highlights the progress and the untapped potential in the global trade.

**Global Export Rankings 2025: Who Dominates World Trade**  
As per the latest global export rankings show clear concentration of trade among the few major economies. The top 10 countries together contribute the nearly half of the global exports (49.6%) which is indicating highly competitive global market.

As per the list China leading at top while followed by the United States and Germany. These three economies alone account for nearly the 29% of global exports. Which showcasing their strong industrial base and global trade networks.

Also the other major exporters include the Netherlands, Hong Kong, Japan, Italy, South Korea, United Arab Emirates and France.

**Asia Leads Global Trade Growth**

One of the biggest highlights of 2025 is Asia's dominance in the trade growth. This region has recorded a 9.5% rise in exports and also 6% increase in imports and which had making it the fastest growing trade region.

This growth is largely driven by the,

- The rising demand for AI-related and technology products
- Also the expansion of manufacturing in Asian economies
- And strong supply chain networks

The regions like Europe saw a slight decline in export volumes and the Middle East and Africa showed the impressive growth though from a smaller base.

**Top 10 Exporting Countries in the World (2025)**

The top 10 exporter nations are together accounted for the nearly 49.6% of global exports and this shows how this trade concentrates to few nations.

**Global Export Leaders**

1. China – \$3,771,842 million
2. United States – \$2,185,220 million
3. Germany – \$1,764,188 million
4. Netherlands – \$989,237 million
5. Hong Kong – \$753,582 million
6. Japan – \$738,337 million
7. Italy – \$726,499 million
8. South Korea – \$709,330 million
9. United Arab Emirates – \$706,671 million
10. France – \$683,095 million

**India's Position in Global Exports**

India ranks at 19th in the exporters tally with exports valued at \$445,278 million and the 1.7% share in global exports.

Majorly, India exports these products like textiles and garments, generic medicines (pharmaceuticals), engineering goods and IT and services.

Despite India being as a fastest growing economy it still faces challenges to scaling its export capacity compared to global leaders.

**Supreme Court of India Clarifies Legal Status of Voting and Elect on Participation on Rights**

Honorable Supreme Court of India has ruled out that the right to vote and to contest elections are not fundamental rights but they are statutory rights and it governed by the law. This judgment was came on the April 11, 2026 and it during a case related to the cooperative society elections in State of Rajasthan. The Court also emphasized that these rights exist only within the framework of the laws like the Representation of the People Acts and it can be subject to the conditions, qualifications and the disqualifications.

**What is The Supreme Court Verdict?**

A bench comprising the Justices BV Nagarathna and R Mahadevan have reiterated the well-established legal position that,

- The right to vote enables the participation in elections but is not the fundamental right which provide under the Constitution.
- The right to contest elections is the separate and it can be restricted via different eligibility conditions.

The Court has also clarified that both rights are purely statutory it means that they are created and regulated by laws passed by the Parliament or the state legislatures and they are not guaranteed under Part III (Fundamental Rights) of the Constitution of India.

**Background of the Rajasthan Cooperative Societies Case**

The ruling has been comes from the dispute involving the elections in District Milk Producers Cooperative Unions in Rajasthan. These unions have operated under the Rajasthan Cooperative Societies Act, 2001 which had established the three-tier system.

**Key Issues in the Case**

In the act there were certain bye-laws were framed to set the eligibility criteria for candidates which includes the,

- Minimum number of days of the milk supply
- Quantity of milk supplied
- Operational status of societies
- And the audit compliance standards

So with this some cooperative societies have challenged these rules in the Rajasthan High Court and argued that that they were unfair and exceeded the legal provisions.

In the 2015 a single judge has struck down the bye-laws and in 2022 a division bench upheld the decision which taken earlier.

However the Supreme Court has overturned the High Court just f cat on and stated that these bye-laws are merely set eligibility condit ons and were legally valid.

**Why the Supreme Court Upheld the Bye-Laws**

The apex court has observed that this bye-laws do not amount to the disqualif cat ons but it simply def ne eligibility and they are not violate the const tut onal principles like equality. Also said the courts should not interfere in the internal mat ers of the cooperat ve societ es unless there is clear illegality.

The court also noted that cooperat ve societ es are generally not considered 'State' under Art cle 12 of the Const tut on.

Therefore their internal elect on mat ers typically not fall under the judicial review via Art cle 226 by writ jurisdict on.

**Statutory Nature of Electoral Rights**

The Court have also highlighted that electoral rights from laws such as the,

- Representat on of the People Act, 1950
- Representat on of the People Act, 1951

These laws def ne that the,

- Who can vote (on the basis of age, cit zenship, registrat on)
- Who can contest elect ons
- Also the grounds for the disqualif cat on (like the criminal record, corrupt pract ces, etc.)

**Dif erence Between Fundamental Rights and Statutory Rights**

Aspect	Details
Fundamental Rights	They are guaranteed by the Const tut on of India under the Part III It are cannot be easily restricted Directly enforceable in the Supreme court or High Court
Statutory Rights	This rights are created by legislat on Can be modif ed or restricted by the law They exist only within the legal framework

**TIME100 2026: Full List of World's Most Inf uent al People and Key Trend**

The awaited TIME100 list for 2026 has been of cially released by the TIME. This reports highlights the world's most inf uent al people who shaping the global trends and decisions. This annual list recognizes the leaders, innovators and the changemakers across polit cs, business, entertainment, science and more. The 2026 edit on showcases how inf uence today goes just beyond the power and also focusing on to the individuals driving change in the areas like art fcial intelligence, climate act on and the global governance.

**What is the TIME100 List?**

The TIME100 list is the annual recognit on by TIME magazine which ident fes the most inf uent al individual persons worldwide. It is not based on the wealth or fame alone but it also impact, leadership and the ability to shape the future.

Categories typically include the,

- Leaders
- Innovators
- Art sts
- Titans
- Icons
- Pioneers

**TIME100 2026 Key Highlights You Should Know**

The TIME100 list cont nues the legacy of the recognizing the impact ul personalit es across diverse sectors from the worldwide.

- The list features the top 100 inf uent al individuals from across the globe.
- It will also includes the leaders from polit cs, business, entertainment, science and act vism.
- The 2026 edit on marks the 23rd annual TIME100 list.

The list not just highlight popularity but it also recognize the real-world impact and inf uence.

**Global Leaders and Polit cal Figures on the List**

Several prominent world's polit cal leaders have been featured into the list and it is ref ect ng their role to shaping internat onal relat ons and policies.

Notable names include in the list are,

- Xi Jinping who is appearing for the 14th t me.
- US President Donald Trump
- Benjamin Netanyahu
- Claudia Sheinbaum

**Business, AI and Tech Leaders**

From the sectors like the technology and business leaders have dominated the 2026 list which is showing the growing importance of innovat on.

Key f gures includes the,

- Sundar Pichai
- MrBeast
- Michael Dell

The focus is n the AI, digital plat orms and the global business ecosystems which highlights how technology is shaping the modern world.

**Entertainment and Cultural Icons in TIME100**

The list also celebrates the global entertainers who have inf uence culture and society.

Some of notable names include,

- Ranbir Kapoor
- Dakota Johnson
- Ben St ller

In music sectors.

- Jennie
- Coco Jones

These personalit es have shape the global pop culture and inf uence the millions worldwide.

Indian Names Shine in TIME 100 – 2026 Highlights

1. Sundar Pichai – Global Tech Leadership

- As the CEO of Google and Alphabet Sundar Pichai continues to shaping the future of technology and artificial intelligence.
- His leadership has positioned the Google at the front runner of innovation and making him the consistent global influencer.

2. Vikas Khanna – Culinary Excellence on Global Stage

He is the renowned chef and has gained the international recognition for promoting the Indian cuisine globally. His work goes beyond just food and contributing to social causes and cultural representation.

3. Ranbir Kapoor – Indian Cinema’s Global Reach

Ranbir Kapoor’s inclusion highlights the growing global appeal of the Indian cinema. He is the only Indian actor to be featured in the 2026 list and which is reflecting his impact and popularity worldwide.

Youngest and Oldest Influencers on the List

Alysa Liu at the age of the 20 years old featured into the list. And the Dolores Huerta at the 96 years of age also part of the list. This wide age range shows that influence has the no age limit.

TIME100 Summit and Gala 2026

The TIME100 list is not just about the recognition but it brings the global leaders together.

- TIME100 Summit: April 22, 2026 (New York City)
- TIME100 Gala: April 23, 2026

The gala will be hosted by the Nikki Glaser with the performances by Luke Combs and Coco Jones.

For the first time ever the red carpet event will be livestreamed across the world and making it accessible to the audiences worldwide.

The TIME100 2026 Full List

Category	Listed Individuals
Global leaders & policymakers	Pope Leo XIV Mark Carney Mette Frederiksen Claudia Sheinbaum Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah Xi Jinping Tarique Rahman Benjamin Netanyahu Rafael Mariano Grossi Sanae Takaichi Balendra Shah Henna Virkkunen
U.S. political & public figures	Donald Trump Gavin Newsom Marco Rubio Mark Kelly Zohran Mamdani Jacob Frey Steve Witkof Susie Wiles Dan Caine

Category	Listed Individuals
Business, technology & AI leaders	Gwynne Shotwell Dario Amodei Daniela Amodei Sundar Pichai Neal Mohan Michael Dell Susan Dell MrBeast C.C. Wei Jeremy Allaire Sarah Friar John Furner David Ellison Josh D’Amaro Aliko Dangote Lip-Bu Tan Fatih Birol
Science, space & health	Reid Wiseman Tony Tyson Kiran Musunuru Precious Matsoso Mari Luz Canaquiri Murayari Mariangela Hungria Rebecca Ahrens-Nicklass Luciano Moreira Anne-Claire Amprou
Advocates & changemakers	Shirin Ebadi Dolores Huerta Heather Gerken Kica Matos Shannon Minter Lauren Hersh Mamadou Amadou Ly Zabib Musa Loro Rachel Foster Sabrina Walter
Entertainers (film, TV, media)	Ben Stiller Benicio Del Toro Zoe Saldaña Ethan Hawke Kate Hudson Dakota Johnson Ranbir Kapoor Claire Danes Keke Palmer Sterling K. Brown Alan Cumming Noah Wyle Anderson .Paak Jonathan Groff Wagner Moura Rhea Seehorn Jafar Panahi Nikki Glaser

Category	Listed Individuals
Musicians	Luke Combs Coco Jones Jennie Hilary Duff Rauw Alejandro Noah Kahan
Athletes	Scottie Scheffler Chloe Kim Lando Norris Noah Lyles Hilary Knight Alysa Liu
Fashion, arts, literature & culinary	Ralph Lauren Victoria Beckham Mat hieu Blazy Anok Yai Nancy Silverton Vikas Khanna Mashama Bailey Lynsey Addario Cao Fei Tayari Jones Yiyun Li Freida McFadden Walter Hood

**Setback for Women’s Representat on: Women’s Reservat on Bill 2026 Fails to Clear Const tut onal Hurdle**

The Women’s Reservat on Bill 2026 was defeated in the Lok Sabha even af er securing the more votes in favor than the against. The Bill which is aimed to reserve the 33% seats for women in the Parliament and state assemblies which could not meet the strict const tut onal requirement of the two-thirds majority. This development has sparked intense polit cal debate and also raising quest ons about consensus, electoral reforms and the future of the women’s representat on in India.

**Women’s Reservat on Bill Fails Despite Majority Support**  
The Const tut onal 131st Amendment Bill, 2026 was put to the vote af er the intense two-day debate in the Lok Sabha. The results has surprised the many observers.

- Votes in favour: 298
- Votes against: 230
- Votes required: 360 at the full strength for the 2/3rd Majority

Even despite the Bill had more support than the opposit on votes but it failed because of the const tut onal amendments which require the special majority not just the simple majority. This makes it the rare instance where a Bill with clear support but st ll does not pass.

Notably this is the f rst const tut onal amendment Bill in the 12 years which was introduced by the Modi government to be defeated in the Lok Sabha.

**Why the Two-Thirds Majority Became the Deciding Factor**  
As per the Const tut on of India any amendment which needs to change the const tut onal part it requires the approval under a strict framework.

- This includes,
- At least the two-thirds of members present and vot ng
  - And also not less than 50% of the total strength of the House
- As the current Lok Sabha strength is at 543 the Bill needed at least the 360 votes which it could not achieve. This rule ensures that the major const tut onal changes are made only with the broad polit cal consensus.

**Polit cal Divide and the Delimitat on Debate**  
One of the biggest and main reasons behind the Bill’s defeat was the unif ed opposit on stance. Several opposit on part es have raised the concerns over the link between the women’s reservat on and delimitat on.

Delimitat on refers to the redrawing of the electoral boundaries which is based on populat on changes.

- Opposit on leaders have argued that,
- It could disadvantage the southern states.
  - It might alter the polit cal balance across the regions.
  - The government was using the women’s reservat on as the cover to push delimitat on reforms.

This issue have become the central point of the disagreement and prevented the consensus.

**Government vs Opposit on: The Clear Face-Of**  
The debate on this bill saw the strong posit ons from both sides.

- PM Narendra Modi urged all the part es to support the Bill and calling it the long-overdue step for women’s empowerment.
- Home Minister Amit Shah have accused the opposit on of deliberately blocking progress.
- Opposit on leaders have also maintained that structural concerns must be addressed f rst and especially regarding to the delimitat on.

Despite last-minute ef orts to gather support for the bill the polit cal divide remained the hurdle for this historic bill.

**The Long Journey of Women’s Reservat on: Background**  
The idea to reserving seats for the women in legislatures is nothing new. It has been discussed for over the four decades. The proposal aims to ensure the greater part cipat on of women in decision-making.

Currently the women’s representat on in the Parliament remains relatively low.

The previous at empts to pass the similar Bills have also faced the polit cal hurdles.

Globally the many countries have adopted the gender quotas to improve the representat on and which making India’s delay more not ceable all around the world.

### Prestigious Laureus World Sports Awards 2026 Held in Madrid: Full Winners List and Highlights

The Laureus World Sports Awards 2026 were held in the Capital of Spain In Madrid. This event ceremony brings together the biggest names in the global sports for the grand celebration of excellence. This prestigious event honored the top athletes and teams for their outstanding performances in the calendar year 2025. This year tennis stars have dominated the night as the Carlos Alcaraz and Aryna Sabalenka taking top honors of the night. While the Paris Saint-Germain and Lando Norris have also emerged as the major winners.

#### Carlos Alcaraz and Aryna Sabalenka Lead the Winners List

Upcoming Tennis sensation Grand-slam winner Carlos Alcaraz was named the Laureus World Sportsman of the Year after for the incredible season which saw him reclaim the world No.1 in the ranking and won the multiple Grand Slam titles. At age of just 22 he became one of the youngest winners of this prestigious award.

Aryna Sabalenka have also secured the Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year title and maintained her dominance throughout the year. Her consistent performances which includes the a US Open victory set her apart from the competition.

#### Paris Saint-Germain Named Team of the Year

Paris Saint-Germain from the Paris League 1 club has won the Laureus World Team of the Year Award after the historic season. The club have secured multiple trophies which includes the their first UEFA Champions League title and establish themselves as one of the most dominant teams in the modern football. Their remarkable achievements placed them among the elite clubs like Real Madrid and FC Barcelona that have previously won this honor.

#### Breakthrough and Comeback Stories In The Spotlight

Lando Norris the F1 driver won the Breakthrough of the Year Award after becoming the Formula One World Champion and delivered exceptional performances throughout the season. Meanwhile Rory McIlroy have received the Comeback of the Year Award. His emotional victory at the Masters helped him complete the long-awaited career Grand Slam and it marks the one of the most inspiring moments in sports.

#### Recognition of Young Talent and Inspirational Performances

Lamine Yamal Spain and FC Barcelona Forward made history by winning the Young Sportsperson of the Year Award which showcases his rapid rise in global football at a young age of just 17.

Chloe Kim have continued her dominance by winning the Act on Sportsperson of the Year Award and further cemented her legacy in winter sports.

Gabriel Araújo was also honored as Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability and which showcases the excellence in para-sports on the global stage.

#### Special Honours and Lifetime Recognition

Toni Kroos the Former Real Madrid and German National who won the 6 UEFA Champions League and One FIFA World Cup have received the Sporting Inspiration Award after the exceptional career filled with major titles and achievements.

The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Nadia Comăneci who marks the 50 years since her historic perfect 10 in Olympic gymnastics in which that moment that changed the sport forever.

#### India's Women World Cup Team Nominated

After clinching the maiden ICC Women's World Cup in the November 2025 the Indian women team have nominated for the Best Team Of The Year category. But it could not get the recognition.

The Paris Saint Germain won the award in the Best Team category.

#### Complete Winners List of Laureus 2026

- **Sportsman of the Year:** Carlos Alcaraz
- **Sportswoman of the Year:** Aryna Sabalenka
- **Team of the Year:** Paris Saint-Germain
- **Breakthrough of the Year:** Lando Norris
- **Comeback of the Year:** Rory McIlroy
- **Sportsperson with a Disability:** Gabriel Araújo
- **Act on Sportsperson:** Chloe Kim
- **Young Sportsperson:** Lamine Yamal
- **Sporting Inspiration Award:** Toni Kroos
- **Lifetime Achievement Award:** Nadia Comăneci
- **Sport for Good Award:** Fútbol Más

#### What Makes Laureus Awards So Prestigious

The Laureus World Sports Awards are among the top most respected honors in global sports.

The winners are selected by members of the Laureus World Sports Academy which is the group of legendary athletes.

The awards just not celebrate just victories but also resilience, inspiration and the ability of sport to bring the positive change in society.

### Goldman Environmental Prize 2026 Honours First All-Women Cohort of Environmental Leader

Goldman Environmental Prize 2026 has been awarded to the six women leaders from across the world. And it marks the first all-women cohort since the inception of the award. This award is often referred to as the 'Green Nobel' and the prize honors grassroots activists who are working to protect the environment and to combat climate change. This year's winners represent the different six regions and showcase how local action can drive the global environmental change.

**What is the Goldman Environmental Prize?**

The Goldman Environmental Prize was established in 1989 by philanthropists the Richard and Rhoda Goldman and it is one of the world’s most prestigious awards for environmental activism. Goldman Environmental Prize recognizes the grassroots leaders from six global regions annually.

Each of the recipient receives \$200,000 and highlights their contributions to environmental protection, biodiversity conservation and climate justice.

**2026 Winners: The Historic All-Women Cohort**

For the first time in the history the all six winners are women and representing different parts of the world:

1. Irero Tanshi (Nigeria) – Africa
2. Borim Kim (South Korea) – Asia
3. Sarah Finch (United Kingdom) – Europe
4. Theonila Roka Matbob (Papua New Guinea) – Islands & Island Nations
5. Alannah Acaq Hurley (United States) – North America
6. Yuvelis Morales Blanco (Colombia) – South & Central America

Their achievements showcase the diverse efforts ranging from fighting fossil fuel projects to protecting the endangered species and ecosystems.

**Key Contributions of the Winners**

Fighting The Fossil Fuels and Climate Change

Several winners have focused on to the combatting fossil fuel projects.

- Yuvelis Morales Blanco have successfully opposed the fracking projects in Colombia and protected the local ecosystems and communities.
- Borim Kim have led a landmark youth climate case and it resulted in a court ruling that strengthened climate accountability in South Korea.
- Sarah Finch played a key role in the legal victory requiring authorities to consider the climate impacts before approving oil extraction.

**Protection To Biodiversity and Ecosystems**

- Also the Irero Tanshi has rediscovered the endangered bat species and she worked to protect their habitat from wildfires.
- Theonila Roka Matbob led efforts to hold the mining giant accountable for environmental damage.
- Alannah Acaq Hurley also helped stop a major mining project threatening in the Alaska’s ecosystems.

**Why This Year is Significant**

The 2026 edition stands out not only because of the all-women winners but also due to the working of their work.

These activities demonstrate the,

- The growing role of women in the environmental leadership.
- Also the power of grassroots movements.
- The importance of the legal and community-driven action.

**National News**

Cabinet Approvals

**1. Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) for Kharif 2026**

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Narendra Modi, approved Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for the Kharif season 2026 (April–September) on Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers. The estimated budget is ₹41,533.81 crore, higher than Kharif 2025. This will ensure farmers get fertilizers like DAP and NPK at affordable prices, with subsidies provided to companies under the NBS scheme (in force since 2010).

**2. Kamala Hydro Electric Project (1720 MW)**

The Cabinet approved ₹26,069.50 crore investment for the 1720 MW Kamala Hydro Electric Project in Arunachal Pradesh. The project will generate 6870 MU power, improve electricity supply, support flood control in the Brahmaputra valley, and boost infrastructure like roads and bridges. It will be developed as a joint venture between NHPC Limited and the state government, with added benefits like employment and local development.

**3. Kalai-II Hydro Electric Project (1200 MW)**

The Cabinet approved ₹14,105.83 crore for the 1200 MW Kalai-II Hydro Electric Project on the Lohit River in Arunachal Pradesh. Expected to generate 4852.95 MU annually, it will strengthen the power supply and help manage peak demand. The project will be executed by THDC India Limited with state partnership and will

promote infrastructure growth, employment, and regional development.

**4. Extension of PMGSY-III Scheme**

The Cabinet approved the extension of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III till March 2028 with an outlay of ₹83,977 crore. The scheme focuses on improving rural connectivity to markets, schools, and hospitals. It will boost rural economy, reduce transportation costs, generate employment, and improve access to essential services.

**5. Dearness Allowance (DA) Hike 2026**

The Cabinet approved a 2% increase in Dearness Allowance (DA) and Dearness Relief (DR), raising it to 60% of basic pay/pension effective January 2026. This will benefit about 50.46 lakh employees and 68.27 lakh pensioners, with a financial impact of ₹6,791.24 crore annually, based on the 7th Pay Commission formula.

**6. Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMI Pool)**

The government approved the creation of the Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool with a sovereign guarantee of ₹12,980 crore. This initiative will reduce dependence on foreign insurers and ensure continuous insurance coverage for Indian vessels, even in global uncertainties. It covers risks like cargo damage, war risks, and liabilities, strengthening India’s maritime trade security.

**7. Railway Multi-Tracking Projects (UP & Andhra Pradesh)**

The Cabinet approved railway projects worth ₹24,815 crore to expand rail networks by 601 km across Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. These include Ghaziabad–Sitapur and Rajahmundry–Visakhapatnam routes. The projects aim to reduce congestion, improve logistics, enhance freight capacity, boost tourism connectivity, and cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, while generating large-scale employment.

Parliament News

State-wise April Month Important Events

**Andhra Pradesh**

- The Government of India officially declared **Amaravat** as the sole capital of Andhra Pradesh through a Gazette notification dated April 6, 2026. This decision amends the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, and resolves years of uncertainty over the three-capital proposal (Amaravat, Visakhapatnam, and Kurnool). Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu called it a historic victory for the state. The move is expected to accelerate infrastructure development, attract investments, and ensure administrative clarity, strengthening governance and long-term economic growth.

**Bihar**

A major political transition took place in Bihar in April 2026.

- **Nitish Kumar resigned** as Chief Minister, ending his over two-decade-long leadership marked by governance reforms, infrastructure expansion, and welfare initiatives.
- He also resigned from the Bihar Legislative Council after becoming a Rajya Sabha member, shifting his focus to national politics.
- **Samrat Choudhary** was sworn in as the new Chief Minister, becoming the first BJP leader to hold the top post in Bihar.
- This transition signals a new political phase in the state while maintaining coalition stability under the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

**Gujarat**

Gujarat witnessed two significant developments related to governance and technology:

- The **Gujarat High Court banned the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)** in judicial decision-making and judgment drafting. The court emphasized that justice must rely on human reasoning and warned against risks like bias, hallucination, and privacy concerns. However, AI can still be used for legal research and administrative work.
- The **Gujarat Police launched NARIT AI**, India's first AI-based narcotics investigation tool under the NDPS Act, 1985. Built using Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) technology, it helps analyze FIRs, detect legal gaps, and generate structured reports. This improves investigation quality, reduces procedural errors, and ensures faster case handling.

**Haryana**

- Air pollution remained a serious concern as **Gurgaon was ranked India's most polluted city in March 2026**, with PM2.5 levels reaching 116 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, far above safe limits. According to the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air, several cities in Haryana dominated the pollution list, while Ghaziabad remained the most polluted city overall for FY 2025–26. Despite initiatives like the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), the data highlights the urgent need for stricter environmental policies and scientific interventions to protect public health.

**Karnataka**

Karnataka saw key developments in space recognition, social reform, and sustainability:

- The **Karnataka Postal Circle released commemorative stamps** celebrating ISRO's journey from Aryabhata (1975) to the upcoming Gaganyaan mission, highlighting India's achievements in space exploration.
- The **Karnataka High Court directed the state to implement a menstrual leave policy** across all sectors, including unorganized workers. The court recognized menstrual leave as a part of fundamental rights under Article 21, promoting dignity, equality, and gender-sensitive workplace reforms.
- The **Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB)** became the first water utility in India to receive ISO 50001:2018 certification for energy management. This recognition promotes energy efficiency, cost reduction, and sustainable urban infrastructure.

**Maharashtra**

- In a major step toward rural development, Chief Minister **Devendra Fadnis launched the "My Village, Healthy Village" (Majha Gaon, Arogyasampann Gaon) campaign** on World Health Day. With a budget of ₹65.25 crore, the initiative focuses on preventive healthcare, sanitation, nutrition, safe drinking water, and maternal health. Villages meeting health standards will be recognized as "Arogyasampann Gaon," encouraging community participation and strengthening grassroots healthcare systems.

**Odisha**

- The proposed **Shree Jagannath International Airport in Puri** received Stage-I forest clearance from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The approval allows diversion of 27.886 hectares of forest land, subject to environmental safeguards and compensatory afforestation. The airport is expected to boost tourism, especially during the famous Rath Yatra, reduce dependency on Bhubaneswar airport, and create new employment and economic opportunities in the region.

**Telangana**

- The Government of Telangana signed an **AI-focused Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Deakin University** in Hyderabad. A major outcome is the establishment of the **Aikam-Deakin Hub (DHRITI)**, which will focus on advanced AI research, innovation, and skill development. The initiative aims to build an AI-ready workforce, support startups, and promote ethical AI applications, strengthening Telangana's position as a leading technology and innovation hub in India.

**Chhattisgarh**

- The Chhattisgarh government, led by Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, approved the formation of a **high-level committee to draft the implementation framework for the Uniform Civil Code (UCC)**. Based on Article 44 of the Constitution, the UCC aims to introduce uniform personal laws for all citizens. The committee will examine legal, cultural, and social aspects before suggesting a roadmap, marking an important step toward legal uniformity and equality.

**Meghalaya**

- The state of Meghalaya officially recognized **Khasi and Garo as state languages**, alongside English, under the Meghalaya Official Languages Ordinance, 2026. Announced by Chief Minister Conrad Sangma, the move promotes cultural preservation, improves administrative accessibility, and strengthens demands for inclusion of these languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

**Punjab**

- The Punjab Assembly passed the **Ant-Sacrilege Bill 2026**, proposing strict punishments, including life imprisonment and fines up to ₹25 lakh for acts of religious disrespect, especially involving the Guru Granth Sahib. The Bill aims to strengthen law and order, ensure religious harmony, and establish zero tolerance toward sacrilege. It will come into force after the Governor's approval.

**Maharashtra (Mumbai)**

- Senior IAS officer **Ashwini Bhide** was appointed as the **first woman Municipal Commissioner of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)**. Known for her role in infrastructure projects like Mumbai Metro Line 3, her appointment marks a milestone in gender representation. She is expected to enhance urban governance, improve civic services, and accelerate development in India's richest municipal body.

**National (Important Development)**

- **Menaka Guruswamy** became India's **first openly queer Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha)**. She is widely known for her role in the landmark *Naveen Singh Johar v. Union of India* (2018) case, which led to the decriminalization of Section 377. Her appointment reflects growing inclusivity, diversity, and progressive democratic values in India.

**April Month Launches & Inaugurations (Bullets)**

- India launched **Census 2027**, its first fully digital census using mobile apps and self-enumeration, improving transparency and accuracy in population data collection.
- The Ministry of Education introduced an **AI & Computational Thinking curriculum (Classes 3–8)**, launched by Dharmendra Pradhan, to build digital and problem-solving skills among students.
- Jitendra Singh inaugurated the **BIRAC-BioNEST Incubation Centre** to promote biotech startups and innovation in food and health sectors.
- The Election Commission launched the **'Know Your Candidates (KYC)' feature** on ECINet to provide voters with candidate details like criminal records, assets, and education.
- India launched the **ASISSE survey** to collect detailed data on the services sector, improving economic planning and policymaking.
- NHAI launched the **'Arogya Van' initiative** to plant medicinal trees along highways, promoting biodiversity and awareness of Ayurveda.
- The government launched **Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0** with ₹10,000 crore to support startups in AI, robotics, and deep-tech sectors.
- The Ministry of Textiles launched **'Vishwa Sutra – Weaves of India for the World'** to promote Indian handloom globally.
- The Ministry of Culture launched the **'VM Frames' filmmaking competition** to celebrate 150 years of *Vande Mataram*, written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay.
- CBI launched the **AI chatbot 'Abhay'** to help citizens verify official notices and prevent cyber fraud.
- India laid the foundation of its first **3D semiconductor packaging unit** in Odisha to boost electronics and AI manufacturing.
- Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Delhi–Dehradun Economic Corridor**, improving connectivity, tourism, and trade.
- The Prime Minister also inaugurated the **Sri Guru Bhairavaikya Mandira** in Karnataka, promoting cultural and spiritual heritage.
- The Union Cabinet approved and launched the **Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMI Pool)** to strengthen India's shipping and insurance sector.

**Miscellaneous National News**

- A **Great Indian Bustard chick** was born in Gujarat after nearly 10 years using the innovative "Jumpstart Approach," boosting conservation efforts.
- India implemented **Solid Waste Management Rules 2026**, mandating four-way waste segregation and promoting a circular economy.
- Lok Sabha passed the **IBC Amendment Bill 2026**, ensuring faster insolvency resolution and strengthening creditor rights.

- The **Jan Vishwas Amendment Bill 2026** was passed to decriminalise minor offences and improve ease of doing business.
- Amaravati was declared the **sole capital of Andhra Pradesh**, ending the three-capital model and ensuring administrative clarity.
- India became the **3rd largest renewable energy market globally** with 250.5 GW capacity.
- National Council of Educational Research and Training received **Deemed University status**, enabling advanced research and PhD programs.
- India implemented **E20 petrol nationwide**, blending 20% ethanol to reduce emissions and oil imports.
- The **RoSCTL scheme** was extended to support textile exporters and maintain global competitiveness.
- **Blackbucks returned to Chhattisgarh** after nearly 100 years through scientific reintroduction, boosting biodiversity.
- **Sadhana Saptah 2026** was organized to improve governance, service delivery, and civil service capacity.
- India added a record **6.05 GW wind energy capacity**, strengthening renewable energy goals.
- The impeachment motion against **Gyanesh Kumar** was rejected, ensuring constitutional protection of the Election Commission.
- The **CAPF Administration Act 2026** was notified to standardize recruitment and service conditions in paramilitary forces.
- The **Kalai-II Hydro Electric Project** was approved in Arunachal Pradesh to boost clean energy production.
- **Yashwant Varma resigned** amid controversy, highlighting judicial accountability issues.
- Mundra Port became India's largest automobile export hub, strengthening logistics and exports.
- The **CPA Conference 2026 (Goa)** focused on inclusive governance, women's participation, and youth engagement.
- A statue of Swami Vivekananda was unveiled in Seattle, strengthening India-US cultural ties.
- India introduced a **digital-only toll system** using FASTag and UPI to improve efficiency and transparency.
- The **131st Constitutional Amendment Bill** proposed increasing Lok Sabha seats to 850 for better representation.
- Harivansh Narayan Singh was re-elected for a third term, creating a parliamentary record.
- India recognized **55,200 startups in FY 2025-26**, boosting employment and innovation.
- **Kankaria Coaching Depot** became India's first **water-neutral railway depot**, promoting sustainability.
- **Shekha Jheel** in Uttar Pradesh was declared India's **99th Ramsar Site**, enhancing wetland conservation.
- **Atal Pension Yojana** crossed 9 crore enrollments, strengthening social security for unorganized workers.
- India announced new **online gaming rules (PROGA 2025)** to regulate and ensure safer gaming practices.
- Konark Sun Temple restoration work began to preserve its heritage and structure.
- **Dharwad** was selected under the **Safe Cities Project 2026** to improve women's safety and urban infrastructure.
- Landfills in Mumbai and Secunderabad were identified among the **top methane emitters globally**, raising environmental concerns.
- A **Census helpline (1855)** was launched to assist citizens and improve data accuracy.
- Indian Space Research Organisation completed nationwide **land-use mapping** to support rural planning and governance.

## GOVT SCHEMES

- The **Amrit Bharat Station Scheme**, launched by the Ministry of Railways, aims to redevelop **1,338 railway stations** across India with **modern facilities and improved connectivity**. Key stations in Delhi include **New Delhi, Hazrat Nizamuddin, and Anand Vihar**. The scheme introduces **multi-modal transport hubs, digital systems, lifts, escalators, and eco-friendly technologies**. It also promotes local products under '**One Station One Product**', enhancing **passenger experience, urban integration, and sustainable railway infrastructure**.
- Delhi Government has launched the **Lakshmi Bitiya Yojana** to promote **girls' education and financial security**, replacing the Ladli Scheme. The scheme provides **₹1.2 lakh financial aid** from birth to graduation through phased benefits. It aims to **prevent early marriage, ensure higher education, and support economically weaker families**. Eligible girls must be Delhi residents with family income below ₹1.2 lakh. The initiative strengthens **women empowerment** and ensures **long-term financial independence** through structured assistance.
- The Government of India has expanded the **RELIEF (Resilience & Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation) Scheme** to support exporters amid **West Asia tensions**. Launched under the Export Promotion Mission and implemented by Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC), the scheme provides **insurance support, freight cost reimbursement, and credit facilitation**. It now includes Egypt and Jordan, expanding coverage to affected trade routes. The initiative aims to ease **logistics challenges, rising insurance costs, and ensure smooth export operations**, especially benefiting **MSMEs and new exporters**.
- The All India Council for Technical Education has launched **AICTE-VAANI 3.0** (Vibrant Advocacy for Advancement and Nurturing of Indian Languages) to promote **Indian languages in technical education and research**. The scheme aims to remove **language barriers**, enabling students to learn complex concepts in their **mother tongue**. It provides **₹4**

crore annual funding, supports 200+ conferences, and covers 22 regional languages across emerging fields like AI, cybersecurity, and quantum technology. By fostering a

multilingual academic ecosystem, the initiative enhances learning outcomes, inclusivity, and research participation, especially for students from diverse linguistic backgrounds.

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- Indonesia implemented a law in **March 2026** banning children under **16 years** from using social media platforms like **YouTube, TikTok, Instagram, and Facebook**, affecting nearly **70 million users**. The move aims to curb **cyberbullying, harmful content, scams, and digital addiction**, addressing mental health concerns. Platforms must ensure compliance, though challenges like **VPN misuse and age verification** remain. It marks a major step toward **child safety in the digital age**.
- Costa Rica** has launched a **snake identification mobile app** developed by **Universidad de Costa Rica** and the Clodomiro Picado Institute. The app helps identify **25 venomous species**, provides **first aid guidance**, and offers **real-time scientific information**. Designed to reduce **panic, misinformation, and unnecessary harm**, it enhances **public safety and wildlife protection**, benefiting both locals and tourists through improved awareness and quick response during snake encounters.
- Min Aung Hlaing has been elected **President of Myanmar** after securing a majority in Parliament with **429 out of 584 votes**. This marks a significant **political shift amid ongoing instability**. The election was conducted through Myanmar's **Presidential Electoral College system**, involving lawmakers and military representatives. His victory raises **global concerns over democracy and governance**, reflecting continued **military influence in the country's political system**.
- Uchral Nyam-Osor has been appointed as the new **Prime Minister of Mongolia**, securing **88 out of 107 parliamentary votes** amid political turmoil. He replaces Zandanshatar Gombojav, who resigned due to **legislative deadlock and internal conflicts**. A young reform-oriented leader, Uchral aims to **stabilize governance and drive economic reforms**. However, ongoing **political instability and upcoming 2027 elections** may continue to challenge Mongolia's political landscape.
- India has recorded the **highest number of doping suspensions in track and field**, with **148 athletes banned**, according to the Athletics Integrity Unit, surpassing Kenya and Russia. The data raises serious concerns about **sports integrity and anti-doping enforcement**. Reports by World Anti-Doping Agency highlight high positivity rates, emphasizing the urgent need for **stricter regulations, awareness, and reforms** in Indian athletics.
- Newcastle Disease is spreading across parts of Europe, raising concerns for **poultry farmers and food supply chains**. Caused by the **avian paramyxovirus**, it is a highly contagious disease affecting birds, with severe forms causing **high mortality**. It spreads through **airborne droplets, direct contact, and contaminated materials**. Symptoms include **respiratory issues, nervous disorders, and reduced egg production**. Authorities, including those in United Kingdom, are strengthening **surveillance and biosecurity measures** to control outbreaks.
- Russia and China vetoed a **UN Security Council resolution** to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, escalating **global tensions**. The proposal, backed by 11 countries, aimed to ensure **safe oil shipping and free navigation**, but was opposed over concerns about **military implications** and focus on broader conflict resolution. As nearly **20% of global oil trade** passes through the strait, the blockade raises fears of **supply disruptions, rising oil prices**, and impacts on the **global economy**.
- India has withdrawn its bid to host the **COP33 climate summit (2028)** under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change after reviewing future commitments. Despite earlier preparations and support from **BRICS nations**, India chose to step back from hosting. However, its **climate goals remain strong**, including **60% clean energy capacity, 47% reduction in emissions intensity**, and increased **forest cover**. This move reflects a strategic shift while maintaining commitment to **global climate action and sustainability efforts**.
- United Arab Emirates has launched the world's first **10G internet network using U6GHz spectrum (6425–7125 MHz)**, marking a major leap in **digital connectivity**. The network offers speeds up to **10 Gbps download and 1 Gbps upload** with **low latency**, enabling smoother **streaming, gaming, and data transfer**. This "**golden band**" ensures high speed with wide coverage, supporting **AI, smart cities, and virtual technologies**. It also paves the way for future **6G development**, positioning the UAE as a global leader in **advanced telecom innovation**.
- Preeti Saran** was re-elected to a key UN committee as India achieved a **clean sweep in four elections** under the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in April 2026, all won **unopposed**. The victories include representation in **CESCR, CSTD, Committee on NGOs, and CPC**, showcasing India's **rising global influence, diplomatic strength, and credibility in international governance**. Saran's re-election highlights India's growing role in **human rights, sustainable development, and global policymaking**, reinforcing its position as a **trusted and responsible global partner** in multilateral institutions.

- A major political shift occurred in Hungary as Viktor Orbán was ousted after **16 years**, with Péter Magyar leading the **Tisza party** to a **two-thirds majority** in the 2026 elections. Voters backed promises of **anti-corruption reforms** and closer **EU alignment**. The result signals potential policy shifts on **Russia–Ukraine relations**, strengthening **European unity** and reshaping Hungary’s political and geopolitical direction.
- Israel appointed Roman Gofman as the new chief of Mossad on **April 13, 2026**, succeeding David Barnea from **July 2**. Appointed by Benjamin Netanyahu, Gofman’s leadership comes amid rising **Middle East security challenges**, including **Gaza tensions** and intelligence threats. His military experience and strategic role highlight Israel’s focus on strengthening **national security and intelligence operations**.
- Australia appointed Susan Coyle as its first **female Army Chief**, announced in **April 2026**, with charge from **July**. A senior leader in the Australian Defence Force, she brings decades of **military experience**. The move marks a historic step toward **gender equality and inclusive leadership**, addressing long-standing representation challenges. Backed by Anthony Albanese, it reflects efforts to modernize the military and inspire greater **women’s participation in defence forces**.
- Donald Trump unveiled plans for the “**Arc de Trump**”, a proposed **250-foot monument** in Washington, D.C., inspired by the Arc de Triomphe. Designed with **gold accents** and symbolic elements, it aims to honor **American heroes and national pride**. The project awaits approvals from authorities like the Commission of Fine Arts and faces debate over **costs, urban planning, and heritage concerns**, making its future uncertain.
- China became India’s **top trading partner in FY2025–26**, overtaking the United States, with bilateral trade reaching **\$151.1 billion**. However, India’s **trade deficit with China widened** to over **\$112 billion**, reflecting high imports of electronics and machinery. In contrast, India maintained a **trade surplus with the US**. The shift highlights evolving **global trade dynamics** and growing economic ties despite geopolitical tensions.
- Keir Starmer and Emmanuel Macron have launched the **Strait of Hormuz Maritime Freedom of Navigation Initiative** to secure vital global shipping routes. The virtual meeting, attended by nearly 40 countries including India, aims to ensure **safe navigation, protect energy supply chains, and maintain maritime security** amid rising Middle East tensions. The Strait of Hormuz is crucial for global oil trade, and disruptions could trigger **energy price spikes, supply chain issues, and economic instability worldwide**.
- During the State Visit of Lee Jae-myung, India and South Korea elevated ties to a “**futuristic partnership**” after talks with Narendra Modi in **New Delhi**, announcing **25 key outcomes**. Agreements cover **trade, technology, defense, climate, and cultural cooperation**. Both nations aim to boost **bilateral trade to \$50 billion by 2030** and expand collaboration in **AI, semiconductors, and maritime sectors**. New initiatives like the **India-Korea Digital Bridge** and **Economic Security Dialogue** enhance strategic ties, strengthening **economic integration, supply chains, and global cooperation** in a rapidly evolving geopolitical landscape.
- Rumen Radev won **Bulgaria’s 2026 parliamentary elections**, leading **Progressive Bulgaria** to a decisive mandate, signaling a shift after years of **political instability**. Securing around **44.7% votes and majority seats**, his victory raises hopes for a **stable government** following repeated elections since 2021. Known for his **anti-corruption stance** and reform agenda, Radev aims to restore **public trust and governance stability**. In foreign policy, he promotes a **balanced approach** between the European Union, NATO, and Russia, emphasizing **pragmatic diplomacy and economic priorities**.
- Arthur Law has been named a **Young Global Leader (YGL) 2026** by the World Economic Forum, recognizing his impact on **urban living innovation**. As co-founder of Storefriendly Asia, he developed **tech-enabled space solutions** for dense cities, serving thousands of users. Selected among **118 leaders from 55 countries**, he joins a prestigious global network of **innovators and policymakers**. His work focuses on **space efficiency, smart infrastructure, and sustainable urban development**. The recognition highlights his role in addressing **urban challenges and shaping future cities through innovation and leadership**.
- United Kingdom Parliament passed the **Tobacco and Vapes Bill**, banning **tobacco sales to individuals born on or after January 1, 2009**, aiming to create a **smoke-free generation**. The law introduces a **generational ban**, gradually phasing out smoking. It also tightens rules on **vaping, restricting flavours, advertising, and usage in public places**. Backed by Health Secretary Wes Streeting, the policy focuses on **prevention over treatment**, reducing **smoking-related diseases and healthcare burden**. Once approved by **Royal Assent**, it will become one of the **strictest anti-smoking laws globally**.
- Turkey has passed a law restricting **social media access for children under 15**, aiming to enhance **online safety**. The legislation mandates **strict age verification, parental controls, and removal of harmful content** on platforms like YouTube, TikTok, and Instagram. Supported by Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the move addresses concerns over **cyberbullying, addiction, and mental health risks**. It also requires companies to ensure **local compliance and stronger moderation systems**. The law reflects a global trend toward regulating **digital platforms to protect minors and ensure safer online environments**.

- India has welcomed Japan's revised **defence export policy** as a major step toward strengthening **bilateral security cooperation**. The changes to the **"Three Principles on Transfer of Defense Equipment and Technology"** allow broader **defence exports, technology transfer, and case-by-case approvals** while maintaining strict controls. According to the Ministry of External Affairs, this will deepen the **India–Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership**. It is expected to boost **defence manufacturing, innovation, and Indo-Pacific security cooperation**. Under Sanae Takaichi, Japan aims to enhance **global peace, strategic alliances, and collective security capabilities** in a changing geopolitical landscape.
- India has approved a ₹30 billion **currency swap** for Maldives under the SAARC Currency Swap Framework (2024–27). Facilitated by the Reserve Bank of India, the move provides **liquidity support** to manage **foreign exchange pressures** and enhance **economic stability**. It reduces reliance on costly borrowing while supporting **balance of payments** needs. The agreement, linked to President Mohamed Muizzu's 2024 visit, strengthens **bilateral ties** and regional cooperation. The decision highlights India's role as a **reliable economic partner** and reinforces financial resilience in the region amid global uncertainties.
- The US Department of Commerce has imposed a preliminary **anti-dumping duty** of over **123%** on solar imports from India, citing allegations of selling below **fair market value**. Companies like Mundra Solar PV and Premier Energies are under scrutiny. The move aims to protect US manufacturers from **unfair competition** but may escalate **trade tensions**. It could reduce India's **solar exports** to the US and push firms toward alternative markets. However, strong domestic demand may cushion the impact. The final decision is expected within 75 days after further review.

## BANKING, ECONOMY, BUSINESS & FINANCE

- The Reserve Bank of India capped banks' **Net Open Forex Position (NOP) at \$100 million per day**, effective **April 10, 2026**, replacing capital-based limits with a uniform cap. With banks holding **\$30–40 billion in forex positions**, large unwinding is expected. The move aims to **reduce systemic risk, curb speculative trading, and stabilize the rupee**. However, it may cause **short-term volatility, liquidity stress, and mark-to-market (MTM) losses** due to rapid position closures.
- India's fiscal deficit narrowed to **₹12.5 trillion** during April–February FY26, as per Controller General of Accounts, marking a **7% decline** from last year and reaching **80.4% of revised estimates**. Strong **tax (6% growth)** and **non-tax revenues (18% growth)**, along with steady **capital expenditure (₹9.3 trillion)**, supported fiscal stability. The deficit is estimated at **4.5% of GDP**. However, **global risks**, especially rising crude oil prices due to geopolitical tensions, may impact India's fiscal outlook in FY27.
- According to ICRA, India's GDP growth may slow to **6.5% in FY27** from **7.6%** in the current fiscal year due to **rising crude oil prices, West Asia tensions**, and global supply disruptions. Higher energy costs could increase **inflation**, reduce consumer spending, and raise production expenses. Additionally, the **current account deficit** is projected to widen to **1.7% of GDP**, reflecting increased import bills and external economic pressures.
- India's industrial output grew **5.2% in February 2026**, according to National Statistics Office, driven by **6% growth in manufacturing**, which remains the core of the IIP. **Capital goods surged 12.5%**, signaling rising investment and industrial confidence. However, **electricity (2.3%)** and **mining (3.1%)** showed slower growth. Despite improving momentum, challenges like **rising crude oil prices** and global uncertainties may impact sustained industrial expansion and overall economic outlook.
- India's GST collections reached **₹1.78 lakh crore in March 2026**, reflecting strong economic activity and improved compliance, as per Goods and Services Tax Network. Gross revenue touched **₹2 lakh crore**, driven by **17.8% growth in imports** and steady domestic demand. Refunds rose to **₹0.22 lakh crore**, enhancing business liquidity. States like Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Gujarat led collections, indicating broad-based growth, while efficient tax systems and digital tracking boosted revenue trends.
- India recorded an all-time high in **UPI transactions** in March 2026, reaching **₹29.52 trillion** with **22.64 billion transactions**, as per **National Payments Corporation of India**. The surge reflects strong **digital payment adoption**, improved **infrastructure**, and enhanced **security systems**. Annual figures also showed robust growth, highlighting UPI's expansion into **rural areas**. With rising **daily transactions** and widespread usage, UPI continues to strengthen India's **digital economy** and global leadership in **real-time payments**.
- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India has retained Life Insurance Corporation of India, General Insurance Corporation of India, and New India Assurance Company Limited as **Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs)** for FY26. These firms are considered **"Too Big To Fail"**, playing a critical role in **financial stability and risk coverage**. Their status ensures **strict regulatory oversight, strong governance, and robust risk management**, as any disruption could significantly impact India's **economy and insurance sector stability**.

- India's **forex reserves declined by \$30.5 billion in March 2026 to \$688.05 billion**, mainly due to intervention by the Reserve Bank of India to stabilize the **rupee amid global uncertainty and geopolitical tensions**. The fall was driven by **currency volatility, capital outflows, and dollar demand**. Despite this drop, India maintains a **strong external position with ~11 months import cover**, ensuring **economic stability and resilience** against global shocks.
  - The Income Tax Department of India has launched '**Kar Saathi**', an **AI-powered platform** to simplify **tax filing** and provide **24x7 assistance**. It acts as a **one-stop digital hub** for **ITR filing, refund tracking, tax queries, and e-services**, improving **user experience** and accessibility. Led by Central Board of Direct Taxes under reforms like **PRARAMBH**, it supports the upcoming **Income Tax Act, 2025**, reducing **rules (510→333) and forms (399→190)**. Overall, it enhances **digital governance**, reduces dependency on consultants, and promotes **easy, transparent tax compliance**.
  - Moody's has cut **India's FY27 GDP growth forecast to 6% (from 6.8%)** due to **West Asia tensions** disrupting **energy imports**. As India depends heavily on the region for **crude oil (55%) and LPG (90%)**, rising **fuel costs** are increasing **inflation (4.8%)** and weakening **household consumption**. This may slow **industrial activity** and **investment**. The Reserve Bank of India may adjust **interest rates**, while the government could raise **subsidies**. Overall, higher costs and fiscal pressure may impact **economic stability** and growth.
  - The Indian Railways has completed the **Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC)**, a **1,506 km high-capacity freight route** from **JNPT (Maharashtra) to Dadri (Uttar Pradesh)**. Executed by Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited, it enables **faster, cost-efficient freight movement**, improves **port connectivity**, and reduces **logistics costs**. Along with the **Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC)**, it modernizes India's freight network, reduces congestion, and boosts **industrial growth, exports, and overall economic development**.
  - India's maritime sector achieved a record **915.17 million tonnes (MT)** cargo handling at major ports in **FY 2025–26**, surpassing the **904 MT target** with **7.06% growth**. Led by Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, top performers included **Deendayal Port (160.11 MT), Paradip Port (156.45 MT), and JNPA (102.01 MT)**. Growth was driven by **infrastructure upgrades, better connectivity, digitalization, and faster turnaround times**. Supported by initiatives like **Sagarmala**, this milestone strengthens India's **global trade capacity, logistics efficiency, and maritime competitiveness**.
  - Vinay Tonse has taken charge as **MD & CEO of YES Bank**, bringing over **30 years of banking experience** across **retail, corporate, and international sectors**. His leadership marks a new phase focused on **growth acceleration** and **financial strengthening**. He introduced a **four-pillar strategy—**
- People, Product, Processes, Technology**—aimed at improving **customer experience**, boosting **performance**, and enhancing **operational efficiency**. This move is expected to strengthen **investor confidence** and position the bank for **long-term stability and competitiveness**.
  - Campbell Wilson has resigned as **CEO & MD of Air India** before completing his **five-year term**, marking a key **leadership transition**. Since taking charge in **July 2022** after the Tata Group takeover, he led the **Vihaan.AI transformation plan**, focusing on **fleet expansion, modernization, and improving customer experience**. His exit comes during a crucial **restructuring phase**, signaling a new strategic direction amid broader **leadership changes in India's aviation sector**.
  - India's digital payments ecosystem is rapidly expanding, with **UPI QR codes growing 15% in 2025 to 731.38 million**, while **transaction volumes surged 33% to 228.5 billion**. Driven by **merchant adoption**, especially among small businesses, QR payments offer **low cost, ease of use, and instant transfers**. Compared to slower growth in **POS terminals**, UPI reflects a shift toward **mobile-based, cashless payments**. With an average ticket size of **₹1,314**, UPI dominates **daily transactions**, reinforcing India's position as a **global leader in real-time digital payments**.
  - Bank of Baroda launched **AI-powered 'bob SAMVAD'** in Mumbai to enhance **multilingual communication** at bank branches. The platform enables **real-time translation in 22 languages** through text and voice, improving **customer-staff interaction** and reducing **language barriers**. Launched by M. Nagaraju, it promotes **inclusive banking, better service delivery, and ease of access**, especially for diverse users. Initially rolled out in **250 branches**, it reflects the bank's focus on **AI-driven innovation and customer-centric services**.
  - The World Bank projects India to lead **South Asia's growth** with **7.6% GDP expansion in FY26**, remaining the region's **economic driver** despite global challenges. Regional growth may slow to **6.3%** due to **rising energy prices, Middle East tensions, and market uncertainties**, but is expected to recover later. Risks include **inflation, energy dependence, and currency pressures**. While India's economy stays strong, the report emphasizes **structural reforms, job creation, and resilience** to sustain long-term **economic stability and growth**.
  - The World Bank has raised India's **FY27 GDP growth forecast to 6.6%** (up by **30 basis points**), citing strong **domestic demand** and **consumer spending**. However, growth is slightly lower than **7.6% in FY26** due to **global uncertainties, West Asia tensions, and rising energy prices**. Challenges include **inflation pressures, slower investments, and export risks**, while support comes from **tax reforms and retail demand**. Overall, India remains one of the **fastest-growing major economies** despite global headwinds.

- KreditBee has entered the **unicorn club** after raising **\$280 million**, reaching a valuation of **\$1.5 billion**. The funding, led by major global investors, will support **business expansion** and **technology upgrades**, including **Generative AI (GenAI)**. The company plans an upcoming **IPO** after regulatory approvals and restructuring. With strong growth—**₹30,000 crore loans disbursed** and **₹15,000 crore AUM**—KreditBee is expanding into **secured lending** and **digital payments**, strengthening its position in India's **fintech ecosystem**.
- The Reserve Bank of India has proposed easing **TReDS (Trade Receivable Discounting System)** onboarding for **MSMEs** by removing **due diligence requirements**, making registration **faster and simpler**. TReDS helps small businesses convert **unpaid invoices into immediate cash** through banks and NBFCs, improving **working capital**. The move aims to boost **MSME participation**, reduce **payment delays**, and enhance **ease of doing business**. While onboarding is simplified, safeguards like **invoice verification** ensure **transparency and security**, supporting smoother **business operations** across India.
- The Reserve Bank of India has proposed a **1-hour delay on UPI and bank transfers above ₹10,000** to tackle rising **digital payment fraud**, especially **Authorized Push Payment (APP) scams** where users are tricked into sending money. Under this **"lagged credit mechanism,"** users can **review, verify, or cancel transactions** within an hour, improving security. The move comes as high-value transactions account for a major share of fraud losses. Additional measures include **trusted person approval for large transfers**, a **credit cap system**, and a **kill switch** to block transactions. The aim is to balance **user safety with convenience** in digital payments.
- The Reserve Bank of India has launched **'Utkarsh 2029'**, a **medium-term strategy (2026–2029)** aimed at making India's financial system more **efficient, inclusive, and future-ready**. The framework focuses on **digital finance expansion**, including **CBDC (digital rupee)**, and improving **financial inclusion** through initiatives like the **Unified Lending Interface (ULI)** for easier credit access. It also emphasizes **rupee internationalization**, **cross-border payments**, and adoption of **emerging technologies like AI and quantum computing**. Built on **six key pillars**, the strategy aims to strengthen **regulation, innovation, global integration, and customer-centric financial services** in India.
- The World Bank released **\$340 million** for Phase-I of Amaravati, with additional funds expected, supporting Andhra Pradesh's **capital city development**. Backed by the Asian Development Bank, the project follows a **result-based funding model (AIUDP)** ensuring **accountability and efficiency**. It focuses on **urban infrastructure, flood management, and job creation**, reflecting strong global support for India's **sustainable urban development and governance reforms**.
- India recorded a **30.2% surge in patent filings to 1,43,729 in FY 2025–26**, marking a historic high, as announced by Piyush Goyal. The growth reflects a strong push toward **innovation** and **Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)**, with **69% domestic filings** signaling **"Invented in India."** Supported by policy reforms under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India is emerging as a **global innovation hub** with sustained growth in research and technology.
- India's **retail inflation** rose to **3.4% in March 2026** from 3.21% in February, as reported by the National Statistics Office. Measured via the **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**, the increase was driven mainly by **food inflation (3.87%)**, including rising prices of vegetables and commodities. Global factors like **West Asia tensions** also impacted supply chains. Despite the uptick, inflation remains within the Reserve Bank of India target range, indicating **moderate price stability** and manageable economic conditions.
- PPFAS Asset Management has received approval from Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority to manage funds under the National Pension System, marking its entry into India's **retirement investment sector**. The firm will launch pension schemes and manage long-term savings with a **disciplined investment approach**. With NPS gaining popularity due to **tax benefits and market-linked returns**, this move enhances **competition, transparency, and investor choice**, strengthening India's growing **pension ecosystem**.
- India's **unemployment rate** rose to **5.1% in March 2026**, a five-month high, as per the National Statistics Office and **PLFS data**. The increase was mainly driven by **urban unemployment (6.8%)**, while **rural unemployment** edged up to 4.3%. Both **male and female unemployment** saw a rise, indicating broader job market stress. Key indicators like **Labour Force Participation Rate (55.4%)** and **Worker Population Ratio (52.6%)** declined, reflecting reduced workforce participation and slower job creation across the economy.
- Tata Semiconductor Manufacturing has received approval for a **Special Economic Zone (SEZ)** in Dholera, backed by a **₹91,000 crore investment**. The project aims to establish India's **first chip fabrication unit**, boosting **domestic semiconductor production** and reducing import dependence. Approved by the Department of Commerce, the initiative will generate **jobs, strengthen electronics manufacturing**, and position India as a **global semiconductor hub** under its self-reliance strategy.
- ITC Limited became the first in India to achieve **Farm Sustainability Assessment (FSA) 3.0 certification for wheat and paddy**, awarded by the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative Platform. The milestone highlights **sustainable farming practices, traceable sourcing, and farmer empowerment**, covering thousands of farmers across multiple states. The initiative improves **crop productivity, income, and environmental sustainability**, strengthening India's position in **global agri-markets** and promoting responsible agriculture aligned with international standards.

- India is planning a **long-term Cocoa Mission** to achieve **self-sufficiency in cocoa production by 2040**, reducing heavy imports worth over **\$866 million annually**. The roadmap, developed by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry with Grant Thornton Bharat, focuses on boosting **domestic production, farmer incomes, and agri-economy growth**. It proposes a **National Mission on Cocoa**, R&D support, and digital traceability. With rising demand from the chocolate industry, the plan aims to make India a **self-reliant and globally competitive cocoa producer**.
- Life Insurance Corporation of India launched two mobile apps—**MyLIC** for customers and **Super Sales Saathi** for agents—on **April 15, 2026**, boosting **digital insurance services**. The apps enable **policy management, premium payments, e-KYC, and paperless services**, while empowering agents with **AI-driven tools and performance tracking**. Built on the DIVE platform, this initiative enhances **efficiency, accessibility, and customer experience**, reflecting India's push toward **technology-driven and inclusive financial services**.
- Bank of Baroda partnered with Reliance Jio to launch "**bob World Lite**" on **JioPhone devices**, enabling **feature phone users** to access mobile banking. The app offers **UPI payments, money transfers, bill payments, and recharges** with a **simple interface and low data usage**. Supporting the vision of the Reserve Bank of India, this initiative promotes **financial inclusion**, reduces reliance on physical branches, and bridges the **digital divide** in India's banking ecosystem.
- Gautam Adani has overtaken Mukesh Ambani to become **Asia's richest person**, with a net worth of **\$92.6 billion**, surpassing Ambani's **\$90.8 billion**. This rise is driven by strong growth in **Adani Group companies**, especially in **infrastructure, ports, and renewable energy** sectors. While Ambani's wealth is linked to Reliance Industries, Adani's rapid expansion has reshaped billionaire rankings. According to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, he now ranks among the **top global billionaires**, reflecting India's growing focus on **infrastructure development and energy transition**.
- BSE Index Services launched the **BSE Housing Finance Index** on **April 20, 2026**, to track the performance of **housing finance companies**. Derived from the **BSE 1000 Index**, it serves as a **sector-specific benchmark** for India's growing **home loan market**. The index will be **rebalanced twice yearly** and supports **ETFs, mutual funds, and portfolio strategies**. It helps investors build **targeted investment portfolios** in the housing sector. With rising **urbanization, middle-class demand, and affordable housing initiatives**, the index enhances **market transparency, investor participation, and sector-focused financial growth**.
- India's seafood exports reached a record **₹72,325.82 crore** in **FY 2025–26**, with volumes hitting **19.32 lakh tonnes**, according to Marine Products Export Development Authority. **Frozen shrimp** remained the key driver, contributing over **two-thirds of export value**. Despite a decline in exports to the United States due to tariffs, India expanded into markets like China, European Union, and Southeast Asia, showing strong growth. This diversification highlights India's **resilience, global demand strength, and strategic market expansion**, reinforcing its position as a **leading global seafood exporter**.
- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific projects India's **GDP growth at 6.4% in 2026 and 6.6% in 2027**, reinforcing its role as a key **Asia-Pacific growth engine**. Growth is driven by **strong domestic demand, services expansion, and policy support**. Despite challenges like reduced exports to the United States, India remains resilient with **stable inflation** and rising **green investments**. Initiatives like **PLI schemes** support **manufacturing and clean energy jobs**. The report highlights India's importance in **regional stability, economic growth, and global supply chains**.
- India's government proposed increasing the **minimum distance between sugar mills** from **15 km to 25 km** under the **Draft Sugarcane Control Order 2026** to improve **resource distribution and farmer protection**. The move aims to prevent **overcrowding of mills**, ensure **fair access to sugarcane**, and regulate **capacity expansion**. With **declining sugar consumption** and rising demand for **alternatives like jaggery**, the policy seeks to balance **production and demand**. It also brings **Khandsari units** under regulation, promoting **transparency, fair competition, and sustainable growth** in India's evolving sugar industry.
- Moody's has cut India's **GDP growth forecast to 6% for FY27** from **6.8%**, citing **geopolitical tensions, rising energy prices, and weak domestic demand**. Disruptions in **West Asia**, especially around key oil routes, have increased **import costs and inflation**. India's dependence on **imported energy** may impact **consumption, industrial growth, and fiscal balance**. Risks also include **fertilizer shortages, agricultural slowdown, and reduced remittances from Gulf countries**. The downgrade highlights challenges to maintaining **economic stability and growth momentum** amid global uncertainties.
- India's **textile exports** grew **2.1%** to **₹3.16 lakh crore** in **FY 2025–26**, reflecting strong **global demand and competitiveness**. **Ready-Made Garments (RMG)** led growth, followed by **man-made textiles and handicrafts**, the fastest-growing segment. Exports expanded to over **120 countries**, with notable growth in markets like the **UAE, UK, Germany, and Japan**. The sector shows **balanced performance across traditional and modern segments**, reducing market dependency. This steady rise highlights India's **resilience, diversified export base, and strong position in the global textile industry**.

- Reserve Bank of India kept the **repo rate unchanged at 5.25%** after the **April 2026 MPC meeting**, maintaining a **neutral policy stance** amid global uncertainties. The decision, supported unanimously, reflects a **cautious ‘wait-and-watch’ approach** due to **West Asia tensions, rising oil prices, and supply disruptions**. Led by Governor Sanjay Malhotra, the RBI aims to balance **inflation control and economic growth**. While **core inflation remains stable**, external shocks may pose risks. The move ensures **policy flexibility, economic stability, and preparedness** for future global and domestic challenges.
- Reserve Bank of India has approved the appointment of Vivek Tripathi as **Executive Director (ED)** and **Whole-time Director (WTD)** of AU Small Finance Bank for **three years**, effective **April 24, 2026**, subject to shareholder approval. Currently the bank’s **Chief Credit Officer**, he brings strong expertise in **credit and risk management**. His elevation strengthens the bank’s **leadership and governance**, ensuring better **strategic decision-making and operational efficiency**. The move reflects RBI’s role in maintaining **financial stability and leadership quality** in India’s banking sector.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved **three-year extensions** for CEOs of Bank of India and Bank of Baroda, ensuring **leadership continuity**. Rajneesh Karnatak will continue as MD & CEO of Bank of India from April 29, 2026 to 2029, while Debadatta Chand gets a fresh three-year term starting July 1, 2026. The decision reflects confidence in their **performance, stability, and strategic direction**. Meanwhile, a decision on Ashwani Kumar of UCO Bank is pending. The move strengthens **governance, operational stability, and growth prospects** in India’s public sector banking system.
- Brazil has overtaken India as the leading maize exporter to Bangladesh, marking a key shift in regional trade. India’s exports declined due to rising domestic demand for maize, driven by its **ethanol blending programme**, which reduced export availability and increased prices. This weakened India’s traditional advantages of **low cost and geographical proximity**. Brazil capitalized with **large-scale production, competitive pricing, and reliable supply**. The shift highlights the growing impact of **biofuel policies** on agricultural trade and reflects changing dynamics in the **global corn market and food–fuel balance**.
- The Reserve Bank of India has cancelled the licence of Paytm Payments Bank due to persistent **regulatory non-compliance and governance failures**. The central bank cited risks to **depositors’ interests and public trust**, and plans to approach the High Court for **winding-up proceedings**. Earlier restrictions included bans on **new customers, deposits, and transactions**. The bank can now only allow **withdrawal of existing funds**. Founded by Vijay Shekhar Sharma, it had millions of users but faced repeated compliance issues. The move highlights the importance of **regulatory discipline, financial oversight, and strengthens scrutiny** in India’s **fintech ecosystem**.
- India’s foreign exchange reserves rose to **\$703.3 billion** for the week ending April 17, 2026, according to the Reserve Bank of India, marking a **\$2.3 billion increase**. The rise signals improving **external stability** and easing pressure on the **rupee** after recent declines caused by **global uncertainties and West Asia tensions**. Key components like **foreign currency assets, gold reserves, and SDRs** showed gains. RBI interventions helped stabilize currency markets despite earlier capital outflows. Overall, the increase reflects strengthening **economic resilience, better liquidity conditions, and a gradual recovery** in India’s external financial position.

## MoU’s & AGREEMENTS

- India has launched an AI-driven initiative to make Ayurveda research accessible in **13 languages**, led by Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences in partnership with Anuvadini AI under the Ministry of Ayush. The move aims to **bridge language gaps, expand evidence-based Ayurveda awareness, and reduce misinformation**. AI will translate scientific publications for wider public access, leveraging CCRAS’s network across 25 states, ensuring traditional healthcare knowledge reaches grassroots communities effectively.
- The **Meghalaya** government has signed an MoU with **Starlink India** to provide **high-speed satellite internet** in remote areas. Announced by Chief Minister **Conrad K Sangma**, the initiative aims to bridge the **digital divide** using **low-Earth orbit satellites**. It is expected to improve **education, healthcare, e-governance, and rural livelihoods**, strengthening **digital infrastructure** and connectivity in geographically challenging regions.
- The **US–Iran Peace Talks in Islamabad collapsed without agreement**, escalating **Middle East tensions**. Mediated by Pakistan, the talks failed due to disputes over **Iran’s nuclear program, navigation rights in the Strait of Hormuz, and mutual distrust**. The breakdown threatens **global energy supply**, as the Strait handles major oil flow. Rising **military risks and global concern** highlight growing instability, with nations urging **de-escalation and renewed diplomatic efforts**.
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and GE Aerospace signed a key agreement to co-develop **F414 jet engines** in India, boosting **defence self-reliance**. The deal includes **technology transfer** and local manufacturing to power **next-generation indigenous fighter jets**. It supports initiatives like **Make in India**, reduces import dependence, and strengthens **India–US defence cooperation**. This collaboration enhances India’s **air power capabilities** and marks a major step toward building a robust **domestic aerospace ecosystem**.

- India and New Zealand will sign a **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** on **April 27, 2026**, aimed at boosting **trade, exports, and investment**. The deal is expected to attract **\$20 billion investment over 15 years** and improve **market access** across sectors like textiles and pharmaceuticals. It also offers **work opportunities for Indian professionals** and may double bilateral trade to \$5 billion. Overall, the FTA strengthens **economic ties and Indo-Pacific cooperation**.
- India and Russia operationalized the **RELOS (Reciprocal**

**Exchange of Logistics Agreement)** in **April 2026**, strengthening **military logistics cooperation**. Signed in **2025**, the pact allows **mutual access to bases, ports, and airfields**, enabling deployment of **troops, warships, and aircraft**. It enhances **interoperability, rapid response, and defense coordination**. A key advantage is India's access to strategic Russian ports like Murmansk, boosting presence in the **Arctic region**. The agreement deepens **India-Russia strategic ties**, supports **joint operations**, and expands India's **global military reach and geopolitical influence**.

## APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

- Dr. Thomas Pucadyil has been appointed Director of BRIC-National Centre for Cell Science. A renowned cell biologist and former professor at IISER Pune, he is known for research on **membrane biology** and is a Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize recipient (2018). He succeeds interim director Manisha Inamdar, with expectations to strengthen **biomedical research, innovation, and global scientific collaboration** in India.
- Senior IAS officer Vir Vikram Yadav has been appointed as the new Director General of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, replacing Faiz Ahmed Kidwai. The move comes amid rising aviation safety concerns, operational disruptions, and regulatory challenges. Yadav is expected to strengthen safety frameworks, address staff shortages, and ensure compliance with FDTL norms. The appointment is part of a wider bureaucratic reshuffle aimed at improving governance in India's rapidly expanding aviation sector.
- India's largest airline **IndiGo** has appointed aviation veteran **Willie Walsh** as its new **CEO**, marking a major **leadership shift**. Former Director General of **International Air Transport Association**, he brings strong **global aviation experience**. His appointment comes as IndiGo targets **global expansion**, introduces **long-haul aircraft**, and addresses **operational challenges**, reflecting India's rising role in **global aviation** and the airline's ambition to become a **world-class carrier**.
- Sudarshan Pattnaik has been appointed as the **brand ambassador for Census 2027** by the Government of India to promote participation in India's first **digital census**. A **Padma Shri awardee**, he is known for spreading awareness through art. The census will feature **mobile-based data collection** and a **self-enumeration portal**. Conducted in two phases—**Houselisting (2026)** and **Population Enumeration (2027)**—it aims to improve **accuracy, efficiency, and public participation** nationwide.
- Chanchal Kumar has taken charge as **Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** on April 1, 2026, succeeding Sanjay Jaju. A **1992-batch IAS officer**, he brings

vast experience in infrastructure and governance. The ministry oversees **media regulation, digital communication, and public broadcasters** like Doordarshan and All India Radio. His appointment is expected to strengthen **policy implementation, digital media governance, and government communication**, shaping India's evolving **media and broadcasting sector**.

- Narendra Bhooshan has assumed charge as **Secretary of the Department of Land Resources** (under the **Ministry of Rural Development**) on **April 6, 2026**. A **1992-batch UP cadre IAS officer**, he brings over **30 years of administrative experience** across sectors like **infrastructure, energy, and agriculture**. The department focuses on **land reforms, digitization of land records, and sustainable land use**. His prior roles include positions in **UIDAI, ITPO**, and as **District Magistrate**, highlighting strong **policy and field experience** for improving **rural development and governance**.
- Deep Jariwala has been appointed to the prestigious **UT-ORNL Governor's Chair for Quantum Devices**, a top research role in the United States. Associated with University of Tennessee and Oak Ridge National Laboratory, he will lead work in **quantum materials, microelectronics, and future computing technologies**. Currently a professor at the University of Pennsylvania, he has **180+ research papers** and patents. This appointment highlights global recognition of his work and strengthens **innovation in quantum technology and advanced research**.
- **Sanjay Khanna** has been appointed as Chairman and Managing Director of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)**, with tenure till May 2029. A chemical engineer from National Institute of Technology Tiruchirappalli and finance postgraduate from University of Mumbai, he brings over 30 years of experience in refinery operations. Previously Director (Refineries), he led key projects like the PDPP. Under his leadership, BPCL aims to boost refining capacity, expand petrochemicals, and execute a ₹75,000 crore investment plan, including the Bina Refinery expansion.

- **Sajja Praveen Chowdary** has been appointed as the new **CEO and Principal Officer** of Policybazaar Insurance Brokers, following the resignation of **Tarun Mathur**. His appointment, approved by the insurance regulator, also includes the role of **Whole-Time Director**, marking a key **leadership transition**. A long-time member of PB Fintech since 2011, Chowdary brings over **15 years of experience** in **fintech and insurance**, having led multiple business verticals, including the **Policybazaar for Business** and SME insurance segment, strengthening the company's strategic growth.
- **Vibhor Jain** has been appointed as the **Managing Director and CEO** of Open Network for Digital Commerce, after serving as acting CEO. His appointment marks a key **leadership transition** as ONDC expands its presence across India. With over **18 years of experience** in technology and consulting, Jain aims to build an **open, inclusive, and interoperable digital commerce ecosystem**, empowering **small retailers, farmers, artisans, and gig workers**. His leadership is expected to accelerate India's **open network-based e-commerce model**, reducing dependence on large platforms and boosting **digital commerce growth** nationwide.
- Sunil Bajpai assumed charge as **Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax** for Tamil Nadu and Puducherry on **April 10, 2026**. A **1990-batch IRS officer**, he brings extensive experience from key roles in the Income Tax Department. With strong academic credentials from IITs and IIM, his appointment reflects expertise in **tax administration, governance, and policy implementation**, strengthening revenue management in the region.
- Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry appointed Anant Swarup as **Secretary General**, effective **April 14, 2026**. With over **30 years of experience** in **public policy, trade, and regulatory affairs**, he brings expertise from roles in the Department of Commerce and World Trade Organization. His leadership comes at a crucial time, aiming to strengthen **industry-government collaboration**, boost **trade growth**, and support India's evolving **economic and business landscape**.
- Infosys has partnered with Carlos Alcaraz, appointing him as **global brand ambassador** to promote **AI-driven sports performance solutions**. Using the **Infosys Topaz** platform, the collaboration will deliver **advanced match analytics, real-time insights, and personalized training tools**. This partnership highlights the growing role of **artificial intelligence in sports**, enhancing **performance, strategy, and decision-making**, while strengthening Infosys' presence in the **global sports-tech ecosystem**.
- Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao received the **9th Prof. M.S. Swaminathan Award 2026** in **Hyderabad** for contributions to **climate-resilient agriculture** and **natural resource management**. Currently leading Indian Agricultural Research Institute, he advanced **sustainable farming, soil health, and water management**. The award, marking the **birth centenary** of M. S. Swaminathan, highlights the shift from **Green Revolution to climate-resilient agriculture**. His work improved **food security** and **climate adaptation**. The event, attended by leaders like M. Venkaiah Naidu, underscores the importance of **agricultural innovation for national development**.
- Apple Inc. has appointed John Ternus as its next **CEO**, succeeding Tim Cook from **September 1, 2026**, marking a major **leadership transition**. A veteran engineer with over **20 years at Apple**, Ternus led development of key products like **iPhone, Mac, iPad, and Apple Watch**. His appointment signals a shift toward **engineering-driven leadership** as Apple enters an **AI-driven technology era**. Cook, who led since **2011**, will become **Executive Chairman**. Ternus faces challenges including **AI integration, innovation, and global competition**, shaping Apple's future in next-generation technologies.
- HDFC Life has reappointed Vibha Padalkar as **MD & CEO** for another **five-year term**, following a board decision on **April 21, 2026**, subject to approvals from **shareholders** and Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India. Padalkar, with the company since **2008**, has led key milestones including its **2017 IPO and strategic expansion**. Her continued leadership ensures **stability, growth, and strategic continuity** in India's insurance sector. The move reflects confidence in her **financial expertise, governance, and long-term vision** for strengthening HDFC Life's market position.
- Rajesh Kumar Agarwal has taken charge as **Director** at Power Finance Corporation, bringing over **30 years of experience** in **power and financial services**. Having served long at PFC, he specializes in **project financing, credit appraisal, and loan portfolio management**. In his new role, he will oversee **lending strategies, risk assessment, and project execution**, supporting the organization's growth. PFC, a **Maharatna PSU** under the Ministry of Power, plays a key role in **financing power infrastructure**, including **generation, transmission, and renewable energy projects** across India.
- Srikanth Velamakanni has been appointed Chairman of NASSCOM, bringing strong expertise in **artificial intelligence and analytics**. Co-founder of **Fractal Analytics**, he has over **two decades of experience** in data science and business strategy. His leadership comes as India's **digital economy expands**, with focus on **AI adoption, innovation, and global competitiveness**. NASSCOM plays a key role in promoting the **IT and digital services sector**, policy advocacy, and industry collaboration. Velamakanni's appointment is expected to drive **technology-led growth and strengthen India's position in the global IT landscape**.

- Parminder Singh has been appointed CEO of Reliance Enterprise Intelligence Limited (REIL), marking a major boost to India's **enterprise AI ecosystem**. Backed by Reliance Industries and Meta Platforms, REIL focuses on **AI-driven business solutions** and digital transformation. Singh brings leadership experience from Google, Apple, Twitter, and IBM. His role will drive **AI adoption**, build **industry partnerships**, and develop **AI infrastructure**, including data centres. His appointment is expected to accelerate **innovation**, strengthen India's **digital economy**, and position the country as a leader in **enterprise artificial intelligence solutions** globally.
- Dabur has appointed Herjit S Bhalla as CEO of its **India Business**, effective April 23, 2026. He will report to Global CEO Mohit Malhotra, strengthening leadership for domestic operations. With over 25 years of experience, Bhalla has worked with Unilever, Metro Cash & Carry, and The Hershey Company. His appointment comes amid rapid changes in India's **FMCG sector**, driven by digital growth and evolving consumer preferences. He will lead **domestic strategy**, **brand expansion**, and **market competitiveness**, supporting Dabur's growth in both rural and urban markets.
- Nitu Samra has been appointed interim CEO of Noida International Airport, replacing Christoph Schnellmann to comply with **Indian aviation regulations**. The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security mandates that airport CEOs must be **Indian nationals**, prompting this leadership change. Samra, previously CFO, brings strong **financial and administrative expertise** and will serve until a permanent CEO is appointed. Schnellmann will continue as **Executive Vice Chairman**, ensuring strategic continuity. The move supports **regulatory compliance** as the airport nears operational readiness, strengthening its role as a major **infrastructure project** expected to boost **connectivity and economic growth** in India.
- Veteran economist **Ashok Lahiri** is set to become **Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog**, succeeding **Suman Bery**. A former **Chief Economic Adviser (2002–2007)**, he has worked under **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** and **Manmohan Singh**. With vast experience in **economic policy, public finance, and global institutions** like the **World Bank** and **International Monetary Fund**, his appointment is crucial. He will guide **economic reforms, policy planning, and state coordination**, playing a key role in shaping India's **future growth strategy and development roadmap**.

## AWARDS

- The **International Booker Prize 2026** shortlist features **six global novels** exploring themes of **identity, exile, and human resilience**. The award honours **translated fiction** published in the UK and Ireland. According to judge **Natasha Brown**, the selected works reflect "burning humanity" through stories of **political unrest, cultural belonging, and survival**. The shortlist highlights **diverse voices and histories**, reinforcing the prize's role in promoting **global literature and cross-cultural understanding**.
- Indian Institute of Management Rohtak won **BIMTECH's 'Hermes' Dialogue 6.0**, a national-level debate hosted by Birla Institute of Management Technology, featuring participants from **12 countries**. The theme focused on **energy independence and global energy security amid geopolitical uncertainty**. With over **250 participants**, the event included **online tests, case studies, and a final debate simulating global forums like G20/UN**. Team **LeBroom (IIM Rohtak)** secured first place, highlighting strong **analytical thinking, policy understanding, and global perspective**.
- Anita Chaudhary, a forest officer at Shergarh Wildlife Sanctuary, is known for her **wildlife conservation and anti-poaching efforts**. Since 2021, she has rescued nearly **500 animals** and taken strict action against **poachers, smugglers, and illegal mining**. Her work includes managing **human-wildlife conflict** and protecting endangered species. For her dedication, she received the **WWF Machchli National Award** from World Wide Fund for Nature, recognizing her role in safeguarding ecosystems and inspiring grassroots conservation.
- Banaras Hindu University won the **AIU National Moot Court Competition 2026** held at Integral University, securing **₹25,000**, trophies, and medals. The event saw participation from **40 teams nationwide**, testing **legal research, advocacy, and courtroom skills**. Chandigarh University finished runner-up. The competition highlighted the importance of **practical legal training, enhancing students' argumentation, confidence, and understanding of judicial processes**.
- Sayani Gupta has been honoured with the **Harvard South Asian "Person of the Year" 2026** award by the Harvard South Asian Association. This prestigious recognition celebrates her **impactful storytelling, bold performances, and contribution to global South Asian representation**. Known for projects like *Four More Shots Please!* and *Article 15*, she has consistently promoted **inclusive narratives** and challenged stereotypes. Following Vikas Khanna (2025 awardee), her achievement highlights the rising influence of **content-driven cinema** and her evolving role as both **actor and filmmaker** on the global stage.
- Nishita Yogesh Antarkar was crowned **Miss Sake India 2026** at an event in Mumbai on April 17, 2026, organized by Hirohama India Pvt. Ltd.. More than a pageant, the platform promotes **Japanese sake culture and Indo-Japanese cultural ties**. Nishita, a **business owner and Kathak dancer**, brings strong cultural representation. The event, attended by dignitaries like Toshihiro Kaneko, emphasized **cultural diplomacy and collaboration**. Winners serve as **cultural ambassadors, fostering cross-cultural understanding and global friendship** between India and Japan.

- **Sadhvi Satish Sail** from **Goa** was crowned **Femina Miss India World 2026** at the grand finale in **Bhubaneswar**, marking a proud milestone. In the **61st edition**, **Rajnandini Pawar** from **Maharashtra** secured **first runner-up**. Crowned by **Nikita Porwal**, **Sadhvi** will represent **India at Miss World 2027**. A **model and entrepreneur**, she highlighted **gratitude, unity, and purpose** after her win. The pageant evaluates **personality, communication, talent, and social awareness**. **Rajnandini** stood out with her **sports and artistic excellence**. The platform continues to nurture **confident, socially aware women**, preparing them for **global representation and leadership**.
- **Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao** received the **9th Prof. M.S. Swaminathan Award 2026** in **Hyderabad** for contributions to **climate-resilient agriculture** and **natural resource management**. Currently leading Indian Agricultural Research Institute, he advanced **sustainable farming, soil health, and water management**. The award, marking the

**birth centenary** of **M. S. Swaminathan**, highlights the shift from **Green Revolution to climate-resilient agriculture**. His work improved **food security** and **climate adaptation**. The event, attended by leaders like **M. Venkaiah Naidu**, underscores the importance of **agricultural innovation for national development**.

- India's **Samridh Gram Initiative**, led by the Department of Telecommunications, has been nominated for the **WSIS Prizes 2026** under the **Enabling Environment** category. Built on **BharatNet**, it uses a **'phygital' approach** to combine **digital infrastructure with physical service centers**. Through **Samridh Kendras**, it provides **healthcare, education, banking, and e-governance services** in rural areas. The initiative boosts **connectivity, digital inclusion, and livelihoods**, reducing the rural-urban divide. This recognition highlights India's leadership in **ICT-driven rural development** and its commitment to **inclusive digital transformation**.

## SUMMITS, EVENTS & CONFERENCE

- **India Pharma 2026**, the 9th edition, will be held on **April 13–14, 2026** in **New Delhi**, organized by Department of Pharmaceuticals with **FICCI** and **Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance**. The conference focuses on **drug innovation, biosimilars, and global supply chains** under the theme "Discover in India." It aims to strengthen India's role as the **'Pharmacy of the World'**, promoting research, collaboration, and advanced healthcare solutions globally.
- The 14th Ministerial Conference of **World Trade Organization** concluded on **March 30, 2026**, in **Yaoundé**, with India led by **Piyush Goyal** emphasizing **fair trade, food security, and inclusive reforms**. Key discussions covered **fisheries subsidies, e-commerce, and agriculture**, though limited consensus was reached. India advocated **consensus-based decisions**, protection of small fishermen, and resolution of **public stockholding issues**, highlighting the need for a balanced global trading system.
- The **One Health Summit 2026**, held in **Lyon** (**April 5–7**) under France's **G7 Presidency**, brings together **global leaders, scientists**, and organizations to address interconnected

**human, animal, and ecosystem health**. The summit promotes the **One Health approach**, focusing on **zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance, pollution, and sustainable food systems**. Supported by bodies like **World Health Organization**, it emphasizes **science-based policies, global cooperation, and pandemic preparedness**, aiming to strengthen **health systems** and prevent future crises worldwide.

- **Rajnath Singh** will visit **Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan** on **April 28, 2026** to attend the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers Meeting**. The discussions will focus on **terrorism, regional security threats, and military cooperation** among member states. For India, the visit strengthens **defence diplomacy**, enhances **strategic presence in Central Asia**, and promotes **joint exercises and intelligence sharing**. It also boosts **India–Kyrgyzstan defence ties** through training and technical collaboration. The meeting highlights India's growing role in **regional security architecture** and efforts to counter **cross-border terrorism** amid evolving global challenges.

## INDEX

### RANKING

- A report by **UNESCO** warns that nearly **90% of protected sites**, including **World Heritage Sites, Biosphere Reserves, and Global Geoparks**, face severe **environmental stress**. Key threats include **climate change, deforestation, wildfires, and human activities**, with **98% sites affected by climate**

**impacts**. Over **300,000 sq km forest loss** and rising **invasive species** worsen the crisis. Alarming, **25% sites risk irreversible tipping points by 2050**. Despite this, these areas host **60% of global species**, highlighting their importance. The report urges **urgent conservation efforts and global action** to protect biodiversity and ecosystems.

## DEFENCE

- Adani Defence and Aerospace delivered the first batch of **2,000 'Prahar' Light Machine Guns (7.62 mm)** to the Indian Army from its **Gwalior facility**, part of a **40,000-unit order** under **Make in India**. Developed with Israel Weapon Industries, the LMG (Negev NG7) weighs **7.6 kg**, uses an **open bolt system**, and was delivered **11 months early**. It enhances **infantry firepower, mobility, and precision**, boosting India's **indigenous defence manufacturing and combat readiness**.
- The **Indian Navy hosted the IONS Maritime Exercise (IMEX) TTX 2026** in **Kochi** at the Maritime Warfare Centre under Southern Naval Command, involving navies from countries like **France, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh**. Conducted under the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium, the **Tabletop Exercise (TTX)** focused on **non-traditional threats** like piracy and maritime terrorism. It enhanced **decision-making, coordination, and cooperation**, highlighting India's leadership as it prepares for **IONS Chairmanship (2026–28)**.
- The **Indian Air Force** will equip MiG-29 jets with **ASRAAM (Advanced Short Range Air-to-Air Missiles)**, replacing older **R-73 missiles (10–15 km range)**. Developed by MBDA, ASRAAM has **25+ km range, Mach 3 speed, infrared guidance, and fire-and-forget capability**, enhancing dogfight performance. Integrated with **LCA Tejas and Jaguar**, and assembled in India with **BDL**, it boosts **air combat capability, precision, and self-reliance in defence**.
- Indian Navy inducted indigenous stealth frigate INS Dunagiri on March 30, 2026, built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers under **Project 17A**. Featuring **75% indigenisation**, advanced stealth, automation, and systems like **BrahMos missiles, MF-STAR radar, and MRSAM**, it enhances multi-role combat capabilities. As the fifth Nilgiri-class frigate, it strengthens India's naval power and supports the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** initiative in defence manufacturing.
- Indian Navy inducted INS Sanshodhak, the final ship of a four-vessel project, built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers with over **80% indigenous content**. Delivered on March 30, 2026, it enhances **hydrographic survey, seabed mapping, and navigation safety** using advanced systems like **AUVs, ROVs, and sonar**. The vessel strengthens maritime research, coastal planning, and defence capabilities, supporting **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** and modern naval operations.
- **Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth** has assumed charge as **Vice Chief of the Army Staff**, bringing nearly **four decades of military experience**. An alumnus of the **National Defence Academy**, he has held key **command and strategic roles** across desert warfare, **Jammu & Kashmir**, and international missions like the **United Nations** in Angola. His appointment strengthens India's focus on **military modernization, operational readiness, and strategic leadership** at the highest level.
- The **Indian Army** has appointed new commanders for key operational formations. **Lt Gen Sandeep Jain** leads **Southern Command**, **Lt Gen VMB Krishnan** heads **Eastern Command**, and **Lt Gen Pushendra Pal Singh** commands **Western Command**. These leadership changes aim to boost **operational readiness, strategic preparedness, and technological integration**. All three officers bring extensive experience in **counter-insurgency, high-altitude warfare, and logistics**, strengthening India's defence capabilities across critical regions.
- The **Indian Navy** has received **INS Malwan**, a next-generation **anti-submarine warfare vessel**, built by **Cochin Shipyard Limited** with over **80% indigenous content**. Designed for **shallow water operations**, it features advanced **sonar, torpedoes, and surveillance systems** to counter underwater threats. Part of an eight-vessel ASW fleet, it will replace ageing ships and enhance **coastal defence, maritime security, and self-reliance**, strengthening India's naval capabilities.
- India achieved a **record defence export of ₹38,424 crore in FY2025-26**, marking a sharp **62.66% growth** from the previous year. The surge reflects a shift toward **self-reliance and global defence manufacturing leadership**. **DPSUs** contributed over half of exports with significant growth, while the **private sector** also played a key role. This milestone highlights India's transformation from a **defence importer to a major exporter**, driven by reforms and rising global demand.
- **INS Taragiri** has been commissioned by the Indian Navy in Visakhapatnam in the presence of Rajnath Singh. Built under **Project 17A** by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, it is a **stealth frigate** with advanced **radar-evading design** and multi-role combat capability. Equipped with **modern missiles, anti-submarine systems, and CODOG propulsion**, it enhances India's **maritime strength, self-reliance, and naval power**.
- **Project Chetak** of the Border Roads Organisation marked its **47th Raising Day**, highlighting its role since **1980** in strengthening **border infrastructure** in western India. Operating in **Rajasthan, Punjab, and Gujarat**, it has built over **4,000 km roads** and improved **all-weather connectivity** in remote areas. The project supports **defence logistics**, enabling faster troop movement near the **India–Pakistan border**, thus enhancing **national security**. Guided by the motto "**Chetak ka Prayas, Desh ka Vikas**", it promotes **regional development, connectivity, and strategic preparedness**.

- INS Sunayna reached Malé on **April 6, 2026** under the **IOS SAGAR Mission**, strengthening **India–Maldives maritime cooperation**. Welcomed by the Maldives National Defence Force, the deployment features a **multinational crew from 16 countries** and **joint training exercises**. Activities include **professional exchanges, social interactions**, and a **PASSEX naval exercise**, enhancing **operational coordination**. This mission supports India's **Neighbourhood First policy**, promoting **regional security, friendship**, and **collaborative maritime engagement** in the **Indian Ocean region**.
- INS Aridhaman, India's **third nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN)**, has joined the Indian Navy fleet, boosting **maritime defence** and **strategic capability**. Commissioned in **Visakhapatnam**, it is more advanced than earlier submarines, with higher **missile capacity** and ability to carry **K-15, K-4, and future K-5 missiles**. As part of the **nuclear triad (land, air, sea)**, it enhances **second-strike capability** and **deterrence power**, placing India among top global military powers and strengthening its **underwater strategic dominance**.
- **Indian Army** has deployed a contingent to Egypt for the 4th edition of the **India-Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise 'Cyclone-IV'**, being held from April 9–17, 2026, at **Anshas**. This **bilateral military exercise** involves **elite special forces** from both countries, focusing on **interoperability, counter-terrorism operations**, and **combat training in desert conditions**. Around **25 Indian personnel** are participating alongside Egyptian troops, engaging in **joint mission planning, tactical drills, and survival exercises**. The exercise highlights the **growing defence cooperation** between India and Egypt, strengthening **strategic ties, mutual trust, and operational coordination** in regional security.
- **Indian Army** successfully conducted **Operation HimSetu**, rescuing over **1,400 stranded tourists and locals** in **North Sikkim** within **48 hours** after landslides and a bridge collapse near **Lachen** disrupted connectivity near the India-China border. Led by the **Trishakti Corps**, the mission evacuated **1,321 tourists and 84 residents** despite **extreme snowfall and harsh terrain**. The Army built **temporary bridges**, ensured **medical support**, and coordinated with the Border Roads Organisation for road restoration. The operation highlights the Army's **swift response, disaster management capability, and commitment to civilian safety** in critical situations.
- The Indian Navy will host the **Commanders' Conference 2026**, a three-day event to review **operational readiness**, strengthen **maritime security**, and align strategies with **national security goals**. Discussions will cover **emerging threats, secure sea lanes**, and lessons from **Operation Sindoor**, focusing on **joint military coordination**. Senior leaders, including the Chief of Defence Staff, will participate, emphasizing **technology-driven capabilities** and enhanced **civil-military collaboration** amid evolving regional challenges.
- The **7th edition of Exercise Dustlik** began on **April 13, 2026**, between India and Uzbekistan in the **Namangan region**. The exercise focuses on **counter-terrorism operations, semi-mountain warfare**, and improving **interoperability** between forces. With participation from the **Indian Army and Air Force**, it strengthens **defence cooperation** and reflects growing **strategic ties with Central Asia**, enhancing joint operational readiness and military coordination.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair the first-ever high-level conference of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) to strengthen **internal security** and enhance **strategic coordination**. The initiative aims to create a **unified security framework** by bringing together top leadership to address challenges like **insurgency, extremism, cyber threats, and border security**. It will also focus on improving **intelligence sharing** and joint operations with agencies like the Intelligence Bureau. Overall, the conference marks a significant step toward a **technology-driven, coordinated national security approach** in India.
- Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of Army Staff of India, has been inducted into the **US Army War College International Hall of Fame** in Pennsylvania. He becomes the **third Indian Army Chief** to receive this honour after V K Singh and Bikram Singh. The recognition highlights India's **growing global military stature, professional excellence**, and contributions to **strategic leadership**. It also reflects stronger **India–US defence cooperation**, especially in the **Indo-Pacific region**. The honour enhances India's image as a **key global security partner** and strengthens **military collaboration**, including joint training, interoperability, and long-term strategic ties between the two nations.
- The **7th edition of Exercise 'Dustlik'** between India and Uzbekistan concluded in **Namangan**, strengthening **defence cooperation**. Around **120 personnel** (60 each) participated, including **Indian Army and Air Force troops**. The exercise focused on **counter-terrorism operations, semi-mountain warfare, and tactical coordination**. Key activities included **reconnaissance missions, strike operations, and neutralization of armed groups**. "Dustlik," meaning **friendship**, is held annually to enhance **interoperability and military readiness**. It highlights India's growing **strategic engagement in Central Asia** and reinforces bilateral ties through **joint training, knowledge sharing, and operational preparedness** in complex security environments.

## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

- NASA's Artemis II, scheduled for **April 1, 2026**, will mark the first crewed lunar mission since Apollo missions. Using the **SLS rocket** and **Orion spacecraft**, astronauts will orbit the Moon and return via a **free-return trajectory**. The mission will test **life-support, navigation, and deep-space systems**, paving the way for **Artemis III lunar landing** and future human missions to Mars.
- Andhra Pradesh Science City signed a **5-year MoU** with CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research on March 30, 2026, to promote **science outreach, STEM education, and evidence-based policymaking**. The non-financial collaboration focuses on **science popularisation, research, and innovation policy**, aiming to bridge the gap between science and society. It will enhance **scientific temper, public awareness**, and support informed governance through improved communication of scientific knowledge.
- India has designated the **Bhavasagara Centre** at **Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology** as the **National Repository for Deep-Sea Fauna** under the **Biological Diversity Act, 2002**. Located in **Kochi**, it will preserve over **3,500 marine specimens**, support **deep-sea research**, and protect **marine biodiversity**. The initiative strengthens India's **blue economy**, enhances **scientific research**, and aligns with global ocean sustainability efforts, boosting the country's role in **marine conservation and exploration**.
- **Amaravati** will host India's **first quantum computer launch** on April 14, 2026, announced by Chief Minister **N Chandrababu Naidu**. The initiative, under the **Amaravati Quantum Valley** project and **National Quantum Mission**, aims to boost **innovation, startups, and advanced research**. Quantum computing will enable breakthroughs in **AI, cryptography, and drug discovery**, strengthening India's **self-reliance** and positioning it as a **global leader in next-generation technology**.
- Meta has launched its new AI model **Muse Spark**, designed to power its **Meta AI assistant** and enhance everyday tasks like **image-based analysis, question answering, and visual simulations**. The model will be integrated across platforms like **WhatsApp, Instagram, and Facebook**, expanding its reach. While praised for **reasoning, writing, and visual coding**, it has faced criticism from experts over **real-world performance**. Meta has acknowledged feedback, calling it a **first step** toward more advanced **AI innovation and superintelligence development**.
- **N. Chandrababu Naidu** will launch **India's first indigenous quantum computing testing facility** in **Amaravati** on April 14, 2026, coinciding with **World Quantum Day**. Set up at **SRM University Amaravati**, the facility marks a major step toward **self-reliance in advanced technology** and supports the **National Quantum Mission**. Part of the **Amaravati Quantum Valley**, it will feature cutting-edge technologies like **cryogenics and quantum hardware**, along with collaborations and an **IBM 133-qubit system**. The initiative aims to position India as a **global hub for quantum research, innovation, and high-tech development**.
- The **Indian Space Research Organisation** successfully conducted the **Gaganyaan IADT-02 (Integrated Air Drop Test)** on April 10, 2026, at **Satish Dhawan Space Centre**, marking a key milestone for India's **first human spaceflight mission**. A **5.7-tonne crew module** was dropped from 3 km using an **Indian Air Force Chinook helicopter** to test the **parachute-based landing system**. The test validated **multi-stage parachute deployment, controlled descent, and safe splashdown**, followed by successful recovery by the **Indian Navy** with support from **Defence Research and Development Organisation**. This confirms India's growing **readiness for human space missions** under the **Gaganyaan programme**.
- The Ahmedabad-based **AAKA Space Studio** has developed **Asia's first 3D-printed Mars radiation shield**, designed to protect astronauts from **harmful cosmic radiation** during long-term space missions. Tested in a Mars-like analog environment, the innovation uses **In-Situ Resource Utilisation (ISRU)**—building with **locally available materials** instead of transporting them from Earth—making space construction more **cost-effective and sustainable**. Using advanced **3D printing and robotic techniques**, the shield offers **radiation protection, thermal stability, and structural strength**, marking a major step toward **safe human habitation on Mars and the Moon**.
- **SARAL AI**, announced by **Jitendra Singh**, is an AI platform developed by **Anusandhan National Research Foundation** to convert **complex research papers** into **simple, multilingual content** across **18 Indian languages**. It generates **videos, podcasts, and social media posts**, making science accessible to the public. The initiative aims to boost **scientific awareness**, improve **research accessibility**, and bridge the gap between **innovation and society**, supporting India's growing **research and innovation ecosystem**.
- **N. Chandrababu Naidu** launched the **Amaravati Quantum Reference Facility** on **April 14, 2026**, India's first **indigenous open-access quantum computing platform**. Developed with institutions like **Indian Institute of Science and Defence Research and Development Organisation**, **AQRF** aims to boost **quantum research, innovation, and self-reliance**. Aligned with the **National Quantum Mission**, it strengthens India's **quantum ecosystem**, enabling advanced applications in **defence, healthcare, and technology development**.

- The Night Parrot has been rediscovered in Australia after more than a century, marking a major **scientific breakthrough**. Using **audio recorders, camera traps, and Indigenous knowledge**, researchers confirmed its presence in arid regions. The bird depends on **mature spinifex grass** for shelter and survival. However, threats like **wildfires and feral cats** continue to endanger it, while Dingo may help control predators. With only about **50 individuals identified**, the species remains highly **vulnerable**, requiring urgent conservation efforts.
- The Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur has launched the **Vikram Sodhi Centre of Excellence for AI-driven geological and mining systems**, backed by a **₹15 crore funding over five years**. The initiative aims to transform India's mining sector through **artificial intelligence and data-driven innovation**. Supported by industry collaboration, the centre will focus on the entire **mining value chain**, including exploration, planning, processing, and ESG analytics. It seeks to improve **efficiency, decision-making, and sustainability**, bridging gaps in mining technology and promoting **integrated, smart mining solutions** in India.
- Blue Origin achieved its first successful landing of a **reused New Glenn booster** on **April 20, 2026**, after launch from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station. The booster, '**Never Tell Me the Odds**', marked progress in **reusable rocket technology**, reducing space mission costs. However, the mission had **mixed results** as the **BlueBird 7 satellite**, developed by AST SpaceMobile, failed to reach its intended orbit and may **de-orbit**. The **New Glenn rocket** aims to support **heavy-lift missions**, competing with SpaceX in advancing **global connectivity and space exploration**.
- Ladakh will host India's first **Petroglyph Conservation Park** at Sindhu Ghat, launched on **April 18, 2026**, to protect **ancient rock carvings**. These **petroglyphs** reflect early **human life, culture, and beliefs**, featuring **hunting scenes, Buddhist symbols, and inscriptions**. Facing threats from **climate change, tourism, and infrastructure**, the park will enable **conservation, relocation, and public awareness**. Supported by Archaeological Survey of India, it ensures **scientific preservation and documentation**. The initiative strengthens **cultural heritage protection**, positioning Ladakh as a hub for **archaeological conservation and historical research**.
- A study by Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences has identified **India** as the origin of **Jamun (Syzygium)**, dating back nearly **80 million years**, challenging earlier **Australia–Southeast Asia theories**. Fossil evidence from **Himachal Pradesh** confirms early diversification, with species like **Syzygium paleosalicifolium**. Using **microscopy, morphological analysis, and statistical validation**, researchers traced its evolutionary history from **Paleogene to Neogene periods**. The findings suggest Jamun spread from India globally, reshaping understanding of **plant evolution, biodiversity, and continental migration**, and highlighting India's crucial role in **ancient ecological development and species diversification**.
- NASA has completed assembly of the **Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope** at Goddard Space Flight Center, marking a key milestone before its **2026 launch**. Considered a successor to Hubble Space Telescope and James Webb Space Telescope, it features **wide-field imaging**, capturing **100 times larger areas** and faster data collection. The mission will study **dark energy, galaxy evolution, and exoplanets**. Equipped with advanced instruments, it will detect **cosmic events and faint planets**, enhancing understanding of the universe's **expansion and structure**.

## SPORTS

- Sunil Narine became the **most-capped overseas player in IPL history** with **190 matches**, surpassing Kieron Pollard (189), achieving the feat on **March 29, 2026** at **Wankhede Stadium**. Playing exclusively for Kolkata Knight Riders since **2012 (₹3.4 crore signing)**, he has taken **192 wickets** and scored **1,780 runs**, including **1 century**, establishing himself as a key all-rounder and match-winner.
- Sheetal Devi, a **19-year-old archer from Jammu & Kashmir**, was named **Para Archer of the Year 2025** by World Archery. She became the **first armless female archer to win gold** at the **World Para Archery Championships (Gwangju)**, securing **gold, silver, and bronze medals**. She also won a **bronze at the Paris Paralympics** and silver medals at **Asian Para Games 2022** and **Asian Championships 2023**, showcasing exceptional talent.
- Khelo India Tribal Games 2026 concluded with Karnataka emerging as the **overall champion**, securing **23 gold medals**. Odisha and Jharkhand finished second and third respectively, while host Chhattisgarh ranked ninth. The event highlighted **tribal sporting talent and inclusivity**, with standout performances in swimming, athletics, and wrestling, marking a significant step in promoting **grassroots sports and cultural heritage** in India.
- Murali Sreeshankar won the **men's long jump** at the **Indian Athletics Series 2026** with an impressive **8.15m leap**, marking his **best performance after knee surgery (2024)**. Competing at **Kanteerava Stadium**, he was the only athlete to cross **8m**, highlighting a strong comeback after missing the **Paris Olympics 2024**. In the event, **Sunny Kumar (7.90m)** and **Purushotham (7.87m)** followed. In women's long jump, **Ancy Sojan (6.54m)** won, ahead of **Shaili Singh (6.52m)**, showcasing competitive performances.

- Bhuvneshwar Kumar became the **first fast bowler to take 200 wickets in the IPL**, achieving the milestone during the **RCB vs CSK match** by dismissing **Ayush Mhatre**. This historic feat stands out as **spinners dominate IPL wicket charts**, with Yuzvendra Chahal still leading overall. Bhuvneshwar, who debuted in **2011**, is also known for winning **back-to-back Purple Caps (2016 & 2017)**. His achievement highlights **consistency, skill**, and marks a major milestone in **IPL history**.
- Divya Singh achieved a remarkable feat by cycling to **Everest Base Camp (5,364m)** in just **14 days**, showcasing extraordinary **resilience** and **determination**. Starting from Kathmandu, she faced **freezing temperatures, low oxygen levels**, and **rugged terrain**, riding **10–12 hours daily**. Battling risks like **altitude sickness**, she completed a journey rarely attempted by cyclists. Her viral moment holding the **Indian flag** at the summit symbolizes **national pride, mental strength**, and the spirit of overcoming extreme challenges.
- Payal Nag, an **18-year-old from Odisha**, made history by becoming the **first quadruple amputee to win an international gold medal in archery**. After losing all limbs in an **electric shock accident**, she rebuilt her life through **determination and resilience**. Trained at the **Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Archery Academy**, she uses a **unique technique** with prosthetic support, shoulder, and mouth. She won gold at the **World Para Archery Series Final (Bangkok, April 4, 2026)**, defeating **Sheetal Devi (139–136)**, inspiring millions with her **courage and perseverance**.
- Blanka Vlašić has been appointed **Global Ambassador** for the TCS World 10K Bengaluru 2026, enhancing its **global appeal**. A former Olympic medalist, she aims to inspire runners with messages of **fitness, mental strength**, and **determination**. Scheduled for **April 26, 2026**, the event brings together **elite athletes and mass participants**, promoting **community spirit** and healthy living. Her presence adds prestige and motivates participants worldwide to engage in one of the **premier 10K races**.
- India delivered a strong performance at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2026, with Sujeet Kalkal (65kg) and Abhimanyu Mandwal (70kg) winning **gold medals**. Kalkal dominated with an **8–1 victory**, while Mandwal defeated an Olympian **5–3**. India secured **14 medals (2 gold, 4 silver, 8 bronze)**, showcasing **wrestling excellence, tactical strength**, and growing dominance at the continental level.
- Jannik Sinner defeated Carlos Alcaraz to win the Monte Carlo Masters 2026, claiming his first title there and regaining the **World No. 1 ranking**. He secured a **straight-sets victory (7–6, 6–3)**, extending a dominant run after wins at Indian Wells and Miami. The triumph highlights his **exceptional form**, strengthens the **Sinner–Alcaraz rivalry**, and establishes him as a leading force in modern tennis.
- Sawan Barwal set a new **Indian marathon record** at the Rotterdam Marathon 2026 on **April 12**, clocking **2:11:58** and breaking the **48-year-old record** of Shivnath Singh (1978). This historic feat marks a major boost for **Indian athletics**, reflecting improved **training standards** and rising **global competitiveness**. Barwal's achievement signals a new era in **long-distance running**, highlighting emerging talent from rural India and strengthening the country's presence on the international stage.
- Mitchell Starc and Deepti Sharma were named **Leading Cricketers in the World for 2025** by Wisden Cricketers' Almanack for their **exceptional performances**. Starc excelled in Tests and the **Ashes**, while Deepti starred in India's **Women's World Cup victory** with all-round brilliance. Indian players Shubman Gill, Ravindra Jadeja, and Rishabh Pant were also honored, highlighting India's strong impact in **global cricket**.
- Sanju Samson won the **ICC Men's Player of the Month (March 2026)** for his outstanding performances in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026. He scored **275 runs in three matches**, including match-winning fifties, playing a key role in India's **consecutive title win**. From a reserve player to a **tournament hero**, Samson's performance showcased **consistency, power-hitting, and composure under pressure**, earning him global recognition in cricket.
- Melie Kerr won the **ICC Women's Player of the Month (March 2026)** for the third time, following her outstanding **all-round performances**. She starred in series wins over Zimbabwe and South Africa, taking **16 wickets in ODIs** and scoring heavily in T20Is. As captain, Kerr's consistency and leadership have strengthened New Zealand Women's Cricket Team, cementing her status as one of the world's top **all-rounders**.
- R Vaishali won the **Women's Candidates Tournament 2026**, securing a place in the **Women's World Chess Championship**. She became the **second Indian woman** after Koneru Humpy to achieve this feat and will face Ju Wenjun. Her remarkable comeback—from lower rankings to champion—highlights **resilience, strategy, and rising Indian dominance in global chess**.
- The Mumbai Cricket Association has introduced a **structured player contract system** from the **2026–27 domestic season**, becoming the first in India to do so. The model includes **graded salaries (Grade A, B, C)** to ensure **financial stability** for **domestic cricketers**, especially those outside the IPL and international cricket. Eligible players must meet **fitness, registration, and selection criteria**, and should not have recent IPL or international exposure. Combined with **matched match fees alongside BCCI payments**, this initiative significantly boosts **player earnings**, encourages **consistent performance**, and strengthens the **domestic cricket ecosystem** in India.

- Shubhankar Sharma made a remarkable return to domestic golf by winning the **inaugural Boulders Classic 2026** at Boulder Hills Golf & Country Club. Competing in his first domestic event since 2021, he delivered a **dominant performance**, including an **8-under 64** round to seal victory. The win marks his comeback to the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) and reinforces his reputation as a **top Indian golfer**. This achievement highlights his **consistency, precision, and strong international experience**, making it a significant milestone in his career.
- The International Cricket Council has launched the **inaugural Women's T20I Challenge Trophy 2026** in Rwanda, starting April 18 in Kigali. The **five-nation tournament** features teams from Rwanda, Italy, Nepal, USA, and Vanuatu, played at Gahanga Cricket Stadium. Following a **double round-robin format**, it runs until May 2, 2026. The event aims to boost **women's cricket development**, provide **international exposure**, and strengthen **emerging cricket nations** through structured competition and global opportunities.
- Indian Institute of Technology Madras introduced **OmegaBall**, India's first **three-team football format**, showcasing innovation beyond academics. Played on a **circular field with three goals**, it allows teams to **attack two goals and defend one**, increasing **speed, interaction, and excitement**. The debut featured an **inter-college tournament** with major Chennai institutions. Popular globally in regions like the **US, Brazil, and Europe**, OmegaBall is gaining traction. Led by V. Kamakoti, the institute also proposed a **national OmegaBall Club**, aiming to promote **sports innovation, student engagement, and development of new-age competitive sports** in India.
- The ISSF Junior World Cup 2026 has begun in Cairo at the **Egypt International Olympic City**, marking the start of the **global junior shooting season**. Organized by International Shooting Sport Federation, the event features **rifle, pistol, and shotgun competitions**. India has fielded a strong **71-member contingent**, showcasing its depth in shooting talent. Key events include **10m Air Rifle and Air Pistol**. With top athletes like Shambhavi Kshirsagar and Shiva Narwal, India aims for **strong medal prospects and global dominance** in junior shooting.
- Abhishek Sharma created history in the Indian Premier League by becoming the first Indian to score **multiple centuries in under 50 balls**. Playing for Sunrisers Hyderabad against Delhi Capitals, he smashed a **47-ball century** and remained unbeaten on **135 runs**. His explosive innings, featuring **10 fours and 10 sixes**, powered his team to victory. Having earlier scored a **40-ball century**, he joins elite hitters like Chris Gayle, marking a significant milestone in **T20 cricket history and batting dominance**.
- Tashkent will host the **World Para Athletics Championships 2027** in **June**, marking the first time **Central Asia** hosts this global event. Organized by World Para Athletics under the International Paralympic Committee, the championship will be held at the **Olympic City Main Stadium**. It will feature **top para-athletes worldwide** and serve as a pathway to the **Paralympic Games**. The selection highlights **Uzbekistan's growing sports infrastructure and commitment to inclusivity**, expanding the event's **global reach and participation** in para sports.
- Athletics Integrity Unit has placed India in **Category A**, labeling it a **high-risk nation for doping violations** due to rising **Anti-Doping Rule Violations (ADRVs)** from **2022–2025**. This status mandates **stricter testing, enhanced monitoring, and global scrutiny** for Indian athletes. Concerns include **weak domestic anti-doping systems and enforcement gaps**. The Athletics Federation of India has accepted the decision and plans **stronger education, testing, and stricter penalties**. The move highlights urgent need to improve **sports integrity, compliance, and clean competition standards**.
- Virat Kohli became the first player in Indian Premier League history to reach **800 boundaries**, achieving the milestone against Gujarat Titans at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium. Representing Royal Challengers Bengaluru, he also crossed **300 sixes**, becoming the first cricketer to hit **300 sixes for a single IPL team**. Kohli remains the **highest run-scorer in IPL history**, showcasing unmatched **consistency and longevity**. This achievement further cements his legacy as one of the greatest players in T20 cricket and a dominant force in the league.

## BOOKS & AUTHORS

- Sudha Murty's book *Tides of Time: Bharat's History through Murals in Parliament* was unveiled by C. P. Radhakrishnan, showcasing India's **civilizational journey through 124 Parliament murals**. The book blends **art, history, and cultural heritage**, covering periods from the **Indus Valley Civilization to the freedom struggle**. It highlights India as the **'Mother of Democracy'** and presents history in an engaging, visual narrative, making it accessible and insightful for readers across generations.
- In April 2026, Businessman **R.T. Chari** released the updated edition of the autobiography **'A Road Well Travelled'**, authored by former Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Director **Raghava Krishnaswami (R.K. Raghavan)**, at a formal event in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, TN.
- PM Narendra Modi jointly released the book titled **'Saundarya Lahari and Shiva Mahimna Stotram'** along with former PM H. D. Deve Gowda in Mandya ("Sugar City").
- In April 2026, **Suman Bery**, Vice Chairman of the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog, launched the anthology titled **"Divya Bharat: A Window to the Soul of India"**, to promote India's tourism potential by showcasing its rich cultural heritage, traditions, and diverse destinations, in New Delhi, Delhi.

- **General Manoj Mukund Naravane (Retd)**, former Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), launched his new book titled **“The Curious and the Classified: Unearthing Military Myths and**

**Mysteries,”** published by Rupa Publications. He served as the 28th COAS from December 2019 to April 2022 and is also the author of **The Cantonment Conspiracy (2025).**

## OBITUARY

- Vijaypat Singhanian, former Chairman of Raymond Group, passed away at the age of **87**, marking the end of an era in India’s textile industry. Born on **October 4, 1938**, he led Raymond from **1980**, transforming it into a **global premium fabric brand**. A **Padma Bhushan awardee (2006)**, he was also a record-setting aviator. He handed leadership to Gautam Singhanian in **2000**, resolving later disputes in **2024**.
- Rahul Arunoday Banerjee, a noted Bengali actor, died at the age of **43** in a tragic drowning accident during a TV shoot near **Talsari, Digha** on **March 29, 2026**. He entered the sea for filming but failed to return and was later declared dead at a hospital. Mamata Banerjee expressed grief, calling him a “distinguished actor.” Known for films like **Zulfiqar, Na Hannayate, and Byomkesh Phire Elo**, his demise shocked the industry.
- Former Chandrikapersad Santokhi passed away on **March 30, 2026**, at the age of 67, marking the end of a significant political career. He served as President of Suriname (2020–2025) and was known for **economic reforms**, IMF-backed stabilization, and strong governance. A former police chief and justice minister, he strengthened **India-Suriname ties**. Narendra Modi expressed condolences, highlighting his global and diaspora contributions.
- Mohsina Kidwai, veteran Indian National Congress leader and former **Union Minister**, passed away at **94 in Noida** on April 8, 2026. With a **six-decade political career**, she served in multiple ministries and held positions across **Legislative Council, Assembly, Lok Sabha, and Rajya Sabha**. A trusted leader of **Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi**, she played a key role in party decision-making. Her demise marks the end of an era, remembered for her **dedication, leadership**, and contributions to **Indian politics**.
- **C. D. Gopinath**, India’s oldest Test cricketer, passed away at 96 in Chennai, marking the end of a historic era. He was the last surviving member of the team that secured India’s first-ever Test victory against England national cricket team in 1952. Gopinath played 8 Tests, scoring 242 runs, including an unbeaten 50 on debut at Brabourne Stadium. Beyond playing, he served as selector, selection committee chairman, and team manager. His contributions laid a strong foundation for Indian cricket, and his legacy remains deeply respected.
- India mourns the passing of **Sonam Wangchuk (Retd.)**, known as the **“Lion of Ladakh,”** who died at **61 in Leh** on April 10, 2026. A **Maha Vir Chakra** awardee, he became a hero during the Kargil War, leading troops in the **Batalik sector** under extreme conditions and securing key positions. His **courage, leadership, and tactical excellence** played a crucial role in early successes of the war. Remembered as a symbol of **bravery and patriotism**, his legacy continues to inspire generations of Indian soldiers.
- The legendary singer Asha Bhosle passed away on **April 12, 2026**, in **Mumbai** at 92 due to **multiple organ failure**, marking the end of an **eight-decade musical era**. Starting young, she rose to fame with **Naya Daur (1957)** and became known for her **versatility** across genres like **cabaret, ghazals, and classical music**. Honored with **Padma Vibhushan, Dadasaheb Phalke Award**, and a **Guinness World Record**, she leaves behind an unmatched **global musical legacy**.
- Oscar Schmidt, legendary basketball icon known as **“Holy Hand”**, passed away at **68**, leaving a lasting **global legacy**. A **Hall of Famer**, he played from **1974–2003**, becoming one of the **greatest international scorers** despite never joining the NBA. Representing **Brazil in five Olympics**, he scored over **1,000 points**, including a **record 55-point game**. His standout moment came in the **1987 Pan American Games**, leading Brazil to victory over the USA. Inducted into major **Hall of Fames**, his impact on **global basketball, scoring excellence, and national pride** remains unforgettable.
- Dr. Gopalrao Patil, renowned pediatrician and former **Rajya Sabha MP**, passed away on **April 21, 2026**, in **Latur** at **94**. Known as **“Devmanus”**, he dedicated his life to **child healthcare and social welfare**, providing **free medical services** in rural areas. Educated at Osmania University, he earned immense public trust. He also served in Parliament (1994–2000) and contributed to key committees. Founder of **Shiv Chhatrapati Shikshan Sanstha**, he promoted **education and pediatric care**. His legacy reflects **compassion, service, and lasting impact on community health and development**.
- Nadendla Bhaskar Rao passed away at **90 in Hyderabad**, marking the end of a long **political career**. He is best remembered for the **1984 ‘August Coup’**, when he briefly became Chief Minister during N. T. Rama Rao’s absence, triggering major **political unrest**. His tenure lasted just **31 days**, making it one of the shortest in state history. A lawyer-turned-politician, he served with multiple parties including **Congress, TDP, and BJP**. His legacy remains significant for its impact on **democratic norms and Andhra Pradesh politics**.
- Shiv Ratan Agarwal, Chairman and MD of Bikaji Foods International Ltd, passed away at **74 in Chennai**, marking a major loss to India’s **packaged food industry**. He founded Bikaji in **1993 in Bikaner**, transforming traditional snacks like **Bikaneri bhujia** into a **globally recognized brand**. Under his leadership, the company expanded across **India and international markets**. Known for promoting **Indian snacks worldwide**, his legacy includes **entrepreneurship, employment generation, and brand building**, leaving a lasting impact on India’s **FMCG sector and global food presence**.

- Gurbax Singh Grewal, a member of India's 1968 Olympic bronze medal-winning hockey team, passed away at 84 due to a heart attack. He played a key role in India's strong era in international hockey and represented the nation at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics alongside his brother Balbir Singh

Grewal—a rare sibling achievement. Beyond his playing career, he contributed as a sports officer with Western Railways, nurturing young talent. His legacy lives on through his contributions to Indian hockey and grassroots development, marking the end of an era.

### IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day / Observance	Theme / Description
April 1	Utkal Divas	Marks formation of Odisha (1936); celebrates linguistic identity and culture.
April 1	Reserve Bank of India Foundation Day	Established in 1935; focuses on monetary policy, inflation control, and financial stability.
April 2	World Autism Awareness Day	Theme: "Autism and Humanity – Every Life Has Value"; promotes inclusion and awareness.
April 3	Good Friday	Commemorates crucifixion of Jesus Christ; symbolizes sacrifice and redemption.
April 5	National Maritime Day	Theme: "Maritime India – Empowering Progress"; celebrates India's shipping and trade sector.
April 5	Easter Sunday	Celebrates resurrection of Jesus Christ; symbolizes hope and renewal.
April 6	International Day of Sport for Development and Peace	Theme: "Sport: Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers"; promotes peace and inclusion.
April 7	World Health Day	Theme: "Together for Health. Stand with Science"; highlights global health cooperation.
April 10	World Homoeopathy Day	Theme: "Homoeopathy for Sustainable Health"; marks birth of Samuel Hahnemann.
April 11	Jyotirao Phule Jayanti	200th birth anniversary year; promotes education, equality, and social reform.
April 11	National Safe Motherhood Day	Theme: "Equity in Maternal Healthcare: Leaving No Mother Behind"; focuses on maternal health.
April 13	Jallianwala Bagh Massacre Day	Remembers victims of 1919 massacre; symbolizes sacrifice and freedom struggle.
April 14	Ambedkar Jayanti	Honors B. R. Ambedkar; promotes equality and social justice.
April 14	Baisakhi	Harvest festival; marks Khalsa formation by Guru Gobind Singh.
April 14	Puthandu	Tamil New Year; symbolizes new beginnings and prosperity.
April 14	Bohag Bihu	Assamese New Year; celebrates agriculture, spring, and cultural identity.
April 15	Pohela Boishakh	Bengali New Year; promotes cultural unity and renewal.
April 15	Himachal Day	Marks formation of Himachal Pradesh (1948); celebrates statehood and development.
April 16	World Voice Day	Theme: "Caring for Our Voices"; promotes vocal health awareness.
April 17	World Hemophilia Day	Theme: "Diagnosis: First Step to Care"; raises awareness on bleeding disorders.
April 18	World Heritage Day	Theme: "Emergency Response for Living Heritage..."; promotes heritage conservation.
April 19	World Liver Day	Theme: "Solid Habits, Strong Liver"; focuses on liver health awareness.
April 21	National Civil Services Day	Honors civil servants; linked to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
April 21	World Creativity and Innovation Day	Theme: "Harnessing Creativity for Global Progress"; promotes innovation and SDGs.
April 22	Earth Day	Theme: "Our Power, Our Planet"; promotes environmental protection.
April 23	World Book and Copyright Day	Promotes reading and copyright; honors authors like Shakespeare.
April 23	English Language Day	Celebrates global use of English; linked to William Shakespeare.
April 24	National Panchayat Raj Day	Theme: "Sashakt Panchayat, Sarvangeen Vikas"; promotes local governance.
April 25	World Malaria Day	Theme: "Driven to End Malaria..."; focuses on disease prevention and awareness.

### Miscellaneous

- Yashoda and Krishna by Raja Ravi Varma has become **India's most expensive artwork**, selling for **₹167.20 crore** at a Mumbai auction. The masterpiece, depicting a **mythological scene of Yashoda and Krishna**, was खरीदी by Cyrus S. Poonawalla. This record-breaking sale highlights the **global recognition and rising value of Indian art**, setting a new benchmark and showcasing India's **rich artistic and cultural heritage**.

### Static Takeaways

Category	Entity	Key Details
Ministry	Ministry of Finance	Minister: Nirmala Sitharaman
Ministry	Ministry of Defence	Minister: Rajnath Singh
Ministry	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment	Minister: Virendra Kumar Khatik
Organization	World Trade Organization	Founded: 1995; HQ: Geneva; DG: Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala; Members: 166
Organization	Securities and Exchange Board of India	Estd: 1988; HQ: Mumbai; Chairman: Tuhin Kanta Pandey
Organization	Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India	Founded: 1999; HQ: Hyderabad; Chairperson: Ajay Seth
Organization	World Anti-Doping Agency	Founded: 1999; HQ: Montreal, Canada
Organization	Institute of Chartered Accountants of India	Founded: 1949; HQ: New Delhi; President: Charanjot Singh Nanda
Organization	Competition Commission of India	Founded: 2003; HQ: New Delhi; Chairperson: Ravneet Kaur
Organization	UNESCO	Founded: 1945; HQ: Paris; DG: Khaled El-Enany
Organization	International Olympic Committee	Founded: 1894; HQ: Lausanne; President: Kirsty Coventry
Organization	World Bank	President: Ajay Banga
Organization	International Cricket Council	Chairman: Jay Shah
Bank	Bank of Baroda	Founded: 1908; HQ: Vadodara; CEO: Debadatta Chand
Bank	Reserve Bank of India	Governor: Sanjay Malhotra
Bank	State Bank of India	MD: Challa Sreenivasalu Setty
State	Uttar Pradesh	CM: Yogi Adityanath; Governor: Anandiben Patel; Capital: Lucknow
State	Telangana	CM: Anumula Revanth Reddy; Governor: Shiv Pratap Shukla; Capital: Hyderabad
State	Gujarat	CM: Bhupendra Patel; Governor: Acharya Devvrat; Capital: Gandhinagar
State	Arunachal Pradesh	CM: Pema Khandu; Capital: Itanagar
State	Andhra Pradesh	CM: N. Chandrababu Naidu; Governor: Abdur Nazeer
State	Bihar	CM: Samrat Chaudhary; Governor: Arif Khan
State	Karnataka	CM: Siddaramaiah; Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot
State	Meghalaya	CM: Conrad Sangma
State	Punjab	CM: Bhagwant Mann; Governor: Gulab Chand Kataria
UT	Delhi	CM: Rekha Gupta; LG: Vinai Kumar Saxena; Capital: New Delhi
Country	Myanmar	Capital: Naypyidaw; President: Aung Hlaing
Country	Mongolia	Capital: Ulaanbaatar; PM: Nyam-Osoryn Uchral
Country	Italy	Capital: Rome; President: Sergio Mattarella; Currency: Euro
Country	Russia	President: Vladimir Putin; Capital: Moscow
Country	China	President: Xi Jinping; Capital: Beijing
Country	United States	President: Donald Trump; Currency: USD
Country	United Kingdom	PM: Keir Starmer; Currency: Pound
Country	France	President: Emmanuel Macron; Currency: Euro
Country	Israel	PM: Benjamin Netanyahu
Regulatory	Chief Election Commissioner	Gyanesh Kumar
Company	Policybazaar	CEO: Sajja Chaudhary
Company	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited	CMD: Sanjay Khanna
Company	Adani Group	Chairman: Gautam Adani
Company	Reliance Industries	Chairman: Mukesh Ambani