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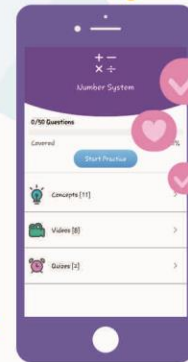
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ARTICLES

T-20 World 2026 Champions – INDIA

India won the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026. This is the 3rd T20 World Cup title and the 2nd consecutive title. The final match was played between India & New Zealand on 8th March 2026 at Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad. India won this by 96 runs. This year, 20 teams have participated in 4 groups.



T20 World Cup Winners List from 2007 to 2026

The latest 11th edition of the T20 World Cup was played from 7 February to 8 March 2026. India won the Men's ICC T20 Cricket World Cup 2026. With this, India became the first team to win the T20 World Cup 3 times. The final match was played between 2 best teams of the tournament, India and New Zealand. India won this by 96 runs.

Year	Winner
2007	India
2009	Pakistan
2010	England
2012	West Indies
2014	Sri Lanka
2016	West Indies
2021	Australia
2022	England
2024	India
2026	India

The ICC T20 World Cup takes place once every two years. The T20 World Cup winners list will help you to increase your sports general knowledge. The detailed analysis of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup winners list, runner-up, Player of the Series, Top Run Scorer, Highest Wicket Taker, and Venue is given below:

Year	Winner	Runner's Up	Player of the Series	Top Run Scorer	Highest Wicket Taker	Venue
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2026	India	New Zealand		Sahibzada Farhan	Jasprit Bumrah	India & Sri Lanka
2024	India	South Africa	Jasprit Bumrah	Rahmanullah Gurbaz	Arshdeep Singh	Barbados
2022	England	Pakistan	Sam Curran	Virat Kohli	Wanindu Hasaranga	Australia
2021	Australia	New Zealand	--	Babar Azam	Wanindu Hasaranga	Oman & UAE
2016	West Indies	England	Virat Kohli	Tamim Iqbal	Mohammad Nabi	India
2014	Sri Lanka	India	Virat Kohli	Virat Kohli	Ahsan Malik and Imran Tahir	Bangladesh
2012	West Indies	Sri Lanka	Shane Watson	Shane Watson	Ajantha Mendis	Sri Lanka
2010	England	Australia	Kevin Pietersen	Mahela Jayawardene	Dirk Nannes	West Indies
2009	Pakistan	Sri Lanka	Tillakaratne Dilshan	Tillakaratne Dilshan	Umar Gul	England
2007	India	Pakistan	Shahid Afridi	Matthew Hayden	Umar Gul	South Africa

T20 Cricket World Cup Winners List- Country-wise

If we talk about the best men's cricket team in the T20 World Cup, India is the best T20 team with 3 titles till now, followed by West Indies and England won it twice. Team India won the **ICC T20 World Cup thrice in 2007, 2024 and 2026**. Let's have a look at the country-wise T20 World Cup winners list from 2007 to 2026.

Country Name	No. of times Winner	Year
West Indies	2	2012, 2016
India	3	2007, 2024, 2026
Pakistan	1	2009
England	2	2010, 2022
Sri Lanka	1	2014
Australia	1	2021

President Murmu Appoints New Governors & Lieutenant Governors in India

Droupadi Murmu, the President of India, has approved a major reshuffle involving Governors and Lieutenant Governors across several Indian states and Union Territories. The announcement was made on **March 6, 2026**, through an official statement issued by Rashtrapati Bhavan.



Major changes include:

- Shiv Pratap Shukla has been transferred from Himachal Pradesh to serve as the **Governor of Telangana**.
- Jishnu Dev Varma has been moved from Telangana and appointed **Governor of Maharashtra**.
- Nand Kishore Yadav has been appointed **Governor of Nagaland**.
- Syed Ata Hasnain, a retired Lieutenant General of the Indian Army, has been appointed **Governor of Bihar**.

Changes in Lieutenant Governors of Delhi and Ladakh

The reshuffle also affects leadership in the Union Territories of **Delhi and Ladakh**.

Key appointments include:

- Vinai Kumar Saxena, the current Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, has been appointed **Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh**.

- Taranjit Singh Sandhu, former Indian Ambassador to the United States, has been appointed the **new Lieutenant Governor of Delhi**.

New Governors for West Bengal and Tamil Nadu

Following the resignation of C. V. Ananda Bose, West Bengal will have a new Governor. Leadership changes have also been announced for Tamil Nadu.

Key decisions include:

- R. N. Ravi, currently Governor of Tamil Nadu, has been appointed **Governor of West Bengal**.
- Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, currently Governor of Kerala, will **discharge the functions of Governor of Tamil Nadu**.

Changes in Himachal Pradesh and Nagaland

The reshuffle also impacts leadership in the Himalayan and northeastern regions.

Oscars 2026: The 98th Academy Awards

The 98th Academy Awards, held on March 15, 2026, at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, will be remembered as the year of the "battle." In a historic showdown between two powerhouse films, **Paul Thomas Anderson's *One Battle After Another*** emerged as the night's biggest victor, securing six Oscars including Best Picture and Best Director.



The Big Winners

Category	Winner	Film
Best Picture	Paul Thomas Anderson & Sara Murphy	<i>One Battle After Another</i>
Best Director	Paul Thomas Anderson	<i>One Battle After Another</i>
Best Actor	Michael B. Jordan	<i>Sinners</i>
Best Actress	Jessie Buckley	<i>Hamnet</i>
Best Supporting Actor	Sean Penn	<i>One Battle After Another</i>
Best Supporting Actress	Amy Madigan	<i>Weapons</i>
Best Original Screenplay	Ryan Coogler	<i>Sinners</i>
Best Adapted Screenplay	Paul Thomas Anderson	<i>One Battle After Another</i>

Evening Highlights & Milestones

Hosted for the second consecutive year by **Conan O'Brien**, the ceremony balanced Hollywood glamour with historic "firsts."

- **A Historic First for Casting:** For the first time in Academy history, a competitive Oscar was awarded for **Achievement in Casting**. The inaugural trophy went to **Cassandra Kulukundis** for *One Battle After Another*.
- **Cinematography Record:** **Autumn Durald Arkapaw** made history as the first woman to win Best Cinematography for her work on *Sinners*.
- **A Rare Tie:** The category for **Best Live Action Short Film** resulted in a rare tie between *The Singers* and *Two People Exchanging Saliva*, marking only the seventh tie in Oscar history.

India Announces New Income Tax Rules Under 2025 Act

The **Income Tax Act, 2025** is a landmark overhaul of India's direct tax framework, officially replacing the 64-year-old Income Tax Act of 1961. Passed in August 2025 and effective from **April 1, 2026**, the new law focuses on structural simplification, digital-first compliance, and reducing litigation rather than just tweaking tax rates.



1. Structural & Conceptual Overhaul

The most significant change is the move from a complex, amendment-heavy law to a leaner, modernized code.

- **"Tax Year" Integration:** The Act eliminates the confusing "Financial Year" vs. "Assessment Year" distinction. It introduces a single **"Tax Year"** (April 1 to March 31), making reporting more intuitive.
- **Leaner Code:** The number of sections has been slashed from **819 to 536**, and chapters reduced from **47 to 23**. The total word count has been nearly halved to improve readability.
- **Formula-Based Clarity:** For the first time, the Act includes **40 standardized formulas** and **39 tables** within the legal text to replace dense legalese.

2. New Tax Slabs (Effective FY 2025-26 / Tax Year 2026)

The **New Tax Regime** remains the default choice, with slabs restructured to provide significant relief to the middle class.

New Tax Regime Slabs

Income Range (₹)	Tax Rate
Up to 4,00,000	Nil
4,00,001 – 8,00,000	5%
8,00,001 – 12,00,000	10%
12,00,001 – 16,00,000	15%
16,00,001 – 20,00,000	20%
20,00,001 – 24,00,000	25%
Above 24,00,000	30%

3. Major Changes for Salaried Taxpayers

While the new regime is the focus, the **Income Tax Rules, 2026** (notified in March 2026) have introduced specific updates that may make the **Old Regime** attractive for some:

- **HRA Expansion:** The 50% HRA exemption limit (previously limited to Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai) has been extended to **Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune, and Ahmedabad**.

- **Allowance Hikes (Old Regime only):**
 - **Children's Education Allowance:** Increased from ₹100 to **₹3,000 per month.**
 - **Hostel Allowance:** Increased from ₹300 to **₹9,000 per month.**
 - **Meal Vouchers:** Tax-free limit per meal increased from ₹50 to **₹200.**
- **Stricter HRA Reporting:** If your annual rent exceeds **₹1 Lakh**, you must now disclose your **relationship with the landlord** (e.g., parent, spouse) to prevent fictitious claims.

4. Digital Assets & Tech Integration

The 2025 Act formally integrates the digital economy into the tax code.

- **Virtual Digital Assets (VDA):** The definition now explicitly covers cryptocurrencies, NFTs, and assets on cryptographic ledgers. These are taxed at a flat **30%** with no deductions allowed.
- **Digital "Search" Powers:** Tax authorities now have the legal architecture to include "Virtual Digital Spaces"—such as cloud storage, private email servers, and social media—during search and seizure operations.

5. Administrative & Compliance Reforms

- **PAN Requirements:** The threshold for quoting PAN in high-value transactions has been revised. For instance, PAN is mandatory for hotel bills over **₹1 Lakh** (up from ₹50k) and immovable property transactions over **₹20 Lakh** (up from ₹10k).
- **Dispute Resolution:** The Act mandates that tax officials provide clearer, written justifications for orders to reduce arbitrary litigation.
- **Updated Returns:** Taxpayers now have a **4-year window** (up from 2 years) to file updated returns to correct errors or omit income voluntarily.

Comparison: 1961 Act vs. 2025 Act

Feature	Income Tax Act, 1961	Income Tax Act, 2025
Language	Dense, archaic legalese	Simplified, "Plain English"
Structure	800+ Sections	536 Sections
Terminology	Financial/Assessment Year	Single "Tax Year"
Default Regime	Old Regime (historically)	New Regime (Codified Default)
Standard Deduction	₹50,000	₹75,000

Philippines Declares Energy Emergency Amid Iran Conflict: Fuel Crisis

On March 24, 2026, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. officially declared a **State of National Energy Emergency** through Executive Order No. 110. The declaration comes in response to the escalating conflict in the Middle East involving Iran, Israel, and the United States, which has severely disrupted global oil supply chains and sent domestic fuel prices soaring.

The Crisis Overview

- **Cause:** The conflict, which escalated following a joint U.S.-Israeli offensive on February 28, has led to a near-total blockade of the **Strait of Hormuz**. This maritime chokepoint is critical for the Philippines, which relies on the Gulf region for approximately 90% to 98% of its oil imports.
- **Fuel Scarcity:** As of late March, the Department of Energy reported that the country's fuel reserves have dwindled to approximately **45 to 53 days**.
- **Price Surge:** Since the start of the conflict, pump prices for diesel and gasoline have more than doubled, with some rates
-



in Metro Manila exceeding **120 pesos (\$2) per liter**.

- **Economic Impact:** The Philippine peso has slumped to become one of the worst-performing currencies in Asia this month, and the stock market has dropped nearly 9%.

Key Measures under Executive Order 110

The emergency declaration, effective for one year, activates a "whole-of-government" approach to stabilize the economy:

1. **Emergency Procurement:** The government is authorized to bypass standard lengthy bidding processes to procure fuel and petroleum products. It can also make advance payments exceeding the usual 15% limit to secure supply.
2. **UPLIFT Framework:** The "Unified Package for Livelihoods, Industry, Food,

and Transport" was launched to provide targeted relief and subsidies to the transport and agricultural sectors.

3. **Conservation Policies:** *

Government offices have been directed to implement energy-saving measures, such as a **four-day workweek**.

- Air-conditioning use in state buildings is being restricted.
- Many schools and universities in affected

regions have shifted back to **online classes** to reduce transport demand.

4. **Anti-Hoarding & Price**

Monitoring: The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) have been deployed to prevent fuel hoarding and "profiteering" by gas station operators.

International Diplomacy and New Sources

To address the immediate shortage, the administration is exploring non-traditional energy sources:

- **Russian Oil:** President Marcos confirmed that the Philippines is exploring the possibility of importing crude oil from Russia.
- **Sanction Waivers:** The Philippine ambassador to the U.S. is currently in talks with the State Department to seek waivers that would allow Manila to purchase oil from sanctioned countries, potentially including **Iran and Venezuela**.
- **Regional Cooperation:** Discussions are ongoing with China and neighboring Southeast Asian nations to secure additional buffer stocks of approximately 1 million barrels.

NATIONAL NEWS



MARCH 2026

Tripura launched 1st incubation & innovation hub "T-Nest"

- First-of-its-Kind State Innovation Mission: Launched under the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM 2.0) by NITI Aayog, this initiative makes Tripura a pioneer in institutionalizing innovation at the state level. It aims to decentralize the startup ecosystem from metropolitan hubs to the grassroots, focusing on "Make from Tripura" solutions and transforming local talent into scalable enterprises.
- Inclusive "Government-as-First-Customer" Model: A standout feature of T-NEST is its focus on social and regional inclusion, with dedicated innovation centers planned across all eight districts for women and tribal communities.

Union Minister Launches Upgraded RAJMARG PRAVESH Web Portal

- Single-Window Digital Approval: The portal serves as a centralized, "one-stop shop" for obtaining No Objection Certificates (NOCs). It eliminates the need for physical visits to government offices, allowing individuals and businesses to submit documents, pay fees, and receive approvals entirely online.
- Comprehensive Coverage for Stakeholders: It streamlines permissions for a wide range of activities, including access to fuel stations, wayside amenities (dhabas/rest areas), and private

properties. It also caters to both government and private agencies for laying essential utilities like optical fiber cables, gas pipelines, and water lines along National Highways.

Jio Finance Launches AI-Backed Mobile App 'Finsider'

- Hyper-Personalization via Agentic AI: Moving away from a "one-size-fits-all" model, the app uses 15 AI agents and 70 decision engines to create a dynamic home screen tailored to each user's profile. Instead of scrolling through menus, users can use a Natural Language Interface to simply type their financial needs to get instant, computed recommendations.
- The 'Finsider' Early Access Program: To refine the experience before a full public rollout, Jio launched 'Finsider,' an invitation-only program. Members get first access to new features and can earn JioPoints for transactions and feedback, which are redeemable for various rewards.

Footnotes: Jio's Chairman: Akash Ambani, **HQ:** Mumbai, **Estd:** 2007

Karnataka proposes social media ban for children U-16 in Budget

- Policy Objective: The ban targets children under the age of 16 to combat the "adverse effects" of increasing mobile usage, specifically addressing concerns over mental health, digital addiction, and online safety. If implemented, Karnataka will be

the first state in India to introduce such a restriction.

- Wider Educational Context: The proposal is part of a broader educational strategy that includes the "Mobile Bidi, Pustaka Hidi" (Leave the phone, pick a book) campaign. To balance this restriction, the budget also allocated funds for a personalized digital tutoring system developed with IIT Dharwad for students in Classes 8–12.
- Implementation & Global Trend: While the budget outlines the intent, specific enforcement mechanisms—such as mandatory age verification or platform penalties—are yet to be finalized.

Footnotes: Karnataka's Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot, **CM:** Siddaramaiah, **Capital:** Bengaluru

Tamil Nadu Launches First Dark Sky Park in Kolli Hills

- Pristine Stargazing Environment: Located at an altitude of over 1,000 meters, the park is situated in a "no-light-pollution" zone. A 1.5 km radius around the site is strictly protected from artificial light, providing exceptionally clear views of the Milky Way, Saturn's rings, and Jupiter's Great Red Spot.
- High-Tech & Sustainable Infrastructure: Established at a cost of ₹1 crore, the facility is equipped with three advanced, GPS-enabled computerized Schmidt-Cassegrain telescopes that gather 820 times more light than the human eye. To maintain its "green" status, the entire observation center is powered by solar energy.

Varanasi Creates Guinness Record for Mega Plantation Campaign

- **World Record for Speed and Scale:** Varanasi successfully planted 2,51,446 saplings within just one hour in the Sujabad Domari area. This feat comfortably surpassed the previous record held by China (Henan Provincial Committee), which had planted 1,53,981 saplings in an hour back in 2018.
- **The "Namo Van" Urban Forest:** The drive was part of a larger project to develop a 350-bigha (approx. 220 acres) urban forest named 'Namo Van' on the banks of the Ganga. The area is divided into 60 sectors, each named after a famous ghat of Kashi, creating a "Mini Kashi" of greenery.

Union Minister Announces New Seed Act 2026

- **Digital Traceability & QR Codes:** To combat the menace of fake and standard seeds, the Act mandates a nationwide traceability system. Every commercial seed packet must carry a QR code that allows farmers to scan and instantly access details regarding the seed's origin, producer, dealer, and quality certification.
- **Stringent Penalties for Spurious Seeds:** The Act adopts a "zero tolerance" policy toward fraudulent seeds. Penalties have been drastically increased from nominal fines to up to ₹30 lakh and imprisonment for up to three years.
- **Protection of Farmers' Traditional Rights:** While the Act mandates the registration of all commercial seed varieties and companies, it explicitly protects

the rights of farmers to save, use, exchange, and share traditional, unbranded seeds within their communities without any legal restrictions or registration requirements.

Micron Opens World's Largest Semiconductor Clean Room

- **Strategic \$2.75 Billion Investment:** The project represents a combined investment of \$2.75 billion from Micron and government partners.
- **Immediate Commercial Impact:** Commercial production has already begun, with the first shipment of "Made-in-India" memory modules delivered to Dell Technologies.

Kolli Hills Gets Tamil Nadu's First Dark Sky Park

- **Strategic Location at Ariyur Shola:** The park is situated within the Ariyur Shola Reserve Forest, chosen for its high altitude and exceptionally low levels of artificial light pollution. A 1.5 km radius around the site is strictly maintained as a no-light zone, offering crystal-clear views of the Milky Way, star clusters, and planets like Saturn and Jupiter.
- **High-Tech Infrastructure & Sustainability:** Established at a cost of ₹1 crore, the facility is equipped with three advanced, computerized telescopes. To remain eco-friendly, the entire site is powered by solar energy and operates seasonally from January 15 to June 15 to ensure optimal visibility.
- **Structured Astro-Tourism Model:** Managed by the Forest Department, the park offers three tiers of access: a "Short Stargazing" evening session

(₹600), a stay-and-stargaze package at Agaya Gangai eco-huts (₹1,800), and whole-night camps (₹3,000) held during the New Moon phase.

India's First AI-Driven Skill Census 'Saksham' Launched in Mumbai

- **Hyperlocal Skill Mapping:** The census is being piloted in the H-West Ward (Bandra West, Khar West, and Santacruz West), covering approximately 55,000 households. Enumerators use an AI-supported tool called "Arc" to conduct door-to-door surveys, capturing data on educational qualifications, vocational interests, and the specific training needs of youth aged 18 to 40.
- **Direct Path to Self-Reliance:** The initiative goes beyond data collection; the government aims to use the findings to train 15,000 candidates by 2027.

Andhra Pradesh Launches 'HANUMAN' Project

- **Technology & Rapid Response:** The project deploys 100 specialized, GPS-enabled vehicles—comprising 93 Rapid Response units and 7 Wildlife Ambulances. These are supported by an AI-based early warning system and a dedicated mobile app to track animal movements and alert forest-fringe villages in real-time.
- **Community-Led "Vajra" Teams:** A key feature is the formation of village-level "Vajra" (Wildlife Rakshak) teams. These consist of trained local volunteers equipped with rescue kits to handle minor incursions (like snake rescues) and manage situations locally before specialist teams arrive, reducing both panic and retaliatory killings.

FEBRUARY 2026

Patna Bird Sanctuary in UP designated as Ramsar wetlands



- **Smallest Sanctuary, Huge Impact:** Spanning only about 1.09 square kilometers, Patna Bird Sanctuary is the smallest bird sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh. Despite its size, it is a biodiversity hotspot that hosts over 180 species of birds and more than 250 plant species.
- **Critical Habitat on the Central Asian Flyway:** The site serves as a vital wintering ground for over 60,000 migratory birds annually. It is particularly known for supporting significant populations of the Northern Pintail, Rosy Pelican, and the endangered Sarus Crane.

Maharashtra won Best Tableau category

- **Winning Theme:** The tableau was titled "Ganeshotsav: A Symbol of Aatmanirbharta" (Self-Reliance). It creatively portrayed the Ganesh festival not just as a religious event, but as a historical tool for community participation and economic self-reliance.
- **Judges' Choice:** Maharashtra secured the first prize in the States/Union Territories category (Judges' Choice), followed by Jammu & Kashmir (Handicrafts and Folk Dances) in second place and Kerala (Water Metro) in third.

India digitises Vintage Pechora Missile System

- **Indigenous Digital Overhaul:** Led by the Bengaluru-based firm Alpha Design Technologies, the upgrade replaced outdated analogue valve-and-transistor electronics with modern digital chips and a new radar transmitter. This has significantly improved target acquisition speed, tracking accuracy, and resistance to electronic jamming.
- **Integration into "Mission Sudarshan Chakra":** The digitized Pechora is now integrated with the IAF's Integrated Air Command and Control System (IACCS). This allows it to function as a networked component of India's multi-layered air defense grid, capable of neutralizing modern threats such as low-flying drones and cruise missiles.

PFRDA launched NPS Swasthya Pension Scheme

- **Integrated Medical Corpus:** The scheme allows subscribers to build a dedicated fund specifically for medical expenses. Unlike traditional NPS, these funds can be used for both outpatient (OPD) and inpatient (IPD) costs. Existing non-government subscribers over the age of 40 can transfer up to 30% of their current NPS contributions into this new account.
- **Flexible Withdrawal Rules:** To ensure liquidity for health emergencies, PFRDA has relaxed standard withdrawal norms. Subscribers can make partial withdrawals of up to 25% of their own contributions once their corpus reaches ₹50,000. There is no limit on the number of withdrawals or a mandatory waiting period.

Gujarat CM Launches 'Mukhyamantri Gramotthan Yojana'

- **Urban Facilities for Rural Areas:** The scheme aims to provide urban-style infrastructure to villages, including high-quality roads, underground drainage, solar street lighting, community halls, and digital e-Gram services to reduce the rural-urban divide.
- **Grassroots Governance Boost:** Alongside the launch, the CM laid foundation stones for 2,666 Gram Panchayat Ghar-cum-Talati Awas buildings (worth ₹663 crore), ensuring that local administrators have dedicated spaces to live and work within the villages they serve.

Gujarat emerged as India's top Renewable Energy

- **National Leader in Capacity:** Gujarat has become the largest contributor to India's renewable energy (RE), holding a 16.5% share of the national total with an installed capacity of 42.583 GW. It currently ranks #1 in wind power and #1 in total RE capacity nationwide.
- **Rooftop Solar Hub:** The state leads the country in rooftop solar adoption, with over 11 lakh (1.1 million) installations generating roughly 6,413 MW. This accounts for more than 25% of India's total rooftop solar output, driven by the success of the Surya Gujarat and PM Surya Ghar schemes.

IR Launched 1st-ever LNG diesel dual-fuel DEMU Train

- **Significant Diesel Substitution:** The modified 1,400 HP train uses a dual-fuel system where Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)

replaces approximately 40% of traditional diesel consumption, without any loss in engine performance or reliability.

- **Operational Range & Future Scaling:** Equipped with a 2,200-liter LNG tank, the train can cover up to 222 km daily on a single refill. Following the success of field trials (over 2,000 km), Indian Railways plans to convert eight more DEMU units to this dual-fuel mode.
- **Economic & Environmental Impact:** The initiative is expected to save nearly ₹24 lakh annually per 8-coach rake. It also significantly reduces carbon dioxide (\$CO_2\$), nitrogen oxides (\$NO_x\$), and particulate matter, drastically improving air quality along rail routes.

Chhari-Dhand Designated as India's 98th Ramsar Site

- **Unique Desert Ecosystem:** Spread over 227 sq. km, Chhari-Dhand (meaning "saline shallow lake") is a unique seasonal wetland situated between the arid Banni grasslands and the marshy Rann of Kutch. It is the first Ramsar site in Kutch and the fifth in Gujarat.
- **Global Biodiversity Hub:** It serves as a critical stopover on the Central Asian Flyway, hosting nearly 2 lakh birds including migratory species like the Common Crane, Great White Pelican, and Greater Flamingo. It also supports endangered wildlife like the Desert Fox, Caracal, and Wolf.
- **India's Rising Status:** With the simultaneous addition of Chhari-Dhand and the Patna Bird Sanctuary (UP), India now holds 98 Ramsar sites—ranking 1st in Asia and 3rd globally for the total number of recognized

wetlands of international importance.

Sunetra Pawar sworn in as Maharashtra Deputy CM

- **A Historic First:** Sunetra Pawar has become the first woman to hold the post of Deputy Chief Minister in Maharashtra's history. She was sworn in by Governor Acharya Devvrat at Raj Bhavan in a ceremony attended by CM Devendra Fadnavis.
- **Key Portfolio Allocation:** Transitioning from her role as a Rajya Sabha MP, she has been assigned high-visibility portfolios including State Excise, Sports and Youth Welfare, and Minority Development. The crucial Finance portfolio, previously held by her husband, has been temporarily taken over by CM Fadnavis.

Footnotes: Maharashtra's Governor: Acharya Devvrat, Capital: Mumbai

Govt issues New Customs Baggage Regulations, 2026

- **Significant Hike in Duty-Free Limits:** The general duty-free allowance for Indian residents and tourists of Indian origin arriving by air or sea has been increased from ₹50,000 to ₹75,000. For foreign tourists, the limit has been raised from ₹15,000 to ₹25,000. These limits apply to items carried in accompanied baggage for personal use.
- **Rationalized Jewellery & Laptop Allowances:** For the first time, jewellery allowances are now based solely on weight rather than value to account for fluctuating gold prices. Returning residents (abroad for >1 year)

can bring 40g (females) and 20g (others) duty-free. Additionally, the rules now explicitly permit one new laptop duty-free for any passenger aged 18 or older.

- **Reduced Duty on Excess Goods:** In a major relief for shoppers, the Union Budget 2026 slashed the customs duty on "personal imports" (goods exceeding the free limit) from 20% to 10%. This effectively halves the tax burden for travelers bringing home high-end electronics or luxury goods beyond their ₹75,000 quota.

Adampur Airport Renamed Sri Guru Ravidas Maharaj Ji Airport



- **Cultural Significance:** The renaming honors Sri Guru Ravidas Ji, a revered social reformer whose teachings on equality and human rights have a profound influence in the Doaba region, where the airport is located.
- **Infrastructure Expansion:** The renaming coincided with the full operationalization of the airport's new terminal building, which was built at a cost of approximately 150 crore. This expansion allows the airport to handle up to 300 passengers during peak hours.
- **Boost to Religious Tourism:** This move is expected to significantly increase domestic and international footfall as the airport serves as a primary gateway for pilgrims visiting the Dera Sachkhand Ballan.

JANUARY 2026

India Develops 3D-Printed Automatic Weather Stations



- These stations are developed by scientists at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, under the ₹2,000-crore Mission Mausam.
- By using 3D-printing (additive manufacturing), the production cost and time are significantly reduced compared to traditional stations.
- These solar-powered stations track temperature, humidity, wind, and rainfall in real-time, enabling "neighborhood-level" weather alerts.

Lt. Governor Kavinder Gupta launches Ladakh Sports Policy 2025

- The policy creates a dedicated Ladakh Sports Council to serve as the institutional backbone for sports development.
- It outlines significant financial rewards, including cash prizes of up to ₹1 crore for Olympic gold medalists, along with monthly scholarships and out-of-turn promotions for athletes and coaches.
- There is a specific emphasis on para-athletes and women sportspersons, ensuring equal access to world-class training.

Footnotes: Ladakh's Lt. Governor: Kavinder Gupta, Capital: Leh

Assam Becomes 1st State to Constitute 8th State PC

- Assam is the first state to take this step ahead of the scheduled expiry of the 7th Pay Commission.
- The commission is headed by Subhas Das, former Additional Chief Secretary of Assam. It is tasked with reviewing and recommending revisions for the salaries, allowances, and pensions.
- The commission has been given a mandate to submit its report within 18 months (around mid-2027).

Footnotes: Assam's Governor: Lakshman Acharya, CM: Himanta Biswa Sarma, Capital: Dispur

Revati Mohite Becomes Meghalaya's First Woman Chief Justice

- Historic Appointment & Swearing-In: Justice Dere was administered the oath of office by Meghalaya Governor Chandrashekhar H. Vijayashankar at the Durbar Hall of Lok Bhavan in Shillong.
- Distinguished Career at Bombay High Court: Before her elevation, she served as a senior judge at the Bombay High Court for over 12 years (since 2013).

Footnotes: Meghalaya's CM: Conrad Sangma, Governor: C. H. Vijayashankar, Capital: Shillong

Justice Soumen Sen Sworn in as Chief Justice Kerala

- Oath of Office: Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar administered the oath to Justice Sen at a ceremony held at Lok Bhavan, Thiruvananthapuram, in the presence of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.
- Judicial Succession: He succeeds Justice Nitin Madhukar Jamdar, who retired on January 9, 2026, after serving as the Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court.

Footnotes: Kerala's Governor: Rajendra Arlekar, Capital: Thiruvananthapuram, Estd: 1956

Mizoram declared as 'Ginger Capital of India'

- Production Excellence & Scale: The state produced over 60,000 tonnes of ginger in the 2024–25 season, and in 2025 alone, the state government procured 3.38 crore kg.
- Flagship 'Bana Kaih' Scheme: Under this "Handholding Scheme," the state government provides a Minimum Support Price (MSP) of ₹50 per kg for ginger.
- Infrastructure & Processing: To support this status, a new Ginger Processing Unit was inaugurated at the Sairang Horticulture Centre on January 13, 2026.

Footnotes: Mizoram's Governor: V. K. Singh, CM: Lalduhoma

Indian Railways honoured Chandana Sinha

- Exceptional Rescue Record: Inspector Sinha, based at Lucknow's Charbagh station, was recognized for leading the rescue of over 1,500 children from human trafficking and exploitation across Uttar Pradesh's rail network over the past three years. In 2025 alone, her team rescued 1,032 children.
- Leadership of "Operation NanheFarishte": She was honored for her role in spearheading the RPF's flagship child-protection initiative, Operation NanheFarishte.

Footnotes: Minister for Railway: Ashwini Vaishnaw, HQ: New Delhi, Estd: 1853



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

MARCH 2026

Balen Shah Set to Become Nepal's PM

- **Landslide Victory for RSP:** Balen Shah's Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) is heading toward a sweeping victory, leading in over 100 of the 165 directly elected seats. This marks a historic rejection of the "old guard" parties that have dominated Nepal for decades.
- **Generational Shift (The "Gen Z" Mandate):** At 35 years old, the former rapper and Kathmandu Mayor is set to become Nepal's youngest-ever Prime Minister.
- **Defeating the Establishment:** In a symbolic "giant-killing" move, Balen Shah secured an unassailable lead in the Jhapa-5 constituency, the longtime stronghold of four-time former Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli, effectively signaling the collapse of the previous political order.

Footnotes: Nepal's President: Ram Chandra Poudel, PM: Sushila Karki, Capital: Kathmandu

Anita Shukla appointed as Ambassador of India to Republic of Ecuador

- **Diplomatic Profile:** Ms. Anita Shukla is a career diplomat from the 2006 batch of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS). Before this appointment, she served as Joint Secretary at the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS) in New Delhi, where she managed training programs for both Indian and foreign diplomats.

- **Strengthening Ties:** Her appointment comes at a strategic time following the opening of India's permanent embassy in Quito in November 2025.
- **Key Focus Areas:** She is expected to lead bilateral cooperation in sectors highlighted during recent high-level visits, specifically in digital technology, pharmaceuticals, and critical minerals, while overseeing the next round of Foreign Office Consultations scheduled for the first half of 2026.

Chile Becomes First Country in the Americas to Eliminate Leprosy

- **Historic Milestone:** Chile is now the first country in the Americas and only the second globally (after Jordan in 2024) to receive official WHO verification for eliminating leprosy.
- **Vigilant Surveillance:** Despite the lack of local transmission, Chile never removed leprosy from its public health agenda. It remained a notifiable condition, meaning health professionals were legally required to report suspected cases.
- **Integrated Care Model:** The success is attributed to an inclusive health system that provides universal access to multidrug therapy (MDT) and holistic care.

Footnotes: Chile's President: Gabriel Boric, Capital: Santiago

Safeena Husain named TIME Women of the Year 2026

- **Impact on "Left-Behind" Girls:** The honor recognizes Husain's mission to bring India's most marginalized, out-of-school girls back into the classroom.
- **Historic Year of Accolades:** Her selection by TIME follows a landmark 2025, during which Educate Girls became the first Indian organization to receive the Ramon Magsaysay Award (often called Asia's Nobel Prize).
- **A "Social Unicorn" Vision:** TIME highlights her data-driven approach to social change. Having surpassed her initial goals supported by the TED Audacious Project, Husain has set an ambitious new target: to reach 10 million learners by 2035, ensuring that geography and gender are no longer barriers to education.

India's IIP recorded a year-on-year growth of 4.8% in January

- **Manufacturing Momentum:** The manufacturing sector, which carries the heaviest weight in the index (roughly 77.6%), was the primary engine behind this growth. It saw a solid uptick compared to previous months, signaling that factory-floor activity remains robust despite global headwinds.
- **Mining and Electricity Support:** While manufacturing led the way, significant contributions also came from the Mining and Electricity sectors. Mining output remained steady, while electricity generation saw a jump to meet the rising demand from both industrial clusters and domestic consumers.

Scotland Becomes 1st UK Nation to Legalise Water Cremations

- **The Process:** Also known as "resomation" or "aquamation," the process involves placing the body in a pressurized vessel with a mixture of 95% water and 5% alkaline solution. It is heated to around 150°C, dissolving soft tissue over 3–4 hours and leaving only bone fragments, which are processed into a fine white powder and returned to the family in an urn.
- **A UK First:** While already legal in several US states, Canada, and South Africa (famously chosen by Archbishop Desmond Tutu in 2022), Scotland is the first nation in the UK to pass these regulations.

Footnotes: Scotland's Capital: Edinburgh, Currency: Pound sterling

Suneet Mehta appointed as High Commissioner of India to Kingdom of Tonga

- **Dual Responsibility:** Shri Suneet Mehta, a 2007-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, will serve as the High Commissioner to the Kingdom of Tonga while continuing his current role as the High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Fiji.
- **Strategic Residence:** His primary residence will remain in Suva, Fiji, from where he will oversee India's diplomatic relations and developmental partnerships with Tonga.
- **Extensive Experience:** Before his current Pacific assignments, Mehta served as the Deputy High Commissioner to Australia (Canberra) and held significant positions in Indian missions in

Washington D.C. and Madrid, as well as at the MEA headquarters in New Delhi.

India & Uzbekistan Launch Pharma-Nutraceutical Corridor

- **Strategic Trade Bridge:** The corridor is designed to streamline the export and import of pharmaceutical and nutraceutical products between the two nations, leveraging Uzbekistan as a gateway to Central Asia.
- **Regulatory Alignment:** Both countries aim to harmonize standards and certification processes to reduce trade barriers and ensure the quality of health supplements and medicines.
- **Economic Impact:** This initiative is expected to boost India's pharma exports significantly while helping Uzbekistan develop its domestic manufacturing capabilities through Indian expertise.

India Remains World's 2nd Biggest Arms Importer after Ukraine

- **Global Ranking:** According to the 2026 SIPRI report, India remains the world's second-largest arms importer (8.2% of global imports), with Ukraine taking the top spot (9.7%) due to its ongoing conflict.
- **Supplier Trends:** Russia remains India's top supplier (40%), but its share has dropped significantly as India diversifies its imports toward *France, Israel, and the USA*.
- **Indigenous Push:** Despite the high ranking, India's total imports fell by 4% compared to the previous five-year block, reflecting the impact of the "Atmanirbhar Bharat" self-reliance initiative.

Jose Antonio Kast Rist Took Oath as President of Chile

- **Sharpest Rightward Shift Since 1990:** Kast's assumption of office represents Chile's most pronounced shift to the right since the return to democracy following the Pinochet era. He succeeds Gabriel Boric, a left-wing leader who left office with low approval ratings, signaling a public rejection of the previous administration's progressive agenda.
- **"Emergency Government" Focus:** In his first speech from the La Moneda Palace, Kast declared an "emergency government" aimed at tackling public safety and irregular migration.

U.S. & South Korea Kick Off Massive Joint Military Exercise 'Freedom Shield'

- **Massive Scale and Duration:** The 11-day exercise (running until March 19) involves roughly 18,000 South Korean troops alongside thousands of U.S. personnel. Despite current U.S. military focus on escalating conflicts in the Middle East, the scale of this drill remains a "massive" display of coordination aimed at deterring North Korean aggression.
- **"All-Domain" Operational Focus:** Unlike traditional drills, Freedom Shield 26 focuses on a multi-domain environment, integrating land, sea, air, space, and cyber elements. Key events include combined airborne operations with the 11th Airborne Division and the first-ever integration of advanced ROK-U.S. bridging equipment during dynamic river-crossing exercises.

FEBRUARY 2026

World's First Doctor-Led AI-Powered Home Healthcare Ecosystem Launched

- **Continuous "Personal ICU" Monitoring:** The system uses a wearable FDA-approved biosensor patch and wristband to track 7+ clinical vital parameters in real-time, including two-lead ECG, oxygen saturation (SpO2), and blood pressure trends. Unlike standard fitness trackers, this provides hospital-grade data directly to a medical command center.
- **Proven Clinical Impact:** A 10-week observational study of 410 patients using the platform showed a 76% reduction in hospital readmissions. It is specifically designed to bridge the "critical gap" in care for senior citizens, chronic disease patients, and those recently discharged from the hospital.

India ranked 45th in Network Readiness Index 2025

- **Global Leadership in Key Digital Indicators:** India achieved the 1st rank globally in four specific categories: Annual investment in telecommunication services, AI scientific publications, ICT services exports, and E-commerce legislation. This underscores the country's dominance as a global digital and tech-services hub.
- **Significant Infrastructure Gains:** The report ranked India 2nd globally in critical connectivity metrics, including FTTH/Building Internet subscriptions, mobile broadband internet traffic, and international internet bandwidth. These achievements highlight the rapid

nationwide rollout of 5G and fiber-to-the-home services.

- **Outperforming Income Expectations:** India is ranked 2nd among lower-middle-income countries (behind Vietnam). The report noted that India has "greater network readiness than would be expected given its income level," demonstrating that its digital transformation is outpacing its general economic constraints.

Indonesian python sets Guinness World Record as longest wild snake

- **Record Dimensions:** The female reticulated python (*Malayopython reticulatus*), nicknamed "Ibu Baron" (The Baroness), measures 7.22 meters (23 feet 8 inches). To put this in perspective, her length spans the entire width of a standard FIFA football goal.
- **Scientific Verification:** Experts weighed her at 96.5 kg (213 lbs) and used a surveyor's tape for measurement. While historical anecdotes claim snakes reaching 10 meters exist, Ibu Baron is now the highest verifiably measured wild snake, surpassing previous records that often lacked photographic or expert proof.

India ranks 91st in CPI 2025

- **Improved Global Standings:** India climbed 5 places to rank 91st out of 182 countries, up from 96th in the previous year. Its score improved marginally by one point to 39/100.
- **Structural Corruption Persists:** Despite the rank improvement, India remains below the global average score of 42. The report notes that corruption in the country is still viewed as a "deep-rooted structural

challenge" rather than an isolated issue.

India's Passport Climbs 10 Ranks in 2026



- **Significant Rank Jump:** The Indian passport climbed 10 places, rising from 85th in 2025 to 75th in the February 2026 update. This is India's best ranking in over a decade, driven by new bilateral agreements and the rollout of advanced chip-embedded e-passports.
- **Access to 56 Destinations:** Despite the jump in rank, the number of visa-free/visa-on-arrival destinations for Indians settled at 56. While India lost easy access to Iran and Bolivia due to new security restrictions, it gained fresh access to destinations like The Gambia and extended 60-day visa-free stays in Thailand.

Mia Mottley Secures Historic Third Term in Barbados

- **Third Consecutive "Clean Sweep":** For the third election in a row (2018, 2022, and 2026), Mottley led the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) to a total victory, winning all 30 seats in the House of Assembly. This leaves the country without an official elected opposition in parliament for yet another term.
- **Historic Leadership Milestone:** Mottley is the first woman in Barbadian history to serve three terms as Prime Minister. She also remains one of the longest-serving female heads of government globally, further

cementing her status as a powerhouse in Caribbean and international politics.

Bulgaria appoints Andrey Gyurov as acting PM

- **Technocratic Mandate:** Gyurov, a 50-year-old economist and former lawmaker, was chosen as a neutral, "non-partisan" figure to lead a caretaker government. His primary responsibility is to maintain macroeconomic stability—critical as Bulgaria recently adopted the euro at the start of 2026.
- **Preparation for Snap Elections:** The main task of this interim government is to organize and oversee free and fair national elections, which are scheduled for April 19, 2026. This will be Bulgaria's eighth parliamentary election in just five years, reflecting the country's deep political fragmentation.

Footnotes: Bulgaria's President: Iliana Iotova, Capital: Sofia

International Conference on Dam Safety 2026 Held in Bengaluru

- **Dam Safety as a National Security Imperative:** Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, while inaugurating the event, emphasized that dam safety must be treated as a national security issue. He highlighted that nearly 70% of India's 6,000+ large dams are over 25 years old, necessitating urgent modernisation and cooperative federalism for cross-border water governance.
- **Launch of "DAMCHAT" AI Platform:** A major highlight was the launch of DAMCHAT, an AI-powered platform developed by the International Centre of

Excellence for Dams (ICED) at IIT Roorkee. It serves as a real-time decision-support tool, allowing dam owners and engineers to query technical and regulatory documents instantly.

Tarique Rahman Sworn in as 11th PM of Bangladesh

- **Return from Exile & Landslide Victory:** After spending 17 years in self-imposed exile in London, Tarique Rahman returned to Bangladesh in late 2025. He led the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) to a landslide victory in the 13th parliamentary elections, securing 212 of the 300 directly elected seats.
- **End of "Battle of the Begums":** His appointment ends a 35-year era (since 1991) where the premiership rotated exclusively between two women: his mother, Khaleda Zia, and her rival, Sheikh Hasina. He is the first male Prime Minister of Bangladesh in over three decades.
- **Transition from Interim Rule:** His government officially replaces the interim administration led by Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus, which had governed the country for 18 months following the 2024 student-led uprising and the ouster of Sheikh Hasina.

Footnotes: Bangladesh's President: Mohammed Shahabuddin, Capital: Dhaka, Currency: Bangladeshi Taka

Lalduhoma inaugurated Lengtekai Bridge over the Tlawng River

- **Strategic Connectivity (The "Faith Bridge"):** Officially named the Faith Bridge, the 100-meter-long steel arch structure provides a crucial link between the state capital, Aizawl, and the

state's only airport at Lengpui. It also serves as a vital corridor for the Mamit district, facilitating trade and movement toward Tripura and Bangladesh.

- **Replacement of Outdated Infrastructure:** The bridge replaces aging, single-lane Bailey bridges that were frequently damaged and had strict load restrictions. The new structure is designed to carry much heavier loads—up to 385 metric tons—eliminating the need for vehicles to unload before crossing and ensuring uninterrupted traffic flow.

Japan reappoints Sanae Takaichi as PM



- **Landslide Mandate and Supermajority:** Takaichi's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) secured a massive two-thirds "supermajority" (316 out of 465 seats) in the Lower House. This commanding position allows her administration to pass key legislation and override potential rejections from the Upper House, where the ruling coalition is less dominant.
- **Hard-Right Policy Shift:** As Japan's first female Prime Minister, Takaichi has pledged to use her new mandate for a significant right-wing shift. Her priorities include revising Japan's pacifist Constitution, establishing a National Intelligence Agency, and increasing military spending to 2% of GDP to counter regional security threats.

JANUARY 2026

Zohran Mamdani sworn in as 112th Mayor of New York

- He is the 112th Mayor of New York City and holds the distinction of being the city's first Muslim mayor, the first mayor of South Asian (Indian) descent, and the first to be born in Africa (Kampala, Uganda).
- At 34 years old, Mamdani is the youngest person to lead New York City in over a century (since 1917). He was sworn in using a Quran from the New York Public Library's Schomburg Center in a ceremony held at the historic, decommissioned Old City Hall subway station.

India Introduces New e-Business Visa for Chinese

- This is a new sub-category called the e-Production Investment Business Visa. It was introduced on January 1, 2026, specifically to facilitate the entry of Chinese subject matter specialists, engineers, and technical professionals needed for industrial projects.
- Unlike a standard business visa, the e-B-4 is designed for high-end technical tasks that were previously stuck in "Employment Visa" red tape. This includes installation and commissioning of equipment, quality checks, maintenance, plant design, and IT/ERP ramp-ups.

Delcy Rodríguez Becomes Venezuela's Interim President

- Engagement with the U.S.: Unlike her predecessor, she has signaled a willingness to negotiate with the U.S. administration (under President

Donald Trump) to prevent further military escalation and seek sanctions relief.

- Oil Diplomacy: As a former Oil Minister, she is central to negotiations regarding Venezuela's vast petroleum reserves. Recent reports indicate she may facilitate the transfer of millions of barrels of oil to the U.S. to stabilize the domestic economy and appease Washington.

Footnotes: Official language: Spanish, Currency: Venezuelan bolívar, Capital: Caracas

India Unveils Logo & Website for BRICS Presidency 2026

- Lotus-Inspired Design: The official logo features a lotus shape with a central "Namaste" gesture, incorporating the colors of member nations to symbolize "unity in diversity" and mutual respect.
- Strategic Theme: India's chairmanship is guided by the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation, and Sustainability," focusing on a people-centric and "humanity-first" approach.

IOA Launches National Olympic Education & Development Programme

- Integrated National Framework: The NOEDP is a comprehensive framework launched on January 12, 2026, designed to deliver structured Olympic education, ethics training, and professional development for athletes, coaches, and administrators from the grassroots to the elite level.
- Leadership & Hub: The National Olympic Academy (NOA), based in Ahmedabad, has been reactivated as the central hub for research and dialogue. It is led by

IOA President PT Usha (President of NOA) and Olympic medalist Gagan Narang (Director of NOA).

PFRDA Constitutes High-Level Committee

- Objective and Mandate: The committee is tasked with formulating a framework for assured payouts under the National Pension System (NPS). The goal is to enhance retirement income security by moving beyond traditional annuities and creating regulations for "market-based guarantees" that are legally enforceable.
- Leadership and Composition: The panel is chaired by Dr. M. S. Sahoo, the former Chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI). It includes a diverse group of experts from the fields of finance, law, actuarial science, insurance, and academia.

Footnotes: Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority's Chairman: Sivasubramanian Ramann, HQ: New Delhi, Estd: 2003

Akasa Air Becomes India's Fifth Global Airline Member

- Joining the Global Elite: Akasa Air is now the fifth active Indian airline to become an IATA member, joining the ranks of Air India, Air India Express, IndiGo, and SpiceJet. This membership places the young carrier within a global network of over 360 airlines that account for approximately 80% of total global air traffic.
- Safety Benchmark Achievement: The induction follows Akasa Air's successful completion of the IATA Operational Safety Audit (IOSA) in December 2025. Clearing this rigorous, internationally recognized audit is a mandatory prerequisite for membership.



G.K. ONE LINER

NATIONAL NEWS

- Who inaugurated India's first 'Ring Metro' in Delhi?
Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- Which organisation launched the 'SHINE' app?
Indian Railways
- Which institute partnered with Honeywell to launch the Sustainability Skills Hub?
IIT Bombay
- Which organisation partnered with TEPL to drive India's electronics manufacturing growth?
NITI Aayog
- Tata Advanced Systems partnered with which company for the IAF C-130J MRO facility?
Ramco Systems
- Which organisation unveiled the Fiscal Health Index 2026?
NITI Aayog
- Which organisation launched the first structured Bug Bounty Programme to strengthen Aadhaar security?
UIDAI
- Which state launched the 'Lake and Air Watch' initiative for AQI and water monitoring?
Gujarat
- How much worth development projects were launched by PM Modi in Tiruchirappalli?
₹5,600 crore
- Which organisation plans to launch the largest-ever oil release from global strategic reserves?
International Energy Agency (IEA)
- Which organisation successfully tested an indigenous air-droppable container from the P-8I aircraft?
DRDO
- Where was India's first microalgae-based "PureAir" tower launched?
Delhi
- Which event related to textiles was launched in 2026 in India?
Bharat Tex 2026
- Which organisation launched the 2nd annual edition of the Fiscal Health Index 2026?
NITI Aayog
- Which company launched the 'Personal Computer' AI agent?
Perplexity
- Which organisation collaborated with Mission Karmayogi for skill development courses?
Coursera
- Which organization will revise the FASTag annual pass fee from 1st April 2026?
National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)
- Which institution's professor became the second Indian woman to scale the highest volcanic peak?
Indian Institute of Science (IISc)
- Which place is set to become Odisha's first smart village?
Kusunpur
- Which state passed the Freedom of Religion Bill, 2026?
Maharashtra
- Which ministry launched the Gyan Bharatam National Manuscript Survey?
Ministry of Culture
- Which state launched the 'Divyang Shakti Yojana'?
Andhra Pradesh
- Which organization declared Kalinjar Fort hill as a National Geo-Heritage site?
Geological Survey of India (GSI)
- Which body approved the Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna?
Union Cabinet of India
- Which act was enacted to prohibit money games online?
Online Gaming Act 2025
- Which state became the top textile exporter for FY25?
Tamil Nadu
- Which state signed a reform-linked MoU under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0?
Uttar Pradesh

- What is CGSMFI 2.0 introduced by the Government of India aimed at?

Facilitating credit flow to microfinance institutions

- Which state became the second in India to pass the Uniform Civil Code (UCC)?

Gujarat

- Which city overtook Delhi as the world's most polluted city?

Loni

- Which portal was launched by the National Housing Bank (NHB)?

Gruh Sugam Portal

- Who from Sikkim was selected for the World Youth Parliament 2026?

Stuti Pradhan

- Which institution launched the Krishnamurthy Tandon School of AI?

Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad

- DPIIT signed an MoU with which gaming company to boost startups?

KRAFTON

- DPIIT signed an MoU with which fintech company to strengthen the startup ecosystem?

Razorpay

INTERNATIONAL

- Who was appointed as India's High Commissioner to the Kingdom of Tonga?

Suneet Mehta

- Which two countries launched a Pharma-Nutraceutical Corridor?

India and Uzbekistan

- Which country remains the world's 2nd biggest arms importer after Ukraine?

India

- Who took oath as the President of Chile?

José Antonio Kast

- Which two countries launched the joint military exercise 'Freedom Shield'?

United States & South Korea

- Who is the 22-year-old who broke Mark Zuckerberg's record?

Surya Midha

- Whose 58-foot bronze statue was unveiled?

Potti Sriramulu

- Where was Asia's largest tulip garden inaugurated?

Srinagar

- Who was appointed as India's Ambassador to China?

Vikram K Doraiswami

- Which Indian educator entered the Forbes Billionaires List 2026?

Alakh Pandey

- Who topped Forbes World's Billionaires List 2026?

Elon Musk

- Who took oath as the Prime Minister of Nepal?

Balendra Shah

- Who was appointed as India's High Commissioner to the UK?

Periasamy Kumaran

- Which country approved the President's signature on dollar bills?

United States

- India has emerged as a major global hub for which sector?

Electro-technology manufacturing

- Who was appointed as Ambassador to the Republic of Chad?

Naba Kumar Pal

BANKING & FINANCE

- Who was elevated as the Chief Investment Officer (CIO) of Axis Mutual Fund?

R. Sivakumar

- Which bank emerged as the strongest Indian bank globally?

State Bank of India (SBI)

- Who was appointed CEO of Fino Payments Bank?

Ketan Merchant

- Who was appointed Managing Director & CEO of HDFC ERGO?

Parthanil Ghosh

- Which Japanese bank partnered with SBI?

MUFG Bank

- Which institution won the 'Initiative of the Year' award for '.bank.in'?

Reserve Bank of India

- Who was appointed Interim Chairman of HDFC Bank?

Keki M. Mistry

- What GDP growth forecast did S&P give for India for FY27?

7.1%

Matt Brittin

- Which cricketer was signed as brand ambassador by City Union Bank?

Ravindra Jadeja

- Who was appointed as Part-Time Chairman of South Indian Bank?

Jose Joseph Kattoor

NEW APPOINTMENTS

- Who was appointed as the Chief Justice of Madras High Court?

Justice Sushrut Dharmadhikari

- BEL signed an MoU with which aerospace company?

Bellatrix Aerospace

- Who stepped down as the CEO of IndiGo?

Pieter Elbers

- Who joined the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)?

Dr. Partha Biswas

- Who was appointed assistant coach of Gujarat Titans?

Vijay Dahiya

- Who became the first woman chief of

- a functional nuclear power plant in India?

RM Nachammai

- Who was appointed as a member of SEBI?

KV Ramana Murty

- Who was appointed DIG in CISF?

Santosh Kumar Singh

- Who was re-elected as ATMA Chairman?

Arun Mammen

- Which cricketer was appointed brand ambassador of Uniqlo India?

Jasprit Bumrah

- Which state signed MoU to boost dairy sector?

Himachal Pradesh

- Which company signed MoU with USTB for low-carbon steelmaking?

Tata Steel

- Who was appointed brand ambassador for BHIM App by NBSL?

MS Dhoni

- Who was appointed Deputy Secretary at PMO?

Ravi Mittal

- Who was appointed GM at DFCCIL?

Sudeep Prasad

- Who was appointed Director of Census Operations, Karnataka?

Ramachandran R

- Who became Co-opted Member of ICAI's SRSB?

P. V. Narayana Rao

- Which Padma Shri awardee became Brand Ambassador for Census 2027?

Sudarsan Pattnaik

- Who was appointed East Secretary in MEA?

Rudrendra Tandon

- Who was appointed Chairperson of DNPA?

Puneet Gupta

- Who was appointed as Director General of BBC?

OBITUARIES

- Which Vir Chakra awardee recently passed away?

KG George

- Which renowned Indologist recently passed away?

Hermann Kulke

- Which renowned Tamil film director passed away at the age of 72?

Thakkali Srinivasan

- Which veteran Congress leader and former Union Minister recently passed away?

Biren Singh Engti

- Which former AIFF General Secretary passed away?

Kushal Das

- Which veteran Bollywood actress passed away?

Madhu Malhotra

- Which legendary martial artist and actor reportedly passed away?

Chuck Norris

- Which former French Prime Minister and architect of the 35-hour workweek passed away?

Lionel Jospin

- Which renowned orangutan researcher passed away at the age of 79?

Birutè Galdikas

AWARDS

- Who won the Best Actress Award recently?

Rashmika Mandanna

- Who will receive the META Lifetime Achievement Award 2026?

Amol Palekar

- Which organisation won the National Award for “Dhwani Spandana”?

KSRTC (Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation)

- Who won the Jnanpith Award 2025?

Vairamuthu

- Who won Best Actress at Oscars 2026?

Jessie Buckley

- Which film won Best Director Award (Animated)?

CHYIMI

- Which company won the National Mobility Award 2026?

RITES Limited

- Which Tata Group Chairman received honorary knighthood?

N Chandrasekaran

- Who received France's Legion d'Honneur (Commandeur)?

Jawed Ashraf

- Who was named Stockholm Water Prize Laureate 2026?

- *Kaveh Madani*

- Which bank received the National Award for Outstanding Performance in SHG Bank linkage?

Karnataka Grameena Bank

- Which Jharkhand leader received an international honour?

Kalpna Soren

- Which organizations presented the Machhli & Vanya Prani Mitra Awards?

PKF & WWF-India

SPORTS

- Who won the Australian Grand Prix 2026?

George Russell

- Who was appointed head coach of the Sri Lanka men's cricket team?

Gary Kirsten

- Which Indian cricketer retained the No.1 spot in ICC rankings?

Smriti Mandhana

- Which country pulled out of the FIFA World Cup 2026 amid geopolitical tensions?

Iran

- Who won gold at the World Para Athletics Grand Prix (javelin)?

Sumit Antil

- Who became India's 94th Grandmaster in chess?

Mayank Chakraborty

- Who won gold at the World Para Athletics Grand Prix in high jump?

Shailesh Kumar

- Which cricketer announced retirement from international cricket?

Sarfaraz Ahmed

- Which country topped the medal tally at World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026?

India

- Who won gold in men's javelin at the World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026?

Sumit Antil

- Which country will host the World Indoor Athletics Championships 2028?

India

- Who won gold in women's javelin F12 category from Arunachal Pradesh?

Kipa Mero

- Which NBA player broke the record for most games played?

LeBron James

- Who won shot put gold at the National Para Athletics Championship?

Ria Solanki

- Which state will host the Khelo India Tribal Games 2026?

Chhattisgarh

- Where were India's first Indoor Athletics Championships held?

Kalinga Stadium

- Which category of athletes has been barred from women's Olympic events?

Transgender women athletes

- How many bronze medals did India win at the Asia Cup Archery?

Two

- Which Indian hockey player announced retirement from international hockey?

Gurjant Singh

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS



MARCH 2026

Bank of Maharashtra Wins "Best Mid-Sized Bank" Award

- **Consistent Growth & Performance:** The award recognizes Bank of Maharashtra's exceptional performance across key financial metrics, including robust asset quality, high credit growth, and maintaining the lowest Net NPA (Non-Performing Assets) among public sector banks.
- **Leadership in Transformation:** Under the leadership of MD & CEO Nidhu Saxena, the bank was lauded for its successful digital transformation and "customer-first" initiatives, which have helped it transition from a regional player to a high-performing national institution.

Footnotes: Bank of Maharashtra's MD & CEO: Nidhu Saxena, HQ: Pune, Estd: 1935

Indian Women's Cricket Team Shortlisted for Laureus World Team of the Year Award 2026

- **Maiden World Cup Triumph:** The nomination is a direct result of the team's historic victory at the 2025 ICC Women's ODI World Cup. Led by Harmanpreet Kaur, India clinched their first-ever title by defeating South Africa in the final, a victory that prompted the BCCI to announce a landmark ₹51 crore reward for the squad.
- **A Global First for Cricket:** India has become the first-ever women's cricket team to be

shortlisted for this prestigious category in the 26-year history of the Laureus Awards. Their campaign was highlighted by a record-breaking semi-final performance where they pulled off the highest successful run chase in women's ODI history (339 runs) to eliminate Australia.

KV Subramanian becomes 1st Indian Economist to Win Chicago Alumni Award

- **Historic First:** Prof. Subramanian is the first Indian economist to receive this distinction in the award's 85-year history (established in 1941). This recognition places him alongside an elite group of past recipients, including 14 Nobel laureates and global thinkers like Paul Samuelson and Milton Friedman.
- **Recognition of Indian Policy:** The University specifically cited his "landmark" Economic Surveys of India (2018–2021) as providing the intellectual foundation for India's self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat). It also highlighted his early diagnosis of the COVID-19 crisis as a supply-side disruption and his successful articulation of a V-shaped recovery.

Kriti K. Karanth received a major conservation award in UK

- **Historic Achievement:** Dr. Karanth is the first Indian and the first Asian recipient of the Esmond B. Martin Royal Geographical Society Prize. She was named the joint winner of the 2026 award alongside

Professor Alexandre Antonelli, Director of Science at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

- **Recognition of Impact:** The award recognizes her "crucial contributions to the human understanding of ecosystems" and her work in protecting biodiversity. Specifically, she was praised for changing the narrative around conservation by creating holistic, science-based interventions that support both wildlife and local communities.

ONGC Triumphs at India Public Sector Enterprises Awards 2025

- **Veteran Leadership:** Thomas Mathew is a retired Principal Chief General Manager of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). During his career at the central bank, he specialized in banking regulation, corporate governance, and financial supervision.
- **Succession Details:** He succeeds Sonali Sen Gupta in this role. The appointment was made by the Central Government under the powers of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970, and is effective immediately.
- **Strategic Governance:** His induction is intended to strengthen IOB's regulatory alignment and board oversight. His deep expertise in risk management and compliance is expected to support the bank's commitment to sound corporate governance and public sector banking standards.

Rashmika Mandanna won Best Actress Award

- **Telangana Gaddar Awards 2025:** Rashmika Mandanna won the Best Actress award at the prestigious Telangana Gaddar Film Awards, announced in March 2026. These awards were instituted by the Government of Telangana to recognize excellence in Telugu cinema.
- **Winning Performance:** She received the honor for her role as Bhooma Devi in the 2025 romantic drama *The Girlfriend*, directed by Rahul Ravindran. Her portrayal of a woman navigating a controlling relationship was widely praised for its emotional depth and authenticity.

Amol Palekar to Receive META Lifetime Achievement Award 2026

- **Prestigious Recognition:** Veteran actor and filmmaker Amol Palekar will be honored at the 21st edition of the Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards (META) in New Delhi.
- **Legacy of Work:** The award celebrates his "extraordinary contribution" to Indian theatre and cinema, particularly his "boy-next-door" persona and his pioneering work in alternative theatre spaces.
- **The Event:** The festival will take place from March 19 to 25, 2026, with the Lifetime Achievement honor being the highlight of the awards ceremony.

KSRTC Wins National Award for "Dhwani Spandana"

- **Innovative Feedback:** The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) won for

its AI-based grievance redressal system.

- **Public Service:** "Dhwani Spandana" allows passengers to voice concerns through a simplified, responsive digital platform.
- **Modernization:** This award recognizes KSRTC's shift toward technology-driven governance in public transportation.

Footnotes: KSRTC's MD: V. Anbukumar, HQ: Bengaluru, Estd: 1948

Tamil Poet & Lyricist Vairamuthu Wins Jnanpith Award 2025

- **A Historic "First"** for Tamil Poetry: While he is the third Tamil writer to receive India's highest literary honor (following Akilan in 1975 and Jayakanthan in 2002), he is the first to win it specifically for Tamil poetry. The previous two recipients were primarily recognized for their prose and novels.
- **Ending a 24-Year Wait:** This award returns to Tamil Nadu after a nearly quarter-century gap. The last Tamil recipient, Jayakanthan, was honored in 2002. Vairamuthu dedicated the win to "Tamil society and its people," noting that it fulfills a long-standing desire for Tamil poetry to be recognized at this national level.
- **Recognition of a Prolific Career:** The honor acknowledges his vast literary contribution, which includes over 37 books and roughly 7,500 film songs. Notable works highlighted by the committee include his Sahitya Akademi-winning novel *KallikattuIthikasam*, as well as *KaruvachiKaaviyam* and *Thanneer Desam*.

Jessie Buckley Wins Best Actress at Oscars 2026

- **Historic Win for Ireland:** Buckley made history as the first Irish performer ever to win the Oscar for Best Actress. While Irish actors have been nominated in this category before (such as Saoirse Ronan and Ruth Negga), Buckley is the first to take home the statuette.
- **Role in Hamnet:** She won for her portrayal of Agnes Shakespeare, the wife of William Shakespeare, in Chloé Zhao's adaptation of Maggie O'Farrell's bestselling novel. The film explores the couple's grief following the death of their 11-year-old son, Hamnet.
- **A "Mother's Day" Dedication:** Since the ceremony coincided with Mother's Day in the UK and Ireland, Buckley delivered an emotional speech dedicating the award to the "beautiful chaos of a mother's heart."

Indian Animated Film CHYIMI Wins Best Director Award

- **Policeman-Director Profile:** The film was directed by Dr. Partha Sarathi Mahanta, a senior IPS officer currently serving as the Inspector General of Police (IGP) in Assam and the Commissioner of Police, Guwahati. His achievement highlights a unique blend of public service and creative excellence.
- **Global Recognition for Regional Stories:** CHYIMI is an Assamese-language animated short. The award recognizes its artistic direction and its ability to present a narrative rooted in local Assamese culture that resonates with a global audience, proving that animation can transcend linguistic and geographical boundaries.

FEBRUARY 2026

Oil India Limited Wins FIPI Award 2025

- **Production Excellence:** Oil India Limited won the prestigious award for "Oil & Gas Production Company of the Year" in the category of companies producing more than 1 MTOE (Million Tonnes of Oil Equivalent).
- **National Recognition:** The award was presented by the Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri, and received by OIL's Chairman and Managing Director, Dr. Ranjit Rath. The honor recognizes the company's "outstanding performance and sustained contribution" to India's energy security.

Prof. Charu Gupta won Anand Kentish Coomaraswamy Prize 2026

- **Award-Winning Work:** The prize was awarded for her book, "Hindi Hindu Histories: Caste, Ayurveda, Travel, and Communism in Early Twentieth-Century India" (published by Permanent Black and SUNY Press). The work explores the plurality of Hindu life in North India through the lens of vernacular print culture and autobiographies.
- **Prestigious Global Recognition:** Conferred by the Association for Asian Studies (AAS), this international award is considered one of the highest honors in the field of South Asian Studies. It recognizes distinguished scholarly works that "define or redefine" the understanding of major subject areas.

Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev inaugurated Bhavya Bharat Bhushan Award

- **Launch of a New National Honour:** The award was instituted by the Isha Foundation as a national-level recognition to celebrate "extraordinary nation-builders." It aims to honour individuals whose dedication and commitment have significantly strengthened India's social, cultural, and technological fabric across seven key categories, including Science, Arts, Sports, and National Security.
- **Diverse First-Edition Recipients:** The inaugural ceremony saw high-profile achievers being honoured, including Olympic medalist Saina Nehwal (Sports), legendary violinist N. Rajam (Arts), and historian Vikram Sampath (Literature).

IDBI Bank Honoured with MSME Leadership Award

- **Excellence in Sector Growth & Asset Quality:** The award, presented by Enqube (a leading authority in MSME excellence), highlighted IDBI Bank's ability to drive growth in the MSME segment far beyond industry benchmarks. Notably, the bank achieved this while maintaining exemplary asset quality, with a Net NPA (Non-Performing Asset) ratio standing at a record low of 0.21%.
- **Commitment to Financial Inclusion:** The accolade reflects the bank's deep alignment with government initiatives like Mudra (where it achieved 101% of its target) and PM Vishwakarma.

Footnotes: IDBI Bank's MD & CEO: Rakesh Sharma, HQ: Mumbai, Estd: 1964

Subodh Gupta Conferred 'CEO of the Year' at Business Leader of 2026

- **Strategic Healthcare Innovation:** The award recognizes Gupta's leadership in pivoting the company toward advanced cancer diagnostics and genetic testing, significantly strengthening India's oncology and genomics ecosystem.
- **National Expansion:** Under his tenure, the company has expanded its footprint across India through a structured franchise model (Lord's Path), aimed at making high-quality, standardized pathology services accessible to the masses.

Indian Navy won Best Marching Contingent Award

- **Elite Composition & Leadership:** The contingent consisted of 144 young sailors and was led by Lieutenant Karan Nagyal. He was supported by Platoon Commanders Lieutenant Pawan Kumar Gandhi and Lieutenant Priti, showcasing the Navy's commitment to gender-neutral leadership.
- **Symbolism of Strength:** The Navy's performance was praised by the panel of judges for its flawless synchronization and discipline. It was officially described as a representation of a "modern, progressive, and powerful maritime force" capable of protecting India's vast maritime interests.

Indian Scientist Ramanathan Wins Crafoord Prize 2026

- **Pioneering "Super-Pollutant" Research:** Ramanathan was honored for his 1975 discovery that chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)

are thousands of times more potent as greenhouse gases than carbon dioxide. This landmark finding proved that \$CO_2\$ is not the only driver of global warming and laid the scientific foundation for the Montreal Protocol.

- Global Policy Influence: Beyond his 18 career Grammys—wait, wrong Ramanathan!—beyond his decades of research, he has served as a key advisor to global leaders and the Vatican, bridging the gap between climate science and ethics to protect the world's most vulnerable populations.

K J Somaiya Institute Wins CSRI Award

- Inaugural National Honor: In January 2026, the K J Somaiya Institute of Management (KJSIM) was conferred with the award for “Best Management Institute Supporting Sports Ecosystem & Development.” The award was presented by the Confederation of Sports and Recreation Industry (CSRI), a national body working alongside the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- Academic Integration: The award specifically recognizes KJSIM's MBA in Sports Management, which blends rigorous business principles with hands-on exposure to high-performance sports settings. Notably, the institute assigns 10% academic weightage to physical fitness for all first-year students, embedding well-being into its core curriculum.

Dalai Lama honoured with Grammy Award

- Historic First at 90: At the age of 90, the Dalai Lama won his first-ever Grammy Award in the category of Best Audio Book, Narration & Storytelling Recording.

- Award-Winning Work: The honor was for his spoken-word album, Meditations: The Reflections of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Released in 2025, the project blends his teachings on compassion and shared humanity with musical compositions by Sarod maestro Amjad Ali Khan and his sons, Amaan and Ayaan Ali Bangash.

Paradip Port Authority won Swachhata Pakhwada Awards 2025

- Top National Ranking: PPA secured the first position among all major Indian ports for its exemplary performance in cleanliness and sustainability. The award was presented by the Union Minister for Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, to PPA Chairman P.L. Haranadh.
- Three Core Pillars: The port's success was driven by the effective implementation of three strategic pillars: Jan Bhagidari (massive community participation), Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam (extensive plantation drives, including 40,000 saplings at Paradip beach), and Safai Mitra Suraksha (focusing on the welfare and dignity of sanitation workers).
- Innovative Waste Management: Beyond routine cleaning, PPA was lauded for its "Waste to Wealth" initiatives, such as the Scrap to Structure project and awareness campaigns that successfully reduced single-use plastics across the port ecosystem.

Bhutan Queen Mother Honoured with 'Soldier of Humanity' Award 2025

- Recognition of Humanitarian Leadership: The award, presented by the International Human Rights Commission (IHRC), honors her four decades of tireless work in promoting gender equality, reproductive health, and the protection of vulnerable women and children in Bhutan.
- Global Advocacy Role: The title highlights her influence beyond Bhutan's borders, particularly her long-standing role as a UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador.

Indian Teacher Rouble Nagi Wins Global Teacher Prize 2026



- The "Nobel of Teaching": Nagi was selected from over 5,000 nominations across 139 countries to become the 10th recipient of this award (instituted by the Varkey Foundation in collaboration with UNESCO). She is the second Indian to win the prize, following Ranjitsinh Disale in 2020.
- "Living Walls of Learning": She was honored for her innovative use of art to bridge education gaps. Through her Misaal India initiative, she transformed neglected slum walls into "interactive classrooms"—painting murals that teach literacy, numeracy, hygiene, and environmental science to over 1 million children who lack access to formal schools.

JANUARY 2026

R.K. Shriramkumar honoured with Sangita Kalanidhi

- **Identity and Heritage:** R.K. Shriramkumar is a distinguished violinist and musicologist hailing from the illustrious Rudrapatnam family of Karnataka. He is the grandson of the veteran violinist R.K. Venkatarama Shastry and the grand-nephew of the legendary vocalist Sangita Kalanidhi R.K. Srikantan.
- **Specialization & Scholarship:** He is widely recognized as an authority on the compositions of Muthuswami Dikshitar. His expertise particularly lies in the Sangita Sampradaya Pradarsani, a seminal musicological text that preserves the authentic versions of Dikshitar's kritis.

Gnana Kumaraswamy Wins Geophysics Award 2025

- **Recognition of Professional Excellence:** Gnana Kumaraswamy Batta, who serves as the Deputy General Manager (Geophysics) at Oil India Limited (Kakinada), received the award under the category of "Excellence in Environmental and Engineering Geophysics."
- **Pioneering Technical Innovation:** The award specifically recognizes his work in introducing the Full Wave Uphole Seismic Survey as a superior alternative to the traditional Crosshole Seismic Survey. This technical advancement allows for more precise data collection in complex geological environments.

Hungarian-British David Szalay won 2025 Booker

Prize



- **Winning Work:** Szalay won the prestigious £50,000 award for his sixth novel, "Flesh," a "brilliantly spare" and propulsive story that follows a man named István from his youth in Hungary to his life among London's elite.
- **Historic "First":** With this victory, Szalay became the first Hungarian-British author to win the Booker Prize, following a unanimous decision by a judging panel chaired by Irish novelist Roddy Doyle.

BSE Wins Asia Best Employer Brand Award 2026

- **Regional Recognition:** The award was presented at the 16th Asia's Best Employer Brand Awards in Singapore, recognizing BSE's excellence in human resources and its commitment to fostering a world-class workplace environment across the Asian continent.
- **Excellence in HR Practices:** BSE was selected for its innovative talent acquisition strategies, robust employee engagement programs, and its focus on digital transformation within its organizational culture.
- **Leadership in Financial Services:** This accolade highlights BSE's success in balancing its role as a critical market infrastructure provider with a modern, employee-centric approach that attracts top-tier financial and tech talent.

GAIL Wins SKOCH ESG Award 2025

- **Recognition for Business Agility:** GAIL was specifically conferred the award for Business Agility and Corporate Performance, highlighting its ability to adapt to changing market dynamics while maintaining a robust financial and operational growth trajectory.
- **Clean Energy Leadership:** The award recognizes GAIL's pivotal role in leading India's transition toward a gas-based economy. The jury lauded its consistent focus on environmental responsibility, including its expanding portfolio in green hydrogen and renewable energy.

Footnotes: GAIL's Chairman & MD: Sandeep Kumar Gupta, HQ: New Delhi, Estd: 1984

Karnataka Bank Bags IBA Award

- **Top Honor in Fintech Adoption:** The bank emerged as the Winner in the 'Best Fintech & DPI (Digital Public Infrastructure) Adoption' category. This award recognizes the bank's successful integration of national digital platforms like UPI, Aadhaar, and DigiLocker to enhance customer service delivery.
- **Talent and Strategy Recognition:** Karnataka Bank was adjudged Runner-up in the 'Best Tech Talent' category, highlighting its commitment to nurturing skilled IT professionals. It also received Special Mentions in three other critical areas: Best Technology Bank, Best Digital Financial Inclusion, and Best Digital Sales.

Footnotes: Karnataka's Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot, CM: Siddaramaiah, Capital: Bengaluru



NEW APPOINTMENTS

MARCH 2026

Deepak Gupta Takes Over as Chairman & MD of GAIL

- **Vast Sector Expertise:** A mechanical engineer from Delhi College of Engineering, Gupta brings over 35 years of experience across the entire oil and gas value chain. Before his elevation to CMD, he served as GAIL's Director (Projects) since February 2022, where he was instrumental in expanding the company's 20,000 km pipeline network.
- **Focus on Energy Transition & Digitalization:** His tenure, which runs until February 28, 2029, is expected to focus on India's goal of increasing natural gas in the energy mix to 15% by 2030.

Footnotes: GAIL's Chairman & MD: Sandeep Kumar Gupta, HQ: New Delhi, Estd: 1984

Saba Shawl appointed 1st Woman Superintendent of Srinagar Central Jail

- **A Historic First:** Saba Shawl has become the first Kashmiri woman to head the Srinagar Central Jail, the Union Territory's oldest and largest high-security correctional facility. This facility is particularly sensitive, housing over 900 inmates, including high-profile political prisoners and convicts.
- **Merit-Driven Career:** A 2012-batch officer, Shawl was the only candidate to secure an open-merit position for Superintendent of

Police (Prisons) in her qualifying year. She holds a Master's degree in Social Work, which informs her approach to prisoner welfare, recreational programming, and correctional policy.

- **Vast Operational Experience:** Before this role, she served in various capacities across the UT, including as a Staff Officer to the Director General of Prisons and in field postings at Kot Bhalwal Jail (Jammu) and Kupwara Jail.

Jio Platforms appoints Dan Bailey as President

- **Global Expansion Mandate:** Based in London, Bailey will spearhead Jio's international business initiatives. He will report directly to Akash Ambani, Chairman of Reliance Jio Infocomm, and join the company's Executive Committee to lead the export of Jio's 5G, AI, and digital platform capabilities beyond India.
- **Deep Industry Pedigree:** Bailey is a veteran with over 35 years of experience in investment banking and consulting. He previously held senior leadership roles at Schroders, Citigroup, Morgan Stanley, and HSBC.

Footnotes: Jio's MD: Isha Ambani, HQ: Mumbai, Estd: 2007

President Justice Dharmadhikari as Madras CJ

- **55th Chief Justice:** Justice Dharmadhikari was sworn in by Governor R.N. Ravi on March 6, 2026, at the Lok Bhavan in Chennai. He succeeds Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava,

who retired on March 5 after reaching the mandatory retirement age of 62.

- **Judicial Trajectory:** His parent High Court is the Madhya Pradesh High Court, where he was first elevated as a judge in 2016. Before his current elevation to Chief Justice, he was serving as a judge of the Kerala High Court, a position he held since April 2025.
- **Legal Background:** Born in Raipur, he practiced law for over 24 years before joining the bench. During his career as an advocate, he notably served as the Standing Counsel for the Union of India for 15 years (2000–2015).

Pieter Elbers Steps Down as IndiGo CEO

- **Leadership Change:** Pieter Elbers, who joined the airline in 2022, has announced his decision to step down as the CEO of India's largest carrier, IndiGo.
- **Major Milestone:** Under his leadership, IndiGo saw massive international expansion and placed a historic order for 500 Airbus aircraft in 2023.
- **Succession:** The airline is expected to initiate a global search for a successor to maintain its dominant 60%+ market share in the Indian aviation sector.

Dr. Partha Biswas Joins NCSC

- **Constitutional Role:** Dr. Biswas has officially assumed charge as a Member of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC).

- **Advocacy:** His role involves investigating and monitoring matters relating to the safeguards provided for Scheduled Castes in India.
- **Implementation:** He will be key in overseeing the effective implementation of welfare schemes and legal protections for marginalized communities.

Footnotes: NCSC's CEO: Richard Horne, HQ: London, Estd: 2016

Gujarat Titans Name Vijay Dahiya As Assistant Coach

- **Vast IPL & Coaching Experience:** Dahiya brings a wealth of tactical knowledge, having previously served as an Assistant Coach for Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) and Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), and as a talent scout for Delhi Capitals.
- **Part of a Revamped Support Staff:** His appointment follows the recent addition of Australian legend Matthew Hayden as the Batting Coach. Dahiya will work under Head Coach Ashish Nehra to help the 2022 champions regain their top form.

RM Nachammai appointed First Woman Chief of a Functional Nuclear Power Plant

- **Role at Kaiga Generating Station:** She has been appointed as the Chief Superintendent of Units 3 and 4 at the Kaiga Generating Station in Karnataka, effective from March 15, 2026. In this high-stakes role, she oversees the operations, maintenance, and engineering support for the reactor units.
- **Decades of Excellence:** Nachammai brings over 35 years of experience to the position. A 1990 graduate in Electrical and

- Electronics Engineering from the University of Madras, she joined the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) in 1991, where she famously topped her batch and received the Vikram Sarabhai Award.
- **Breaking the Glass Ceiling:** Her appointment is a significant milestone for gender representation in a specialized, male-dominated field. Out of NPCIL's workforce of roughly 10,000 employees, only about 900 are women; her leadership serves as a powerful symbol of "Nari Shakti" as India aims to reach 100 GW of nuclear capacity by 2047.

Govt appoints KV Ramana Murty as member of SEBI

- **Three-Year Tenure:** Murty has been appointed for a period of three years from the date he assumes charge, or until further orders. His appointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) on March 11, 2026, filling a key vacancy on the regulator's board.
- **Vast Administrative Background:** A 1991-batch officer of the Indian Defence Accounts Service (IDAS), Murty previously served as the Additional Controller General of Defence Accounts. He is not new to SEBI, having earlier served as a part-time member on the board as a representative of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

Dr Santosh Kumar Singh appointed as DIG in CISF

- **Profile and Cadre:** Dr. Santosh Kumar Singh is a 2011-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Chhattisgarh cadre. Prior to this central deputation, he served as the DIG (CCTNS/SCRB) at the

Chhattisgarh Police Headquarters and has held leadership roles (SSP/SP) in major districts like Raipur, Bilaspur, and Korba.

- **National Recognition (Nijat Campaign):** He is widely recognized for launching the "Nijat" campaign, an intensive anti-drug and de-addiction initiative. The campaign earned international acclaim, including the prestigious IACP Award (International Association of Chiefs of Police), for its effectiveness in combining strict law enforcement with community-based counseling.

Arun Mammen Re elected as the ATMA Chairman



- **Continuation of Leadership:** Arun Mammen, the Vice Chairman and Managing Director of MRF Ltd, has been re-elected as the Chairman of ATMA. This marks his second consecutive term leading the apex body of the Indian tyre industry, having first taken over the role during ATMA's Golden Jubilee year in 2025.
- **New Vice Chairman:** Rajarshi Moitra, the Managing Director of Bridgestone India Pvt Ltd, has been appointed as the new Vice Chairman. Moitra succeeds Hiroshi Yoshizane, reflecting the association's strategy of involving both major domestic and international tyre manufacturers in its leadership structure.

FEBRUARY 2026

Saurabh Joshi elected as Mayor of Chandigarh

- Clean Sweep for BJP: Saurabh Joshi secured 18 votes to defeat the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) candidate, Yogesh Dhingra (11 votes), and the Congress candidate, Gurpreet Singh Gabi (7 votes). The BJP also won the posts of Senior Deputy Mayor (Jasmanpreet Singh) and Deputy Mayor (Suman Sharma), consolidating full control over the municipal leadership.
- Historic "Show of Hands" Voting: For the first time since 1996, the election was conducted by a show of hands rather than a secret ballot. This procedural change was aimed at ensuring transparency and preventing the "cross-voting" controversies that have plagued Chandigarh's mayoral polls in recent years.

Nitika Pawar appointed as GM of FCI

- Breaking a Six-Decade Tradition: Her appointment is significant as it breaks a long-standing administrative practice where the GM of FCI Punjab was almost exclusively an IAS officer from the Punjab cadre. Nitika Pawar is a 2012-batch IAS officer of the AGMUT cadre, leading to formal objections from the Punjab state government.
- Strategic Role in Food Security: Based in Chandigarh, she will oversee procurement, storage, and distribution in Punjab—one of India's most critical agricultural zones. The role is vital for coordinating the National Food Security Act operations between the Centre and the state.

Maybelline New York Names Kiara Advani as India Brand Ambassador

- A "New Era" of Branding: Kiara Advani has been brought on board to represent a "new chapter" for Maybelline in India. The campaign moves away from traditional "transformative" beauty, instead focusing on self-expression and individuality, aligning the brand with Kiara's authentic and confident public persona.
- Flagship Product Launch: The partnership was marked by the debut of the Maybelline Serum Lipstick in India. Kiara is the face of the collection, specifically highlighting the bold matte shade 'Wildcard'. The product is marketed as a hybrid of high-performance color and skincare, infused with Hyaluronic Acid.

Nagma Mohamed Mallick accredited as Ambassador to Republic of Marshall Islands

- Concurrent Accreditation: Announced on February 2, 2026, Ms. Nagma Mohamed Mallick (IFS: 1991) has been concurrently accredited as India's next Ambassador to the Republic of Marshall Islands. She will handle this responsibility while continuing her primary role as the Ambassador of India to Japan.
- Strategic Residency: Although representing India's interests in the Marshall Islands, she will maintain her residence in Tokyo. This is a common diplomatic practice where the Ambassador to a major regional power also oversees relations with smaller neighboring island nations.

Nivedita Dubey: 1st Woman Officer inducted into AAI Board



- Historic Leadership Role: She assumed charge as Member (Human Resources) on January 30, 2026, becoming the first woman to hold a full-time functional Director-level position on the AAI Board.
- Extensive Experience: A seasoned aviation professional with over 30 years of experience, she joined AAI in 1995 and previously served as the first woman Regional Executive Director (Eastern Region), where she managed 12 airports.

Kenta Kon appointed as President & CEO of Toyota Motors

- Separation of Internal and External Roles: While the current CEO, Koji Sato, moves to the new role of "Chief Industry Officer" and Vice Chairman to focus on industry-wide collaboration (including his leadership at the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association), Kon will take full control of internal company management.
- Focus on "Earning Power": As the current CFO and a "finance veteran," Kon's appointment signals a strategic shift toward strengthening Toyota's profit structure.

International Olympic Committee elected

Soraya Aghaei as member

- **Historic Milestone for Iran:** Soraya Aghaei was elected as the first-ever female member from Iran to join the IOC. She was elected by a decisive 95–2 vote, becoming the 107th member of the global body.
- **Youngest Serving Member:** At 30 years old, the Tokyo 2020 badminton Olympian became the youngest representative currently serving in the International Olympic Committee.

Former CA Secretary Rohit Kumar appointed to USISPF

- **Dual Strategic Roles:** Singh has been appointed as the Chair of the USISPF Global Value Chains Committee and Advisor to the Board of Directors. In these capacities, he will lead strategic dialogues to integrate India more deeply into global trade networks and advise on broader economic initiatives.
- **Focus on Supply Chain Resilience:** His primary mandate is to work with global members and government stakeholders to build diversified, resilient, and digital-first supply chains. This includes focusing on regulatory alignment, infrastructure readiness, and public-private collaboration to reduce global trade dependencies.
- **Leveraging AI Governance Expertise:** The appointment highlights his track record in "trust-anchored" digital transformation. As the former Secretary of Consumer Affairs, he pioneered India's first AI-enabled grievance redressal ecosystem, experience that USISPF intends to leverage as they advance next-generation, data-enabled value chains.

RITES appoints Vinod Kumar Sharma as CVO

- **Telecom-to-Transport Transition:** Sharma is a 1999-batch officer of the Indian Telecom Service (ITS). Before joining RITES, he served as the Business Area Head in Muzaffarpur for BSNL and brings over 25 years of experience in managing large-scale telecom infrastructure and government projects like the National Optical Fibre Network (NoFN).
- **Pay Scale and Rank:** He has been appointed in Pay Level 14. Upon assuming charge, he was immediately inducted into the Senior Management Personnel category of the company, as confirmed in the regulatory filings to the NSE and BSE.

Dharmaj Crop Guard appoints Rohit Sharma as its brand ambassador

- **Strategic Brand Alignment:** The collaboration aims to leverage Rohit Sharma's massive popularity and "trusted leader" persona to enhance brand recall among farmers and stakeholders across India.
- **Focus on Modern Farming:** By featuring a high-profile athlete, the company intends to promote its innovative crop protection solutions and encourage the adoption of modern, high-yield agricultural practices.
- **Market Expansion:** This move is a key part of Dharmaj's strategy to strengthen its presence in the domestic market and build a deeper emotional connection with the rural community.

Indian Cricketer Shikhar appointed as Brand Ambassador of Delhi Khel Mahakumbh

- **Grassroots Talent Identification:** The initiative, launched by the Directorate of Education and Sports (Delhi Government), aims to create a structured platform for school and community-level athletes to transition into professional sporting pathways.
- **Scale and Participation:** The inaugural event is scheduled to begin on February 13, 2026, featuring thousands of young athletes from all 12 districts of Delhi. Competitions will be held across 16 venues in sports like kabaddi, wrestling, football, and athletics.

Uday Kotak appointed Chairman of GIFT City



- **Succession of Leadership:** Uday Kotak, the founder and former CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank, succeeds Hasmukh Adhia, a retired IAS officer and former Union Finance Secretary. Adhia had held the position since June 2023.
- **Industry-Led Strategy:** The appointment marks a shift toward industry-veteran leadership for India's first IFSC. Kotak is expected to use his decades of experience in building financial institutions to enhance GIFT City's global competitiveness against hubs.
- **Expansion Mandate:** This leadership change coincides with significant growth for GIFT City, including a recent 20-year tax holiday extension in the Union Budget 2026 and banking assets exceeding \$100 billion.

JANUARY 2026

C Kalaichelvan appointed as DIG in CBI

- C. Kalaichelvan is a 2012-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Tamil Nadu cadre. Prior to this promotion, he was already serving within the agency as a Superintendent of Police (SP).
- His appointment as DIG is effective from the date he assumes charge and will continue for a tenure up to December 31, 2028, or until further orders from the government.
- His promotion was part of a larger administrative move where seven IPS officers from the 2012 batch were elevated to the rank of DIG within the CBI to strengthen the agency's senior investigative leadership.

Footnotes: CBI's Director: Shri Praveen Sood, HQ: New Delhi, Formed: 1963

Justice Soumen Sen appointed as Kerala's CJ

- Justice Sen, currently the Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court, is being transferred to the Kerala High Court. The President of India issued the order under Article 222 of the Constitution, following a recommendation by the Supreme Court Collegium.
- Justice Sen began his career at the Calcutta High Court, where he stood first in his LL.B. examination in 1990. Before his elevation to the bench in 2011, he was a renowned advocate representing major institutions like the RBI and SEBI. Notably, he also served as the Acting Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court in late 2025 before his stint in Meghalaya.

Footnotes: Kerala's Governor: Rajendra Arlekar, CM: Pinarayi

Vijayan, Thiruvananthapuram Capital: Justice Manoj Kumar appointed CJU

- Succession and Effective Date: Justice Gupta officially assumed charge on January 10, 2026, following the retirement of the previous incumbent, Justice Guhanathan Narendar, who demitted office on January 9.
- Prior Judicial Career: Before this elevation, Justice Gupta served as the senior-most judge of the Allahabad High Court. He was originally appointed as a judge of the Allahabad High Court on April 12, 2013.

Footnotes: UK's Governor: Gurmit Singh, CM: Pushkar Singh, Capital: Dehradun

Raj Kumar appointed DGM of TRIFED

- Background and Tenure: Raj Kumar is a 2012-batch officer of the Indian Ordnance Factories Service (IOFS). His appointment to TRIFED is on a deputation basis for a period of five years or until further orders.
- Regional Responsibility: He will serve as the DGM (Director level) at TRIFED's Ranchi office, overseeing the Bihar-Jharkhand region. This is a strategic posting given Jharkhand's significant tribal population and the region's importance in the marketing of forest produce.

Footnotes: TRIFED's Chairman: M. Raja Murugan, HQ: New Delhi, Estd: 1987

Shri Vinay Kumar appointed as Director at NMDC Limited

- Dual Leadership Role: Already serving as the Director (Technical) since May 2023, Shri Vinay Kumar has been given the

additional charge of Director (Commercial). This strategic move by the Ministry of Steel ensures leadership continuity.

- Strategic Oversight: In this expanded capacity, he will oversee NMDC's commercial operations, including marketing strategies, domestic and international contracts, pricing, and business development. This dual responsibility aims to streamline the coordination between technical production and market outreach.

Footnotes: NMDC's Chairman: Amitava Mukherjee, HQ: Hyderabad, Estd: 1958

Meta appoints Dina Powell McCormick as President



- Strategic AI & Infrastructure Focus: Reporting directly to CEO Mark Zuckerberg, she will spearhead Meta's "next phase of growth," specifically overseeing multi-billion-dollar investments and ensure these massive technical projects align with the company's financial and economic goals.
- Bridge Between Wall Street and Washington: McCormick brings a unique blend of experience from the highest levels of both finance and government. She spent 16 years at Goldman Sachs (leading their global sovereign business) and served as Deputy National Security Adviser under Donald Trump, as well as a senior official in the George W. Bush administration.

Footnotes: Meta's CEO: Mark Zuckerberg, HQ: U.S, Estd: 2004


SPORTS
MARCH 2026
J&K Clinches First Ranji Trophy Title 2025-26

- Maiden Title in Maiden Final: After 67 years of competing in domestic cricket (since 1959-60), J&K reached their first-ever summit clash and emerged as champions. They became only the 10th team in the 92-year history of the tournament to win the title in their very first final appearance.
- Victory by First-Innings Lead: The final ended in a draw, but J&K were crowned winners based on a massive 291-run first-innings lead. They posted a mammoth 584 in their first innings (led by Shubham Pundir's 121) and restricted a star-studded Karnataka side—featuring KL Rahul and Mayank Agarwal—to just 293.

Footnotes: J&K's Governor: Manoj Sinha, **CM:** Omar Abdullah, **Capital:** Srinagar

Australia captain Alyssa Healy retiring after India series

- A "Fairytale" ODI Finale: Healy concluded her One-Day International career on March 1, 2026, in spectacular fashion. In her final ODI at Hobart, she smashed a career-best 158 runs off just 98 balls, leading Australia to a 3-0 series whitewash against India. She even bowled two overs in the match for the first time in her international career as a light-hearted farewell gesture.
- The Pink-Ball "Swansong" in Perth: Her final appearance in the

Australian "baggy green" is set for the one-off Day-Night Test match against India at the WACA in Perth, starting March 6, 2026. She chose to skip the T20I leg of the series to allow the team to prepare for the upcoming T20 World Cup without her, focusing her final energy on the ODI and Test formats.

India's D Gukesh defeats Spain's David Anton Guijarro

- Ending the Winless Streak: This victory was significant as it ended Gukesh's difficult winless run in the tournament. Before this final round, he had struggled with three losses and a series of draws, placing him at the bottom of the standings.
- Creative Endgame: Gukesh showcased his trademark creativity and precision in a well-played game, outclassing Guijarro specifically in the endgame. For Guijarro, this was a third consecutive loss to end the festival.

George Russell Wins Australian Grand Prix 2026

- Mercedes 1-2 Finish: George Russell converted his pole position into a season-opening victory, leading teammate Kimi Antonelli to a dominant Mercedes one-two finish.
- Decisive Strategy: The race turned on lap 12 when Mercedes capitalized on a Virtual Safety Car (caused by Isack Hadjar's Red Bull) to pit both cars, while Ferrari's Charles Leclerc and

Lewis Hamilton stayed out, ultimately cost them the lead.

Gary Kirsten Named Head Coach of Sri Lanka Men's Cricket Team

- Two-Year Tenure & Core Goal: Kirsten has signed a two-year contract starting April 15, 2026, which runs until April 2028. His primary mandate is to overhaul the team's performance and lead them through the 2027 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup, which will be hosted in his home country, South Africa (alongside Namibia and Zimbabwe).
- Replacing a Legend: He succeeds former Sri Lankan captain Sanath Jayasuriya, who resigned following the team's disappointing Super Eight exit at the 2026 T20 World Cup. Kirsten's arrival is seen as a move to bring in "blockbuster" international expertise to stabilize a side that has struggled for consistency in recent global tournaments.

Smriti Mandhana Retains No.1 Spot, Jemimah Rodrigues Slips to 12th

- Top Performance: Indian opener Smriti Mandhana has maintained her position as the World No.1 in the latest ICC Women's ODI Batting Rankings following consistent performances.
- Ranking Shift: Middle-order batter Jemimah Rodrigues saw a slight decline, slipping out of the top 10 to the 12th position after a quiet series.

Iran Pulls Out of FIFA World Cup 2026 Amid Geopolitical Tensions

- **Major Decision:** Iran has announced its withdrawal from the 2026 FIFA World Cup due to escalating geopolitical tensions and security concerns.
- **Reason for Withdrawal:** The decision is linked to rising diplomatic and regional conflicts, particularly tensions involving the host nation, the United States.
- **The Tournament:** The 2026 FIFA World Cup will be jointly hosted by United States, Canada, and Mexico from June 11 to July 19, 2026.

Sumit Antil Wins Gold at World Para Athletics Grand Prix

- **Javelin Dominance:** The Paralympic champion secured the Gold medal, continuing his winning streak in the F64 category.
- **World Ranking:** This victory solidifies his position as the world number one heading into major upcoming championships.
- **Consistency:** Antil continues to push the boundaries of para-athletics, often nearing his own world record marks during competition.

Mayank Chakraborty becomes India's 94th Grandmaster

- **First Grandmaster from the Northeast:** Hailing from Guwahati, Mayank has made history by becoming the first-ever Grandmaster from Assam and the entire North Eastern region of India.
- **The Final Norm in Sweden:** He secured his third and final GM norm in March 2026 at the 8th

GM Tournament in Stockholm, Sweden. He dominated the field, finishing first with a score of 7/9 and remained unbeaten throughout the tournament.

- **Rapid Rise from IM to GM:** After becoming an International Master (IM) in late 2023, Mayank consistently climbed the rankings. His journey is notable for his self-taught roots—initially learning through YouTube and ChessBase videos—before becoming the national U-11 and U-17 champion.

Shailesh Kumar Wins Gold at World Para Athletics Grand Prix

- **Double Gold & Podium Sweeps:** Shailesh dominated the competition by winning gold in the Men's High Jump T42/T63 event with a jump of 1.84m. He didn't stop there—he also secured a second gold in the Men's Long Jump T42/63 with a leap of 5.47m, leading an all-Indian podium sweep in both events.
- **Successful Injury Comeback:** This Grand Prix served as a crucial "test" for the reigning world champion, who had been sidelined with a left knee injury since late 2025. While his high jump mark was below his personal best of 1.91m, he expressed satisfaction with his steady return to form without further aggravating the injury.

Sarfraz Ahmed Announces Retirement from Int. Cricket

- **Historic Leadership Milestone:** Sarfraz is the only Pakistan captain to win two major ICC tournament finals against India. He led Pakistan to victory in the 2006 Under-19 World Cup and the 2017 ICC Champions Trophy. Under his captaincy,

Pakistan also achieved a world-record streak of 11 consecutive T20I series victories and reached the No. 1 spot in the ICC T20I rankings.

- **Statistical Legacy:** Having made his debut in 2007, Sarfraz represented Pakistan in 100 matches as captain across all formats. He finished his international career with 6,164 runs (including 6 centuries) and a total of 371 dismissals (315 catches and 56 stumpings) as a wicketkeeper. His last international appearance was the Perth Test against Australia in December 2023.
- **Transition to Coaching and Selection:** His retirement follows his recent appointment to the PCB's revamped four-member national selection committee on March 5, 2026.

India topped medal tally at World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026



- **Record-Breaking Medal Haul (New Delhi):** India finished the New Delhi leg (March 11–13, 2026) with a massive total of 208 medals, including 75 gold, 69 silver, and 64 bronze. This placed India far ahead of Russia (35 medals) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (3 medals).
- **Standout Performers:** Double Paralympic bronze medallist Preeti Pal was a star of the meet, clinching two gold medals (including the women's 200m T35–T37). Other major gold medallists included Paralympic champions Sumit Antil (Javelin F64), Praveen Kumar (High Jump), and Navdeep (Javelin F41).

FEBRUARY 2026

Novak Djokovic broke a 53-year-old Australian Open record



- **Oldest Finalist in Open Era:** By defeating Jannik Sinner in the 2026 semifinals, Djokovic became the oldest man in the Open Era to reach an Australian Open final.
- **Broke a 54-Year-Old Record:** He surpassed the mark previously held by Australian legend Ken Rosewall, who was 37 years and 2 months old when he reached (and won) the 1972 final.

India Triumphs Over New Zealand to Win T20I Series

- **Clinical Series Victory:** India clinched the series 4-1, finishing with a massive 46-run win in the final match at Thiruvananthapuram after posting 271/5—their highest-ever T20I total against New Zealand.
- **Suryakumar's Record-Breaking Run:** Captain Suryakumar Yadav was named Player of the Series (242 runs). During the finale, he became the fastest player in history to reach 3,000 T20I runs (by balls faced), surpassing Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma.
- **Individual Brilliance:** The final match saw Ishan Kishan smash his maiden T20I century (103 off 43 balls) and Arshdeep Singh claim his first career five-wicket haul (5/51), cementing their spots for the upcoming World Cup.

Haryana Wins Championship Title in Wrestling League 2026

- **Dramatic Finish:** The championship was decided in a nail-biting 5-4 victory over the Delhi Dangal Warriors. With the scores tied at 4-4 after eight bouts, the title was decided in the final 62kg women's match.
- **The Decisive Blow:** Paris Olympic silver medalist Iryna Koliadenko (Haryana) delivered a masterclass in the final bout, winning by technical superiority (16-0) to seal the trophy and a ₹1.5 crore prize for her team.
- **Standout Performers:** While Haryana's Neha Sangwan was named Player of the Match for keeping the final alive, Delhi's Turan Bayramov earned Player of the Tournament for winning all seven of his individual bouts throughout the season.

Elena Rybakina Clinches First Australian Open Crown

- **Strategic Redemption:** Rybakina defeated Aryna Sabalenka 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 at Rod Laver Arena. The win was a significant moment of redemption, reversing the result of the 2023 Australian Open final where Sabalenka had beaten her in three sets.
- **The "0-3" Comeback:** The match hinged on a dramatic third set where Rybakina trailed 0-3. Demonstrating immense mental resilience, she reeled off five consecutive games to seize control, eventually sealing the championship with a signature ace on her first match point.
- **Historic Milestone & Ranking:** Rybakina became the first Kazakhstani player to win the Australian Open singles title. With this victory and her recent

WTA Finals trophy, she has reclaimed her career-high ranking of World No. 3, firmly cementing her position at the top of the women's game.

Devika Sihag Wins Maiden BWF Super 300 Title

- **Elite Company:** With this victory, Devika became only the third Indian woman to win a BWF Super 300 singles title, joining the legendary ranks of Saina Nehwal and P.V. Sindhu.
- **Dominant Path to the Final:** Ranked world No. 63 at the start of the tournament, the unseeded Haryana-born player pulled off several "giant-killing" upsets, including a straight-games victory over the top-seeded local favorite, Supanida Katethong, in the quarterfinals.

Olympian Esha Singh clinches gold in 10m pistol event



- **Second Career Title:** This victory marks Esha's second senior individual Asian Championship gold in this event, following her first continental title win in Jakarta in 2024.
- **A "Come-from-Behind" Win:** After a shaky start that saw her languishing in 7th place after the first series, she mounted a steady comeback to finish with a winning score of 239.8, surpassing silver medalist Cheng Yen-Ching of Chinese Taipei.

Pro Wrestling League 2026 championship won by Haryana Thunders

- **Nail-Biting Final Score:** The Haryana Thunders defeated the Delhi Dangal Warriors with a narrow 5–4 margin. The championship was undecided until the very last bout, as the teams were tied at 4–4 after the first eight matches.
- **Decisive Performance:** The title was sealed by Paris Olympic silver medalist Iryna Koliadenko, who delivered a masterclass in the final women's 62kg bout. She secured a dominant 16–0 technical superiority win over Delhi's Anjali to clinch the trophy for Haryana.

Anahat Singh Clinches Maiden PSA Bronze Title

- **Youngest Indian to Win at this Level:** With this win, Anahat became the youngest Indian squash player to secure a PSA Bronze title, surpassing the records previously held by icons like Joshna Chinappa and Dipika Pallikal at similar stages in their careers.
- **Significant Rankings Surge:** This title provides a massive boost to her professional ranking, propelling her into the World Top 30. This elevation is crucial as it grants her direct entry into high-tier Platinum events on the PSA World Tour without having to go through qualifiers.

RCB clinches WPL Title 2026

- **Historic "Double" Achievement:** By winning the 2026 trophy, RCB became the first team in WPL history to win two titles (having previously won in 2024). This win firmly established them as the most successful franchise in the league's early years.

Olympic silver medallist Mirabai Chanu created new national record

- **Shattered Three National Records:** Chanu set new benchmarks in the Snatch (89kg), Clean and Jerk (116kg), and Total Lift (205kg). This total improved her previous national record by a significant 6kg.
- **Successful Weight Class Transition:** After the 49kg category was removed from the Olympic roster, Chanu successfully moved down to the 48kg class. Her 205kg total in this lower weight class actually equalled her personal best achieved in the 49kg category years prior.

Suruchi Singh secure silver at Asian Rifle Championship 2026

- **Mixed Team Success:** Suruchi Singh and Samrat Rana clinched the silver medal in the 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team event. They led for much of the final but were narrowly overtaken by the Uzbek pair of Nigina Saidkulova and Mukhammad Kamalov.
- **Record-Breaking Performance:** During the final, the Indian duo registered a score of 479.6, which set a new World and Asian Junior record, highlighting the incredible level of talent in India's youth shooting ranks.

India clinches SAFF U-19 Women's title

- **Dominant Final Performance:** India defeated defending champions Bangladesh 4–0 in the final held on February 7, 2026, at the Pokhara Rangasala Stadium in Nepal. Goals were scored by captain Julan Nongmaithem, Elizabet Lakra, Pearl Fernandes, and Anwita Raghuraman.

- **Strategic Team Selection:** India fielded its Under-17 national team in this Under-19 tournament. This was a deliberate move by the AIFF to provide high-pressure competitive exposure to the younger squad ahead of the AFC U-17 Women's Asian Cup later this year.
- **Redemption and Awards:** The victory served as redemption for India after losing 0–2 to Bangladesh during the round-robin stage. Individual honors included India's Munni Banda winning the Best Goalkeeper award, and the team receiving the Fair Play Award.

Tejaswin Shankar clinches gold at Asian Indoor Athletics Championships



- **Dominance in High Jump:** Tejaswin clinched the gold medal in the Men's High Jump event by clearing a height of 2.23 meters. His performance reaffirmed his status as one of Asia's top vertical jumpers.
- **Consistency on the Continental Stage:** This victory builds on his previous successes, including his national record and his silver medal in the Decathlon at the Hangzhou Asian Games, proving his versatility across both indoor and outdoor formats.
- **Boost for Indian Athletics:** His gold was a highlight for the Indian contingent at the championships held in Tehran, contributing significantly to India's medal tally and boosting morale ahead of the global outdoor season.

JANUARY 2026

Ameerah Arshad Wins Women's 10m Air Rifle

- Arshad won the title in a dramatic finish, edging out Railways' Rajshree Anil kumar Sancheti by the narrowest possible margin of 0.1 point. She finished with a total score of 251.9, while Sancheti settled for silver with 251.8.
- In addition to her senior gold, she also secured the silver medal in the Youth Women's 10m Air Rifle final on the same day, finishing just behind Karnataka's Tilottama Sen.
- Arshad played a pivotal role in leading the Haryana team (alongside teammates Ramita and Shruti) to a gold medal in the senior team category with an aggregate score of 1892.7.

Venus Williams to become oldest female player

- At 45 years old, Williams will become the oldest woman to ever compete in the Australian Open singles main draw. She will surpass the previous record held by Japan's Kimiko Date, who was 44 when she played in the 2015 tournament.
- This marks Venus's 22nd appearance at Melbourne Park and her first since 2021. It comes exactly 28 years after her tournament debut in 1998, where she famously defeated her sister Serena in the second round.
- To prepare for the Grand Slam (starting January 18), Williams has also accepted wildcards for the Auckland Classic and the Hobart International, marking her first competitive appearances outside the United States since 2023.

Ajay Kumar wins gold in men's 10m air pistol

- In his first-ever senior national final, Ajay outshone a formidable lineup that included Paris Olympics medalist Sarabjot Singh, reigning World Champion Samrat Rana, and defending champion Varun Tomar. His victory is being hailed as a testament to the deep talent pool in Indian shooting where "unheralded" athletes can challenge global stars.
- Ajay, who has been training at the AMU in Mhow for six years, credited his aggressive start (a commanding 51.4 in the first series) for the win. His success follows the tradition of his mentor, legendary shooter Jitu Rai, and solidifies the Army's dominance in the national circuit following Varun Tomar's win the previous year.

Atiqa Mir Wins Historic Karting Title

- At just 11 years old, Atiqa Mir became the first Indian to secure a top-five finish globally on debut in the Junior S125 category (ages 12–14) during the IAME UAE Karting Championship at the Yas Marina Circuit, Abu Dhabi. She moved up from the Mini category early, competing against older, more experienced drivers in faster, heavier karts.
- She holds the distinction of being the first Indian and first Asian female to be selected for the Formula 1 Academy's "Discover Your Drive" program. This global initiative is backed by Formula 1 to identify and develop young female talent to bridge the gap into professional single-seater racing.

Travis Head reaches 500 Ashes runs

- Travis Head became the first player in the 143-year history of the Ashes to score over 500 runs in a single series while maintaining a strike rate above

75 (finishing with a strike rate of approximately 88). This "Travball" approach surpassed the previous aggressive benchmark set by David Warner (SR 74.39) in 2013–14.

- After being promoted to open the innings for the first time in his Test career during the series opener in Perth, Head scored three centuries (Perth, Adelaide, and Sydney).

Gold Medalist Jinson Johnson announces Retirement

- Asian Games Glory: A three-time Asian Games medalist, Johnson's career pinnacle was at the 2018 Jakarta Games, where he won gold in the 1500m and silver in the 800m. He finished his career on a high by securing a bronze medal in the 1500m at the 2023 Hangzhou Asian Games.
- National Record Holder: He leaves the sport as the current national record holder in the 1500m (3:35.24), a mark he set in Berlin in 2019. In 2018, he famously shattered Sriram Singh's 42-year-old national record in the 800m, though that record was recently eclipsed in 2025.

Anahat Singh gets silver in Women's U-19

- Final Stand: Entering as the top seed and favorite, the 17-year-old Anahat narrowly lost a hard-fought final to France's Lauren Baltayan with a scoreline of 9-11, 11-7, 3-11, 9-11.
- Historic Run: This was Anahat's ninth appearance in a British Junior Open final across various age groups. Had she won, she would have become only the second Indian woman to claim the U-19 title, following Joshna Chinappa's historic win in 2005.

BANKING NEWS



MARCH 2026

SBI announces exit of Nitin Chugh as Deputy MD

- **Completion of Contractual Tenure:** Chugh's departure is not a resignation but the result of his three-year contract coming to an end. He originally joined SBI in March 2022 as a high-profile lateral hire from the private sector to spearhead the bank's digital evolution.
- **Architect of Digital Transformation:** During his tenure, Chugh was instrumental in driving the bank's "Digital-First" strategy. Most notably, he led the development and recent launch of YONO 2.0, a revamped version of SBI's flagship app designed to compete directly with major fintech players like PhonePe and Google Pay.

Footnotes: SBI's Chairman: C. Sreenivasulu Setty, HQ: Mumbai, Estd: 1955

IOB appoints Thomas Mathew as RBI Director

- **Top Leadership Recognition:** ONGC Chairman and CEO Arun Kumar Singh was honored with the CEO/CMD of the Year – Platinum Award. This recognized his strategic leadership in driving corporate growth and ensuring national energy security.
- **Excellence in Sustainability:** The company secured the Platinum Award for Corporate Social Responsibility & Sustainability. This accolade highlighted ONGC's impact on community

development and its commitment to environmental stewardship.

- **Commitment to Inclusivity:** ONGC received the Gold Award for the Contribution of Women & Differently Abled in PSEs, celebrating the organization's efforts in building a diverse, equitable, and empowering workplace.

YES Bank appoints Vinay Muralidhar Tonse as MD & CEO

- **Effective Dates:** Mr. Tonse will join as MD & CEO (Designate) on March 12, 2026, to facilitate a smooth handover. He will formally take full charge as MD & CEO on April 6, 2026, for a three-year tenure.
- **Succession:** He succeeds Prashant Kumar, who is credited with stabilizing the bank post-2020 and will demit office on April 5, 2026, following the completion of his extended term.
- **SBI Background:** Continuing the trend of leadership from India's largest lender, Mr. Tonse brings nearly four decades of experience from the State Bank of India (SBI), where he most recently served as MD (Retail Business & Operations).

Footnotes: YES Bank's MD & CEO: Prashant Kumar, HQ: Mumbai, Estd: 2003

Axis MF elevates R Sivakumar as its CIO

- **Internal Succession:** Effective March 5, 2026, R Sivakumar succeeds Ashish Gupta, who stepped down to pursue other interests. Under this new

structure, core investment heads—Shreyash Devalkar (Equity), Devang Shah (Fixed Income), and Nandik Malik (Equity & Hybrid SIF)—will report directly to him.

- **Founding Member:** A veteran with over 25 years of experience, Sivakumar has been with Axis AMC since its inception in 2009. Prior to this elevation, he served as the Head of Products and Corporate Strategy and spent 14 years leading the Fixed Income division.

SBI Emerges as Strongest Indian Bank Globally

- **Global Strength Leader:** SBI is ranked as the 16th strongest banking brand in the world (up from 24th in 2025). It is the only Indian bank to receive the prestigious AAA+ brand strength rating, the highest accolade for brand resilience and stakeholder trust.
- **Dominant Market Share & Scale:** As of March 2025, SBI has solidified its position as a "proxy for the Indian economy" with a massive balance sheet of ₹66.76 Lakh Crore (approx. \$781 billion), commanding a 22.5% market share in deposits and nearly 20% in advances.
- **Digital & Financial Resilience:** The bank's "strongest" status is fueled by its digital transformation (87 million+ YONO users) and improved asset quality. Its Gross NPA ratio fell to 1.82% in FY2025, while standalone net profit grew 16% to a record ₹70,901 Crore.

Footnotes: SBI's Chairman: C. Sreenivasulu Setty, HQ: Mumbai, Estd: 1955

Ketan Merchant appointed as CEO of Fino Payments Bank

- Reason for Appointment: The leadership change follows the arrest of the bank's MD & CEO, Rishi Gupta, by the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) in connection with an investigation into alleged GST evasion by third-party program managers.
- Tenure and Transition: Merchant, who was serving as the bank's Chief Financial Officer (CFO), will hold the interim post for a period of three months. His appointment is intended to ensure operational continuity while the board reassesses the "fit and proper" status of the regular CEO.
- Strategic Stability: Despite the leadership crisis, Merchant has assured stakeholders that the bank's operations remain stable and its plans to transition into a Small Finance Bank (SFB)—for which it received in-principle approval in December 2025—remain on track.

Parthanil Ghosh appointed MD & CEO of HDFC ERGO

- Leadership Transition: Ghosh succeeds Ritesh Kumar, who led the company for 15 years and is transitioning to a role within the Fairfax Group.
- Internal Promotion: Parthanil was previously the President of Retail Business, bringing extensive experience in the general insurance sector.
- Strategic Focus: His appointment aims to maintain HDFC ERGO's position as a top private-sector

player in the non-life insurance market.

Footnotes: HDFC ERGO's Previous MD: Anuj Tyagi, HQ: Mumbai

SBI & MUFG Bank (Japan) Partnership

- Strategic Ties: State Bank of India and Japan's MUFG Bank signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to boost India-Japan financial corridors.
- Corporate Support: The deal focuses on assisting Japanese companies looking to invest in India and Indian firms expanding into Japan.
- Digital Innovation: Both banks will collaborate on supply chain financing and digital banking solutions for cross-border trade.

Footnotes: SBI's Chairman: C. Sreenivasulu Setty, HQ: Mumbai, Estd: 1955

RBI Wins 'Initiative of the Year' Award for '.bank.in' Domain Rollout

- Global First in Cyber-Security: With this initiative, India became the first country globally to mandate a secure, exclusive, and verifiable internet domain specifically for its banking system. The award recognizes this as a "global benchmark" in financial cybersecurity, helping to strike a major blow against phishing and domain-spoofing frauds.
- Mandatory Migration & Exclusivity: The RBI mandated that all licensed banks—including public, private, small finance, and foreign banks—migrate their official websites and net banking portals to the .bank.in extension by October 31, 2025. Only RBI-regulated entities are permitted to use this

domain, ensuring that any URL ending in .bank.in is a guarantee of legitimacy for the consumer.

- Collaborative Implementation: The rollout was executed through a high-level collaboration involving the NIXI and the IDRBT, which serves as the exclusive registrar.

Keki M. Mistry appointed Interim Chairman of HDFC Bank



- Sudden Resignation of Atanu Chakraborty: The appointment follows the abrupt resignation of the previous Part-time Chairman, Atanu Chakraborty, on March 18, 2026. In his resignation letter, the former IAS officer and ex-Finance Secretary cited "certain happenings and practices within the bank" over the last two years that were "not in congruence" with his personal values and ethics.
- Interim Tenure and Experience: A qualified Chartered Accountant with over 40 years of experience, Mistry is a stalwart of the HDFC group, having previously served as the Vice Chairman and CEO of HDFC Limited before its historic \$40 billion merger with HDFC Bank in 2023.
- Focus on Governance Continuity: The RBI's swift approval of Mistry who was already a Non-Executive Director on the board—is seen as a move to ensure stability at India's largest private-sector lender.

FEBRUARY 2026

Sarvesh Ranjan appointed as GM at UBI



- **Succession and Seniority:** Sarvesh Ranjan was promoted from his previous role as General Manager to fill the vacancy created by the superannuation of Shri Bhaskara Rao Kare, who retired on January 31, 2026. This elevation ensures leadership continuity in one of India's largest public sector banks.
- **Specialized Expertise:** Ranjan brings nearly three decades of banking experience, specifically excelling in high-stakes areas such as Central Reconciliation, Transaction Monitoring, and Anti-Money Laundering (AML). His background is considered critical as the bank navigates increasing regulatory scrutiny and the rise of digital transaction monitoring.

Footnotes: UBI's MD & CEO: Ashish Pandey, HQ: Mumbai, Estd: 1919

Yes Bank appointed Vinay Tonse as MD & CEO

- **RBI Approval for 3-Year Term:** On February 3, 2026, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the appointment of Vinay Muralidhar Tonse as the Managing Director and CEO of Yes Bank for a three-year tenure, starting from the date he officially assumes charge.
- **Planned Leadership Transition:** He succeeds Prashant Kumar, another former SBI executive

who led the bank through its post-2020 recovery. Kumar's extended term is scheduled to conclude in April 2026, allowing for a smooth handover of the bank's stabilized operations and improved asset quality.

Footnotes: Yes Bank's MD & CEO: Prashant Kumar, Estd: 2003, HQ: Mumbai

Tripura Gramin Bank launches India's First RRB Co-Branded RuPay Credit Card

- **National First:** Launched in February 2026, Tripura Gramin Bank has become the first Regional Rural Bank (RRB) in India to introduce a co-branded RuPay credit card, setting a new benchmark for the country's rural financial sector.
- **Focus on Digital Inclusion:** This initiative coincides with the bank's Golden Jubilee (50th year) and aims to provide rural and semi-urban customers with seamless access to modern credit facilities and digital payment tools.

Footnotes: Tripura Gramin Bank's Chairman: Satyendra Singh, Estd: 1976, HQ: Agartala

Axis Bank Launches 'Rooftop Solar Finance' for MSMEs

- **Collateral-Free & High Quantum:** MSMEs can access collateral-free loans ranging from ₹10 lakh to ₹2 crore. This allows small businesses to adopt solar technology without tying up existing assets or straining their working capital.
- **Flexible Repayment & Long Tenure:** The scheme offers flexible repayment tenures of 4 to 7 years. This is structured to align with the "payback period"

of solar installations, where the savings on electricity bills often cover the loan EMIs, making the transition cost-neutral over time.

- **End-to-End Technical Support:** Beyond just funding, Axis Bank has partnered with leading Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) and tech partners. This ensures MSMEs receive quality equipment and transparent data on project costs, estimated energy savings, and execution timelines.

Footnotes: Axis Bank's MD & CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry, HQ: Mumbai, Estd: 1993

SBI Cards appoints Anuradha Rao Director

- **Role and Tenure:** She has been appointed as an Independent Director for a three-year term, effective retrospectively from November 13, 2025, until November 12, 2028. Her appointment was formalized via a postal ballot resolution.
- **Vast Industry Expertise:** Rao brings nearly 40 years of experience in the banking and financial services sector. She previously held high-profile roles including Deputy Managing Director (Strategy and Digital Banking) at the State Bank of India and MD & CEO of SBI Funds Management Limited.
- **Strategic Governance:** Her induction is aimed at enhancing the board's expertise in digital banking, strategy, and regulatory oversight, which are critical as SBI Cards continues to scale its digital payment ecosystem.

R Vijay Anandh Named CEO of City Union Bank



- **Tenure and Start Date:** His appointment is for a period of three years, effective from May 1, 2026. This follows the retirement of the current MD & CEO, N. Kamakodi, whose 15-year tenure concludes on April 30, 2026.
- **Professional Background:** Vijay Anandh is an internal successor, currently serving as the Executive Director of the bank. He has over 28 years of banking experience, with previous senior roles at RBL Bank, Barclays, and ICICI Bank, specializing in retail assets and risk management.

BOBCARD Launches Braille-Enable 'BOBCARD Premier Credit Card'

- **Enhanced Accessibility:** The card features a specialized Braille design and tactile elements that allow visually impaired users to easily identify and use the card for physical transactions, fostering financial independence.
- **Premium Reward Structure:** Cardholders earn 5X accelerated rewards (up to 10 points per ₹100) on travel, dining, and international spends, while still offering 2 reward points on all other categories.
- **Lifestyle & Travel Perks:** The card provides complimentary domestic airport lounge access (one per quarter), an in-built personal accidental death insurance cover (up to ₹50 Lakhs), and a 1% fuel surcharge waiver across India

Sanjay Agarwal appointed as MD & CEO of AUSFB

- **Final Regulatory Clearance:** The RBI's approval on February 12, 2026, was the final necessary step in the process. It follows a series of internal governance milestones, including the Board of Directors' approval on October 17, 2025, and overwhelming shareholder approval secured on December 26, 2025.
- **Operational Scale-Up:** Under his extended leadership, the bank is targeting massive expansion. As of early 2026, AUSFB has reached a balance sheet size of over ₹1.74 Lakh Crore and serves over 1.25 Crore customers, with a strategic focus on accelerating its AI-driven digital transformation through its "AU 0101" platform.

EximPe gets RBI approval for PA-CB Licence



- **Direct UPI Acceptance for Global Merchants:** The license allows EximPe to enable international businesses to collect payments from Indian customers using UPI, cards, and net banking without needing a local Indian entity. Funds can be settled directly into the merchants' offshore accounts in their preferred foreign currencies.
- **Targeting \$1 Billion in Transactions:** Following the approval, EximPe has set an ambitious goal to process \$1 billion in annualized UPI-led cross-border transactions by

2028. The company is primarily focused on trade corridors such as India-China, India-Singapore, and India-ASEAN.

SBI Life Wins at 6th ICC Emerging Asia Insurance Conclave & Awards

- **Best Life Insurance Company (India):** SBI Life was honored with the top award for the "Best Life Insurance Company – India" category, recognizing its consistent financial performance and market leadership.
- **Excellence in Risk Management:** The company received the award for "Best Risk Management Strategy – India," underscoring its robust framework for mitigating operational and financial risks while protecting policyholder interests.

Footnotes: SBI Life's MD & CEO: Amit Jhigran, HQ: Mumbai, Estd: 2001

RBI's Digital Payment Index for September 2025 increased

- **Significant Surge in Value:** The RBI-DPI for September 2025 climbed to 516.76, showing a substantial increase from 493.22 in March 2025. This represents a more than fivefold growth in digital payment adoption since the index's inception in 2018.
- **Key Growth Drivers:** The rise was primarily fueled by two parameters: Payment Performance (which has the highest weightage of 45%) and Payment Enablers (25%). This indicates a massive jump in actual transaction volumes and improved digital infrastructure like internet and mobile connectivity.
- **Expansion Factors:** The growth is attributed to the widening merchant acceptance network, the robust popularity of UPI.

JANUARY 2026

Federal Bank Unveils New Brand Logo 'The Fortuna Wave'

- **Design Philosophy:** The new wordmark uses a rounded, fluid typeface instead of uppercase letters. This change reflects a move toward being more approachable and solution-oriented, as the bank aims to appeal to a younger, digitally-savvy demographic.
- **Yellow Underline:** The familiar yellow underline from the previous logo has been retained, symbolizing the bank's continued commitment to partnership and support.

Footnotes: FB's MD & CEO: KVS Manian, HQ: Kerala, Estd:1931

Karur Vysya Bank Cuts Base Rate and BPLR

- **Karur Vysya Bank** has slashed both its Base Rate and its Benchmark Prime Lending Rate (BPLR) by 45 basis points (bps). This marks a substantial downward revision aimed at passing on liquidity benefits to borrowers.
- **Affected Loans:** These cuts primarily benefit "old" borrowers whose loans (sanctioned before April 2016) are still linked to the Base Rate or BPLR regimes, rather than the newer MCLR or EBLR systems.
- **Strategic Alignment:** By lowering these rates, KVB is positioning itself competitively to improve credit growth in its retail and MSME portfolios, which reported a strong 17.15% YoY growth in advances as of December 31, 2025.

Footnotes: KVB's MD & CEO: Mr. Ramesh Babu, HQ: Tamil Nadu, Estd:1916

IDFC FIRST Bank Launches 'Zero-Forex

Diamond Reserve Credit Card'

- **Zero Forex Markup & Global Cash Access:** The card eliminates the standard 2%–3.5% foreign exchange markup fee on all international transactions. Additionally, it offers interest-free ATM cash withdrawals globally until the payment due date (subject to a nominal transaction fee of ₹199).
- **Comprehensive Insurance & Protection:** To enhance traveler security, the card includes a ₹25,000 trip cancellation cover, coverage for lost baggage or delayed flights, an air accident cover of ₹1 crore, and a personal accident cover of ₹10 lakh.

Footnotes: IDFC FIRST Bank's MD & CEO: V. Vaidyanathan, HQ: Mumbai, Estd.: 2015

HSBC Private Bank appoints Ida Liu as CEO

- **Elite Industry Transition:** Ida Liu joins HSBC after an 18-year tenure at Citigroup, where she most recently served as the Global Head of Citi Private Bank. She succeeds Gabriel Castello, who served as the interim CEO and will now transition to the role of Vice Chair.
- **Strategic UHNW Focus:** Her mandate is to deepen HSBC's leadership among Ultra-High-Net-Worth (UHNW) clients and sophisticated entrepreneurs, focusing specifically on strengthening cross-border connectivity across major global wealth corridors.

Footnotes: HSBC's Previous CEO: Gabriel Castello, HQ: Mumbai, Estd.: 1853

Dhaka Bank appoints Osman Ershad Faiz as

MD & CEO


- **Extensive Global Experience:** Faiz brings over 30 years of international banking expertise to the role. He has held high-profile leadership positions at major global institutions, including serving as the Managing Director and COO of Standard Chartered Bank Singapore and the Chief Information and Operating Officer (CIOO) of the FinTech firm AMTD Digital.
- **Award-Winning Leadership:** Beyond his technical skills, Faiz is a highly decorated professional. He received the "Legend" Award at the World CIO 200 Summit (2023) and has been repeatedly featured on the HERoes Global Role Model lists for his advocacy of gender diversity and inclusion in the workplace.

Footnotes: Dhaka Bank's Chairman: Abdul Hai Sarker, HQ: Dhaka, Estd: 1995

KMB appointed Anup Kumar Saha as Director

- **Strategic Oversight of Retail:** Effective January 12, 2026, Saha was appointed to lead the bank's Consumer Banking vertical. He will also oversee Marketing and Data Analytics, critical functions for the bank's goal of driving customer-centric growth and digital innovation.
- **Proven Track Record:** Saha brings over 32 years of experience in financial services. He most recently served as the Managing Director of Bajaj Finance, where he was instrumental in transforming the company into profitable NBFCs.

DEFENCE & TECHNOLOGY



MARCH 2026

India Participates in Sea Dragon Naval Exercise 2026

- Multi-National Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW): Hosted at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, the exercise brings together five key Indo-Pacific partners: the USA, India, Australia, Japan, and New Zealand. It focuses on advanced "submarine hunting" drills, progressing from tracking simulated targets to detecting and monitoring a live submarine in deep-water environments.
- The "Dragon Belt" Competition: The exercise features a competitive format where participating aircrews are graded on their speed, tracking accuracy, and seamless coordination. The highest-scoring unit is awarded the prestigious Dragon Belt. Notably, the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) is the defending champion, having won the belt in 2025.

Indian Navy launches IOS SAGAR 2026

- Expanded Participation (IONS Chairmanship): This edition coincides with India assuming the chairmanship of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) in February 2026. Consequently, the program has expanded significantly, featuring participation from naval personnel of 16 IONS member nations, up from 10 countries in the inaugural 2025 edition.
- Operational Training Model: The initiative is designed as a "living" operational engagement. It

begins with professional training at naval establishments in Kochi, followed by a sea phase where international personnel are embedded onboard an Indian Naval Ship. They train and sail alongside Indian crews, participating in real-time navigation, seamanship, and maritime security drills.

Indian Army Conducts Exercise 'Amogh Jwala' at Babina Field Firing Ranges

- Technology-Driven Mechanised Warfare: The 13-day exercise was executed by the White Tiger Division to validate "multi-domain" operational capabilities. It focused on the seamless integration of traditional mechanised forces with advanced technologies, including Apache attack helicopters, fighter aircraft, and unmanned aerial systems (UAS).
- Focus on the "Future-Ready" Force: The culmination was witnessed by Lieutenant General Dhiraj Seth (GOC-in-C, Southern Command). He emphasized that the drills successfully fused Electronic Warfare (EW), Air Defence (AD), and night-fighting capabilities.

Indian Navy warship Nilgiri joins Exercise KAKADU 2026

- Scale and Scope: Exercise KAKADU is Australia's premier multilateral maritime exercise. The 2026 edition is the largest to date, involving over 6,000 personnel, 30 warships, and multiple aircraft from 18 partner

nations. The exercise area has been expanded this year to cover the vast waters from Darwin to Sydney, including the eastern coast of Australia.

- Strategic Participation: INS Nilgiri is operating as part of a combined task group alongside ships from Australia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, and the Philippines.

The Ministry of Jal Shakti organized 'World Water Day conclave 2026'

- Joint Industry Declaration: A core highlight was the transition of industries from "water users" to "water stewards." Major industry associations (including FICCI, CII, and ASSOCHAM) committed to a Joint Declaration targeting Water Neutrality and a 50% reduction in water footprint by 2030.
- Innovation and Technology Integration: The conclave emphasized "Ideas, Innovation, and Action" by felicitating 19 winners of the Jal Shakti Hackathon. The sessions focused on leveraging emerging technologies like AI and IoT for smart monitoring and circular water use.

Agnikul test-fires first-of-its-kind 3D-printed booster engine

- Revolutionary Manufacturing Speed: The Agniete engine is manufactured as a single-piece structure using Inconel (a high-strength superalloy). While traditional rocket engines take

several months to assemble from thousands of parts, Agnikul's 3D-printing process produces a fully functional engine in just seven days, reducing production time by approximately 90–97%.

- World's Largest Single-Piece Design: Standing at one metre in height, Agnite is the largest rocket engine ever built as a single integrated component without any welds, joints, or fasteners. This "single-shot" printing significantly improves structural integrity, reduces weight, and minimizes potential failure points during high-temperature combustion.

IAF Launches India's First Helicopter-Dropped Drone Project 'Vayu Baan'

- Stand-off Strike Capability: Conceived as an Air-Launched Effect (ALE), the Vayu Baan is a small, autonomous drone dropped from a moving helicopter mid-flight. Its primary goal is to allow pilots to engage and destroy enemy targets from a safe distance of over 50 km, keeping the helicopter safely outside the range of enemy Man-Portable Air-Defense Systems (MANPADS).
- GNSS-Denied Navigation: A critical technological feature of Vayu Baan is its ability to operate effectively in electronic warfare zones. It is engineered to navigate autonomously using AI-based target identification.

Footnotes- Chief of the Air Staff: Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh, HQ: New Delhi, Estd: 1950

IAF Conducts 'Vayushakti-26' at Pokhran Range

- First-Ever "Operational Storyline" Format: For the first

time, the exercise was not just a series of drills but was executed along a defined operational storyline, transforming the range into a simulated live combat theatre. It seamlessly integrated offensive strikes, air defense, and special forces missions (including Garud and Para SF) to demonstrate how the IAF would dominate an evolving battlefield.

- Round-the-Clock Precision("Achook, Abhedya, Sateek"): Guided by the mantra of being "Accurate, Invincible, and Precise," the IAF demonstrated 24/7 combat readiness.

Rajpal Meena appointed as Inspector General in BSF

- IPS Officer Profile: Rajpal Meena is a 2007 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer belonging to the Kerala cadre.
- Deputation Terms: His appointment to the BSF is on a central deputation basis for a fixed tenure (typically five years).

Footnotes: BSF's DG: Praveen Kumar, Estd: 1965

Shri B.P. Singh, Takes Over As DG Of Naval Armament



- Extensive Career and Expertise: An officer of the 1994 batch of the Indian Naval Armament Service (INAS), Shri Singh brings over 30 years of experience. His expertise covers

the entire lifecycle of naval weaponry, from the procurement and storage of conventional ammunition to the maintenance of advanced guided weapon systems.

- Succession and Core Mandate: He succeeds Shri Divakar Jayant, who retired on February 28, 2026. In his new role as DGONA, Shri Singh will be responsible for ensuring the operational readiness and safety of the Indian Navy's vast arsenal, with a heavy focus on indigenization (Aatmanirbhar Bharat) in defense manufacturing.

Footnotes: Navy's CNS: Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, HQ: Delhi, Estd: 1950

Indian Army & Ladakh Forest Department Sign MoU

- Joint Snow Leopard Conservation Cell: The centerpiece of the MoU is the establishment of a specialized conservation cell. This unit will coordinate between military and civil authorities to monitor snow leopard populations, conduct scientific research, and protect critical habitats in sensitive border areas that are often inaccessible to civilians.
- Flagship Species Protection: While the Snow Leopard is the primary focus, the agreement extends protection to other vital Himalayan wildlife, including the Himalayan Wolf, Black-necked Crane, Ibex, Bharal (blue sheep), and Marmot. It aligns local efforts with the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection (GSLEP) program.
- Eco-Friendly Border Stewardship: The Indian Army has committed to integrating "green" practices into its regional operations.

FEBRUARY 2026

Air Marshal Inderpal Singh took over as Chief of Eastern Air Command



- **Decorated Fighter Pilot:** Commissioned in June 1988, he is an alumnus of the NDA and a highly experienced combat pilot with over 3,200 hours of accident-free flying across multiple platforms, including the MiG-21, Su-30 MKI, and Jaguar.
- **Diverse Command Experience:** Before this role, he served as the Senior Air Staff Officer at EAC. His career includes commanding a frontline air base, the Tactics and Air Combat Development Establishment (TACDE), and serving as a Defence Attaché to Japan and South Korea.

India & Kyrgyzstan's Joint Military Exercise KHANJAR begins

- **13th Edition in Assam:** The 13th edition of the joint military exercise commenced on February 4, 2026, at Misamari in Assam. The 14-day exercise (concluding February 17) is an annual event that alternates venues between India and Kyrgyzstan.
- **Elite Participation:** The drill features elite special forces, specifically India's Parachute Regiment (Special Forces) and Kyrgyzstan's Scorpion Brigade, working together to share tactical expertise and best practices.

Divakar Jayant Assumes Charge as DG of Navy

- **Distinguished Career & Succession:** A 1991-batch INAS officer with over 33 years of experience, Jayant succeeded Shri P. Upadhyay, who retired on January 31, 2026. He previously held leadership roles at major Naval Armament Depots in Mumbai, Visakhapatnam, and Alwaye.
- **Technical Expertise:** An Electrical Engineering graduate from IIT Delhi, he is a specialist in the life-cycle management of torpedoes and the planning of complex explosive infrastructure projects, which are critical for the Navy's submarine and surface warfare capabilities.

Footnotes: Indian Navy's Chief: Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, Estd: 1950

Sagar Defence Delivers Surface Vessels to Indian Navy

- **Maiden Indigenous "Boat Swarm" Capability:** This delivery of the first two vessels (out of an order of 12) marks India's entry into an elite club of nations capable of deploying weaponized autonomous swarm technology.
- **Advanced Weaponry & Stealth:** Each craft is a high-speed Fast Interceptor Craft (FIC) equipped with a 12.7mm remote-controlled gun. They are capable of deploying short-range missiles and loitering munitions.
- **Electronic Warfare Resilience:** A standout feature is the ability of these vessels to operate in GPS-denied environments. Using indigenous AI and "Genesis" control systems, they can navigate and execute missions.

PNB Announces 'Soldierathon 2026' to Honour Indian Armed Forces

- **Objective & Theme:** The marathon is themed "Run with Soldiers, Run for Soldiers" and is dedicated to honoring the Indian Armed Forces. Specifically, it commemorates the success of Operation Sindoor, aiming to bridge the gap between civilians and the military while promoting national pride.
- **Event Schedule:** The main event is scheduled for April 5, 2026, at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi. It features three categories: a 21.1 km timed Half Marathon, a 10 km timed run, and a 5 km non-timed "fun run."

Indian Navy assumes command of Combined Task Force 154

- **Historic First for India:** This marks the first time the Indian Navy has led a multinational task force under the 47-nation Combined Maritime Forces (CMF). Commodore Milind M. Mokashi, a Shaurya Chakra awardee, formally took over the command from the Italian Navy during a ceremony at CMF Headquarters in Manama, Bahrain.
- **Specialized Focus on Training:** Unlike other task forces that focus on active patrols, CTF 154 is specifically dedicated to multinational training and capacity building. It operates on five core pillars: Maritime Domain Awareness, Law of the Sea, Maritime Interdiction.

Indian Air Force & Thai Air Force Undertake Joint in-situ Air Exercise

- **Strategic Assets Involved:** The exercise featured a "clash" of high-end platforms, with India deploying Su-30MKI multirole fighters, AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control System), and IL-78 mid-air refuellers.

Thailand participated with its Swedish-made JAS 39 Gripen fighter jets.

- Geopolitical Significance: The drills were held near the Strait of Malacca, a critical maritime chokepoint. This location underscores a shared commitment to regional security in the Indo-Pacific and aligns with India's 'Act East' policy and Thailand's 'Act West' outreach.

First Indigenous Cadet Training Ship 'Krishna' Launched

- A "Floating Classroom" for Future Officers: Designed as a dedicated training platform, the ship features specialized classrooms, a training bridge, and a chart house. It can accommodate 20 officers, 150 sailors, and 200 cadets simultaneously, providing hands-on experience in navigation and seamanship for both Indian (including women) and friendly foreign country cadets.
- Indigenous Design & Private Partnership: The vessel is a major milestone for 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', as it was entirely designed and constructed by Larsen & Toubro (L&T). This highlights the growing role of private Indian shipyards in building complex, large-scale naval defense assets.
- Versatile Secondary Roles: Beyond training, 'Krishna' is equipped to serve as a Hospital Ship and can be deployed for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), Non-Combatant Evacuation Operations (NEO), and Search and Rescue (SAR) missions.

India-US Joint Special Forces Exercise 'Vajra Prahar' Begins

- Mountain Warfare Focus: This three-week exercise (running until March 16) specifically targets enhancing combined capabilities in mountainous terrain. Training modules include high-altitude mission planning, reconnaissance using unmanned aerial systems (UAS), and joint tactical drills to refine "Special Operations Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures" (TTPs).
- Elite Participation: The Indian Army is represented by 45 personnel from its elite Special Forces (Para SF) units, while the United States has deployed 12 personnel from the Green Berets (US Army Special Forces). This small-team format allows for intensive, high-stakes peer learning and the exchange of best practices in counter-terrorism.
- Strategic Interoperability: Conducted alternately in India and the US (the 2024 edition was in Idaho), the exercise aims to deepen professional camaraderie and mutual trust. It is a key pillar of the growing India-US defense partnership, ensuring that both nations can operate seamlessly during complex global security contingencies.

India-Japan Joint Exercise 'Dharma Guardian' Commences

- Participation & Contingents: This edition features a 120-member contingent from each side. The Indian Army is represented by the Ladakh Scouts, while the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) is represented by the 32nd Infantry Regiment.
- Operational Focus: The exercise centers on urban warfare and counter-terrorism operations in semi-urban environments. Key activities include establishing a temporary operating base,

developing an Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) grid, and conducting heliborne missions.

- Strategic Interoperability: Held annually and rotating between India and Japan, the exercise is a cornerstone of the "Special Strategic and Global Partnership." It aims to share best practices, refine joint planning procedures, and enhance the ability of both nations to respond to regional security challenges in the Indo-Pacific.

INS Anjadip built with indigenous SAIL steel



- 100% Indigenous Backbone: The ship is constructed using DMR 249A grade steel, a specialized high-tensile steel developed indigenously by the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL). This ensures the vessel is lightweight yet structurally robust enough to handle high-impact naval operations.
- Submarine Hunter-Killer: Despite its "Shallow Water Craft" designation, it is heavily armed for subsurface warfare. It carries lightweight torpedoes, ASW rockets, and mines, specifically designed to detect and neutralize enemy submarines in coastal waters and conduct low-intensity maritime operations.
- High-Tech Stealth and Speed: The ship features a water-jet propulsion system, which allows for high-speed maneuverability.

JANUARY 2026

Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor appointed IAF Vice Chief

- He received the SarvottamYudh Seva Medal in 2025 for leading the IAF's strategic strikes on Pakistani air bases as head of the South Western Air Command during Operation Sindoor.
- A veteran fighter pilot commissioned in 1986, he has logged over 3,400 flying hours on aircraft including the MiG-21 and MiG-29. He is a Qualified Flying Instructor and Fighter Combat Leader with nearly 40 years of service.
- He succeeds Air Marshal Narmadeshwar Tiwari, who retired after more than four decades of service.

Footnotes: IAF's Commander-in-Chief: President Droupadi Murmu, HQ: New Delhi, Founded: 1932

India Commissions ICGS Samudra Pratap

- It is the first vessel of its kind to be entirely designed and built in India (by Goa Shipyard Limited). With over 60% indigenously content, it represents a major milestone for the Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India initiatives.
- The ship will be based at Kochi (under Coast Guard District Headquarters No. 4) to monitor the western seaboard. Notably, it is the first frontline ICG ship to have two women officers posted onboard as part of its permanent crew, highlighting a shift toward a more inclusive and gender-neutral operational environment.

2026 declared as 'Year of Networking & Data Centricity'

- Strategic Pillars: The initiative is built by the Army on three pillars:

Indigenisation, Innovation, and Jointness. The Army aims to use home-grown technologies, including secure Indian-developed battlefield management systems and captive data centres, to ensure data security.

- Inter-Service Synergy: A unified digital platform is being established to improve coordination between the Army, Navy, and Air Force, facilitating seamless joint operations and integrated theater commands.

DRDO Develops Water Purification System 'SWaDeS'

- Features a lightweight manual variant and a high-capacity engine variant (can be deployed in 2–3 minutes for 20–25 soldiers).
- The engine variant can desalinate seawater with Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) as high as 35,000 mg/L, reducing it to safe drinking levels of less than 500 mg/L.
- Specifically designed for Tri-command services, it is highly effective for naval missions, coastal bases, and high-altitude saline bodies like Pangong Tso Lake in Ladakh.

Footnotes: DRDO's Chairman: Samir V. Kamat, HQ: New Delhi, Formed: 1958

SpaceX deploys Italy's COSMO-SkyMed 2nd GEN satellite

- The satellite uses state-of-the-art Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR), which allows it to "see" through clouds, smoke, and total darkness. Unlike optical satellites that need sunlight, this X-band radar provides high-resolution imagery in all weather conditions.
- This launch is part of a broader transition where the Second Generation (CSG) satellites are

progressively replacing the aging First Generation (CSK) constellation. SpaceX's involvement has been crucial for maintaining this timeline.

Indian Scientists Create SC Simulation

- Solving the Mpemba Paradox: Using advanced supercomputing, Indian researchers developed the first simulation to prove and explain the Mpemba effect—the counterintuitive phenomenon where hotter water freezes faster than colder water.
- Discovery of "Bypassed" Delays: The simulation revealed that as water cools, it often gets trapped in short-lived, intermediate molecular states that delay freezing; however, hotter water can sometimes "choose" a faster molecular path to nucleation (ice birth), bypassing these delays.
- Beyond Water: The study successfully demonstrated that this effect is not exclusive to water but can occur during the fluid-to-solid transition of other materials, offering new insights into nonequilibrium physics and the thermal control of next-generation electronics.

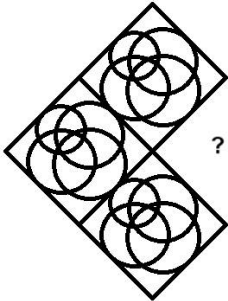
DRDO Successfully Tests Indigenous MPATGM

- Precision Strike Against Moving Targets: The flight test successfully demonstrated the missile's "top-attack" capability against a moving target. In this mode, the missile climbs steeply after launch and strikes the target from above.
- Advanced "Fire-and-Forget" Technology: As a third-generation weapon system, the MPATGM is equipped with a state-of-the-art Imaging Infrared (IIR) Homing Seeker and integrated AI-based image processing.

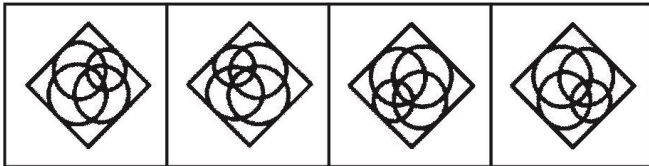
REASONING ABILITY

1. Select the figure from the options that can replace the question mark (?) and complete the given pattern.

Question Figure



Answer Figure



- (A) A (B) B (C) C (D) D

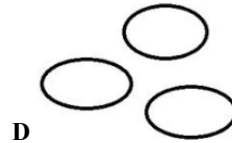
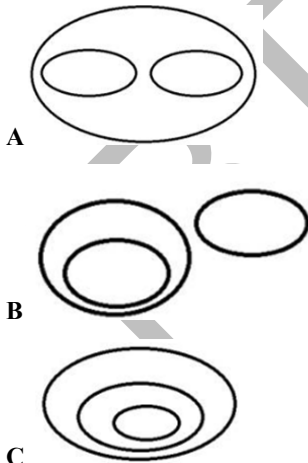
2. If '=' means '+', '+' means 'X', 'X' means '-', '-' means '÷', what will come in place of the question mark(?) ?

$$336 \div 18 + 45 - 150 \times 4 \div 92 = ?$$

- (A) 429.4 (B) 433
(C) 437.4 (D) 439

3. Which Venn diagram represents the correct relationship among the following classes:

French, Spain, Language



D

- (A) A (B) B (C) C (D) D

4. In a certain code language, 'PRECISE' is written as '63' and 'BASKET' is written as '58'. How will 'BROKEN' be written in that language?

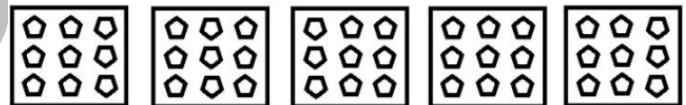
- (A) 67 (B) 51 (C) 66 (D) 45

5. Each vowel in the word 'STRUCTURE' is changed to the following letter in the English alphabetical order and each consonant is changed to the preceding letter in the English alphabetical order. How many letters are there in the English alphabetical order between the letter which is the third from the left end and the third from the right end in the group of letters thus formed?

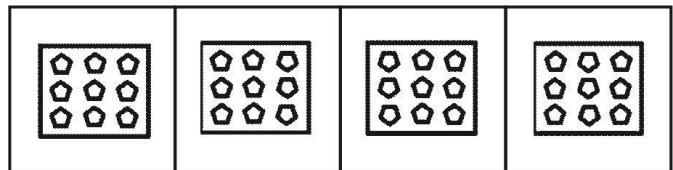
- (A) Seven (B) Four
(C) Five (D) Six

6. Out of the following five figures, four are alike in some manner and one differs from these in that manner. Select the odd figure.

Question Figure



Answer Figure



- (A) A (B) B (C) C (D) D

- (A) A (B) B
(C) C (D) D

7. Select the number from among the given options that can replace the question mark (?) in the following series.

71, 79, 88, 99, 113, 131, ?

- (A) 156 (B) 149
(C) 154 (D) 153

8. Select the set in which the numbers are related in the same way as are the numbers of the following set.

(NOTE: Operations should be performed on the whole numbers, without breaking down the numbers into its constituent digits. E.g., 13 - Operations on 13 such as adding/ subtracting/ multiplying etc. to 13 can be performed. Breaking down 13 into 1 and 3 and then performing mathematical operations on 1 and 3 is not allowed)

(81, 129, 24)

(144, 62, 41)

(A) (57, 111, 29)

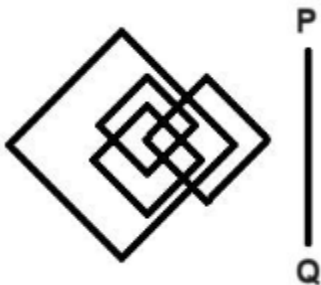
(B) (78, 42, 28)

(C) (97, 125, 14)

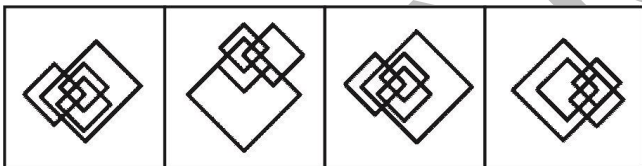
(D) (94, 46, 23)

9. Select the correct mirror image of the given combination when the mirror is placed at 'PQ' as shown below.

Question Figure



Answer Figure



(A)

(B)

(C)

(D)

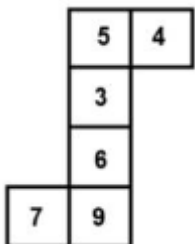
(A) A

(B) B

(C) C

(D) D

10. A cube is formed by folding the given sheet. Which of the following pair of numbers do not come opposite to each other after a cube is formed?



(A) 3 - 9

(B) 5 - 6

(C) 4 - 3

(D) 7 - 4

11. In a code language, 'JUPITER' is written as 'RGLSHWJ' and 'BUILDER' is written as 'ZGSPXWJ'. How will 'TRAVELS' be written in that language?

(A) GIZEVOH

(B) HJAFWPI

(C) HOVEZIG

(D) HJAEVOH

12. Showing the picture of Baji, Kavi said "She is daughter of my mother's father's son's only sister". How is Baji related to Kavi?

(A) Sister

(B) Wife

(C) Daughter

(D) Cousin

13. Select the combination of numbers that when placed sequentially in the blanks of the given series will complete the series.

6 _ 5 2 _ 7 1 _ 5 _ 3 5 _ 9 7 1 _ 5 _ _ 5 2 9 7 _ 8 _

(A) 4, 9, 2, 6, 5, 8, 5, 3, 4, 5

(B) 3, 1, 2, 3, 2, 8, 9, 3, 4, 5

(C) 3, 9, 8, 6, 2, 8, 6, 3, 1, 5

(D) 3, 9, 9, 6, 3, 8, 7, 3, 1, 5

14. Select the option that represents the correct order of the given words as they would appear in an English dictionary.

1- Normal

2- Norm

3- Noble

4- Nose

5- Novel

6- Noise

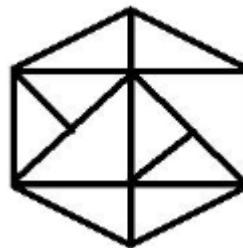
(A) 3, 2, 6, 1, 5, 4

(B) 3, 6, 2, 1, 4, 5

(C) 6, 3, 2, 1, 4, 5

(D) 5, 4, 1, 2, 3, 6

15. How many triangles are there in the given figure?



(A) Seventeen

(B) Sixteen

(C) Eighteen

(D) Fifteen

16. Which letter cluster will complete the given series?

XCHL, YDIM, AFKO, ____, HMRV

- (A) DHMQ (B) ZUPL
(C) DINR (D) CHNS

17. Select the option that is related to fifth letter- cluster in the same way as the second - letter cluster is related to the first letter- cluster and the fourth letter-cluster is related to the third letter-cluster.

ZERO: VLIA :: DIAL: ZWRO :: LAWN: ?

- (A) MDZO (B) ZONW
(C) OZSM (D) ZOMD

18. In a certain code language, 'VIBE' is coded as '05092505' and 'BELL' is coded as '25051515'. How will 'SALE' be coded in that language?

- (A) 19011405 (B) 08011505
(C) 18120123 (D) 08101705

19. Read the given statements and conclusions carefully.

Assuming that the information given in the statements is true, even if it appears to be at variance with commonly known facts, decide which of the given conclusions logically follow(s) from the statements.

Statements: Some Sleep is Deep. All Sea is Deep. Some Deep is Well.

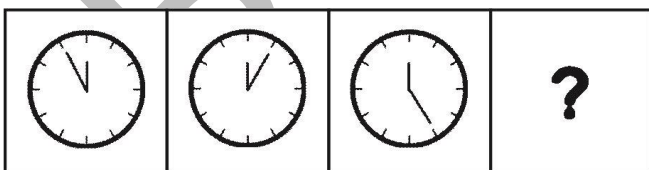
Conclusion I: No Sea is Well.

Conclusion II: Some Sleep is Sea.

- (A) Both conclusions I and II follow
(B) Neither conclusion I nor II follows
(C) Only conclusion II follows
(D) Only conclusion I follows

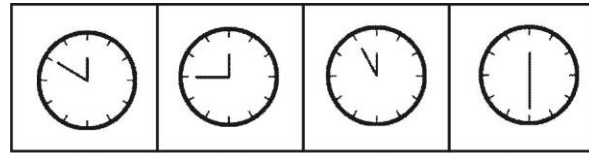
20. Select an appropriate figure from the four options that would complete the figure.

Question Figure



- (A) (B) (C) (D)

Answer Figure



- (A) (B) (C) (D)

- (A) A (B) B (C) C (D) D

21. 'Aquarium' is related to 'Fish', in the same way as 'Terrarium' is related to '____'. (The word must be considered as meaningful English words and must NOT be related to the number based on the number of letters/number of consonants/vowels in the word)

- (A) Snakes (B) Birds
(C) Plants (D) Lion

22. In the following question, four number pairs are given. In each pair the number on left side of (-) is related to the number of the right side of (-) with some Logic/Rule/Relation. Three pairs are similar on basis of same Logic/Rule/Relation. Select the odd one out from the given alternatives.

- (A) 39 - 27 (B) 52 - 10
(C) 84 - 36 (D) 57 - 35

23. Which among the following word cannot be formed using the letters of the given word only once?

PROFESSIONAL

- (A) ALPINES (B) SENIORS
(C) SPOILED (D) REASONS

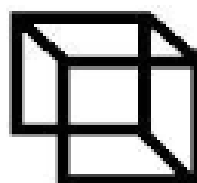
24. Choose the alternative that best replaces the question marks (?) in the given figure.

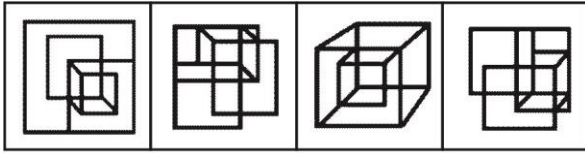
V	W	A
F	G	K
Q	R	?

- (A) V (B) W (C) U (D) X

25. Select the option in which the given figure is embedded (rotation is not allowed).

Question Figure



Answer Figure

- (A) A (B) B (C) C (D) D

GENERAL AWARENESS

26. The Uniform Civil Code falls under which part of the Indian Constitution?

- (A) Part III (B) Part IV
(C) Part IVA (D) Part IX

27. Which of the following rivers originates from the Sihawa range of hills in the Dhamtari district of Chhattisgarh?

- (A) Mahanadi (B) Narmada
(C) Son (D) Godavari

28. The Atal Tunnel is built under which mountain pass?

- (A) Zoji La Pass
(B) Nathu La Pass
(C) Rohtang Pass
(D) Khardung La Pass

29. Ruskin Bond won the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1992 for which of his works?

- (A) A Flight of Pigeons
(B) Our Trees Still Grow in Dehra
(C) Ghost Stories from the Raj
(D) The Night Train at Deoli

30. Which Veda is divided into two parts, known as 'Shukla' and 'Krishna'?

- (A) Rig Veda (B) Sama Veda
(C) Atharva Veda (D) Yajur Veda

31. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the hockey rules?

- (I) A hockey ground is rectangular in shape.
(II) The ball is placed 10m from the goalpost on the backline during a penalty corner.
(III) The weight of a hockey stick must not exceed 737g.
(IV) The total duration of a field hockey match is 70 minutes.

- (A) Only I and II are correct
(B) Only I, III and IV are correct
(C) Only II and IV are correct
(D) Only I, II, and III are correct

32. When did the Somnath Temple face its first recorded attack by Mahmud of Ghazni?

- (A) January 1026 (B) April 1011
(C) December 1043 (D) September 1035

33. What is the maximum period an Ordinance can remain in force after the reassembling of Parliament, if no action is taken?

- (A) Six weeks (B) Three months
(C) Six months (D) One year

34. Which region is famous for Basohli Painting?

- (A) Uttar Pradesh
(B) Jammu & Kashmir
(C) Chandigarh
(D) Odisha

35. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Khelo India Para Games 2025?

- (I) The 2nd edition of the Khelo India Para Games 2025 was held in New Delhi.
(II) The event featured six sports disciplines.
(III) Haryana secured the first place in the tournament with 34 gold medals.

- (A) Only I is correct
(B) Only I and II are correct
(C) Only III is correct
(D) All I, II, and III are correct

36. A ball is thrown vertically upwards with an initial velocity of 15 m/s. Ignoring air resistance, what is the maximum height it will reach?

(Assume $g = 9.8 \text{ m/s}^2$)

- (A) 7.65 m (B) 22.96 m
(C) 15.31 m (D) 11.48 m

37. Which new body was created by Pitt's India Act to oversee civil, military, and revenue matters of the East India Company?

- (A) Board of Revenue (B) Board of Directors
(C) Board of Control (D) Board of Council

38. NavIC is a satellite-based navigational system. It provides coverage over India and up to how many kilometres beyond India's territorial boundary?

- (A) 500 km (B) 1000 km
(C) 1500 km (D) 2000 km

39. In the context of Indian history, what was the significance of the Second Battle of Panipat?

- (A) It consolidated Mughal power in North India
(B) It marked the end of the Mughal Empire
(C) It was the first time gunpowder was used in India
(D) It led to the establishment of the Maratha Empire

40. Which specific 'dwarf' wheat variety, imported from Mexico, became the foundation of the Green Revolution in India?

- (A) Sonora 64 (B) IR8
(C) Basmati 370 (D) Kirti12

41. Consider the following:

Assertion (A) : The cooperative movement in India gained formal legal status during the British colonial era.

Reason (R) : The Cooperative Credit Societies Act was enacted in 1904 to provide legal recognition to these societies.

- (A) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is NOT the correct explanation of (A)
(B) (A) is false, but (R) is true
(C) Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A)
(D) (A) is true, but (R) is false

42. Parbati Giri was a legendary freedom fighter and social reformer from Odisha. She mobilised many people to raise their voices against colonial rule and oppression. During which major national movement was she imprisoned for two years?

- (A) Non-Cooperation Movement
(B) Quit India Movement
(C) Civil Disobedience Movement
(D) Swadeshi Movement

43. Who won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 2025?

- (A) Hernan Diaz
(B) Percival Everett
(C) Barbara Kingsolver

(D) Anthony Doerr

44. Who is the Lokpal of India in 2026?

- (A) Justice Sanjay Yadav
(B) Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi
(C) Justice Ajay Manikrao Khanwilkar
(D) Justice Sushil Chandra

45. In which state is the dance form 'Gondhal' performed?

- (A) Maharashtra
(B) Punjab
(C) Uttar Pradesh
(D) Andhra Pradesh

46. In which city did India host the 44th Chess Olympiad for the first time?

- (A) Delhi (B) Chennai
(C) Bhubaneswar (D) Pune

47. Which of the following regions represents the meristematic phase of growth in a plant?

- (A) The constantly dividing cells at the root and shoot apex
(B) The region away from the apex
(C) The vascular cambium only
(D) The region proximal to the elongation zone

48. Which of the following government schemes was launched in 2015 that offers financial security and savings for girls' future education and marriage?

- (A) Mission Vatsalya
(B) Scheme for Adolescent Girls
(C) Samagra Shiksha
(D) Sukanya Samridhi Yojana

49. Which festival is observed to offer respect and homage to the third-highest mountain, Mount Kanchenjunga?

- (A) Saga Dawa (B) Drukpa Tshechi
(C) Sonam Lochar (D) Pang Lhabsol

50. Which Five-Year Plan saw the introduction of Liberalisation, Privatisation, and Globalisation (LPG) reforms in India?

- (A) Eighth Plan
(B) Sixth Plan
(C) Ninth Plan
(D) Seventh Plan

QUANTITATIVE APTITUDE

51. The sum of the income of 'P' and 'Q' is Rs. 70,000, and the ratio between the income of 'P' and 'Q' is 3:2 respectively. 'P' and 'Q' spend 40% and 30% of their respective income. Find the difference between the savings of 'P' and 'Q'.

- (A) Rs. 4800 (B) Rs. 5600
(C) Rs. 5200 (D) Rs. 4000

52. Simplify the following expression:

$90 - [450 \div \{340 - (560 - 235)\}]$

- (A) 20 (B) 40
(C) 30 (D) 60

53. If $\sin a + \sin^2 a = 1$, then find the value of $\cos^{12} a + 3 \cos^{10} a + 3 \cos^8 a + \cos^6 a - 1$.

- (A) 0 (B) 2 (C) 1 (D) -1

54. If $x + y = 4$, then find the value of $(x^3 + y^3 + 12xy)^{1/2}$

- (A) 19 (B) 5 (C) 12 (D) 8

55. The cost price of a shirt is Rs. 4500, and it is marked 20% above and sold after giving two successive discounts of 10% and $11\frac{1}{9}\%$.

Find the profit or loss amount incurred by selling the shirt.

- (A) Rs. 120 (B) Rs. 180
(C) Rs. 100 (D) Rs. 150

56. Find the sum of the squares of the first 32 natural numbers.

- (A) 12340 (B) 11440
(C) 14280 (D) 15220

57. Three inlet pipes of equal efficiency can fill a tank in 24 minutes, and two outlet pipes of equal efficiency can empty the tank in 40 minutes. Find the time taken by 1 inlet and 1 outlet pipe to fill the empty tank.

- (A) 15 hours (B) 10.5 hours
(C) 12 hours (D) 11.2 hours

58. If $(a^2 + \frac{1}{a^2} = 76)$, then find the value of $(a - \frac{1}{a})$.

- (A) $\sqrt{67}$ (B) $\sqrt{74}$
(C) $\sqrt{56}$ (D) $\sqrt{90}$

59. The table given below shows the number of teachers in five different schools and percentage of number of male teachers out of total number of teachers in respective schools.

Schools	Total number of teachers in five different schools	Percentage of number of male teachers out of total number of teachers in respective schools
A	400	60%
B	560	45%
C	640	55%
D	420	70%
E	300	80%

Find the total number of female teachers in 'A', 'C' and 'E'.

- (A) 508 (B) 528
(C) 480 (D) 448

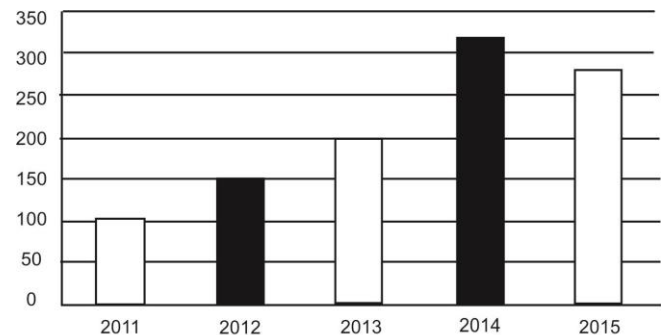
60. Find the value of 'k' such that equations $(k + 2)x + 6y - 9 = 0$ and $2kx - 4y + 8 = 0$ have a unique solution.

- (A) 'k' = (1/2) (B) 'k' = (- 1/2)
(C) 'k' (1/2) (D) 'k' = (- 1/2)

61. Find the simple interest earned on investing Rs. 45,000 at 30% p.a. for 15 months.

- (A) Rs. 13,250 (B) Rs. 18,900
(C) Rs. 16,875 (D) Rs. 17,200

62. The bar graph given below shows the quantity of sugar exported in five different years (in quintals) .



■ The quantity of sugar export in five different years

In which year, the quantity of sugar exported is more than the average quantity of sugar exported in all five years?

- (A) 2013 and 2014 (B) 2013 and 2012
(C) 2014 and 2015 (D) 2012 and 2014

63. Sum of the two numbers is 14, and the product of the numbers is 48. Find the difference between the numbers.

- (A) 4 (B) 2 (C) 6 (D) 8

64. The table given below shows the number of hours for which three persons 'X', 'Y' and 'Z' worked in three different months.

Workers	Number of hours worked in January	Number of hours worked in February	Number of hours worked in March
Pankaj	22	32	42
Jalaj	20	30	45
Neeraj	24	28	36

The number of hours worked by Neeraj in March is how much percentage more than the average number of hours worked by Pankaj in the given three months?

- (A) 7.5% (B) 10%
(C) 12.5% (D) $6\frac{2}{3}\%$

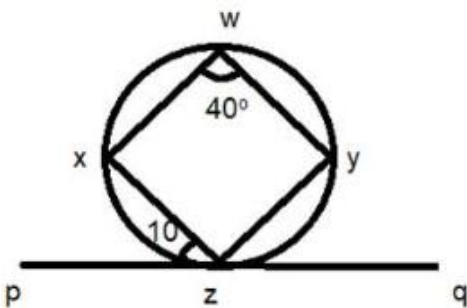
65. The present age of 'L' and 'K' is 32 years and 40 years, respectively. Find after how many years the ratio of the ages of 'L' and 'K' will be 5:6?

- (A) 12 (B) 8 (C) 6 (D) 10

66. The circumference of the base of a cylindrical vessel is 22 cm, and the height of the vessel is 12 cm. Find the volume of the vessel.

- (A) 388 cm^3 (B) 452 cm^3
(C) 324 cm^3 (D) 462 cm^3

67. In the given figure, 'xwyz' is a cyclic quadrilateral, whereas $\angle xwy = 40^\circ$ and $\angle xzp = 10^\circ$, find the value of $\angle yzq$.



- (A) 10° (B) 20°
(C) 30° (D) 40°

68. Side BC of triangle ABC is extended to point 'D' such that $\angle ACD = 108^\circ$. If the ratio of $\angle BAC$ and $\angle ABC$ is 5:4, respectively, then find $\angle ABC$.

- (A) 48° (B) 60° (C) 72° (D) 36°

69. The speed of 'M' and 'N' is $(10/3)$ m/s and 14 km/hr, respectively. If the distance between 'M' and 'N' is 364 km and both are travelling towards each other at the same time, then find the time after which they will meet.

- (A) 18 hours (B) 10 hours
(C) 14 hours (D) 16 hours

70. The cost price of 20 books is Rs. 1400 and he spent Rs. 30 in packaging of each book. If he want to earn a overall profit of 30%, then find the total selling price of 20 books.

- (A) Rs. 3000 (B) Rs. 2400
(C) Rs. 2600 (D) Rs. 3200

71. If $(2\cot a = 5)$, then find the value of $\frac{2\cos a - \sin a}{2\cos a + \sin a}$

- (A) $(3/4)$ (B) $(3/2)$
(C) $(2/3)$ (D) $(4/3)$

72. In a right-angled triangle, the lengths of the sides are $(x + 4)$ cm, x cm and $(x - 4)$ cm respectively. Find the value of 'x'.

- (A) 12 (B) 16
(C) 10 (D) 14

73. The table given below shows the number of books sold by five different publications in five different years.

Publications	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
P	4500	2000	3200	2800	4000
Q	3500	3600	2800	3200	3600
R	2500	2400	2000	1200	4400
S	1500	3200	1500	1800	3200
T	3000	2800	3000	2200	1800

Find the difference between the average number of books sold by given publications in 2012 and that in 2014.

- (A) 800
(B) 900
(C) 750
(D) 820

74. The speed of a boat in still water is 12 km/hr, and the speed of the stream is $33\frac{1}{3}\%$ of the speed of the boat in still water. Find the total time taken by the boat to cover 128 km in downstream as well as upstream.

- (A) 20 hours (B) 24 hours
(C) 18 hours (D) 16 hours

75. The average marks of 12 boys is 25 and the average marks of 18 girls is 30. Find the average marks of all the students.

- (A) 27.5 (B) 28
(C) 27 (D) 26

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

76. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

House of Cards

- (A) An organisation with a powerful presence
(B) A grand and expensive building
(C) A plan that is destined to fail
(D) A group of important people

77. Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word. Despite the **gloomy** weather, they decided to go for a walk in the park.

- (A) overcast (B) moist
(C) dim (D) sunny

78. Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.

- A. The species lived at the same time as dinosaurs like Tyrannosaurus rex and may have survived the end-Cretaceous mass extinction.
B. The 69 million-year-old fossil could finally put a longstanding debate about the origin of modern birds to rest.
C. Scientists in Antarctica have discovered what may be the oldest modern bird ever found.
D. The nearly complete skull belongs to Vegavis iaai, a waterfowl species believed to be the ancient relative of modern-day ducks and geese.

- (A) ABDC (B) CBDA
(C) BDCA (D) DACB

79. Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.

A person who cleans, preserves, fills the skin of dead animals with special material

- (A) Torrent (B) Tempest
(C) Teetotaller (D) Taxidermist

80. Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.

Trade wars are not fought with missiles and tanks, but their impact can being just as devastating.

- (A) can be just as (B) can would be just as
(C) could been just as (D) could being just as

81. Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.

Profane

- (A) Inept (B) Valiant
(C) Sacred (D) Timid

82. Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.

The washerman had returned the clothes on time.

- (A) The clothes was returned by the washerman on time.
(B) The clothes had being returned by the washerman on time.
(C) The clothes had been returned by the washerman on time.
(D) The clothes have been returned by the washerman on time.

83. Select the most appropriate option that has the same meaning as the italicised segment.

She didn't want to end the relationship, but she knew she had to bite the bullet and have the difficult conversation.

- (A) do something unpleasant
(B) believe in herself
(C) be selfish once in a while
(D) speak softly

84. Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.

Expedite

- (A) clarify (B) delay
(C) accelerate (D) terminate

85. Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.

Loathe

- (A) Admire (B) Hate (C) Follow (D) Guide

86. Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.

Veracity

- (A) Outlook (B) Boredom
(C) Error (D) Truth

87. Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word to fill in the blank.

Steady

He invested cautiously, knowing that the cryptocurrency market could be very _____.

- (A) esteemed (B) rational
(C) uniform (D) volatile

88. Select the most appropriate order of the segments in the options that will fill in the blanks and make a coherent paragraph.

As it was raining outside, Ranveer _____ / _____ / _____ / _____, and to his surprise he enjoyed it a lot.

- (A) watch a movie he had been / the new cafe and instead planned to / decided to cancel the trip to / previously delaying watching
(B) the new cafe and instead planned to / decided to cancel the trip to / watch a movie he had been / previously delaying watching
(C) decided to cancel the trip to / watch a movie he had been / previously delaying watching / the new cafe and instead planned to
(D) decided to cancel the trip to / the new cafe and instead planned to / watch a movie he had been / previously delaying watching

89. Parts of the following sentence have been given as options. Select the option that contains an error.

She had to put up with her vacation plans because of a sudden work emergency.

- (A) because of a
(B) She had to put up with
(C) her vacation plans because
(D) sudden work emergency.

90. Select the option that expresses the given sentence in active voice.

The letter is being written by the principal.

- (A) The principal has been writing the letter.
(B) The principal is written the letter.
(C) The principal is being writing the letter.

(D) The principal is writing the letter.

91. Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.

His presentation was more compelling than her.

- (A) was as compelling as her
(B) was more compelling than hers
(C) was most compelling than hers
(D) was compelling than hers

92. Parts of the following sentence have been given as options. Select the option that contains an error.

By the time he arrived at the office, the meeting already started.

- (A) he arrived at the
(B) office, the meeting
(C) already started.
(D) By the time

93. Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word in the given sentence.

The committee met on the occasion to address the deficiency in resources.

- (A) address (B) committee
(C) occasion (D) deficiency

94. Out of the four sentences given, three have spelling errors. Identify the sentence that has no spelling error.

- (A) As an adolsecent, she developed a passion for music and art.
(B) During the class, the teacher encouraged open disscussion among the students.
(C) Strong governance can help a country achieve economic stability and growth.
(D) He waited patiently at the pedesterian signal before crossing the road.

95. Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given phrase.

An area of sea in which there are many small islands

- (A) Archipelago
(B) Arsenal
(C) Arena
(D) Apiary

Directions [96-100]: In the following passage, some words have been deleted. Read the passage carefully and select the most appropriate option to fill in each blank.

Asteroid impacts are often ___(I)___ with destruction. Indeed, they have been ___(II)___ to a lot of life on Earth in the past, but one particularly cataclysmic impact also provided a powerful boost for early life, says Nadja Drabon, a professor of Earth and planetary sciences at Harvard University in Massachusetts. The space rock, about the size of four Mount Everests, crashed into a young Earth around 3.26 billion years ago, when our planet was largely a water world ___(III)___ by simple single-celled bacteria and archaea. Research led by Drabon meticulously examined remarkably well-preserved rock layers from this time in the Barberton Greenstone Belt of South Africa, revealing that the space rock had landed in the ocean, ___(IV)___ mass die-offs of microorganisms that lived in shallow waters and on the few isolated islands of the time. However, the space rock also delivered an unexpected silver lining for life as it dumped its massive reservoir of phosphorus, a ___(V)___ nutrient for life, into the nutrient-starved ocean.

96. Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank (I).

- (A) entertained (B) associated
(C) cherished (D) persuaded

97. Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank (II).

- (A) immense (B) dispassionate
(C) relieved (D) detrimental

98. Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank (III).

- (A) mimicked (B) predominated
(C) moved (D) reviewed

99. Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank (IV).

- (A) triggering (B) inessential
(C) ceaseless (D) required

100. Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank (V).











- (A) blissful (B) vital
(C) sincere (D) alert

ANSWER KEY

1. (B)	2. (A)	3. (B)	4. (B)	5. (B)	6. (A)	7. (C)	8. (C)	9. (C)	10. (C)
11. (B)	12. (A)	13. (C)	14. (B)	15. (A)	16. (C)	17. (D)	18. (B)	19. (B)	20. (C)
21. (C)	22. (C)	23. (C)	24. (A)	25. (B)	26. (B)	27. (A)	28. (C)	29. (B)	30. (D)
31. (D)	32. (A)	33. (A)	34. (B)	35. (D)	36. (D)	37. (C)	38. (C)	39. (A)	40. (A)
41. (C)	42. (B)	43. (B)	44. (C)	45. (A)	46. (B)	47. (A)	48. (D)	49. (D)	50. (A)
51. (B)	52. (D)	53. (A)	54. (D)	55. (B)	56. (B)	57. (C)	58. (B)	59. (A)	60. (B)
61. (C)	62. (C)	63. (B)	64. (C)	65. (B)	66. (D)	67. (C)	68. (A)	69. (C)	70. (C)
71. (C)	72. (B)	73. (B)	74. (B)	75. (B)	76. (C)	77. (D)	78. (B)	79. (D)	80. (A)
81. (C)	82. (C)	83. (A)	84. (C)	85. (B)	86. (D)	87. (D)	88. (D)	89. (B)	90. (D)
91. (B)	92. (C)	93. (B)	94. (C)	95. (A)	96. (B)	97. (D)	98. (B)	99. (A)	100. (B)

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