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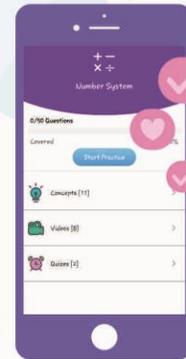
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ARTICLES

India Clinches ICC U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2026

In a performance that will be etched in the history of age-group cricket, India clinched their record-extending **sixth ICC U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup title** by defeating England by 100 runs in the final at the Harare Sports Club on February 6, 2026.



Driven by a generational talent in 14-year-old **Vaibhav Suryavanshi**, the "Boys in Blue" dominated the summit clash from start to finish, reaffirming India's status as the powerhouse of youth cricket.

Match Summary: The Suryavanshi Storm

After winning the toss and electing to bat, India posted a mammoth **411/9** in their 50 overs—the highest total ever recorded in a U-19 World Cup final.

The highlight of the day was **Vaibhav Suryavanshi's** breathtaking **175 off 80 balls**. His innings was a masterclass in power-hitting, featuring **15 sixes** and **15 boundaries**. This knock now stands as the highest individual score in a U-19 World Cup final, surpassing Unmukt Chand's 111* in 2012.

- **India's Innings:** 411/9 (50 overs)
 - Vaibhav Suryavanshi: 175 (80)
 - Ayush Mhatre (C): 53 (51)
- **England's Response:** 311 all out (40.2 overs)
 - Caleb Falconer: 115 (67)
 - RS Ambrish: 3/56

Despite a valiant, fighting century from England's **Caleb Falconer**, the target proved insurmountable. India's disciplined bowling unit, led by **RS Ambrish**, kept chipping away at the wickets to bundle England out for 311.

Tournament Statistics & Facts

The 16th edition of the tournament, co-hosted by **Zimbabwe and Namibia**, saw several records tumble:

Key Player Stats

Category	Player	Statistics
Most Runs	Ben Mayes (England)	444 runs
Player of the Tournament	Vaibhav Suryavanshi (India)	439 runs & record final 175
Most Wickets	Manny Lumsden (England)	16 wickets
Highest Score (Final)	Vaibhav Suryavanshi (India)	175 (80)

India's Road to the 6th Star

India remained undefeated throughout the tournament. Their sixth title adds to their previous triumphs in 2000, 2008, 2012, 2018, and 2022.

Did You Know? Vaibhav Suryavanshi, at just 14 years old, became the first player in history to hit over **100 sixes** in the age-group format and recorded the second-fastest century in U-19 World Cup history (55 balls) during the final.

Grammy Awards 2026

The **68th Annual Grammy Awards**, held on **February 1, 2026**, was a night of historic breakthroughs and record-breaking triumphs. Broadcasting live from the **Crypto.com Arena** in Los Angeles, the ceremony was hosted by **Trevor Noah** for his sixth and final time.

The evening was defined by **Bad Bunny** becoming the first artist to win Album of the Year for an all-Spanish language project, and **Kendrick Lamar** cementing his legacy as the most-awarded rapper in Grammy history.



Major Winners: 68th Grammy Awards

The 2026 ceremony saw a significant shift toward global music, with K-pop securing its first-ever win and Latin music dominating the top tier.

Category	Winner	Project/Work
Album of the Year	Bad Bunny	<i>Debí Tirar Más Fotos</i>
Record of the Year	Kendrick Lamar & SZA	"Luther"
Song of the Year	Billie Eilish	"Wildflower"
Best New Artist	Olivia Dean	—
Best Pop Vocal Album	Lady Gaga	<i>Mayhem</i>
Best Rap Album	Kendrick Lamar	<i>GNX</i>
Best Rock Album	Turnstile	<i>Never Enough</i>
Best R&B Album	Leon Thomas	<i>Mutt</i>
Best Pop Duo/Group	Cynthia Erivo & Ariana Grande	"Defying Gravity"

Key Highlights & Important Facts

- **Historic "Album of the Year" Win:** Bad Bunny's *Debí Tirar Más Fotos* made history as the first-ever Spanish-language album to win the night's most prestigious award.
- **Kendrick Lamar's Record:** With 5 wins tonight, Kendrick Lamar surpassed Jay-Z to become the **most-awarded hip-hop artist** in Grammy history, reaching a total of 18 career Grammys.
- **K-Pop Breakthrough:** The song "Golden" (from *KPop Demon Hunters*) won **Best Song Written for Visual Media**, marking the first time a K-pop act has ever won a Grammy Award.
- **Billie Eilish's Milestone:** By winning Song of the Year for "Wildflower," Billie Eilish and her brother Finneas now hold the record for the **most wins in the Song of the Year category** (3).
- **Trevor Noah's Exit:** After six consecutive years, Trevor Noah officially stepped down as the master of ceremonies.
- **Memorable Performances:**
 - * **Justin Bieber** performed a "bare-bones" version of "Yukon" wearing only boxers and socks.
 - **Lady Gaga** captivated the audience with a dark, high-concept performance of "Abracadabra" featuring a devilish black cane.
 - **Post Malone** joined rock legends **Slash** and **Chad Smith** for a powerful tribute to the late **Ozzy Osbourne**.

Indian state Kerala Officially Renamed Keralam

On February 24, 2026, the Union Cabinet officially cleared the proposal to rename the state of **Kerala** to **Keralam**. This decision marks the culmination of a long-standing demand by the state government to align the state's official English name with its traditional Malayalam name and linguistic identity.



The Road to "Keralam"

The journey to this official name change has been a years-long legislative process driven by cultural pride:

- **Linguistic Roots:** While the world knows it as "Kerala," the land has always been "Keralam" in Malayalam. The state was formed on November 1, 1956, on linguistic lines, and the term *Keralam* reflects the mother tongue of its people.
- **The Resolutions:** The Kerala Legislative Assembly, led by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, passed a unanimous resolution in **August 2023** to rename the state. However, the Union Home Ministry returned it due to technical discrepancies. A second, revised resolution was passed unanimously on **June 24, 2024**, which finally received the Centre's nod in early 2026.
- **Decolonization:** The move is seen as a step toward shedding colonial-era nomenclature, similar to how Bombay became Mumbai and Madras became Chennai.

The Constitutional Process (Article 3)

Renaming a state in India is more complex than renaming a city. It requires a specific constitutional procedure under **Article 3**:

- **Cabinet Approval:** The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime

Minist

er Narendra Modi, has approved the proposal (Completed: Feb 24, 2026).

- **Presidential Reference:** The President of India will now refer the **Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026**, back to the Kerala State Assembly to seek its formal views.
- **Parliamentary Vote:** Once the state's views are received, the Bill will be introduced in Parliament. It must be passed by a **simple majority** in both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.
- **Assent & Amendment:** Upon receiving the President's signature, the **First Schedule** of the Indian Constitution will be amended to officially replace "Kerala" with "Keralam."

What Does "Keralam" Mean?

The name is deeply rooted in the geography and history of the region:

- **Kera + Alam:** The most popular etymology is that *Kera* means "coconut tree" and *Alam* means "land." Thus, Keralam is literally **"The Land of Coconut Trees."**
- **Historical Edicts:** The name traces back to the 3rd-century BCE Ashokan edicts, which referred to the region as *Keralaputra*.

India AI Impact Summit 2026

The **India AI Impact Summit 2026** is currently taking place in New Delhi (February 16–20, 2026). It represents the first global convening of this scale on artificial intelligence held in the Global South.

The summit's theme, "*Sarvajan Hitaya, Sarvajan Sukhaya*" (Welfare for All, Happiness of All), reflects India's push for "AI for All"—leveraging technology to bridge social gaps rather than widen them.



Key Event Details

- **Dates:** February 16 – February 20, 2026.

Primary Venue: Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

- **Secondary Venue:** Sushma Swaraj Bhawan.
- **Scale:** Over 2,000,000 visitors expected, including 20+ Heads of State, 60+ Ministers, and 500+ global tech CEOs.

The Three "Sutras" (Core Pillars)

The summit is structured around three guiding principles that define the responsible use of AI:

- **People:** Focus on human capital, job creation, and healthcare.
- **Planet:** Using AI for climate resilience, sustainable agriculture, and green energy.
- **Progress:** Driving economic growth, democratizing compute power, and scaling startups.

Star-Studded Lineup

The event has drawn the "who's who" of the global tech industry. Today (February 19) is a particularly high-profile day featuring:

- **Political Leaders:** PM Narendra Modi (Inaugural Address), Emmanuel Macron (President of France), and Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (President of Brazil).
- **Tech Titans:** Sundar Pichai (Google), Sam Altman (OpenAI), Satya Nadella (Microsoft), and Jensen Huang (NVIDIA).
- **Indian Industry:** Mukesh Ambani (Reliance), Nandan Nilekani (Infosys), and N. Chandrasekaran (Tata Sons).

Major Highlights & Announcements

- **AI Impact Expo:** A massive exhibition covering 70,000 square meters featuring 300+ exhibitors from 30 countries.
- **AI by HER:** A global challenge focused on women-led AI innovation with a top prize of **₹2.50 crore**.
- **IndiaAI Mission:** The government is showcasing its progress on building sovereign compute capacity and indigenous LLMs (Large Language Models) like *Bhashini* for real-time translation.
- **The "Research Symposium":** Led by IIIT Hyderabad, this track focuses on AI's impact on fundamental sciences and engineering.

Practical Information for Visitors

- **Entry:** Day 4 (Feb 19) is **invite-only** for the main plenary due to high-level security for world leaders. However, the **Expo Arena** remains open to registered delegates with valid badges.
- **Transport:** Organizers recommend using the Delhi Metro (Supreme Court station) as parking near Bharat Mandapam is heavily restricted. Shuttles are running from JLN Stadium and Purana Qila.

National Science Day: 28th February

National Science Day is celebrated in India every year on **February 28th**. It commemorates the day in 1928 when the Indian physicist **Sir C.V. Raman** discovered the "**Raman Effect**," a breakthrough in the field of light scattering that earned him the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930.

Today, the day serves as a national festival of science to promote scientific temper, recognize the efforts of the scientific community, and inspire the next generation of innovators.

Theme 2026: "Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future"

The theme for National Science Day 2026 is "**Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future**." Building on the previous year's focus on youth leadership, the 2026 theme emphasizes that scientific innovation is our most powerful tool for survival and growth in a changing world. The campaign is structured around four critical areas:

1. Climate Resilience and Green Tech

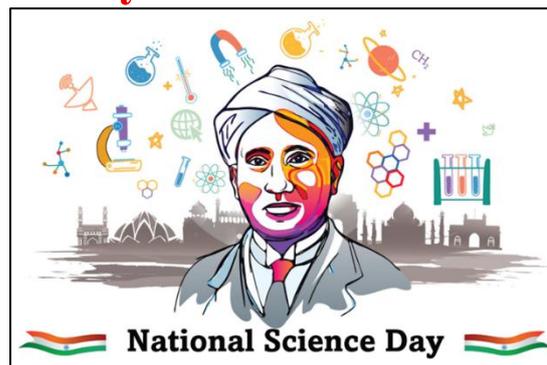
A major focus is on developing "Indigenous Technologies" (Home-grown tech) to combat climate change. This includes breakthroughs in:

- **Green Hydrogen:** Making India a global hub for clean energy.
- **Smart Agriculture:** Using AI and satellite data to help farmers adapt to unpredictable weather patterns.

2. The "Viksit Bharat" 2047 Vision

As India marches toward becoming a developed nation by 2047, the 2026 theme highlights the role of science in economic sovereignty. It focuses on reducing dependence on imports by innovating in critical sectors like semiconductors, space exploration, and deep-sea mining.

3. Women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics)



The 2026 observance places a heavy emphasis on "Gender Parity in the Lab." Programs like **WISE-KIRAN** (Women in Science and Engineering) are spotlighted to encourage more girls to pursue high-level research careers, recognizing that a sustainable future requires 100% of the nation's talent.

4. Scientific Temper vs. Misinformation

In the age of AI and social media, the theme promotes "Critical Thinking." The government and educational bodies use this day to teach citizens how to verify facts, use evidence-based reasoning, and reject superstitions.

The Discovery: What is the Raman Effect?

In simple terms, the Raman Effect is the change in the wavelength of light that occurs when a light beam is deflected by molecules.

When you shine a light through a transparent medium (like water or a crystal), most of the light passes through unchanged. However, a tiny fraction of that light "scatters" and changes color. This color change tells scientists exactly what kind of molecules are inside that substance.

Fun Fact: C.V. Raman was inspired to study this after he was mesmerized by the deep blue color of the Mediterranean Sea while traveling to London by ship. He realized the sea's color wasn't just a reflection of the sky—the water molecules themselves were scattering the light!

NATIONAL NEWS


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 (SCO₂), nitrogen oxides (SNO_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

India Ranks 6th in Asia Manufacturing Index 2026

- **Mixed Pillar Performance:** While India ranks 1st in Workforce (due to labor size and cost) and 3rd in Economy (driven by high GDP growth), it struggles in other areas. It ranks poorly in Tax Policy (9th), International Trade (9th), and Political Risk (9th), with the report highlighting high logistics costs and administrative complexity as major bottlenecks.
- **Strategic "Red Flag" for Make in India:** The index serves as a call to action for India's goal of a \$1 trillion manufacturing economy by FY2026. The report suggests that to move up, India must pivot from relying solely on labor availability to accelerating logistics efficiency, policy stability, and digital infrastructure to compete with Southeast Asian peers.

Footnotes: Top Performers: China (1st), Malaysia (2nd), Vietnam (3rd)

Indian Railways Deploys First Humanoid Robot 'ASC ARJUN'

- **Advanced AI Surveillance:** ASC ARJUN is equipped with a Face Recognition System (FRS) for intrusion detection and AI-based crowd monitoring. It generates real-time alerts for the Railway Protection Force (RPF) control

room, helping manage heavy passenger flow and identify suspicious activities.

- **Indigenous Development:** The robot is a product of indigenous innovation, having been designed and developed entirely in Visakhapatnam. Standing at 165 cm, it features semi-autonomous navigation and obstacle-avoidance technology, allowing it to patrol platforms 24/7.
- **Interactive Passenger Assistance:** Beyond security, it acts as a digital assistant. It can make automated announcements in English, Hindi, and Telugu, and is programmed with "friendly" social gestures, such as offering a Namaste to passengers and saluting RPF personnel.

MP Governor Mangubhai Patel Declares 2026 as 'Year of Agriculture'

- **Financial Commitment & "Samridh Kisan" Vision:** Under the tagline "Prosperous Farmer – Prosperous State," the Governor highlighted a massive jump in the state's agriculture budget—from ₹600 crore in 2002-03 to over ₹27,000 crore in 2024-25—to drive the state toward becoming a global agricultural hub.
- **10-Point Development Model:** The initiative is built on a multifaceted model focusing on 10 core activities, including technology transfer (drones and hydroponics), natural farming, digital transparency in markets, and expanding e-Mandi systems across 259 markets to benefit over 40 lakh registered farmers.

Footnotes: MP's Governor: Mangubhai C. Patel, CM: Mohan Yadav, Capital: Bhopal

Indian researchers developed a new high-voltage supercapacitor



- **Unprecedented Voltage Capacity:** The new supercapacitor achieves an operating voltage of 3.4 V, overcoming the traditional 3.0 V limit of commercial devices where electrolytes typically begin to decompose or face safety risks like flammability.
- **Advanced Material Innovation:** It utilizes a dual-functional Porous Graphene Carbon Nanocomposite (PGCN) electrode that is both water-repellent and highly compatible with organic electrolytes, doubling the energy density and providing 33% higher energy storage than conventional models.
- **Industrial Scalability and Durability:** The electrodes are produced through an eco-friendly hydrothermal process that is easily scalable for mass production, with the resulting device retaining 96% of its performance even after 15,000 charge-discharge cycles.

DECEMBER 2025

IIT Bombay's ATMAN 3.0 Accelerator Launch

- **Conversion to Investment-Ready Businesses:** The core objective is to transform promising, early-stage HealthTech startups (13 selected from 173 applicants) into investment-ready businesses.
- **Global Recognition:** Deepavali has been officially recognized by UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, joining the ranks of other Indian traditions like Yoga and Durga Puja.
- **UNESCO's Acknowledgement:** The festival is described by UNESCO as a community celebration tied to the lunar calendar, marking the last harvest of the year and the start of a new year and season.

Sujalam Bharat App for Real-Time Rural Water Data

- **Unified Geo-Referenced System:** The app is the platform for the Sujalam Bharat Database, which aims to bring every rural drinking water scheme in the country onto a single, unified, and geo-referenced digital map.
- **Unique Digital Identity (Sujal Gaon ID):** Each rural water scheme and its service area will receive a unique digital identifier called the Sujalam Bharat – Sujal Gaon ID. This functions as a "digital identity" (similar to Aadhaar) for the water system, clearly linking households to their specific water source and scheme.
- **Real-Time Transparency & Accountability:** The platform provides real-time, comprehensive data to both citizens and institutions on critical parameters.

Kerala's First Gen-Z Post Office Opened

- **Youth-Centric Design Philosophy:** Conceived under the motto "Of the students, by the students, for the students," the space was co-created by CMS College students and India Post officials. It features a nature-inspired design with a vertical garden, picnic-table seating, and furniture made from refurbished tires.
- **Integrated Leisure Facilities:** To break the "formal" image of post offices, it includes a recreation and relaxation corner equipped with a bookshelf and board games, alongside a cozy indoor reading nook for quiet reflection.

India Opens World's Highest War Memorial at Galwan

- **Tribute to Galwan Martyrs:** The memorial is dedicated to the 20 Indian soldiers (the "Gallants of Galwan") who were killed in the fierce hand-to-hand clash with Chinese troops in the Galwan Valley, Eastern Ladakh, on June 15, 2020. It is a solemn tribute to their supreme sacrifice.
- **World's Highest War Memorial:** It has been constructed at a very high altitude, around 14,500 feet (approx. 4,420 meters) above sea level, making it the highest memorial of its kind in the world.
- **Design and Features:** The structure is built with red and black granite, symbolizing valor and sacrifice. The design is said to be inspired by a trishul and damru, reflecting divine energy and the Himalayan landscape.

Rajasthan Becomes First Indian State to Fully Digitise Voter Rolls Under SIR

- **First State to Achieve Full Digitisation:** Rajasthan was the first state among those participating in the second phase of the Election Commission of India's (ECI) Special Intensive Revision (SIR) to achieve 100% digitisation of the data collected during the enumeration process. This marked a significant milestone for the ECI's push for error-free digital electoral rolls.
- **Basis for Draft Rolls:** The fully digitised data forms the basis for the Draft Electoral Roll publication. Achieving 100% digitisation quickly allows for a more efficient and transparent process for the subsequent phases, which include the period for Claims and Objections from the public.

Amit Shah Inaugurates Banas Dairy's Bio-CNG Plant

- **Circular Economy Model:** The Bio-CNG and Fertilizer Plant is central to Banas Dairy's "Circular Dairy Economy" model. This model converts cow dung and other organic waste from farmers into Bio-CNG (bio-fuel) and organic manure (branded as 'BhoomiAmrit'), creating a closed-loop system for sustainability and waste management.
- **Inspiration for Cooperatives (White Revolution 2.0):** Amit Shah, as the Minister of Cooperation, highlighted the Banas model as an inspiration for cooperatives nationwide under the vision of White Revolution 2.0. The Bio-CNG tradition started by Banas Dairy is intended to be replicated across the country to modernize the dairy sector and promote self-reliance.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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.
- Digital Hub: The newly launched official website (brics2026.gov.in) serves as the primary digital platform for real-time updates on meetings, initiatives, and documents throughout the presidency.

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.

Footnotes: Akasa Air's MD & CEO: Vinay Dube, Estd: 2021

MeitY Launches PARAM SHAKTI Supercomputing Facility

- **High-Performance Computing Power:** PARAM SHAKTI is a petascale supercomputer with a peak computing capacity of 3.1 petaflops, meaning it can perform over 3.1 quadrillion calculations per second. This makes it one of the most powerful computational assets in Indian academia, significantly accelerating research in complex fields.
- **Indigenous Development (PARAM RUDRA Series):** The system is a flagship of India's "Atmanirbhar Bharat" (self-reliant) initiative in technology. It is built using the indigenous RUDRA series of servers and an Indian-developed software stack created by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).

India's Forex Reserves Rise to \$687.19 Billion

- **Recovery from Sharp Decline:** This rise of \$392 million marks a stabilization after a massive drop of \$9.81 billion in the previous week. This recovery helps India maintain its position as one of the

top global holders of foreign reserves.

- **Gold as the Primary Driver:** The increase was almost entirely fueled by a surge in the value of gold reserves, which rose by \$1.57 billion to reach a total of \$112.83 billion. This offset a decline in Foreign Currency Assets (FCA), which fell by \$1.12 billion during the same period.

UAE Becomes India's Second-Largest LNG Supplier

- **Long-Term Energy Security:** A landmark 10-year Sales and Purchase Agreement (SPA) was signed between India's Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and ADNOC Gas. Under this deal, ADNOC will supply 0.5 million metric tonnes (MMTPA) of LNG annually to India starting in 2028, with the deal valued between \$2.5 billion and \$3 billion.
- **Strategic Trade Expansion:** Beyond energy, the two leaders set an ambitious target to double bilateral trade to \$200 billion by 2032 (up from \$100 billion in FY 2024-25). The visit also saw the signing of a Letter of Intent for a Strategic Defence Partnership and agreements on food safety and civil nuclear cooperation.

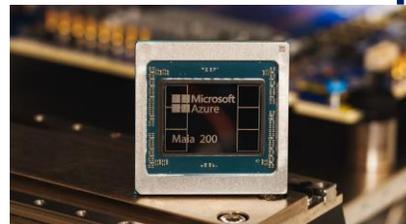
NASA Astronaut Sunita Williams Retires

- **Record-Breaking Career:** Effective December 27, 2025, Williams retired after 27 years of service. She concludes her career with 608 total days in space (the second-most by a NASA

astronaut) and holds the record for the most cumulative spacewalk time by a woman, totaling 62 hours and 6 minutes across nine excursions.

- **Global Legacy and Mentorship:** A retired U.S. Navy captain of Indian-Slovenian descent, Williams is celebrated as a "trailblazer" by NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman. In her post-retirement activities, she has already begun a "homecoming" tour in India (visiting New Delhi in January 2026).

Microsoft Unveils Second-GEN 'Maia 200' In-House AI Chip



- **Massive Performance Leap:** Built on TSMC's cutting-edge 3nm process, the Maia 200 features over 140 billion transistors. It is optimized for "inference" (running AI models) and delivers over 10 petaFLOPS of 4-bit (FP4) performance—three times faster than Amazon's competing Trainium 3 chip.
- **Industry-Leading Memory & Efficiency:** To solve the "memory wall" bottleneck, Microsoft equipped the chip with 216GB of HBM3e memory and a redesigned subsystem. This allows for 30% better "performance-per-dollar" than previous systems.

DECEMBER 2025

Indian-Origin Arkin Gupta Named in Forbes Under-30 List

- **Forbes Category and Expertise:** Arkin Gupta was featured in the Finance category of the Forbes 30 Under 30 list (specifically the 2026 list for the US). He is recognized for his expertise in financial innovation and early-stage investment strategies.
- **Focus on Scalable Fintech Products:** Forbes also highlighted his leadership in creating scalable financial products designed for diverse user groups, with a focus on first-time investors. His work aims to simplify complex financial processes.

India Tops WADA's Global Doping List for Third Consecutive Year

- **Global Rank #1:** India recorded 260 positive doping cases (Adverse Analytical Findings) in 2024—the highest in the world and the only country to hit triple digits.
- **High Positivity Rate:** India's positivity rate of 3.6% is significantly higher than other major nations; for comparison, China conducted triple the tests but had a rate of only 0.2%.
- **Primary Offending Sports:** Three disciplines accounted for the majority of cases: Athletics (76), Weightlifting (43), and Wrestling (29).
- **Systemic Issues:** The report highlights a "medal-at-all-costs" culture, where athletes at both elite and grassroots levels (like the Khelo India games) resort to doping to secure government jobs and cash rewards.

Oman launches First Polymer One-Rial Banknote

- **Official Launch and Circulation:** The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) announced the issuance in December 2025, with the note officially entering public circulation on January 11, 2026.
- **Enhanced Durability:** Unlike traditional cotton-based paper notes, this banknote is made from polymer substrate. This material is water-resistant, more durable in Oman's hot and humid climate, and has a significantly longer lifespan.
- **Advanced Security Features:** The note incorporates sophisticated security elements, including a large transparent window (inspired by the Oman Botanic Garden) and a color-shifting foil featuring a frankincense tree that changes color when tilted.

Russia Plans Lunar Nuclear Power Plant Deployment by 2036

- **Joint Russia-China Collaboration:** The plant is a cornerstone of the International Lunar Research Station (ILRS), a joint project between Russia and China. It is designed to provide a stable, long-term energy source for a permanent scientific base, moving away from one-time "hit-and-run" missions.
- **Nuclear-Powered Infrastructure:** While occasionally referred to generally as a "power plant," the project involves Rosatom (Russia's nuclear agency) and the Kurchatov Institute. Nuclear energy is considered essential for the Moon because solar power is unreliable during the 14-day lunar nights and in the shadowed regions of the South Pole.

PM Modi Conferred Oman's Highest Civilian Honour

- **29th International Honour:** This award marks the 29th highest civilian honour conferred upon PM Modi by foreign nations during his tenure. It follows other recent 2025 honours from countries like Ethiopia, Namibia, and Brazil.
- **Symbol of 70-Year Ties:** The conferment coincides with the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Oman, highlighting the deep historical and strategic "maritime bridge" between the two nations.

Deepinder Goyal Tops 2025 Hurun-IDFC 1st Self-Made Entrepreneurs

- **Dethroning a Retail Legend:** For the first time, Deepinder Goyal has overtaken Radhakishan Damani (founder of Avenue Supermarts/DMart), who slipped to the second spot. This marks a significant symbolic shift from traditional retail to a digital-first economy.
- **Surge in Valuation:** Goyal's company, Eternal, saw its valuation grow by 27% over the past year, reaching ₹3.2 lakh crore. In contrast, Avenue Supermarts experienced a 13% decline, bringing its valuation to ₹3 lakh crore.
- **A "Problem-Solving" Ecosystem:** The list underscores a shift in entrepreneurial strategy. Founders are moving away from traditional business pitches toward "problem-solving" models that address specific consumer pain points, particularly in fintech, food-tech, and healthcare.



G.K. ONE LINER

NATIONAL NEWS

- Which bird sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh was designated as a Ramsar wetland?
Patna Bird Sanctuary
- Which companies signed an MoU to develop India's first Green Urea Plant?
NGEL & Assago
- Which state won the Best Tableau category?
Maharashtra
- Which missile system was digitised by India?
Vintage Pechora Missile System
- Which authority launched the NPS Swasthya Pension Scheme?
PFRDA
- Which scheme was launched by the Gujarat Chief Minister to boost village development?
Mukhyamantri Gramothan Yojana
- Which state emerged as India's top renewable energy producer?
Gujarat
- What is special about the DEMU train launched by Indian Railways?
India's first LNG-diesel dual-fuel DEMU train
- Which wetland was designated as India's 98th Ramsar Site?
Chhari-Dhand
- Who was sworn in as the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra?
Sunetra Pawar
- Which new regulations were issued by the government in 2026?
New Customs Baggage Regulations
- What is the new name of Adampur Airport?
Sri Guru Ravidas Maharaj Ji Airport
- Which Arunachal Pradesh mountaineer summited Mount Aconcagua?
Kabak Yano
- Which AI initiative was launched by Andhra Pradesh CM N. Chandrababu Naidu?
Pilloo AI
- Who was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Manipur?
Yunnam Khemchand Singh
- Which country launched its heaviest military communication satellite CMS-03?
India
- Which organization unveiled the first-of-its-kind women-led industrial park in Bengaluru?
FLO Bengaluru
- Which country has emerged as the world's 2nd-largest mobile phone producer?
India
- Which organization launched the beta version of the 'MCP Server' on the eSankhyiki portal?
National Statistical Office
- Which port deployed an advanced Anti-Drone System?
VOC Port Authority
- Which company's semiconductor chip was launched by a Union Minister?
Qualcomm
- Which two countries launched the 'India-Netherlands Hydrogen Fellowship Programme'?
India & Netherlands
- Which state partnered with SpaceX subsidiary Starlink for connectivity?
Gujarat & Starlink
- Which Indian state became the largest wool producer in the country?
Rajasthan
- Which Indian state launched the 'Sthree Suraksha' scheme?
Kerala
- Which legislature became the first in India to adopt an AI-based attendance system?
Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly
- Who inaugurated the India AI Impact Expo 2026?
Narendra Modi

- Who launched the CBDC-based Public Distribution System (PDS) in Gujarat?

Amit Shah

- What did the Union Minister inaugurate to enhance forest fire management and AI adoption at BEL?

Mountain Fire Control Radar and BEL's AI Policy

- Which institution's Vice Chairman released the 6th edition of TWQ?

NITI Aayog

- Where was India's first National Biobank launched?

Ahmedabad, Gujarat

- Which court declared 'Menstrual Health' a Fundamental Right?

Supreme Court of India

- What new national framework did India introduce in 2026?

Comprehensive Framework for AI Governance

- What is 'Bhu-Aadhaar' announced by Delhi Government?

A unique identification system for land parcels

- Which state launched a district-level manuscript digitisation initiative?

Uttar Pradesh

- Which state announced India's first Graphene Policy to become a global tech hub?

Kerala

- Which state launched the 'PMS Portal' for Venture Schools?

Assam

- Who released a book on Sree Narayana Guru?

Vice-President of India

- Which state government signed an MoU with IOCL to build an International Cricket Stadium?

Uttar Pradesh

- Which company will establish India's largest battery gigafactory?

Waaree Energies

- Who released the Constitution editions in Tamil and Gujarati languages?

Vice-President of India

- What GDP growth rate did ICRA forecast for India in Q3 FY26?

7.2%

- Which company launched an AI-powered search feature recently?

PhonePe

- Which ministry launched the indigenous Td vaccine?

Union Health Ministry

- The statue of which British architect is proposed to be replaced by that of Rajagopalachari?

Edwin Lutyens

- Which Indian state has officially renamed itself 'Keralam'?

Kerala

- What is the name of India's newly unveiled National Counter-Terrorism Strategy?

PRAHAR

- Which village in Maharashtra became India's first caste-free village?

Soundala

- Which ministry will organize 'Him-CONNECT' at WSDS 2026?

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)

- Which railway zone launched the 'Rail Parcel App'?

South Central Railway

- Indian mountaineers recently summited which highest peak of South America?

Aconcagua

- Which organization partnered with CERT-In to launch a Space Cyber Security Framework?

SIA-India

- Which state launched the 'Banglar Yuva Sathi' scheme?

West Bengal

- Which company launched the T502F Mini realtime biometrics device?

Realtime Biometrics

- Which organizations signed an MoU for research collaboration in mining and minerals?

NMDC R&D Centre and IIT Hyderabad

- Which state government renamed Mount Abu as 'Aburaj'?

Rajasthan

- Who inaugurated the Chungthang-Lachen Road and Taram Chu Bridge?

Raksha Rajya Mantri

- Which ministry upgraded NSIC to 'Schedule A' CPSE status?

Ministry of MSME

- Which institution signed an MoU with IIT Kharagpur for advanced telecom research?

Telecom Engineering Centre (TEC)

INTERNATIONAL

- Which country was named 'Country of the Year' at BIOFACH 2026?

India

- Who became India's youngest male analog astronaut?

Aditya Pandya

- What rank did India secure in the Network Readiness Index 2025?

45th

- Which snake set the Guinness World Record as the longest wild snake?

Indonesian python

- What rank did India secure in CPI 2025?

91st

- By how many ranks did India's passport climb in 2026 global rankings?

10 ranks

- Who secured a historic third term as Prime Minister of Barbados?

Mia Mottley

- NIPL signed a payments agreement with which Malaysian entity?

PayNet (Malaysia)

- Who was appointed Acting Prime Minister of Bulgaria?

Andrey Gyurov

- Where was the International Conference on Dam Safety 2026 held?

Bengaluru, Karnataka

- Who was sworn in as the 11th Prime Minister of Bangladesh?

Tarique Rahman

- Who inaugurated the Lengtekai Bridge over the Tlawng River?

Lalduhoma

- Who was reappointed as Prime Minister of Japan?

Sanae Takaichi

- Which company announced the \$15 billion America-India Connect subsea cable project?

Google

- Which two companies partnered to build gigawatt-scale AI data centres in India?

Larsen & Toubro and Nvidia

- What record did India set related to AI pledges in 24 hours?

Guinness World Record with 2.5 lakh pledges

- Which declaration was signed by India and the US at the India AI Impact Summit?

Pax Silica Declaration

- An Indo-French Centre was inaugurated at which institution in New Delhi?

AIIMS New Delhi

- Who was elected as the President of Peru?

Jose Maria Balcazar

- Who was sworn in as the Prime Minister of the Netherlands?

Rob Arnoldus Adrianus Jetten

BANKING & FINANCE

- Who was appointed as General Manager at Union Bank of India?

Sarvesh Ranjan

- Who was appointed as MD & CEO of Yes Bank?

Vinay Tonse

- Which bank launched India's first RRB co-branded RuPay credit card?

Tripura Gramin Bank

- Which bank launched 'Rooftop Solar Finance' for MSMEs?

Axis Bank

- Who was appointed Director at SBI Cards?

Anuradha Rao

- Who was named CEO of City Union Bank?

R Vijay Anandh

- Which bank launched Braille-enabled 'BOBCARD Premier Credit Card'?

BOBCARD

- Who was appointed MD & CEO of AU Small Finance Bank?

Sanjay Agarwal

- Which fintech firm received RBI approval for the PA-CB licence?

EximPe

- Which company won awards at the 6th ICC Emerging Asia Insurance Conclave?

SBI Life

- Which index showed an increase for September 2025 as per RBI?

RBI's Digital Payment Index

- Who was appointed as Chief Digital Officer (CDO) at USFB?

Pankaj Gupta

- Which bank launched a digital death claim portal?

Indian Overseas Bank

- Which bank launched an FD-backed credit card?

IDFC FIRST Bank

- Which bank launched the 'Swasthya Pension Scheme' combining retirement and healthcare benefits?

ICICI Bank

- Who was appointed as the CEO & MD of Slice Small Finance Bank?

Rajan Bajaj

- Who was appointed as Chief Risk Officer (CRO) of IndusInd Bank?

Saurav Saha

NEW APPOINTMENTS

- Who was elected as Mayor of Chandigarh?

Saurabh Joshi

- Who was appointed as General Manager of FCI?

Nitika Pawar

- Who was named India Brand Ambassador of Maybelline New York?

Kiara Advani

- Who was accredited as Ambassador to the Republic of Marshall Islands?

Nagma Mohamed Mallick

- Who became the first woman officer inducted into the AAI Board?

Nivedita Dubey

- Who was appointed President & CEO of Toyota Motor Corporation?

Kenta Kon

- Who was elected as a member of the International Olympic Committee?

International Olympic Committee – Soraya Aghaei

- Who was appointed to USISPF after serving as CA Secretary?

Rohit Kumar & USISPF

- Who was appointed CVO of RITES?

Vinod Kumar Sharma

- Who was appointed brand ambassador of Dharmaj Crop Guard?

Rohit Sharma

- Who was appointed Brand Ambassador of Delhi Khel Mahakumbh?

- Who was appointed Chairman of GIFT City?

Uday Kotak

- Who was appointed Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Thailand?

Puneet Agrawal

- Who was appointed Chairman & MD of GAIL?

Deepak Gupta

- Who was elected President of ICAI?

CA Prasanna Kumar D

- Who was selected as Director (HR) of BPCL?

R. K. Dubey

- Who was recommended as CMD of GIC Re by FSIB?

Hitesh Rameshchandra Joshi

- Who became the new Director of PSPCL?

Harsharan Kaur Trehan

- Who was appointed as Chief People Officer of OpenAI?

Arvind KC

OBITUARIES

- Which former CBSE Chairman passed away recently?

Thomas V. Kunnunkal

- Which Padma Shri awardee and travel writer passed away?

Hugh Gantzer

- Which renowned sociologist and Padma awardee passed away?

Andre Beteille

- Which Hollywood actor passed away recently?

James Van Der Beek

- Which Doordarshan news reader passed away recently?

Sarla Maheshwari

- Which legendary Odia singer passed away?

Geeta Patnaik

- Which veteran actress passed away recently?

Pravina Deshpande

- Which legendary Bengali author recently passed away?

Shankar

- Which former Union Railway Minister recently passed away?

Mukul Roy

- Which steel industry veteran recently passed away?

Jatinder Mehra

- Which veteran CPI leader and freedom fighter recently passed away?

R. Nallakannu

AWARDS

- Who won the Best Marching Contingent Award?

Indian Navy

- Which Indian scientist won the Crafoord Prize 2026?

Ramanathan

- Which institute won the CSRI Award?

K J Somaiya Institute

- Who was honoured with a Grammy Award?

Dalai Lama

- Which port authority won the Swachhata Pakhwada Awards 2025?

Paradip Port Authority

- Who was honoured with the 'Soldier of Humanity' Award 2025?

Bhutan Queen Mother

- Which Indian teacher won the Global Teacher Prize 2026?

Rouble Nagi

- Who received the Bhaskar Bhattacharjee Memorial Award?

CMD (as announced)

- Who won the Chang-Crandall Humanitarian Award 2026?

R. Venkatesh

- Who won the CA CXO Award 2026?

Vijay Kumar

- Which PSU won the FIPI Award 2025?

Oil India Limited

- Who won the Anand Kentish Coomaraswamy Prize 2026?

Prof. Charu Gupta

- Who inaugurated the Bhavya Bharat Bhushan Award?

Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev

- Which bank was honoured with the MSME Leadership Award?

IDBI Bank

- Who was conferred 'CEO of the Year' at Business Leader of 2026?

Subodh Gupta

- Which historic cathedral won the UNESCO award recently?

475-year-old Vasai Cathedral

- Which Manipuri film won a BAFTA award?

Boong

- Which Indian politician received an honorary D.Litt degree?

Shashi Tharoor

- Who received the Royal Honour conferred on MBRA Group's Chairman?

Dr. Bhargav Mallappa

- Which organization won the Trailblazing Infrastructure Award?

RVNL (Rail Vikas Nigam Limited)

- Which airport won the 2025 Global ASQ Best Arrivals Award?

Mangaluru Airport

SPORTS

- Which tennis player broke a 53-year-old Australian Open record?

Novak Djokovic

- Which team did India defeat to win the T20I series?

New Zealand

- Which state won the Wrestling League 2026 championship?

Haryana

- Who won her first Australian Open title in women's singles?

Elena Rybakina

- Who won her maiden BWF Super 300 title?

Devika Sihag

- Which Olympian won gold in the 10m pistol event?

Esha Singh

- Which team won the Pro Wrestling League 2026?

Haryana Thunders

- Who clinched her maiden PSA Bronze Title?

Anahat Singh

- Which team won the WPL Title 2026?

Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB)

- Who created a new national record in weightlifting after winning Olympic silver?

Mirabai Chanu

- Who won silver at the Asian Rifle Championship 2026?

Suruchi Singh

- Which team won the SAFF U-19 Women's Championship?

India U-19 Women's Football Team

- Who won gold at the Asian Indoor Athletics Championships?

Tejaswin Shankar

- Which country clinched a historic Davis Cup victory?

India

- Who won gold in the Women's 25m Pistol Team event?

Esha Singh

- Who won silver at the Asian Shooting Championships 2026?

Aakriti Dahiya

- Who won gold in women's 50m rifle?

Prachi Gaikwad

- Which two-time Olympian set a new world record in shooting?

Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar

- Who won gold at the Open Masters Games 2026?

Kishorakumar

- Who won the 9th gold medal in cross-country skiing?

Johannes Hosflot Klæbo

- Which team did India defeat in a thriller match at the T20 World Cup 2026?

Pakistan

- Who won his first-ever Winter Olympics medal in alpine skiing?

Lucas Pinheiro Braathen

- Which Indian athlete won gold in Men's Heptathlon?

Tejaswin Shankar

- Who won the FIDE Freestyle Chess World Championship 2026?

Magnus Carlsen

- Which Indian cueist won the Liber Win Champions Cup 2026?

Pankaj Advani

- Who won the ATP 500 Rio Open tennis title?

Tomas Martin Etcheverry

- Which Belgian player won the Women's Singles title recently?

Vandewinkel

- Which country set the highest ever T20 World Cup score in history?

India

- Which team won the Khelo India Winter Games 2026 championship title?

Indian Army

DEFENCE

- Who took over as Chief of Eastern Air Command?

Air Marshal Inderpal Singh

- Which joint military exercise is conducted between India and Kyrgyzstan?

KHANJAR

- Who assumed charge as the Director General of Navy?

Divakar Jayant

- Which company delivered surface vessels to the Indian Navy?

Sagar Defence

- Which public sector bank announced 'Soldierathon 2026'?

Punjab National Bank

- Which country's navy assumed command of Combined Task Force 154?

India

- Which startup signed an MoU with the Indian Army for Agneevasthara?

Agneevasthara

- Which two air forces conducted a joint in-situ air exercise?

Indian Air Force & Royal Thai Air Force

- What is the name of India's first indigenous cadet training ship?

Krishna

- DRDO conducted a qualification test for the drogue parachute of which mission?

Gaganyaan Mission

- What is the name of the India-US joint Special Forces exercise that recently began?

Vajra Prahar

- What is the name of the India-Japan joint military exercise that commenced recently?

Dharma Guardian

- Which naval ship was built using indigenous steel supplied by SAIL?

INS Anjadip



AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

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

Namita Gokhale Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

- Honoring a Literary Legend: The award recognizes Gokhale's "sustained contribution" to Indian literature and publishing. Best known for her cult classic debut *Paro: Dreams of Passion* and her Sahitya Akademi-winning novel *Things to Leave Behind*, she is celebrated for her vivid portrayal of the Himalayan region and her commitment to cross-cultural dialogue.
- Award Details and Ceremony: The lifetime achievement honor carries a cash prize of ₹1 lakh, a citation, and a trophy. It will be formally presented during the Banaras Lit Fest, scheduled to take place in Varanasi from January 30 to February 1, 2026.

Biologist Toby Kiers Wins Tyler Prize

- Pioneering Fungal Research: Dr. Kiers, a professor at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, was recognized for her groundbreaking work on mycorrhizal fungi. Her research revealed that these underground networks act as a "biological marketplace," where fungi and plants "trade" nutrients like phosphorus and nitrogen for carbon-rich sugars.
- Global Conservation Advocacy: Alongside her award, Kiers leveraged the platform to launch the "Underground Advocates" program through her NGO, the Society for the Protection of Underground Networks (SPUN).

Ms. Vartika Shukla Conferred Lifetime Contribution Award

- Awarding Body and Industry Impact: The award was presented at the FICCI Chemicals & Petrochemicals Awards 2025 (held in Jan 2026) in New Delhi. It celebrates her over three decades of leadership and transformative impact on India's core industrial sectors, specifically in refineries, chemicals, and petrochemicals.
- Champion of Self-Reliance: The honor specifically recognizes her commitment to the "Make in India" initiative. Under her guidance, EIL has significantly reduced dependence on foreign technologies by developing indigenous engineering solutions and project management expertise for critical national infrastructure.

Rohit Sharma to Be Honoured with Padma Shri 2026

- Recognition of Leadership Legacy: The award primarily honors Rohit's captaincy, specifically leading India to two major ICC titles in a short span: the 2024 ICC Men's T20 World Cup and the 2025 ICC Champions Trophy.
- End of an Era: The honor comes as Rohit transitioned out of the longer formats, having retired from T20Is in 2024 and Test cricket in 2025. He remains an active and vital figure in the ODI setup as the team looks toward the 2027 World Cup.
- Individual Brilliance: Beyond leadership, the award

acknowledges his historic career statistics, including being the only player with three ODI double-centuries and his milestone of surpassing 20,000 international runs with 50 centuries across formats.

Dr Chandrakant Lahariya Becomes 1st Indian Wiley Research Awardee

- Global Recognition for Policy Impact: Dr. Lahariya won in the "Impact Beyond Academia" category, a prize that honors researchers whose work transcends journals to create tangible changes in policy and society. He was selected from over 2,000 nominations worldwide.
- Advancing National Immunization: His evidence-based evaluations supported the introduction of six new vaccines into India's national program.

Dharmendra Singh Deol awarded Padma Vibhushan 2026

- Posthumous Recognition: The award was conferred posthumously, following the passing of the "He-Man" of Indian cinema on November 24, 2025. This recognition serves as a final tribute to his massive influence on Indian culture and his career spanning over six decades.
- Top-Tier Honor: This is an elevation of his previous honors; he was already a recipient of the Padma Bhushan in 2012.

DECEMBER 2025

Shri P. K. Motupalli Wins M. S. Swaminathan Green Excellence Award

- **Recipient and Position:** The award was conferred upon Shri P. K. Motupalli, who is the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of NLC India Limited (NLCIL), a Navratna Public Sector Enterprise in India.
- **NLCIL's Role in Energy Transition:** The recognition highlights NLCIL's evolution under his guidance, emphasizing the company's commitment to balancing national energy security needs with global climate commitments and sustainability.

Dibyajyoti Sarkar Makes Guinness World Record

- **The Record Category:** Dibyajyoti Sarkar, an Indian martial artist and electrical engineer, achieved the Guinness World Record for the "Most Full Extension Punches in One Minute While Holding Two Eggs."
- **The Achievement:** He successfully executed an extraordinary 331 full-extension punches in one minute. Crucially, he performed this feat while keeping both eggs unbroken in his hands, demonstrating immense speed, precision, and control.

Donald Trump awarded First FIFA Peace Prize

- **Inaugural Recipient:** Donald Trump was the first-ever winner of the newly created award, officially named the "FIFA Peace Prize – Football Unites the World."
- **Date and Venue:** The award was presented by FIFA President Gianni Infantino on Friday,

December 5, 2025, during the Final Draw for the FIFA World Cup 2026™ ceremony at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C.

- **Rationale for the Award:** FIFA stated the prize is meant to reward "individuals who have taken exceptional and extraordinary actions for peace and by doing so have united people across the world."

Microsoft Store Awards 2025

- **Focus on AI and Productivity:** The awards heavily favored AI-powered and productivity-focused applications, reflecting Microsoft's strategic direction. New categories were introduced to celebrate this trend, such as AI Assistants and Computer-Using Agents (CUA).
- **Productivity Champion:** Notion was a standout winner in the Productivity category. It was recognized for transforming scattered notes, tasks, and projects into a unified workspace with native Windows features like quick-launch and offline access.

Mohammad Alfaraj wins Art Basel Gold Award

- **Award and Category:** Mohammad Alfaraj, a multidisciplinary artist from Saudi Arabia, was named the Gold Awardee in the Emerging Artist category of the inaugural Art Basel Awards 2025.
- **Multidisciplinary Practice:** His work is highly regarded for its unique blend of mediums, including film, photography, sculpture, and poetry. His art often creates a "cinematic collage" charged with stories, memory, and a poetic search for truth.

President Presents National Handicrafts Awards for 2023 and 2024

- The awards included the Shilp Guru Awards (the highest honour for unparalleled mastery) and the National Handicrafts Awards (recognizing outstanding contributions to the craft heritage).
- The President highlighted that women constitute a significant 68% of the workforce in the handicrafts sector, making its promotion crucial for women's social and economic empowerment.

Supriya Sahu Wins UNEP Champions of the Earth Award 2025



- **Highest UN Environmental Honour:** The Champions of the Earth Award is the highest environmental honour of the United Nations, recognizing individuals and organizations whose actions have a transformative impact on the environment.
- **Award Category:** She received the award in the Inspiration and Action category, which celebrates individuals who have created measurable benefits for people and the planet through bold initiatives.



NEW APPOINTMENTS

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 Soraya Aghaei elected 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 International Financial Services Centre (IFSC). Kotak is expected to use his decades of experience in building financial institutions to enhance GIFT City's global competitiveness against hubs like Dubai and Singapore.
- **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. Kotak's role will focus on attracting global capital and scaling sectors.

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, Capital:
Thiruvananthapuram

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

Rakesh Aggarwal appointed as DG, NIA

- New Leadership: Rakesh Aggarwal, a 1994-batch IPS

officer of the Himachal Pradesh cadre, has been appointed as the DG of the NIA. His tenure will last until his superannuation on August 31, 2028.

- **Succession and Stability:** He succeeds Sadanand Vasant Date (1990-batch), who was prematurely repatriated to Maharashtra in late December 2025 to lead the state police as DGP. Aggarwal had been holding the additional (interim) charge of the agency since December 31, 2025.

Footnotes: NIA's Previous DG: Sadanand Vasant Date, HQ: New Delhi, Estd: 2008

Justice Sujoy Paul appointed as Chief Justice Calcutta

- **Judicial Milestone:** Justice Sujoy Paul, who has been serving as the Acting Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court since October 2025, was formally elevated to the position of permanent Chief Justice.
- **Constitutional Appointment:** The appointment was made under Article 217(1) of the Constitution of India. Justice Paul is slated to serve in this capacity until his retirement on June 20, 2026, upon reaching the age of 62.

Footnotes: Calcutta's Previous Chief Justice: Soumen Sen, Mayor: Firhad Hakim

Centre appoints Shatrujeet Singh Kapoor as ITBP Chief

- **Profile and Tenure:** Shatrujeet Singh Kapoor is a 1990-batch IPS officer of the Haryana cadre. He has been appointed to the post until October 31, 2026, which is the date of his superannuation

(retirement), or until further orders.

- **Succession and Restructuring:** He succeeds Praveen Kumar, who has been moved to head the Border Security Force (BSF). This shift is part of a broader leadership reorganization within India's Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) to ensure operational continuity across sensitive borders.

Footnotes: ITBP's Previous DG: Praveen Kumar, HQ: New Delhi, Formed: 1962

MS Dhoni appointed Goodwill Ambassador for Pune Grand Tour 2026

- **Pioneering Cycling Event:** The Pune Grand Tour is India's first-ever international multi-stage professional road cycling race. It is a UCI (Union Cycliste Internationale) 2.2 category event, marking India's formal entry into the global professional cycling calendar.
- **Dhoni's Strategic Role:** As Goodwill Ambassador, Dhoni—known for his focus on fitness and endurance—aims to amplify the event's visibility and inspire young athletes to take up cycling. The initiative also seeks to re-establish Pune's legacy as the "Cycle Capital of India" and promote sports tourism in the region.

Tata Communications appointed Ganesh Lakshminarayanan as CEO

- **Leadership Transition:** Lakshminarayanan will formally take over the role of MD and CEO on April 13, 2026. He

succeeds the current chief, A.S. Lakshminarayanan, who is retiring after a six-year tenure that saw the company's shift from a telecom major to a technology powerhouse.

- **Proven Track Record:** An industry veteran with over 30 years of experience, Ganesh most recently served as the MD and Group Vice President for ServiceNow India and SAARC. He previously led Airtel Business as its CEO, where he achieved 50% growth over three years and significantly increased market share.

Footnotes: Tata's Previous CEO: Amur Swaminathan, HQ: Mumbai, Estd: 1868

Guardian India appoints Karunakaran Azhisur as Country Head



- **Dual Leadership Role:** Azhisur will serve as the Country Head – India while simultaneously retaining his current position as the Chief Information Officer (CIO). In this expanded role, he will oversee overall India operations across the company's centers in Chennai and Gurugram.
- **Focus on AI and Digital Transformation:** With over two decades of global experience (including Silicon Valley), he is tasked with driving technology-led growth.

DECEMBER 2025

Google appoints Amin Vahdat as New Chief Technologist

- **Strategic New Role:** Vahdat has been appointed to the newly created role of Chief Technologist for AI Infrastructure. This move elevates the strategic importance of the computing backbone (data centers, networks, chips) that powers all of Google's large-scale AI models and cloud services.
- **Direct AI Battleground:** By focusing on the infrastructure, Google is asserting that compute capacity is the key differentiator in the high-stakes AI competition.

Foot notes: Google's CEO: Sundar Pichai, HQ: United States, Founded: 1998

Indian-Origin Neal Mohan Named TIME's 2025 CEO of the Year

- TIME cited his role in making YouTube the "cultural diet that the globe is beginning to subsist on," calling him the "farmer" of this ecosystem.
- Under his leadership (since February 2023), the platform has cemented its place as a dominant force against intense competition in the attention economy.
- Mohan's defining bet for YouTube's future is Artificial Intelligence (AI). In 2025, the company launched over 30 AI-powered tools designed to lower the barrier to entry for creators.

Saleem Ahmad appointed as CMD of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited

- **Vast Industry Experience:** Ahmad is a seasoned Civil Engineer (1990 batch, JamiaMilliaIslamia) with over 35 years of experience in the construction and infrastructure sectors, specifically in executing large-scale bridges, tunnels, and residential/commercial projects.
- **Previous Leadership Roles:** Prior to joining RVNL, he served as the Director (Projects) at NBCC (India) Limited. He also spent over two decades at the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) as Executive Director (Civil), where he was a key figure in urban transit transformation.

Anu Garg appointed as the first woman CS of Odisha

- **First Woman Chief Secretary:** A 1991-batch IAS officer of the Odisha cadre, Anu Garg was appointed as the Chief Secretary of Odisha on December 24, 2025. She is the first woman to ever hold the state's highest bureaucratic office.
- **Succession and Tenure:** She will officially take charge on January 1, 2026, succeeding Manoj Ahuja (1990 batch), who retires on December 31, 2025. Her tenure is expected to last until her retirement in March 2029.

Saleem Ahmad Takes Charge as CMD of RVNL

- **Official Assumption of Charge:** Saleem Ahmad officially assumed the role of Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) on December 23, 2025. He succeeds Sukhmal Chand Jain, whose tenure concluded on the same day.
- **Previous Leadership at NBCC:** Before this appointment, Ahmad served as the Director (Projects) at NBCC (India) Limited, where

he was instrumental in overseeing large-scale urban redevelopment and institutional construction projects.

Shri A.K. Balasubramanian appointed as Chairman of Atomic Energy Regulatory Board

- **New Chairman:** Shri A.K. Balasubramanian takes over as the Chairman of AERB, ensuring the safe use of ionizing radiation and nuclear energy in India.
- **Previous Chairman:** The previous Chairman, Dr. Dinesh Kumar Shukla, served from December 31, 2022, and played a crucial role in shaping AERB's safety regulations.

Bharti Airtel appoints Shashwat Sharma as MD & CEO

- **New MD & CEO:** Shashwat Sharma, currently CEO-designate, will succeed Gopal Vittal as MD & CEO of Airtel India, subject to shareholder approval.
- **Leadership Transition:** Gopal Vittal will transition to the role of Executive Vice Chairman, overseeing Bharti Airtel and its subsidiaries, focusing on group strategy and development.
- **Financial Leadership Changes:** Soumen Ray will become Group Chief Financial Officer, while Akhil Garg will take over as CFO of Airtel India, effective January 1, 2026.
- **Growth Focus:** The leadership changes aim to drive Airtel's growth in digital services, 5G expansion, and enterprise solutions, amidst increasing competition in the telecom sector.



SPORTS

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 Tilotama 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 "Trav-ball" 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.

Usman Khawaja Announces Retirement from International Cricket

- **A Full Circle Farewell:** Khawaja played his 88th and final Test match at the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG), the same venue where he made his debut against England in 2011. Fittingly, his final appearance ended in a victory as Australia clinched the Ashes series 4-1.
- **Breaking Barriers:** As the first Pakistan-born and first Muslim cricketer to represent Australia, Khawaja leaves a historic legacy. In his retirement speech, he emphasized his journey as a "proud Muslim colored boy" who overcame racial stereotypes to reach the pinnacle of the sport, hoping to inspire future generations from diverse backgrounds.

Australia clinches Ashes series at Sydney Cricket Ground

- **SCG Victory and Series Scoreline:** Australia clinched the fifth and final Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) with a five-wicket win on Day 5. After bowling England out for 342 in their second innings, Australia successfully chased a target of 160, overcoming a middle-order collapse of 5-59 thanks to a steady unbroken partnership between Alex Carey and Cameron Green.

- **Emotional Milestones:** The match served as a historic farewell for Usman Khawaja, who retired from international cricket after his 88th Test. Additionally, Steve Smith etched his name deeper into the record books during the series by surpassing Sir Donald Bradman's long-standing record for the most career runs scored by an Australian against England (over 5,028 runs).

Nikhat Zareen Clinch Title at National Boxing Championships

- **Third National Title:** Representing Telangana, Nikhat Zareen clinched her third senior national title by defeating the 2023 world champion, Nitu Ghanghas, in the flyweight (51kg) final. The highly anticipated bout between the two world champions ended in a convincing 5-0 unanimous decision in favor of Nikhat.
- **Historic Joint Event:** This championship was a milestone for Indian boxing as it was the first time the Men's and Women's National Championships were held simultaneously at the same venue.

Virat Kohli Becomes Second-Highest Run-Scorer in Cricket

- **Surpassing Kumar Sangakkara:** Kohli reached this landmark during the first ODI against New Zealand in Vadodara. With a match-winning knock of 93 runs, he surpassed the legendary Sri Lankan batter Kumar Sangakkara's career tally of

28,016 runs. He now sits at 28,068 runs across all formats, trailing only the great Sachin Tendulkar (34,357 runs).

- **Fastest to 28,000 Runs:** During the same innings, Kohli became the fastest player in history to reach the 28,000-run mark. He achieved the feat in just 624 innings, shattering the previous record held by Sachin Tendulkar, who took 644 innings to reach the same milestone.

Alyssa Healy Announces Retirement After India Series



- **Strategic Farewell Series:** Healy will officially retire at the conclusion of the home multi-format series against India in March 2026. While she will skip the T20I leg to allow the team to prepare for the upcoming T20 World Cup with a new leader, she will captain the side in the ODIs and play her final international match in the one-off Test at the WACA in Perth (March 6-9).
- **End of a Golden Era:** Healy retires as one of the most decorated players in history, having won eight World Cups (six T20 and two ODI) and a Commonwealth Games gold medal. She leaves the game with over 7,000 international runs and 275 dismissals.

DECEMBER 2025

Simranpreet Kaur Brar Wins Gold in Women's 25m Pistol

- **Event and Competition:** She won the gold medal in the Women's 25m Pistol event at the ISSF World Cup Final 2025 held in Doha, Qatar.
- **Record-Equalling Performance:** Simranpreet, who is 21 years old, shot a superb score of 41 hits out of 50 in the final, which equalled the Junior World Record in the event.
- **Impact for India:** The medal contributed to India's strong performance at the World Cup Final, showcasing the country's growing depth in pistol shooting. The victory also earned high praise, particularly as it was achieved after she rallied from a slow start in the final.

Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar Wins Silver in 50m Rifle 3-Positions at ISSF World Cup

- **Event and Venue:** The medal was won in the Men's 50m Rifle 3-Positions (3P) event at the ISSF World Cup Final held in Doha, Qatar.
- **Podium Finish:** Aishwarya finished with a silver medal, scoring 413.3 in the final. The gold medal was clinched by Jiri Privratsky of Czechia, and the bronze went to Olympic champion Liu Yukun of China.
- **Significant Milestone:** This silver medal, won on his World Cup Final debut, completed a significant milestone for Tomar: securing a full set of medals (gold, silver, or bronze) at all possible World and Continental Championships (including World

Championship, Asian Games, and Asian Championships).

GM Rameshbabu Pragganandhaa Wins FIDE Circuit 2025

- **Only Male Indian Qualifier:** He is the only male Indian player to qualify for the Candidates Tournament 2026 via the FIDE Circuit path.
- **Consistent Performance:** His win was the result of a highly consistent year, including major victories at the Tata Steel Masters, Superbet Chess Classic Romania, UzChess Cup Masters, and a strong finish at the London Chess Classic Open.
- **Second Consecutive Appearance:** This will be his second consecutive appearance at the Candidates Tournament, solidifying his status as one of the world's elite chess players.

Germany wins Men's Junior Hockey World Cup

- **Record-Extending Title:** This victory secured Germany's eighth Men's Junior Hockey World Cup title, extending their record as the most successful nation in the tournament's history. They also successfully defended their crown from the previous 2023 edition.
- **Venue and Score:** The final was held at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium in Chennai, India. The match ended 1-1 in regulation time before Germany won the penalty shoot-out 3-2.
- **India's Bronze:** In the Bronze Medal match, India staged a stunning comeback to defeat Argentina 4-2, ensuring the host nation finished on the podium with the third-place medal.

India win bronze at 2025 Junior Men's Hockey World Cup

- **Dramatic Comeback Victory:** India defeated Argentina 4-2 in the Bronze Medal match. The victory was a sensational turnaround, as India was trailing 0-2 going into the final quarter (the last 15 minutes) of the match.
- **Goalkeeper and PC Heroics:** The spectacular comeback was fueled by the brilliance of goalkeeper Princedeeep Singh in goal and the execution of key penalty corners in the final minutes, converting two of them and earning a penalty stroke.

Indian Swimmer's Double Gold at Asian Youth Para Games

- **The Athlete and Event:** The Indian para-swimmer is Abdul Quadir Indori. He achieved the rare feat of winning two gold medals in the swimming events at the ongoing Asian Youth Para Games (AYPG) 2025.
- **Venue and Edition:** The Asian Youth Para Games 2025 is being hosted in Dubai, UAE. This is the fifth edition of the Games and a crucial platform for nurturing the next generation of Asian Para-athletes.
- **Rising Strength of Para-Sports:** His exceptional performance was widely applauded by the Paralympic Committee of India, which acknowledged it as a reflection of his dedication, discipline, and the rising strength of India's young para-athletes.



BANKING NEWS

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 (which now accounts for nearly 50% of global real-time payments), and the increasing shift toward a "less-cash" economy in both urban and rural areas.

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 one of India's most profitable NBFCs. Prior to that, he spent 14 years at ICICI Bank in various senior leadership roles.

Footnotes: KMB's MD & CEO: Ashok Vaswani, HQ: Mumbai, Estd: 1985

TGB Introduces Solar-powered ATM Van

- National Recognition and Award: The initiative earned the prestigious SKOCH Silver Award in early 2026, recognizing the bank's excellence in innovation and sustainable governance. It is credited as a first-of-its-kind project for any Gramin bank in India.
- Comprehensive Mobile Services: Beyond a standard ATM, the van functions as a mobile branch. It features a Banking Correspondent (BC) on board to assist with services like opening new accounts, Aadhaar-based fund transfers, and enrollment in social security schemes like Atal Pension Yojana.

Footnotes: TGB's Chairman: Satyendra Singh, HQ: Agartala, Estd: 1976

RBI Issues FEMA Regulations, 2026

- Unified Quarterly Reporting: To streamline oversight, the RBI introduced a standardized reporting framework. All guarantees—including their issuance, modification, and invocation—must now be reported to Authorised Dealer (AD) banks using the new Form GRN.
- Strict Penalties and LSF: The regulations introduce a clear penalty structure for delayed reporting to discourage non-compliance. The Late

Submission Fee (LSF) is calculated using a fixed base of ₹7,500 plus 0.025% of the amount involved for every year of delay (pro-rated monthly).

Footnotes: RBI's Governor: IAS Sanjay Malhotra, HQ: Mumbai, Estd: 1935

IndusInd Bank appointed Mr. Arijit Basu as Chairman

- Leadership Succession: Basu succeeds Sunil Mehta, whose tenure concludes on January 30, 2026. The appointment is for a three-year term (until January 2029) and has received the necessary approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- Strategic Governance Role: His appointment comes at a crucial time as the bank focuses on strengthening corporate governance and navigating a leadership transition following a challenging 2025. He will serve as an Additional Director in the category of Non-Executive Independent Director.

Footnotes: IndusInd Bank's Previous Chairman Sunil Mehta, HQ: Mumbai, Estd: 1994

ICICI Bank re-appointed Sandeep Bakhshi as MD

- Extended Tenure: Bakhshi has been granted a further two-year term, effective from October 4, 2026, to October 3, 2028. This extension follows his current term, which is scheduled to conclude on October 3, 2026.
- Regulatory Status: The re-appointment is currently subject to approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the

bank's shareholders. Notably, this two-year term concludes well before he reaches the RBI-mandated age ceiling of 70 for bank CEOs (which he will turn in May 2030).

Footnotes: ICICI Bank's Part-time Chairman: Pradeep Kumar Sinha, HQ: Mumbai, Estd: 1955

RBI Issues RB-IOS, 2026



- Significant Compensation Hike: The maximum compensation for consequential financial loss has been increased to ₹30 lakh (up from ₹20 lakh). Additionally, the award for mental anguish, harassment, and loss of time has been tripled to ₹3 lakh.
- Stricter Timelines for Redressal: The window for a customer to file a complaint after receiving a bank's response has been tightened to 90 days (previously one year). Regulated entities must now submit their written versions to the Ombudsman within 15 days, or face the risk of an ex-parte award against them.
- Broadened Scope and Efficiency: The scheme now applies to a wider range of services (not just financial) provided by regulated entities. It introduces a "summary process" for faster resolution, meaning the Ombudsman is not bound by formal rules of evidence.

DECEMBER 2025

RBI reduces repo rate to 5.25 percent

- **Context of the Decision (Goldilocks Period):** The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) unanimously decided on the rate cut on December 5, 2025. This move was prompted by what the RBI Governor described as a "rare Goldilocks period".
- **The Specific Rate Change:** The policy repo rate was reduced by 25 basis points (0.25%), from 5.50% to 5.25%. Consequently, the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) rate was adjusted to 5.00%, and the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and Bank Rate to 5.50%.

RBI Raises India's FY26 GDP Growth Forecast to 7.3%

- **Stronger-than-Expected Q2 Performance:** The upward revision was primarily driven by the robust GDP growth of 8.2% recorded in the July-September quarter (Q2) of FY26, which was a six-quarter high. This demonstrated a resilient economic momentum.
- **Buoyant Domestic Demand:** Economic activity was underpinned by resilient domestic demand, supported by factors like the rationalisation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), festival-related spending, and a steady recovery in urban demand alongside robust rural demand.

**Narendra
appointed**

**Ostawal
Non-**

Executive Director at IDFC First Bank

- **Official Confirmation:** Ostawal's appointment as a Non-Executive Non-Independent Director was formally ratified on December 20, 2025, after a postal ballot process. He had previously joined as an Additional Director in September 2025, but this latest step makes the appointment permanent and subject to rotation.
- **Warburg Pincus Representation:** He joins the board as a nominee of Currant Sea Investments B.V., an affiliate of the global private equity giant Warburg Pincus.

IIFL Finance appointed Former RBI Dy-Governor BP Kanungo as Chairman

- **Elevation from the Board:** Bibhu Prasad Kanungo was already serving as a Non-Executive Independent Director on the board of IIFL Finance since June 2025. His elevation to the position of Chairperson was approved unanimously by the board and took effect immediately.
- **Monetary Policy Background:** During his tenure at the RBI, Kanungo was a vital member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). He also represented the RBI on the boards of major national institutions including NABARD, National Housing Bank, and Punjab National Bank.

Brajesh Kumar Singh Recommended as Next MD & CEO of Canara Bank

- **Current Role:** Brajesh Kumar Singh is presently serving as the Executive Director of Indian Bank, a position he has held since March 2024.
- **The Selection Process:** He emerged as the top choice after the FSIB—the headhunter for state-owned banks—interviewed a shortlist of 17 candidates for the role.

DBS Named Global Bank of the Year 2025

- **Triple Global Accolade:** The 2025 award is the third time DBS has clinched the prestigious Global Bank of the Year title from The Banker, highlighting its sustained, long-term leadership in the global financial industry.
- **Dual Global Best Bank Status:** DBS now concurrently holds the top global bank awards from two major financial publications, The Banker and Euromoney, cementing its position as one of the most globally decorated banks.

Bank of Baroda Wins 'Best Bank in India' 2025

- **Robust Financial Performance:** The bank was chosen based on its superior financial performance over the evaluation period.
- **Support for MSMEs and Financial Inclusion:** A key area of strength was the bank's initiative to support small businesses. This includes the launch of products like Smart OD (Overdraft), which provides easy working capital access, and the use of digital verification (like B2B sales data and GST returns) for fast.

DEFENCE & TECHNOLOGY



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 Sarvottam Yudh 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% indigenous 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. This allows the operator to "lock on" before launch, allowing the soldier to move to safety immediately.

Footnotes: DRDO'S Chairman: Samir V. Kamat, HQ: New Delhi, Estd: 1958

Indian Army Conducts MCF Exercise 'Sanjha Shakti'

- **Military-Civil Fusion (MCF):** The exercise served as a first-of-its-kind "Military-Civil Fusion" drill, involving the Indian Army and 16 civilian agencies—including the Maharashtra Police, Force One, and Fire Services—to bridge operational gaps between the forces and the state administration.
- **Focus on Hinterland Security:** Conducted at the Dighi Hills Range (Khadki Military Station), the drill focused on "Rear Area Security" and humanitarian assistance, ensuring both sectors can act as a single unit during terror threats or natural disasters.

General Anil Chauhan Releases 'Military Quantum Mission Policy Framework'

- **Four Pillars of Integration:** The policy establishes a roadmap to integrate four critical quantum technologies into the Tri-Services: Quantum Communication (hack-proof

networks), Quantum Computing, Quantum Sensing & Metrology.

- **Civil-Military Fusion & Jointness:** The framework emphasizes a "jointness" approach, ensuring the Army, Navy, and Air Force adopt standardized quantum protocols rather than working in silos.

India, Sri Lanka & Maldives Conducts DOSTI 17 Exercise

- **Focus on Non-Traditional Security:** The exercise prioritized practical joint training to address non-traditional maritime challenges. This included collaborative MARPOL (marine pollution) response exercises, Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS) drills, and coordinated Search and Rescue (SAR) operations.
- **Strategic Participation:** India deployed key assets including the ICGS Vajra, ICGS Atulya, and an ICG Dornier aircraft. The drills were conducted in two phases—a Harbor Phase in Malé for professional exchange and a Sea Phase to test operational coordination and interoperability in open waters.

Union Defence Minister Inaugurates Ammunition Facility



- **Fully Automated Production:** The new plant, established by Solar Defence & Aerospace Limited (a subsidiary of Solar Industries), is a fully automated facility. It is dedicated to manufacturing 30mm medium-caliber ammunition, which is extensively utilized by both the Indian Army and the Indian Navy for various weapon platforms.
- **Boost to Defense Exports:** During the same visit, the Defence Minister flagged off the first tranche of Guided Pinaka weapon systems for export to Armenia. He highlighted that India is rapidly transitioning from a defense importer to a global exporter, with defense exports reaching a record ₹24,000 crore in the current fiscal cycle.

Indian Army Partners with IISc to Develop AI Defence System

- **Focus on Indigenous AI Systems:** The primary goal is to develop a fully indigenous AI-based system tailored for modern warfare. This initiative aligns with the Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India) mission, aiming to reduce the military's dependence on foreign software and hardware for critical defense operations.
- **Addressing Digital Battlefield Challenges:** The system is being designed to tackle emerging threats in the digital and information domain.

DECEMBER 2025

India-Malaysia Launch Harimau Shakti 2025

- **Type and Edition:** It is the fifth edition of the annual Joint Military Exercise between the Indian Army and the Royal Malaysian Army.
- **Objective/Aim:** The primary objective is to jointly rehearse the conduct of Sub Conventional Operations under Chapter VII of the United Nations Mandate. This primarily involves synergising joint responses during counter-terrorist operations.
- **Key Training Focus:** The scope includes practicing sophisticated tactical actions such as cordon, search and destroy missions, heliborne operations, securing helipads, and casualty evacuation drills. It aims to enhance the interoperability of the two forces.

Asim Munir becomes Chief of Defence Forces in Pakistan

- **Dual Role and Historical First:** Field Marshal Asim Munir is the first military officer in Pakistan's history to hold the titles of Chief of Army Staff (COAS) and Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) concurrently. He was appointed for a five-year tenure in this combined role.
- **Impact on Tenure and Immunity:** The appointment effectively resets his five-year tenure as COAS-cum-CDF, and the constitutional amendment also granted him and the office lifelong immunity from criminal prosecution

National EMRS Cultural & Literary Festival

'Udbhavam 2025' concluded

- **Massive Participation:** The three-day event, hosted in Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh, saw the participation of over 1,500 to 1,800 tribal students from approximately 22 States and Union Territories across India, representing a "mini-India of tribal culture."
- **Pathway to National Competition:** The winners of 'Udbhavam 2025' in identified categories will go on to represent the EMRSs at the National Kala Utsav, scheduled to be held in Pune, providing further national exposure and opportunities for the students.
- **Overall Championship:** At the conclusion, the overall champion of the 6th edition of the festival, based on the medal tally across the various competitions, was Telangana, followed by Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Madhya Pradesh.

India's first incubator-linked Deep Tech VC fund launched

- **Fund Size and Name:** The fund has a total corpus of ₹250 crore and is named the Y-Point Venture Capital Fund.
- **India's First:** It is India's first-ever deep tech VC fund that is managed by an academia-linked incubator (SINE).
- **Target Companies:** It will invest in pre-seed and seed-stage deep tech startups, particularly those emerging from IIT Bombay and other premier academic and research institutions across the country.

Indian Navy to First

Indigenous Diving Support Craft 'DSC A20'

- **Lead Ship in an Indigenous Series:** DSC A20 is the first vessel of its class—a series of five indigenously designed and constructed Diving Support Crafts. This entire series is being built by Titagarh Rail Systems Limited (TRSL) in Kolkata, making it a proud achievement under the 'Make in India' and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives.
- **Enhancement of Underwater Capabilities:** The primary role of the craft is to substantially strengthen the Indian Navy's diving and underwater support operations, particularly in coastal waters.

India's First Indigenous Hydrogen Fuel Cell Passenger Vessel Begins Commercial Service

- **Zero-Emission Green Technology:** The vessel is powered by a Low Temperature Proton Exchange Membrane (LT-PEM) fuel cell system. This technology converts stored hydrogen into electricity, with the critical result of producing only water as a by-product, ensuring zero smoke, zero pollution, and noise-free operation on the river.
- **Fully Indigenous 'Make in India' Achievement:** It is the first vessel in India to feature fully indigenous hydrogen fuel cell propulsion in a maritime setting. It was built by Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL) and is owned by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), showcasing India's self-reliance in cutting-edge green technology.

REASONING ABILITY

Direction(1-5): Study the following information carefully and answer the given questions.

Ten persons are sitting in two parallel rows and facing towards each other. In row 1, L, M, N, O, and P are seated and facing north. In row 2, A, B, C, D and E are seated and facing south.

M sits third to the right of N and either of them sits at extreme ends. One person sits between B and the one who faces M. The one who faces D sits third to the right of P. A is neither an immediate neighbour of D nor sits at any end. L sits to the left of O but doesn't face B. E doesn't sit to the right of C.

1. Who among the following person sits opposite to the one who sits third to the right of D?

- (A) N
(B) The one who sits immediate left of L
(C) M
(D) The one who sits second to the right of N
(E) The one who sits immediate left of N

2. The number of persons sitting to the right of B is the same as the number of persons sitting to the right of ____.

- (A) N (B) P (C) L (D) M
(E) O

3. Which among the following persons sits at extreme ends?

- I. C
II. O
III. N
(A) Only I (B) Only I and II
(C) Only III (D) Only I and III
(E) All I, II and III

4. Four of the following five are alike in a certain way as per the given arrangement and thus form a group. Find the one that doesn't belong to that group.

- (A) BL (B) CN (C) AL (D) DO
(E) EM

5. If C is related to P and B is related to L in a certain way, then who among the following person is related to O?

- (A) A (B) D
(C) E (D) Either A or C

(E) Either A or B

Direction (6-8): Study the following information carefully and answer the given questions.

There are eight members in a family. B is the grandmother of I, who is the son-in-law of J. P has two children and one of them is unmarried. T is the daughter-in-law of C, who is the son-in-law of P. Q is the uncle of I and the son of P. J and X are of the same gender.

6. Who is the brother-in-law of C?

- (A) T (B) J (C) B (D) Q
(E) P

7. How is X related to B?

- (A) Grandson (B) Son
(C) Daughter (D) Aunt
(E) Daughter-in-law

8. Which of the following is a married couple?

- I. X and C
II. B and P
III. J and I
(A) Only I and II (B) Only III
(C) Only II (D) Only I and III
(E) Only I

9. Which of the following will be the next term of the given series?

AD5 FI15 KN25 _____

- (A) QT33 (B) RU38 (C) PS35 (D) RU34
(E) SV29

10. If in the number "194763274896", two is added to the digits which are less than 5 and two is subtracted from the digits which are more than 5, then how many numbers are repeated only twice?

- (A) Two (B) One (C) Three (D) Four
(E) None

Direction (11-15): Study the following information carefully and answer the given questions.

Seven persons - A, B, C, D, E, F, and G are attending the exam on different days of the same week starting from Sunday to Saturday, but not necessarily in the same order.

E attends the exam three days after F but not on Saturday. More than one person attends the exam between E and D, who doesn't

attend the exam on Monday. As many persons attend the exam between E and D as between G and A. A attends the exam after Thursday. B attends the exam before C, but not adjacent to G.

11. Which of the following statement(s) is/are true with respect to the final arrangement?

- (A) B attends the exam two days after G
(B) C attends the exam on Thursday
(C) E attends the exam immediately before A
(D) G attends the exam before Thursday
(E) All statements are true

12. Who among the following person attends the exam on Wednesday?

- (A) C (B) A (C) B (D) G
(E) F

13. If all the persons attend the exam in reverse alphabetical order from Sunday, then how many persons remain unchanged in their position?

- (A) Two (B) One
(C) Three (D) Four
(E) More than four

14. Four of the following five are alike in a certain way as per the given arrangement and thus form a group. Find the one that doesn't belong to that group.

- (A) EA (B) CE (C) FB (D) DC
(E) GF

15. E attends the exam on which of the following day?

- (A) Monday (B) Friday
(C) Thursday (D) Sunday
(E) Saturday

Direction (16-19): Study the following information carefully and answer the given questions.

In a certain code language,

“Cricket and Hockey best game” is coded as “su pt nl gi du”

“Football and best player” is coded as “cx lg pt nl”

“Hockey player are smart” is coded as “an cx zp gi”

“Hockey Tennis smart game” is coded as “ot su an gi”

16. What does the code 'pt' represent in the given code language?

- (A) And (B) Best

(C) Football (D) Either b or c

(E) Either a or b

17. If “best playground” means “nl iy”, then what does “pt ot” represent in the given code language?

- (A) Football player (B) And tennis
(C) Best game (D) Smart hockey
(E) Cricket player

18. What is the code for the phrase ‘football smart game’ in the given code language?

- (A) an lg su (B) du nl cx
(C) zp ot gi (D) lg cx zp
(E) du pt nl

19. What does the code “gi zp cx” represent in the given code language?

- (A) Cricket and hockey (B) Football best game
(C) Smart tennis best (D) Hockey are player
(E) and game are

Direction (20-23): Study the following statements and then decide which of the given conclusions logically follows from the given statements disregarding the commonly known facts.

20. Statements:

Only a few doctors are Teacher.

All Teachers are Lawyer.

Some Lawyers are Chef.

No Chef is Architect.

Conclusions:

I. Some Lawyers being Architect is a possibility

II. Some Chefs being Doctor is a possibility

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

21. Statements

Some Mangoes are Grapes

No Grapes is Apple

All Apples are Kiwi

All Kiwis are Guava

Conclusions:

- I. Some Kiwis are Grapes
II. Some Mangoes are not Apple is a possibility
- (A) Only conclusion I follows
(B) Either conclusion I or II follows
(C) Only conclusion II follows
(D) Both conclusions I and II follow
(E) Neither conclusion I nor II follows

22. Statements

- Few Eyes are Ears
All Ears are Toes
Only a few Toes are Hand

All Hands are Stomach

Conclusions:

- I. Some Eyes are Hands
II. Some Hands are not Eyes
- (A) Only conclusion I follows
(B) Either conclusion I or II follows
(C) Only conclusion II follows
(D) Both conclusions I and II follow
(E) Neither conclusion I nor II follows

23. Statements

- Only a few Guitars are Violin
Some Violins are Flute
No Flutes are Drums
No Drum is a Piano

Conclusions:

- I. Some Guitars are not Flutes
II. Some Violins are not Drums is a possibility
- (A) Only conclusion I follows
(B) Either conclusion I or II follows
(C) Only conclusion II follows
(D) Both conclusions I and II follow
(E) Neither conclusion I nor II follows

Direction (24-26): Study the following information carefully and answer the given questions.

Six persons A, B, C, D, E and F are having different number of pens. C has more pens than A and B, but not the highest number of

pens. B has more pens than only one person. A has more pens than B but not the immediately higher. F has more pens than D. E neither has least number of pens nor has the highest number of pens.

24. Who among the following person has the lowest number of pens among all?

- (A) A (B) C (C) E (D) D
(E) F

25. Who among the following persons has more pens than E?

- I. F
II. C
III. B
- (A) Only I (B) Only III
(C) Only I and II (D) Only II and III
(E) All I, II and III

26. If C and E have 25 and 21 pens respectively, then what is the possible number of pens does A have?

- (A) 19 (B) 17 (C) 27 (D) 29
(E) 23

Direction (27-31): Study the following information carefully and answer the given questions.

Eight persons - A, B, C, D, E, F, G and H were born on two different dates either 5th or 16th of four different months viz. June, July, August and September of the same year. Only one person was born on each date and only two persons were born in each month.

G was born three persons after A, who was born in a month having odd number of days. The number of persons born after G is one less than the number of persons born before C. F was born before C, on an odd numbered date. As many persons born between F and C as between B and E. B was born before E, but not in June. D was born after H, and both of them were born in consecutive months. D was not born on an even numbered date.

27. Which of the following persons were born on an even numbered date?

- I. B
II. E
III. G
- (A) Only I (B) Only II
(C) Only I and II (D) Only I and III
(E) Only II and III

28. As many persons born between A and G as between ___ and ___?

- (A) C, B (B) F, A
(C) B, H (D) D, G
(E) None of these

29. As many persons born before C as after ___?

- (A) The one who was born immediately before G
(B) A
(C) G
(D) The one who was born two persons after B
(E) E

30. Who among the following pair of person was born on the same date?

- (A) F, C
(B) E, D
(C) B, H
(D) A, D
(E) None of these

31. Who among the following person was born on 16th June?

- (A) G (B) C
(C) A (D) H
(E) F

Direction (32-35): Study the following information carefully and answer the given questions.

A Certain number of persons are sitting around a circular table and facing towards the centre.

Two persons sit between P and T. Q sits fifth to the right of T. Q is an immediate neighbour of R, who sits fourth to the right of J. Five persons sit between R and S, who sits fourth to the left of P. The number of persons sitting between J and S is same as number of persons sitting between R and M, when counted from the left of J and right of R. More than six persons sit between P and M, when we counted from the right of P.

32. Who among the following person sits third to the left of M?

- (A) P
(B) The one who sits sixth to the right of R
(C) Q
(D) The one who sits second to the right of T

(E) T

33. If N sits exactly between R and J, then what is the position of N with respect to the Q?

- (A) Third to the right (B) Immediate right
(C) Second to the left (D) Immediate left
(E) Fifth to the right

34. Which among the following persons sit between Q and M, when counted from the left of Q?

I. J

II. T

III. P

- (A) Only I
(B) Only II
(C) Only I and II
(D) Only II and III
(E) All I, II and III

35. How many persons are sitting around the circular table?

- (A) 19 (B) 12
(C) 18 (D) 17
(E) 15

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Direction (36-42): Read the following passage and answer the questions.

New Imperialism, period of intensified imperialistic expansion from the latter half of the 19th century until the outbreak of World War I in 1914. The renewed push to expand territorial control included not only the earlier colonial powers of western Europe but also newcomers such as Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, and the United States. After years of rapid growth under free trade policy regimes, an international financial crisis hit much of the industrialized world in 1873. In response to the economic and social fallout of the crisis, states began taking a more proactive approach in managing their economic affairs. In the 1870s and 1880s, the great powers of Europe suddenly shook off almost a century of **apathy** toward overseas colonies and, in the space of 20 years, partitioned almost the entire uncolonized portion of the globe. Once the scramble for colonies was complete, pressure groups formed in the various

countries to argue the economic promise of imperialism, but just as often governments had to **foster** colonial development. In most cases, trade did not lead but followed the flag.

One necessary condition that characterized this New Imperialism, often overlooked, is technological. Prior to the 1870s Europeans could overawe native peoples along the coasts of Africa and Asia but lacked the firepower, mobility, and communications that would have been needed to pacify the interior. India was the exception, where the British East India Company exploited an anarchic situation and allied itself with selected native rulers against others. The tsetse fly and the Anopheles mosquito—bearers of sleeping sickness and malaria—were the ultimate defenders of African and Asian jungles. The correlation of forces between Europe and the colonizable world shifted, however, with the invention of shallow-draft river boats, the steamship and telegraph, the repeater rifle and Maxim gun, and the discovery (in India) that quinine is an effective prophylactic against malaria. By 1880 small groups of European regulars, armed with modern weapons and exercising fire discipline, could overwhelm many times their number of native troops.

Apart from the ability to now expand into uncolonized regions, technological advances from the co-occurring second Industrial Revolution also enabled newcomers to the imperialist drive to compete with the old powers. Mass-produced steel, electric power and oil as sources of energy, industrial chemistry, and the internal-combustion engine helped additional states, including Germany, the United States, and, eventually, Japan, to join the colonial scramble on roughly equal footing. Both the new technology and the added competition also contributed to the rapid speed of the New Imperialism.

To operate efficiently, the new industries of the second Industrial Revolution required heavy capital investment in large-scale units. Accordingly, they encouraged the development of capital markets and banking institutions that were large and flexible enough to finance the new enterprises. The larger capital markets and industrial enterprises, in turn, helped push forward the geographic scale of operations of the industrialized nations: more capital could now be mobilized for foreign loans and investment, and the bigger businesses had the resources for the worldwide search for and

development of the raw materials essential to the success and security of their investments. Not only did the new industrialism generate a voracious appetite for raw materials, but food for the swelling urban populations was now also sought in the far corners of the world. Advances in ship construction (steamships using steel hulls, twin screws, and compound engines) made feasible the inexpensive movement of bulk raw materials and food over long ocean distances. Under the pressures and opportunities of the later decades of the 19th century, more and more of the world was drawn upon as primary producers for the industrialized nations. Self-contained economic regions dissolved into a world economy, involving an international division of labour whereby the leading industrial nations made and sold manufactured products and the rest of the world supplied them with raw materials and food.

36. According to the passage, how did the British East India Company imperialise India prior to the 1870s?

- (A) The British East India Company had the advantage of firepower and used this advantage to pacify the revolt in India against itself.
- (B) The British East India Company had the advantage of better communication services and used this advantage to mobilise its army in India.
- (C) The British East India Company exploited the anarchic situation in India and allied itself with selected native rulers against others.
- (D) The British East India Company purchased India from the Mughal rulers in exchange for a huge sum of money.
- (E) The British East India Company took the help of the Chinese and Turkish forces to colonise India.

37. According to the author, which of the following were responsible for defending Asian and African jungles from Europeans prior to the 1870s?

- (A) The tsetse fly and the Anopheles mosquito.
- (B) Poor ability in firepower.
- (C) Prevalence of diseases like Cancer in the Asian and African jungles.
- (D) High warfare abilities of the natives of the Asian and African jungles.
- (E) Prevalence of Tuberculosis in the jungles of Asia and Africa.

38. Which of the following were responsible for the shifting of the correlation of forces between Europe and the colonizable world?

i) the invention of shallow-draft river boats, steamship and telegraph.

ii) Discovery of the fact that quinine is effective against malaria.

iii) Invention of the repeater rifle and Maxim gun.

(A) (i), (ii) and (iii) (B) (i) and (ii)

(C) (ii) and (iii) (D) (i) and (iii)

(E) Only (ii)

39. Which of the following is/are true as per the passage?

i) Advances in ship construction allowed the cheap transportation of bulk raw materials and food over long ocean distances.

ii) Discovery about the effectiveness of quinine against Malaria was made in England.

iii) The new industrialism generated a strong appetite for raw materials.

(A) (i), (ii) and (iii) (B) (i) and (ii)

(C) (ii) and (iii) (D) (i) and (iii)

(E) Only (iii)

40. Which of the following nations were not among the newcomers that renewed their push to expand territorial control?

(A) Germany (B) China (C) Russia (D) Italy

(E) Japan

41. Which of the following words has a meaning which is OPPOSITE to the meaning of the word 'apathy'?

(A) crisis (B) slander

(C) enthusiasm (D) recipient

(E) stamina

42. Which of the following words has a meaning which is SIMILAR to the meaning of the word 'foster'?

(A) nullify (B) spoil

(C) develop (D) promote

(E) overlook

Direction (43-47): In the following passage, some of the words have been left out and replaced by a blank represented by a letter. First, read the passage and try to understand what it is about. Then fill in the blanks as per the questions given.

The greatest period of poverty decline between 2005 to 2015-16 in India's recorded history was possible because of high growth averaging over 8 per cent or close to it. That pace of economic growth over a __ (A) __ period helped create the fiscal space for welfare programmes both by the Centre and the states, ensuring better __ (B) __ to food, nutrition, health and cooking fuel. The knock-on impact has been felt by states, too, with poverty levels __ (C) __ faster in better-managed states which had invested hugely in the social sector. Such high growth helped the government launch schemes such as MGNREGA, which threw up work opportunities. The government, too, can be __ (D) __ for schemes or programmes designed to provide pucca housing, toilets, cooking gas, power, roads and healthcare or the public provision of private goods with a lot of positive externalities. But all these programmes need __ (E) __ which can come only from growth with its trickle-down effect. So the focus has to be on growth to further reduce and eliminate poverty and to ensure economic convergence among states. A couple of percentage points' increase or decrease in growth can make a big difference to a nation's destiny

43. Which of the following words should fill in the blank (A) to make a contextually correct and meaningful sentence?

(A) Declined (B) Sustained

(C) Jarred (D) Increased

(E) Expanded

44. Which of the following words should fill in the blank (B) to make a contextually correct and meaningful sentence?

(A) access (B) excess

(C) underpin (D) outburst

(E) inopportune

45. Which of the following words should fill in the blank (C) to make a contextually correct and meaningful sentence?

(A) deceiving (B) reducing

(C) embodying (D) decreasing

(E) Both (b) & (d)

46. Which of the following words should fill in the blank (D) to make a contextually correct and meaningful sentence?

(A) heightened (B) tempted

(C) credited (D) reconsidered

(E) constituted

47. Which of the following words should fill in the blank (E) to make a contextually correct and meaningful sentence?

- (A) resources (B) commitment
(C) corpulent (D) intimidation
(E) All can fit

Direction (48-50): In the question below, a sentence is given with two blanks. From the given options, choose the one that gives the correct combination of words that fit in the blanks.

48. History is _____ with the corpses of people who claimed to have found the _____ of youth.

- (A) Littered, fountain (B) Litter, caution
(C) Litter, fountain (D) Littered, curative
(E) None of the above

49. The UK government has announced it will _____ ≤4.6 million in funding for projects tackling the _____ wildlife trade around the world.

- (A) Attempt, illegally (B) Provide, illegal
(C) Attempting, illegal (D) Provided, illegal
(E) None of the above

50. Farmers _____ on fertilisers to feed their crops and many of these _____ ammonia.

- (A) Rely, contains (B) Relies, contain
(C) Relies, contains (D) Rely, contain
(E) None of the above

Direction (51-55): Read the given sentence to find out whether there is any grammatical/ contextual error in it. The error, if any, will be in one part of the sentence. If no part in the sentence has an error then, mark 'No Error' as your answer. Consider the part in bold as grammatically correct. (Ignore punctuation errors, if any)

51. In addition to the potential for AI-generated (A)/ false stories, there's a (B)/ simultaneous scary (C)/ and exciting future (D)/ where AI-generated false stories are the norm (E).

- (A) B (B) E (C) D (D) C
(E) No error

52. The Open Society Foundation (A) **focuses particularly on the** (B) accountability of government and (C) the opportunity for people (D) to participate free in civic life (E).

- (A) A (B) C (C) D (D) E
(E) No error

53. **Volunteer brigades provide the** (A) frontline defence against (B) bushfires and also (C) undertaking bushfire prevention (D) and mitigation activities (E).

- (A) C (B) D (C) B (D) E
(E) No error

54. A slim or thin wedding program will (A) offer plenty of scope for a choice (B) of fonts and many wedding stationary supply (C) **stores and designers will be able to** (D) show you examples to help you choose (E).

- (A) B (B) E (C) A (D) C
(E) No error

55. **These ideas were formative of new** (A) assumptions about charity, as back in the 20th century they begin (B) to shift responsibility from the shared (C) ties and interdependencies of communal care (D) to the personal responsibility of the individual (E).

- (A) B (B) D (C) E (D) C
(E) No error

Direction (56-60): A set of six statements is given below, five of which when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. One of the sentences does not relate to the common theme of the paragraph. Read the set of statements and answer the questions that follow.

- A. One of them being crypto jacking, is what some digital coin miners do to illegally gain access to many computers.
B. The mined digital assets are then stored in digital ledgers with unique codes.
C. Palo Alto Networks estimated that Graboid had infected more than 2,000 Docker deployments.
D. There are many ways in which a security breach can happen in the world of cryptocurrency.
E. Once installed, the crypto mining code runs surreptitiously and turns devices into cryptocurrency-mining botnets.
F. The miners stealthily drop malware in an unsuspecting user's computer.

56. Which of the following sentences is the odd one out after rearrangement?

- (A) D (B) C (C) A (D) D
(E) F

57. Which of the following is the fifth sentence after rearrangement?

- (A) D (B) A (C) F (D) E
(E) B

58. Which of the following is the first sentence after rearrangement?

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

59. Which of the following is the second sentence after rearrangement?

- (A) F (B) B (C) C (D) A
(E) E

60. Which of the following is the third sentence after rearrangement?

- (A) C (B) D (C) B (D) A
(E) F

Direction (61-65): In the question below, a word is given and followed by four words, two of which may or may not share a synonymous or antonymous relationship with the given word. From the given options, choose the one that provides the correct pair of synonyms or antonyms.

61. Destitute

1. Indigenous
2. Indigent
3. Penniless
4. Pliable
(A) 1 & 2 (B) 1 & 3 (C) 2 & 3 (D) 2 & 4
(E) All are synonyms/ antonyms

62. Placate

1. Conciliate
2. Appease
3. Mollify
4. Pacify
(A) 1 & 3 (B) 1 & 4 (C) 2 & 3 (D) 3 & 4
(E) All are synonyms/ antonyms.

63. Vanquish

1. Conquer
2. Overpower
3. Overtake
4. Comply
(A) 1 & 2 (B) 1 & 3 (C) 1 & 4 (D) 2 & 3
(E) All are synonyms/ antonyms

64. Dissent

1. Consent
2. Ascent
3. Nascent
4. Assent
(A) 1 & 3 (B) 1 & 4 (C) 2 & 4 (D) 3 & 4
(E) All are synonyms/ antonyms

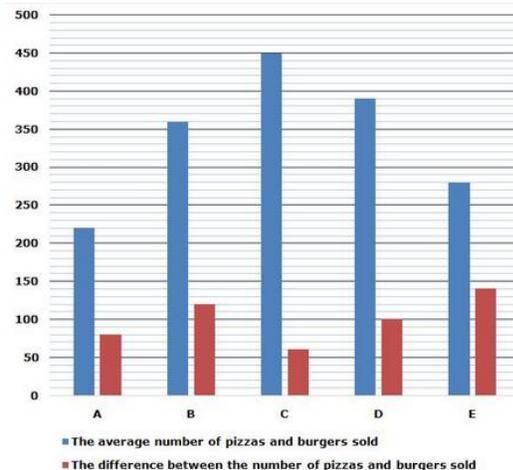
65. Benign

1. Ceaseless
2. Imminent
3. Virulent
4. Lethal
(A) 1 & 2 (B) 2 & 3 (C) 2 & 4 (D) 3 & 4
(E) All are synonyms/ antonyms

QUANTITATIVE APTITUDE

Direction (66-70): Study the following information carefully and answer the questions given below:

The given bar graph shows the average number of pizzas and burgers sold and the difference between the number of pizzas and burgers sold by five different vendors- A, B, C, D, and E.



Note:

I. The total number of items sold by a vendor = The number of pizzas sold + The number of burgers sold

II. For each of the given vendors, the number of pizzas sold is more than the number of burgers sold.

66. Out of the total number of items sold by vendor B, 33.33% are sold to males and the rest are sold to females. If the number of burgers sold by vendor B to females is 40 more than the number of burgers sold by vendor A, then find the number of pizzas sold by vendor B to males.

- (A) 80 (B) 240 (C) 160 (D) 220
(E) 260

67. Out of the total number of pizzas sold by vendor D, 18.18% are Veg pizzas, the remaining pizzas, consisting of cheese pizzas and chicken pizzas, are in the ratio of 4:5. Find the average number of pizzas sold by vendor A and the number of chicken pizzas sold by vendor D.

- (A) 224 (B) 204
(C) 210 (D) 190
(E) 230

68. The total number of items sold by vendor E is how much percent more/less than the sum of the number of pizzas sold by vendors A and D together?

- (A) 20% less (B) 16% more
(C) 25% less (D) 24% more
(E) 17.5% more

69. If the average number of items (pizza + burger + sandwich) sold by vendor C is 360, then find the difference between the number of sandwiches sold by vendor C and the number of burgers sold by vendor E.

- (A) 48 (B) 24
(C) 28 (D) 30
(E) 42

70. If the total number of items (pizzas + burgers) sold by vendor F is 10 more than that by A and the number of pizzas sold by vendor F is 80 less than that by E, then the number of burgers sold by vendor F is how much percent of the total number of items sold by him?

- (A) 25% (B) 40%
(C) 48% (D) 52%
(E) 60%

Direction (71-75): What value should come in the place of (?) in the following questions?

71. $17(2/3) \div (1/12) + \sqrt{2025} - 1 = ?^4$

- (A) 4 (B) 8
(C) 2 (D) 10
(E) 5

72. $(1600 - 250) \div \{39 - (26 + 10)\} = ? * 15$

- (A) 46 (B) 37
(C) 33 (D) 42
(E) 30

73. $\{(1/5) + (2/3)\}$ of $120 + ? = 284$

- (A) 170 (B) 164
(C) 180 (D) 276
(E) 225

74. $\sqrt{1225} * \sqrt{576} = ?^2 - 1$

- (A) 31 (B) 11
(C) 21 (D) 29
(E) 19

75. $\sqrt{\{(37 * 2) + 5\% \text{ of } 5000\}} + \sqrt{(1200 + (12 * 2^3))} = ? * 9$

- (A) 7 (B) 6
(C) 8 (D) 12
(E) 10

76. In a 1200 litres mixture containing milk and water in the ratio of 2:1, 240 liters of the mixture are replaced with the same quantity of water. If the same procedure is repeated once more, then find the ratio of the quantity of milk to the quantity of water in the mixture.

- (A) 32:43 (B) 8:15 (C) 17:13 (D) 13:8
(E) 8:9

77. The present age of the father is three times that of his son and four times that of his daughter. The ratio of the son's age after 6 years to the present age of the mother is 1:2. If the present age of the son is 5 years older than that of the daughter, then find the age of the mother two years ago.

- (A) 52 years (B) 48 years (C) 50 years (D) 54 years
(E) 44 years

78. Train A can cross a pole in 5 seconds. Train B, whose speed is 50% more than that of train A, can cross train A in 10 seconds while moving in the opposite direction. If the length of train A is 100 meters, then find the time taken by train B to cross a cyclist who is traveling in the same direction at a speed of 18 kmph.

- (A) 12 seconds (B) 24 seconds
(C) 8 seconds (D) 16 seconds
(E) 21 seconds

79. Nivin and Deva invested Rs. 24000 and Rs. 40000 for 16 months and 10 months, respectively. Deva is a sleeping partner, so Nivin receives 20% of the profit for managing the business, and the remaining amount is shared based on their investment ratio. Find the profit amount received by Nivin if the total profit share of business is Rs. 73500.

- (A) Rs. 32500 (B) Rs. 43500
(C) Rs. 39200 (D) Rs. 46600
(E) Rs. 54000

80. A shopkeeper marked an article 80% above the cost price and sold it after giving two successive discounts of 15% and 20% to Sona, who spent Rs. 164 on its repair. Sona then sold it to Anbu for Rs. 2400, making a profit of 20%. Find the cost of the article for the shopkeeper.

- (A) Rs. 1760 (B) Rs. 1800
(C) Rs. 1600 (D) Rs. 1200
(E) Rs. 1500

Direction (81-85): Find out the wrong number in the following number series.

81. 3, 6, 15, 30, 75, 160, 375

- (A) 160 (B) 75
(C) 375 (D) 15
(E) 3

82. 256, 60, 80, 20, 36, 9, 25

- (A) 9 (B) 20
(C) 80 (D) 25
(E) 60

83. 124, 147, 176, 207, 244, 285, 324

- (A) 176 (B) 324
(C) 124 (D) 244

(E) 285

84. 1290, 1225, 1175, 1136, 1112, 1095, 1085

- (A) 1225 (B) 1175
(C) 1112 (D) 1136
(E) 1085

85. 1578, 525, 174, 57, 20, 5

- (A) 174 (B) 5
(C) 20 (D) 57
(E) 525

86. A and B together can complete 80% of the work in 24 days, while B and C together can complete 60% of the work in 21 days. If A is twice as efficient as C and the total wages for the work is Rs. 2880, then find the wages of B.

- (A) Rs. 1280 (B) Rs. 1800
(C) Rs. 360 (D) Rs. 720
(E) Rs. 1525

87. The simple interest on a certain sum of money for 2 years is Rs.4800, and the compound interest on the same sum for 2 years at the same rate of interest is Rs. 5280. If the same sum is invested with interest compounded quarterly at the same rate, then find the interest obtained for 9 months.

- (A) Rs. 1224 (B) Rs. 1256.8
(C) Rs. 1198.25 (D) Rs. 1981.45
(E) Rs. 1891.5

88. The diagonals of a rhombus are in the ratio 4:3. If the area of the square is 100 cm² and the perimeter of the rhombus is 20 cm more than that of the square, then find the area of the rhombus.

- (A) 260 cm² (B) 268 cm²
(C) 252 cm² (D) 216 cm²
(E) 264 cm²

89. The speed of a boat in still water is 8 km/hr more than that of the stream. The boat can travel 200 km downstream in 5 hours. If the speed of the stream is 25% less, then find the total time taken by the boat to travel 48 km upstream and 288 km downstream.

- (A) 12 hours (B) 24 hours
(C) 18 hours (D) 9 hours
(E) 20 hours

90. The average marks of a certain number of students initially in the class is 40. When two new students joined them, the average marks increase by 2. If the ratio of the total marks of the initial number of students to the total marks of newly joined students included is 6:7, then find the number of students initially in the class.

- (A) 16 (B) 19
(C) 18 (D) 22
(E) 23

Direction (91-95): What value should come in the place of (?) in the following questions?

91. $(4224 \div 16) \div 11 = 12^2 - ?$

- (A) 116 (B) 136
(C) 120 (D) 132
(E) 124

92. $12^3 + 18^2 - 827 = ?^2$

- (A) 35 (B) 45
(C) 38 (D) 40
(E) 32

93. $\{(? + 13) * 12\} + 50\% \text{ of } 800 = 280 * 2.5$

- (A) 7 (B) 22
(C) 17 (D) 12
(E) 28

94. $\{(6000 \div 48) + (15 * 25)\} = ?\% \text{ of } 1562.5$

- (A) 28 (B) 32
(C) 22 (D) 36
(E) 40

95. $(12 + 2\sqrt{3})^2 = ? * \sqrt{3} + 156$

- (A) 56 (B) $20 + \sqrt{3}$
(C) $42\sqrt{3}$ (D) $5 + 14\sqrt{3}$
(E) 48

Direction (96-100): In each of the following questions, two equations are given. You have to solve both the equations to find the relation between x and y.

96. I) $x^2 - 18x + 77 = 0$

II) $y^2 - 11y + 30 = 0$

- (A) $x \leq y$ (B) $x \geq y$
(C) $x > y$ (D) $x < y$

(E) $x = y$ or relationship can't be determined.

97. I) $x^2 - 9x + 20 = 0$

II) $y^2 - 10y + 25 = 0$

- (A) $x > y$
(B) $x \geq y$
(C) $x = y$ or relationship can't be determined.
(D) $x < y$
(E) $x \leq y$

98. I) $x^2 - x - 30 = 0$

II) $y^2 - 2y - 15 = 0$

- (A) $x = y$ or relationship can't be determined.
(B) $x \geq y$
(C) $x > y$
(D) $x < y$
(E) $x \leq y$

99. I) $3x + 7y = 23$

II) $8x + 5y = 34$

- (A) $x < y$
(B) $x \geq y$
(C) $x = y$ or relationship can't be determined.
(D) $x > y$
(E) $x \leq y$

100. I) $x^2 - 11x + 30 = 0$

II) $2y^2 - 12y + 10 = 0$

- (A) $x > y$
(B) $x \geq y$
(C) $x = y$ or relationship cannot be determined.
(D) $x < y$
(E) $x \leq y$

ANSWER KEY

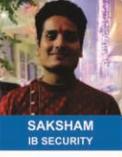
1. (B)	2. (D)	3. (E)	4. (A)	5. (C)	6. (D)	7. (C)	8. (A)	9. (C)	10. (B)
11. (E)	12. (C)	13. (A)	14. (D)	15. (B)	16. (E)	17. (B)	18. (A)	19. (D)	20. (D)
21. (E)	22. (E)	23. (E)	24. (D)	25. (C)	26. (E)	27. (E)	28. (C)	29. (A)	30. (D)
31. (B)	32. (B)	33. (D)	34. (E)	35. (A)	36. (C)	37. (A)	38. (A)	39. (D)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

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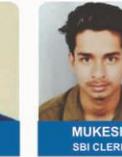
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