

Weekly One Liners 3rd to 9th March, 2025

Sarbananda Sonowal Unveils 'One Nation-One Port' Initiative

In a major step towards enhancing **India's maritime infrastructure**, the Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways (MoPSW) has introduced a series of transformative initiatives aimed at modernizing the sector, strengthening global trade, and promoting sustainability. Among the key announcements is the launch of '**One Nation: One Port Process**' (ONOP), a pioneering effort designed to standardize and streamline port operations across the country.

The initiatives were unveiled by **Ports, Shipping, and Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal** during a stakeholders' meeting that focused on key takeaways from the **Union Budget 2025-26** for the maritime sector. These measures are expected to play a vital role in making India a **global maritime powerhouse** while aligning with the vision of **Atmanirbhar Bharat** and a **Developed India by 2047**.

One Nation: One Port Process (ONOP) - Transforming India's Port Ecosystem

The **ONOP initiative** has been launched with the objective of eliminating **inconsistencies in documentation and processes** across India's major ports. Standardizing port operations is crucial for reducing inefficiencies, cutting costs, and eliminating operational delays. By implementing a **uniform port process**, India aims to enhance the ease of doing business and facilitate seamless trade activities.

Key Objectives of ONOP

- **Standardization of Processes:** Uniform operational procedures across all major ports.
- **Reduction in Costs:** Minimizing logistics expenses by removing redundant documentation.
- **Operational Efficiency:** Enhancing speed and accuracy in port-related activities.
- **Boost to Global Trade:** Strengthening India's position as a **leading maritime hub**.
- **Improved Transparency:** Digitization and automation for a seamless **paperless system**.



By ensuring a **harmonized port system**, ONOP is set to reduce **bottlenecks in cargo handling**, accelerate clearance procedures, and boost overall productivity.

Sagar Ankalani - The Logistics Port Performance Index (LPPI) 2023-24

Alongside ONOP, **Sarbananda Sonowal** also launched **Sagar Ankalani**, which includes the **Logistics Port Performance Index (LPPI) for 2023-24**. This index serves as a **benchmarking tool** to assess and improve port efficiency, competitiveness, and logistics performance in India's maritime sector.

Key Highlights of LPPI

- **Evaluation of Port Performance:** Identifies top-performing and underperforming ports.
- **Global Competitiveness:** Positions Indian ports in the international logistics landscape.
- **Efficiency Improvement:** Focuses on reducing turnaround time and cost of logistics.
- **Sustainability Metrics:** Monitors the **carbon footprint** and green practices adopted by ports.

The **LPPI Index** is expected to encourage competition among ports to **enhance service quality**, making India's maritime infrastructure more robust and globally competitive.

Bharat Global Ports Consortium - Strengthening India's Maritime Reach

To further expand India's footprint in the **global maritime trade**, the government has also announced the launch of the **Bharat Global Ports Consortium**. This initiative aims at fostering **international collaborations** and enhancing **bilateral trade relations**.

Key Benefits of Bharat Global Ports Consortium

1. **Expansion of India's Maritime Influence** - Strengthening **port-to-port connectivity** with major global ports.
2. **Trade and Investment Opportunities** - Attracting **foreign direct investment (FDI)** in port infrastructure.
3. **Collaboration with Global Players** - Encouraging **partnerships with international port authorities**.
4. **Improved Port Infrastructure** - Developing world-class **smart, green, and digital ports**.

This move will provide India with **strategic advantages** in global shipping routes, boosting **exports and maritime trade**.

Key Focus Areas for the Future

- **Smart Ports:** Implementing AI and blockchain for automation in port operations.
- **Green Energy Adoption:** Shifting towards **renewable energy sources** for port functioning.
- **Maritime Security Enhancement:** Strengthening **coastal surveillance** and cyber-security measures.
- **Digitalization:** Introducing **electronic bills of lading** and **AI-powered tracking systems**.

These initiatives align with the government's larger goal of 'Port-Led Development', a key aspect of the Sagarmala Project, which aims to revolutionize India's maritime trade landscape.

Oscars Awards 2025: Full List of the 97th Academy Awards Winners

The 97th Academy Awards are now underway at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. The 97th Oscars hosted by Conan O'Brien with your own Oscars printable ballot.

Oscars Awards 2025: Full List of the 97th Academy Awards Winners

Category	Winners
Best Picture	Anora
Actor in a Leading Role	The Brutalist
Actor in a Supporting Role	Kieran Culkin, A Real Pain
Actress in a Leading Role	Mikey Madison, "Anora"
Actress in a Supporting Role	Zoe Saldana, Emilia Perez
Animated Feature Film	Flow
Animated Short Film	In the Shadow of the Cypress
Cinematography	Lol Crawley, "The Brutalist"
Costume Design	Wicked
Best Director	Sean Baker, "Anora"
Documentary Feature Film	No Other Land
Documentary Short Film	The Only Girl in the Orchestra
Film Editing	Anora, Sean Baker
International Feature Film	"I'm Still Here" (Brazil)
Makeup and Hairstyling	Pierre-Olivier Persin, Stéphanie Guillon and Marilyn Scarselli, "The Substance"
Music (Original Score)	Daniel Blumberg, "The Brutalist"
Music (Original Song)	"El Mal" from "Emilia Pérez"
Production Design	Nathan Crowley and Lee Sandales, "Wicked"
Live Action Short Film	I'm Not a Robot
Best Sound	Dune: Part Two
Visual Effects	Dune: Part Two
Writing (Adapted Screenplay)	Conclave
Writing (Original Screenplay)	Anora

Here is the complete list of this year's nominees

Best Picture

- **Anora – Winner**
- The Brutalist
- A Complete Unknown
- Conclave
- Dune: Part Two
- Emilia Pérez
- I'm Still Here
- Nickel Boys
- The Substance
- Wicked

Best Actor

- **Adrien Brody (The Brutalist) – Winner**
- Timothée Chalamet (A Complete Unknown)
- Colman Domingo (Sing Sing)
- Ralph Fiennes (Conclave)
- Sebastian Stan (The Apprentice)

Best Actress

- **Mikey Madison (Anora) – Winner**
- Cynthia Erivo (Wicked)
- Karla Sofía Gascón (Emilia Pérez)
- Demi Moore (The Substance)
- Fernanda Torres (I'm Still Here)

Best Supporting Actor

- **Kieran Culkin (A Real Pain) – Winner**
- Yura Borisov (Anora)
- Edward Norton (A Complete Unknown)
- Guy Pearce (The Brutalist)
- Jeremy Strong (The Apprentice)

Best Supporting Actress

- **Zoe Saldaña (Emilia Pérez) – Winner**
- Monica Barbaro (A Complete Unknown)
- Ariana Grande (Wicked)
- Felicity Jones (The Brutalist)
- Isabella Rossellini (Conclave)

Best Director

- **Sean Baker (Anora) – Winner**
- Jacques Audiard (Emilia Pérez)
- Brady Corbet (The Brutalist)
- Coralie Fargeat (The Substance)
- James Mangold (A Complete Unknown)

Best Cinematography

- **The Brutalist – Winner**
- Dune: Part Two
- Emilia Pérez
- Maria
- Nosferatu

Best International Feature Film

- **I'm Still Here** (Brazil) – **Winner**
- The Girl With the Needle (Denmark)
- Emilia Pérez (France)
- The Seed of the Sacred Fig (Germany)
- Flow (Latvia)

Best Adapted Screenplay

- **Conclave** – **Winner**
- A Complete Unknown
- Emilia Pérez
- Nickel Boys
- Sing Sing

Best Original Screenplay

- **Anora** – **Winner**
- The Brutalist
- A Real Pain
- September 5
- The Substance

Best Live Action Short Film

- **I'm Not a Robot** – **Winner**
- A Lien
- Anuja
- The Last Ranger
- The Man Who Could Not Remain Silent

Best Animated Short Film

- **In the Shadow of the Cypress** – **Winner**
- Beautiful Men
- Magic Candies
- Wander to Wonder
- Yuck!

Best Animated Feature Film

- **Flow** – **Winner**
- Inside Out 2
- Memoir of a Snail
- Wallace & Gromit: Vengeance Most Fowl
- The Wild Robot

Best Documentary Short

- **The Only Girl in the Orchestra** – **Winner**
- Death by Numbers
- I Am Ready, Warden
- Incident
- Instruments of a Beating Heart

Best Documentary Feature Film

- **No Other Land** – **Winner**
- Black Box Diaries
- Porcelain War
- Soundtrack to a Coup D'état
- Sugarcane

Best Original Song

- **El Mal** (Emilia Pérez) – **Winner**
- The Journey (The Six Triple Eight)
- Like a Bird (Sing Sing)
- Mi Camino (Emilia Pérez)
- Never Too Late (Elton John: Never Too Late)

Best Original Score

- **The Brutalist** – **Winner**
- Conclave
- Emilia Pérez
- Wicked
- The Wild Robot

Best Makeup and Hairstyling

- **The Substance** – **Winner**
- A Different Man
- Emilia Pérez
- Nosferatu
- Wicked

Best Costume Design

- **Wicked** – **Winner**
- A Complete Unknown
- Conclave
- Gladiator II
- Nosferatu

Best Editing

- **Anora** – **Winner**
- The Brutalist
- Conclave
- Emilia Pérez
- Wicked

Best Sound

- **Dune: Part Two** – **Winner**
- A Complete Unknown
- Emilia Pérez
- Wicked
- The Wild Robot

Best Production Design

- **Wicked** – **Winner**
- The Brutalist
- Conclave
- Dune: Part Two
- Nosferatu

Best Visual Effects

- **Dune: Part Two** – **Winner**
- Alien: Romulus
- Better Man
- Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes
- Wicked

Interesting Facts

- With a record-breaking 13 nominations, Emilia Pérez sets a new milestone for non-English language films. However, its awards-season journey has been largely overshadowed by off-screen controversies.

Bihar Budget 2025-26: Key Highlights

The Nitish Kumar-led NDA government in Bihar presented the ₹3,16,895 crore Budget for the financial year 2025-26 on March 3, 2025. Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Samrat Choudhary highlighted a significant increase in the state's Budget size over the years and emphasized allocations for education, health, rural development, and welfare schemes. The Budget also introduced several measures for women's empowerment and employment generation while maintaining fiscal discipline within FRBM limits.

Key Highlights of Bihar Budget 2025-26

1. Overall Budget Size and Growth

- The total Budget outlay for 2025-26 is ₹3,16,895 crore.
- It marks an increase of ₹38,169 crore from the previous year's Budget of ₹2,78,726 crore.
- Bihar's Budget has grown 15 times since 2005-06, when it was ₹22,568 crore.

2. Major Sectoral Allocations

- **Education:** ₹60,954 crore (highest allocation).
- **Health:** ₹20,335 crore.
- **Rural Development:** ₹16,193 crore.
- **Energy Sector:** ₹13,483 crore.
- **Saat Nischay-II (Self-reliant Bihar Initiative):** ₹5,972 crore.

3. Welfare Schemes for Backward Communities

- ₹13,368 crore allocated for schemes benefiting OBCs, EBCs, SCs, STs, and minorities.
- ₹19,648 crore for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), who form over 20% of Bihar's population.
- ₹3,303 crore allocated for student scholarships, benefitting mainly OBC, EBC, and SC students.

4. Infrastructure and Rural Development

- ₹15,586 crore allocated to the rural development department (2nd highest sectoral allocation).
- Investments in roads, electricity, water supply, and village infrastructure.

5. Women Empowerment Initiatives

- Establishment of "Mahila Haat" (Women's Market) in Patna.
- "Pink Buses" exclusively for women with female drivers and conductors.
- Construction of "Pink Toilets" in every district.
- Establishment of "Kanya Vivah Mandaps" in all panchayats to support poor families in organizing marriages.

6. Health and Education

- New Cancer Hospital to be set up in Begusarai.
- Opening of 100+ public healthcare centers in rural areas.
- Scholarship amounts for backward and extremely backward class students doubled from ₹1,000 to ₹2,000 per month.

7. Employment and Skill Development

- Expansion of employment generation schemes under various departments.
- Skill training for women in tourism and transport sectors.
- 33% quota for women in the State Road Transport Corporation.

8. Fiscal Management and Economic Indicators

- Bihar maintains a revenue surplus and a fiscal deficit of 2.98%, within the FRBM limit of 3%.
- Public debt is 38.94% of GSDP, within the 40.4% limit set by the 15th Finance Commission.

9. Transport and Connectivity

- Special bus service for women in major cities.
- Flights to start from Purnia airport within three months.
- Three more airports to be completed soon.

10. Political Reactions

- NDA leaders called the Budget inclusive and forward-looking, aligning with PM Modi's "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" vision.
- Opposition leader Tejashwi Yadav dismissed it as "inflated and a bundle of lies".

Chhattisgarh Budget 2025: Emphasis on Capital Expenditure, Reforms, and Welfare Schemes

The Chhattisgarh government has unveiled its Budget for the financial year 2025, prioritizing capital expenditure, digital governance, infrastructure development, and welfare schemes. The budget, amounting to ₹1,65,000 crore, was presented by State Finance Minister O.P. Choudhary in the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly on March 4, 2025.

With an aim to boost ease of doing business, transparency, and public welfare, the budget introduces key reforms, including the Business Reform Action Plan, GATI initiative, Mukhyamantri Mobile Tower Scheme, and an increase in capital outlay for infrastructure development.

GATI Initiative: A Vision for Growth

One of the key highlights of the budget is the introduction of GATI, an acronym for:

- **G – Good Governance**
- **A – Accelerating Infrastructure**
- **T – Technology**
- **I – Industrial Growth**

This initiative aims to cut red-tapism, enhance ease of doing business, and push for rapid development in multiple sectors.

Business Reform Action Plan: Focus on Ease of Doing Business

To encourage investment and business growth, the government has outlined a **Business Reform Action Plan** under which:

- **216 reforms** will be implemented in **20 departments** in the first phase.
- Digital transformation will be adopted to **prevent fraud, minimize corruption**, and make administrative processes **paperless and faceless**.
- The government aims to **simplify land registration procedures**, similar to the **passport application process**, making it more accessible and hassle-free.

A major **land reform** under this budget is the reduction of fees for **relinquishment and division of assets** from **lakhs of rupees to just ₹500**. This move is expected to **prevent revenue disputes** and streamline property transactions.

Major Economic Indicators: Growth & Fiscal Position

Growth in Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)

The **Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)** for Chhattisgarh is projected to be **₹6,35,918 crore** in the upcoming fiscal year, marking an estimated **12% growth** from the **2024-25 estimate of ₹5,67,880 crore**.

Increase in Capital Expenditure

- The **capital expenditure outlay** has increased by **18% year-on-year**, from **₹22,300 crore** to **₹26,341 crore**.
- **₹2,000 crore** has been allocated for **road construction**, marking the **highest investment in road development since the state's formation**.
- The **Road Plan 2030** is being developed to **enhance connectivity between the state capital, districts, and development blocks**.

Fiscal Deficit

- The fiscal deficit of Chhattisgarh has increased slightly from **2.90% to 2.97%** of GSDP.
- However, the government has assured that despite **higher capital expenditure**, fiscal discipline will be maintained.

Infrastructure & Connectivity Boost**Mukhyamantri Mobile Tower Scheme**

To address the **digital divide in remote areas**, the government has introduced the **Mukhyamantri Mobile Tower Scheme**, which will:

- Establish **mobile towers in far-flung tribal regions**, particularly in **Bastar and Sarguja**.
- Enhance **mobile connectivity** and promote **digital inclusion** in rural communities.

Mukhyamantri Parivahan Yojana

To improve **transport facilities**, the **Mukhyamantri Parivahan Yojana** will be implemented. Under this scheme:

- **New transport services** will be launched to connect **gram panchayats with block and district headquarters**.
- The initiative aims to **ensure better mobility in low-population-density areas** where **public transport is currently unavailable**.

Technology & Industrial Growth**Technology Reforms**

To enhance **digital governance**, the budget includes:

- **Computerization of courts** to streamline judicial processes.
- **Creation of a State Data Center** to improve **cybersecurity and data management**.
- **Emergency response systems** for better disaster and crisis management.

Industrial Boost

- The **industry budget outlay** has **tripled** compared to the previous year, signaling a strong push for **industrial growth**.
- A **National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT)** will be established in Chhattisgarh, creating opportunities in the **textile and fashion sector**. New Pension Fund & Fiscal Stability

Chhattisgarh Pension Fund

A **pension fund** has been introduced to ensure **secure pensions for all government employees**.

- It is the **first such initiative in India** designed to **reduce financial burden on the exchequer post-2039**, when a **large number of state employees will retire**.

Chhattisgarh Growth and Stability Fund

- Another **first-of-its-kind initiative in India**, this fund aims to **strengthen the state's financial stability and ensure sustainable economic growth**.

Welfare Schemes: Focus on Farmers, Women & Housing

The budget includes several welfare initiatives:

Krishak Unnati Yojana (For Farmers)

- **₹10,000 crore** allocated for **farmers' welfare** and agricultural development.

Pradhanmantri Awas Yojana (Rural)

- **₹8,500 crore** allocated for **affordable housing** in rural areas.

Mahtari Vandan Yojana (For Women)

- A **cash assistance scheme** for **married women** with an allocation of **₹5,500 crore**.

The Finance Minister emphasized that **economic growth must go hand in hand with social welfare**, countering concerns about the budget's balance between **capital expenditure and welfare spending**.

Tax & Price Reductions

Reduction in Petrol Prices

- The **Value Added Tax (VAT) on petrol** will be reduced by **₹1 per litre**, effective **April 1, 2025**.

No New Taxes

- The budget does **not introduce any new taxes**, ensuring that the **public is not burdened financially**.

Political Reactions: Mixed Responses

The budget has received **divided opinions** from political leaders:

Government's Stance

- **Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai** hailed it as a **historic budget** that will **propel economic growth and improve governance**.

Opposition Criticism

- **Former CM Bhupesh Baghel (Congress)** criticized the budget, calling it **"disappointing"** and lacking in **new initiatives for farmers and the unemployed**.
- He also **pointed out the absence** of a **cooking gas subsidy** at ₹500, a **BJP poll promise** under **'Modi ki Guarantee'**.

Forbes India Leadership Awards 2025: Honoring Excellence and Innovation

The **Forbes India Leadership Awards (FILA) 2025** concluded in a spectacular ceremony at the **Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai**, celebrating the visionaries and change-makers of India's corporate and entrepreneurial landscape. This prestigious event recognized outstanding contributions in business, innovation, and leadership that have shaped the country's economic and social fabric.

Hosted by **Forbes India**, the ceremony brought together some of the most influential names in business, technology, and philanthropy, paying tribute to their transformative impact. The evening was a mix of insightful discussions, prestigious awards, and a toast to leadership excellence.

Recognizing Breakthrough Innovations and Achievements

The ceremony commenced with awards recognizing groundbreaking **innovation** and **entrepreneurial excellence**. Some of the most dynamic and disruptive companies were honored for their pioneering contributions.

Emerging Innovator Award: BugWorks Research

BugWorks Research was recognized for its exceptional **innovation in biotechnology**. The company's leadership team, **Dr. Anand Anandkumar, Dr. V. Balasubramaniam, and Dr. Santanu Datta**, emphasized that true innovation is not just about discovery but about creating **tangible impact**.

Outstanding Startup Award: BrowserStack

One of the fastest-growing tech startups, **BrowserStack**, was honored for revolutionizing **software testing solutions**. Founders **Ritesh Arora and Nakul Aggarwal** highlighted the company's reach, stating, "We power half the world's airlines, banks, and tech firms."

Icons of Excellence: Ajay Singh and Katrina Kaif

- **Ajay Singh**, Chairman and Managing Director of **SpiceJet**, was recognized for his contribution to the **aviation sector**. Reflecting on his journey, he shared, "We started SpiceJet against all odds."
- **Katrina Kaif**, co-founder of **Kay Beauty**, was honored for her entrepreneurial journey and her efforts to make beauty more **inclusive and expressive**. She stressed, "If you enter business, you must have something unique to say."

Fireside Chat: Katrina Kaif on Business and Branding

A special highlight of the evening was a **fireside chat** between **Katrina Kaif** and **Naini Thaker of Forbes India**, where Kaif spoke about her transition from **Bollywood to the boardroom**. She underscored the importance of **brand inclusivity**, self-expression, and the growing intersection between **entertainment and entrepreneurship**.

Final Set of Awards: Celebrating Leadership Across Sectors

Award Category	Winner	Key Contribution
Emerging Innovator Award	BugWorks Research	Innovation in biotechnology
Outstanding Startup Award	BrowserStack	Revolutionizing software testing solutions
Icons of Excellence	Ajay Singh (SpiceJet)	Leadership in aviation sector
	Katrina Kaif (Kay Beauty)	Entrepreneurship in beauty industry
Icons of Excellence	Jay Shah (ICC)	Contributions to global cricket governance
	Shyam Srinivasan (Federal Bank)	Leadership in financial sector
	Mohit Joshi (Tech Mahindra)	Driving technological transformation
Promising Startup	Minimalist	Transparent and effective skincare solutions
Regional Goliath	MTR Foods	Authentic Indian cuisine and quality commitment
Grassroots Philanthropists	Rizwan & Rekha Koita (Koita Foundation)	Social impact in healthcare and education
Climate Warrior	Indra Water	Sustainable water treatment solutions
Turnaround Star	Indian Hotels Co. Ltd. (IHCL)	Revitalization of hospitality and service excellence

Award Category	Winner	Key Contribution
Next-Gen Entrepreneur	Varun Jaipuria (Varun Beverages)	Expansion in the beverage sector
Institution Builder	Ashish Dhawan (Central Square Foundation)	Contributions to education reform and policy-making
Entrepreneur of the Year	Supam Maheshwari (FirstCry)	Leadership in baby and kids' retail market
CEO of the Year	Rajesh Jejurikar (Mahindra & Mahindra)	Innovation in automobile sector and business expansion

RBI's 'Regulations at a Glance': Key Insights for Cooperative Banks

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released the "Regulations at a Glance" handbook, compiled by the Department of Regulation (DoR), to offer a broad overview of key regulatory guidelines applicable to various banking entities, including cooperative banks. The handbook summarizes major regulations in a tabular format for easy reference but does not replace official circulars, Master Circulars, or Master Directions.

This article highlights essential regulatory provisions applicable to cooperative banks as outlined in the handbook.

Key Regulations for Cooperative Banks

1. Licensing of New Institutions

Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs)

- Minimum paid-up capital/net worth: ₹12.5 lakh – ₹4 crore (depending on location and population size).
- Note: RBI has stopped accepting fresh applications for new UCBs since 2004.

Rural Cooperative Banks (StCBs & CCBs)

- Declared as State Cooperative Banks (StCBs) or Central Cooperative Banks (CCBs) by the state government.
- RBI grants licenses based on NABARD's recommendations and internal assessment.

Promoters' Criteria

- Evaluated on educational qualifications, professional competence, financial strength, capital mobilization ability, and membership eligibility.

2. Branch Licensing

Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs)

- Automatic Route: UCBs classified as Financially Sound and Well Managed (FSWM) can open branches up to 10% of existing branches (min. 1, max. 5).
- Approval Route: FSWM UCBs must submit an Annual Business Plan (ABP) to RBI's regional office by December 15.

State Cooperative Banks (StCBs)

- Require NABARD & RBI approval with conditions like:
- CRAR ≥ 9%, NNPA ≤ 5%, compliance record, and no penalties in last two years.

District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs)

Additional requirements,

- Operational for at least 3 years and net profit in last 2 years.
- Not under RBI restrictions.

3. Governance Framework

Regulated by

- State/Central Cooperative Society laws.
- Banking Regulation (BR) Act, 1949 (since 2020).

Key Provisions

- UCBs must form an Audit Committee of the Board.
- Fit and proper criteria for directors, MD/CEO, and WTD.
- Maximum continuous tenure limits for directors.
- Larger UCBs must appoint an independent Chief Risk Officer (CRO).
- NABARD issues governance guidelines for rural cooperative banks.

4. Credit Risk Management

Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs)

- Loan against shares, bonds, and debentures: Max ₹10 lakh, LTV 50%.

Rural Cooperative Banks

- Loan against shares, bonds, and debentures: Max ₹5 lakh, LTV 50%.

Securitization of Standard Assets

- Allowed for SCBs, AIFIs, and NBFCs.
- Not allowed for RRBs and Cooperative Banks.

5. Interest Rate Framework & Deposit Pricing

General Principles

- Uniform interest rates across all branches/customers.
- No discrimination in deposit rates for similar amounts and dates.
- No negotiation of interest rates with individual depositors.
- NRE/NRO deposit rates cannot exceed domestic deposit rates.

6. Mergers & Amalgamations

Key Provisions

- Governed by the Banking Regulation (BR) Act, 1949.
- RBI has discretionary power under Section 44A to approve voluntary amalgamations.
- **Private Bank Mergers:** Must be approved by shareholders (2/3rd majority) before submission to RBI.
- **UCB Mergers:** Considered only if depositors' funds are fully protected.

7. Resolution of Banking Companies & Cooperative Banks

Compulsory Amalgamation/Reconstruction

- RBI can apply to the government for restructuring under Section 45 of the BR Act.
- Section 45(4) (2020 Amendment): RBI can initiate amalgamations during a moratorium or at any other time.

Powers of RBI

- **Section 10B:** Remove Chairman/MD of a banking company.
- **Section 36ACA:** Supersede the board of banking companies.
- **Section 35A:** Issue directives for proper banking management.
- **Section 22(4):** RBI can cancel banking licenses (appeals go to the Central Government within 30 days).

Post-License Cancellation

- **Banking companies:** High Court appoints liquidator.
- **Uni-state cooperative banks:** Registrar of Cooperative Societies appoints liquidator.
- **Multi-state cooperative banks:** Central Registrar appoints liquidator.

First Population Estimation of Riverine Dolphins in India: Key Findings and Significance

India has conducted its first-ever **population estimation of riverine dolphins**, revealing a total of **6,327 dolphins** across the **Ganga, Brahmaputra, and Indus river systems**. This significant study, conducted as part of 'Project Dolphin', provides crucial insights into the status and distribution of these **endangered freshwater species**. The findings, published in a government report on Monday, highlight the ecological importance of river dolphins and the need for conservation efforts.

Understanding Riverine Dolphins in India

1. Ganges River Dolphin: The Iconic Freshwater Mammal

The **Ganges river dolphin** (*Platanista gangetica gangetica*) is an **endangered** freshwater dolphin species found primarily in the **Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna river system** and its tributaries. These dolphins are also found in the waters of **India, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bhutan**. Known for their **unique adaptations**, such as near-total blindness and reliance on echolocation, these dolphins are essential indicators of **healthy freshwater ecosystems**.

2. Indus River Dolphin: A Rare Sight in India

The **Indus river dolphin** (*Platanista gangetica minor*), a close relative of the Ganges river dolphin, is primarily found in the **Indus river system** in Pakistan. However, a **small population of three dolphins** has been identified in the **Beas River** in Punjab, India. The presence of this species in India is extremely rare, making its conservation even more critical.

Project Dolphin: India's Conservation Initiative

1. The Vision Behind Project Dolphin

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** announced 'Project Dolphin' on **August 15, 2020**, as a major step toward the **conservation of river dolphins** and other aquatic species.

The project aims to:

- Enhance **scientific monitoring** of dolphin populations.
- Improve **habitat conservation** efforts.
- Reduce **human-induced threats** such as pollution, habitat destruction, and accidental entanglement in fishing nets.

2. The Survey: A Nationwide Effort

The first-ever **comprehensive river dolphin population survey** was conducted from **2021 to 2023**, covering a vast area of over **8,000 km** across eight states. These states included:

- **Uttar Pradesh**
- **Bihar**
- **Jharkhand**
- **Rajasthan**
- **Madhya Pradesh**
- **West Bengal**
- **Assam**
- **Punjab**

This survey marks one of the **largest freshwater dolphin assessments** ever undertaken.

Findings of the Dolphin Population Survey

1. Total Population Estimates

The report titled '**Population Status of River Dolphin in India**' provides detailed data on the estimated population of dolphins:

- **Total Ganges River Dolphins:** 6,327 (range: 5,977 - 6,688)
- **Total Indus River Dolphins:** 3 (all found in the Beas River, Punjab)

The study found that **river dolphins thrive in areas with adequate water depth** and **minimal human disturbance**.



2. State-wise Dolphin Distribution

The dolphin population varied significantly across different states, with **Uttar Pradesh leading in numbers**.

State	Dolphin Population
Uttar Pradesh	2,397
Bihar	2,220
West Bengal	815
Assam	635
Jharkhand	162
Rajasthan & Madhya Pradesh	95
Punjab	3

The highest number of dolphins was recorded in **Uttar Pradesh**, followed closely by **Bihar** and **West Bengal**.

3. Survey Methodology

The extensive survey covered **58 rivers**, with two primary methodologies used:

- **Boat Surveys:** Conducted on **28 rivers**, allowing for direct observation of dolphins.
- **Road Surveys:** Conducted along **30 rivers**, focusing on historical dolphin habitats to determine changes in their presence.

These methods helped scientists **track dolphin populations accurately** across various river systems.

Significance of the Findings

1. Conservation Implications

The findings underscore the **urgent need for conservation efforts** to protect river dolphins, which are classified as **Endangered** under the **IUCN Red List**. Since river dolphins have a **slow reproduction rate**, any decline in their numbers could have long-term consequences.

2. Role of River Dolphins in Ecosystems

River dolphins are known as **'indicator species'**, meaning their presence reflects the **health of freshwater ecosystems**.

Their survival is directly linked to:

- **Water quality**
- **River flow regulation**
- **Reduction in human disturbances** (such as sand mining and overfishing)

3. Threats to River Dolphins

Despite being legally protected under the **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**, river dolphins face multiple threats, including:

- **Pollution:** Industrial and agricultural waste contaminates rivers, affecting dolphin health.
- **Habitat Destruction:** Dam construction, sand mining, and water diversion disrupt dolphin habitats.
- **Accidental Deaths:** Dolphins often get caught in fishing nets or are hunted for oil and meat.

The report highlights the **need for stricter conservation policies** to address these threats.

Future Conservation Efforts

1. Strengthening Project Dolphin

The Indian government plans to expand **Project Dolphin** by:

- Establishing **dolphin conservation reserves** in critical habitats.
- Enhancing **community participation** in dolphin conservation.
- Strengthening **pollution control measures** to improve water quality.

2. Sustainable River Management

Experts suggest that the **revival of rivers** through **sustainable water management** is essential for dolphin conservation. Key strategies include:

- Maintaining **natural river flows**.
- Preventing **illegal fishing and poaching**.
- Reducing **plastic and chemical pollution** in rivers.

3. Public Awareness and Education

Raising awareness about river dolphins and their ecological role is crucial. Community-led conservation programs can ensure **long-term protection** of these species.

India Ranks 4th in Global Wealth Rankings: Knight Frank's Wealth Report 2025

In March 2025, the London-based global property consultancy firm, **Knight Frank**, released the 19th edition of **'The Wealth Report 2025'**, providing a comprehensive analysis of the global distribution of wealth. The report highlights the growing number of **High Net-Worth Individuals (HNWIs)** worldwide, with India securing the **4th position globally**, boasting an estimated **85,698 HNWIs in 2024**, marking a **6% increase** from the previous year.

With **3.7% of the world's wealthy population**, India continues to strengthen its presence among the top wealth-generating nations. The **United States of America (USA)** remains the leader with **905,413 HNWIs**, followed by **China (471,634 HNWIs)** and **Japan (122,119 HNWIs)**.

Key Global Findings from The Wealth Report 2025

The Growth of High Net-Worth Individuals Worldwide

The report defines **HNWIs** as individuals possessing at least **USD 1 million** in investable assets. According to the findings, the number of **HNWIs increased by 4.4% globally**, reaching **2,341,378 in 2024**, up from **2,243,300 in 2023**.

The top three regions that experienced the highest percentage growth in their HNWI populations are:

- **United States – 5.2% growth**
- **Asia – 5% growth**
- **Africa – 4.7% growth**

Other notable regional HNWI population growth rates:

- **Australasia – 3.9%** (owing to strong ties with Asian and North American markets)
- **Middle East – 2.7%**
- **Latin America – 1.5%**
- **Europe – 1.4%**

Top 5 Countries with the Highest Number of HNWI's in 2024

Rank	Country	Number of HNWI's	Percentage of Global HNWI's
1	United States	905,413	38.7%
2	China (Mainland)	471,634	20.1%
3	Japan	122,119	5.2%
4	India	85,698	3.7%
5	Germany	69,798	3.0%

Global Billionaire Trends

- The **USA dominates** with the highest number of billionaires, holding a **combined wealth of USD 5.7 trillion**.
- **China follows** with **USD 1.34 trillion** in billionaire wealth.
- The population of **Ultra-High-Net-Worth Individuals (UHNWIs)**—those with assets exceeding **USD 100 million**—has surpassed **100,000 globally** for the first time.
- The gender ratio among new billionaires is shifting: **82% of new billionaires in 2024 were male**, a decline from **90% in 2020**.
- **Female billionaires under 30** accounted for **47%** of the new entries, signaling a shift toward gender balance in wealth creation.

India's Wealth Landscape in 2024

India's HNWI Growth and Future Projections

India's HNWI population is on a steady rise. The report projects that by **2028**, the number of **HNWIs in India will increase by 9.4%**, reaching **93,753 individuals**.

India's Billionaire Status

India ranks **3rd globally** in terms of billionaires, with **191 billionaires** in 2024. Notably:

- **26 new billionaires** joined the list in 2024, a significant rise from just **7 new billionaires in 2019**.
- The billionaire population saw a **12% Year-on-Year (Y-o-Y) growth**.
- The **combined wealth of Indian billionaires** is estimated at **USD 950 billion**, trailing behind the **USA (USD 5.7 trillion)** and **China (USD 1.34 trillion)**.

Growth of Luxury Real Estate in India

Knight Frank's **Prime International Residential Index (PIRI)**, which monitors **luxury residential property trends**, revealed a **3.6% global increase in prime property values in 2024**.

India's luxury real estate sector also witnessed substantial changes:

- **Delhi improved** its ranking from **37th (2023) to 18th (2024)** due to a **6.7% Y-o-Y increase in luxury residential prices**.
- **Bengaluru moved up** from **59th to 40th place**.
- **Mumbai, however, dropped** from **21st to 28th place** in the index.

Next-Generation Wealth Trends

The Next Generation Survey - A New Perspective on Wealth

For the first time, **Knight Frank conducted a global survey of young HNWI's aged 18 to 35** with an annual income exceeding **USD 125,000**. The survey provided insights into their luxury investment preferences:

- **High-end Real Estate - 29.8%** of young HNWI's preferred investing in luxury properties.
- **Luxury Cars - 27.8%** showed interest in premium automobiles.
- **Private Jets - 15.1%** considered acquiring private aviation options.

Glass-Ceiling Index 2025: Best Countries for Working Women

International Women's Day (IWD), celebrated annually on **March 8**, serves as a global platform to recognize the achievements of women in **cultural, political, and socio-economic spheres**. It is also a moment to assess progress in gender equality and the challenges that remain in workplaces worldwide. The **Glass-Ceiling Index (GCI)**, compiled by **The Economist**, provides a comparative analysis of the best and worst countries for working women.

The **2025 Glass-Ceiling Index** reveals that while significant improvements have been made globally, disparities still persist. This year, **Sweden** has reclaimed its position as the best country for working women, surpassing **Iceland**, which held the top spot for the past two years. Meanwhile, countries like **Japan, Turkey, and South Korea** continue to struggle due to entrenched societal norms and wage gaps.

Global Trends in Women's Workforce Representation

Political Landscape: A Historic Year for Elections

The year **2024** was remarkable for women's participation in politics. According to the **OECD**, the average **women's parliamentary representation** rose to **34%**, a testament to global efforts toward gender inclusivity.

- **Japan** saw a substantial increase in representation, jumping from **10% to 16%**.
- **Britain** experienced notable growth, with representation rising from **35% to 41%**.
- **The United States**, however, witnessed a slight decline, with female parliamentary representation falling to **28.7%**.

This data highlights the evolving role of women in governance, though many nations still lag behind in achieving gender parity in politics.

Economic Indicators: Progress and Challenges

On the economic front, the **percentage of women on corporate boards** reached **33%**, reflecting a growing acceptance of gender diversity in leadership roles. Additionally, the **labour-force participation rate** for women increased to **66.6%**, up from **65.8%** in the previous year. However, this figure remains significantly lower compared to the **81% male participation rate**.

Despite these advancements, women continue to face obstacles such as **wage disparities, unequal career advancement opportunities, and underrepresentation in top managerial positions.**

Top 10 Best Countries for Working Women in 2025
According to **The Economist's 2025 Glass-Ceiling Index**, the following countries ranked highest in fostering **gender equality, workplace inclusion, and career growth** for women:

Rank	Country	Region
1	France	Europe
2	Spain	Europe
3	Australia	Oceania
4	Sweden	Europe
5	Portugal	Europe
6	Norway	Europe
7	Finland	Europe
8	Denmark	Europe
9	New Zealand	Oceania
10	Iceland	Europe

Key Highlights

- **France** secured the top spot, owing to **progressive workplace policies, strong parental leave regulations, and increased boardroom representation.**
- **Spain and Australia** followed closely, demonstrating significant strides in **equal pay and leadership opportunities.**
- **New Zealand** emerged as the **most improved country**, climbing eight places to enter the top five.
- **The Nordic nations**, including **Sweden, Norway, Finland, and Denmark**, maintained high rankings due to their commitment to **work-life balance and gender equality laws.**

Significant Shifts in the 2025 Rankings

Sweden Reclaims the Top Spot

Sweden overtook Iceland to become the **best country for working women in 2025.** This shift is attributed to:

- **Comprehensive parental leave policies** that ensure work-life balance.
- **Gender-equitable corporate structures**, with high female representation in leadership.
- **Strong legal protections** against workplace discrimination.

South Korea Shows Improvement

For the first time in **11 years**, **South Korea** made a positive leap in the rankings, moving up to **28th place.** The country implemented new policies aimed at reducing the **wage gap** and increasing **women's workforce participation.**

However, challenges persist, including **deep-rooted societal expectations** and **limited female leadership opportunities.**

Countries at the Bottom

At the lower end of the index, **Japan, Turkey, and South Korea** remain **challenged by gender inequality** in the workplace. These countries struggle with:

- **Low numbers of women in management** (below 17%).
- **Limited female parliamentary representation** (less than 20%).
- **Underrepresentation on corporate boards** (below 21%).

Turkey now ranks as the **worst country** for working women due to systemic gender bias and insufficient workplace protections.

National Affairs

- India has inaugurated its first **World Peace Center** in **Gurugram, Haryana**, established by **Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti** under the guidance of **Jain Acharya Lokesh.** The center aims to promote **non-violence, spiritual awareness, human values, and universal brotherhood.** ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)** and **Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC)** were granted **Navratna PSU status** by the Indian government on **March 4, 2025**, granting them greater **financial and operational autonomy.** With this, all seven listed railway PSUs have achieved **Navratna status**, reflecting the government's commitment to enhancing the efficiency and profitability of **railway-owned enterprises.** ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated **Vantara**, an advanced **animal rescue, conservation, and rehabilitation center** in **Gujarat's Jamnagar district.** The event was attended by **Mukesh Ambani, Nita Ambani, Anant Ambani, and Radhika Merchant.** PM Modi explored the **state-of-the-art facilities**, interacted with **rehabilitated animals**, and observed medical procedures at the center's **wildlife hospital**, highlighting **wildlife conservation** and efforts to protect **endangered species** in India. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy, Shri Pralhad Joshi**, emphasized India's commitment to becoming a global leader in **green hydrogen** production. Speaking at the launch of India's first fleet of **hydrogen-powered truck trials** in **New Delhi**, he highlighted the role of the **National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM)** in achieving **energy independence** and reducing **carbon emissions**, under **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.** ([Click here to read article](#))

- On **March 4, 2025**, the **Supreme Court of India** ruled that the **right against disability-based discrimination** is a **fundamental right**, in line with the **RPwD Act, 2016**. The judgment allows **visually impaired candidates** to participate in **judicial service recruitment**, ensuring **equal opportunity** and **reasonable accommodation**. The verdict was delivered by Justices **J B Pardiwala** and **R Mahadevan**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Government of India** has approved the construction of a **12.4 km ropeway** from **Govindghat to Hemkund Sahib Ji** in **Uttarakhand** under the **National Ropeways Development Programme - Parvatmala Pariyojana**. This project aims to provide **all-weather connectivity** to the **Hemkund Sahib** pilgrimage site, boosting **tourism** and **local employment**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Government of India** has approved the construction of a **12.9 km ropeway** from **Sonprayag to Kedarnath** under the **National Ropeways Development Programme - Parvatmala Pariyojana**. This project aims to provide **all-weather connectivity** to the **Kedarnath Temple**, reducing **travel time** and boosting **tourism** and **employment** in the region. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** chaired the **seventh NBWL meeting** in **Sasan, Junagadh, Gujarat**, with **Union Minister Bhupender Yadav**. Key decisions included the **16th Asiatic Lion Population Estimation**, scheduled for **May 2024**, aimed at assessing the lion population, habitat, and conservation challenges. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **President Smt. Droupadi Murmu** inaugurated the **second edition of Vividhta Ka Amrit Mahotsav** at **Rashtrapati Bhavan** on **March 5, 2025**. The festival celebrates India's cultural heritage, with this edition highlighting the **Southern states** of **Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh**, and the **Union Territories** of **Lakshadweep** and **Puducherry**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Union Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** launched key initiatives under the **IndiaAI Mission** to boost **AI research, innovation, and skill development**. The initiatives include **AIKosha: IndiaAI Datasets Platform**, a secured hub for **datasets, models, and AI use cases** with **sandbox capabilities, encryption, and secure APIs**. Additionally, the **IndiaAI Compute Portal** offers **AI compute, storage, and cloud services** with up to **40% subsidy** on **high-end GPUs (NVIDIA H100, AMD MI300x, AWS Tranium)** to support AI development in India. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Ministry of Mines**, in collaboration with **Coal India Limited (CIL)**, organized the **"Celebrating Women in Mining Sector"** event ahead of **International Women's Day** to recognize and promote **women's contributions in mining**. Attended by **key ministers, industry**

leaders, and organizations like IBM, TATA, GSI, ADANI, and Vedanta, the event honored **46 outstanding women professionals** and featured **panel discussions on gender inclusivity and empowerment**. This initiative highlights the government's commitment to **breaking barriers and ensuring equal opportunities for women in mining**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **Sahitya Akademi Festival of Letters 2025**, Asia's largest literature festival, will be held at **Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi, from 7th to 12th March 2025**. Inaugurated by **Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**, the event will feature **Mahesh Dattani** as the chief guest at the **Sahitya Akademi Awards** ceremony and **Upamanyu Chatterjee** delivering the **Samvatsar Lecture**. With **700 writers from 50+ languages across 100 sessions**. ([Click here to read article](#))

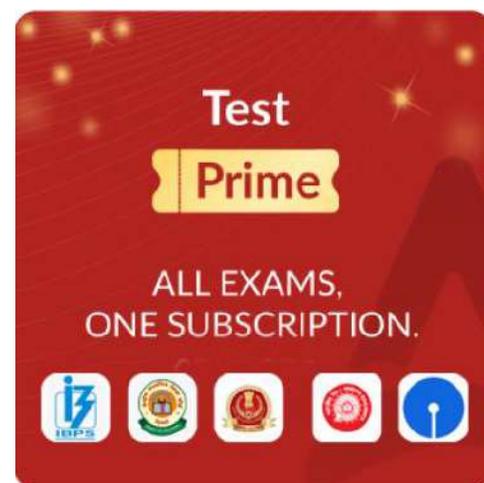
States in the News

- On **March 3, 2025**, **Chief Minister Mohan Yadav** announced that **farmers in Madhya Pradesh** will receive **permanent power connections** for just **Rs 5**, aiming to provide **affordable electricity** and boost **agricultural productivity**. The initiative, implemented through the **Madhya Pradesh Central Power Distribution Company**, underscores the government's commitment to improving **rural infrastructure** and promoting **sustainable farming practices**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Uttarakhand Cabinet**, led by **Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami**, approved key decisions to enhance governance, pension benefits, and excise policy. Notably, the **Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)** was introduced, aligning with the **Central Government's** initiative to provide stable retirement payouts for state officers and employees under the **National Pension System (NPS)**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Kerala CM **Pinarayi Vijayan** inaugurated the **Advanced Cybersecurity Operations Centre (SOC)** of the **Kerala Police Cyber Division** to strengthen cybersecurity infrastructure. Developed by **C-DOT**, the **TRINETRA** system enhances police system security and critical infrastructure protection. This initiative highlights **India's commitment to indigenous cybersecurity solutions**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Punjab's **Social Security, Women, and Child Development Minister Dr. Baljit Kaur** launched **'Project Hifazat'** on **March 7, 2025**, to enhance **women and child safety**. The initiative features a **24x7 helpline (181)**, coordinated government support, and rapid response mechanisms to combat **gender-based violence**. Dr. Kaur urged women to use the helpline, emphasizing **empowerment and swift action** against crimes. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The Assam government has named the upcoming **Electronics City in Jagiroad** as **Ratan Tata Electronic City**, honoring **Ratan Tata's contributions** to the state's **industrial and economic growth**. Announced after **Advantage Assam 2.0 Summit (Feb 2025)**, the move recognizes the **Tata Group's impact** in **semiconductors, electronics manufacturing, and investment** in Assam. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Uttar Pradesh** has launched the **'Rapid Immunisation Skill Enhancement' (RISE) app** to strengthen its **immunization program**. Designed for **nurses, ANMs, and health workers**, the app enhances **vaccination tracking, training, and safety management**. It provides **real-time updates on vaccination schedules, cold chain management, and adverse effect monitoring**, replacing traditional training with **digital learning** for improved **efficiency and outreach**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah** announced that **Bangalore City University** will be renamed as **Dr. Manmohan Singh Bengaluru University** in honor of the **late former PM Manmohan Singh**. The government plans to develop it into a **model university**, incorporating **Government Arts College and Government RC College** as constituent institutions. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **China has announced a 7.2% increase in its 2025 defence budget**, raising total spending to approximately \$245 billion, as revealed at the National People's Congress (NPC). The budget focuses on modernizing military technology, reinforcing territorial claims, and countering U.S. influence in Asia. Despite being the world's second-largest defence spender, analysts estimate actual expenditure could be 40% higher due to unaccounted costs in other sectors. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **March 4, 2025**, **U.S. President Donald Trump**, in his **first congressional address** of his **second term**, announced **reciprocal tariffs** on countries with **high tariffs on U.S. goods**. Effective **April 2**, the policy targets **India, China, the EU, Brazil, Mexico, and Canada**, aiming to ensure a **"level playing field"** for American businesses. Trump cited **"very unfair" trade practices** as the reason, potentially impacting **U.S.-India trade relations**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **world's largest iceberg, A23a**, has **run aground near South Georgia**, a **British overseas territory**. Scientists are monitoring its impact, as it may **disrupt wildlife feeding routes** but also **boost ocean productivity** by releasing nutrients. **A23a broke off from Antarctica in 1986** and has drifted for decades before lodging on the **continental shelf**. Its future movement remains uncertain due to **oceanic conditions**. ([Click here to read article](#))

International Affairs

- On **March 1, 2025**, **President Donald Trump** announced **English** as the **official language** of the **United States**, citing it as a step towards **national unity**. The **White House** released an **executive order**, stating it was "long past time" to make this decision. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Yamandú Orsi** was sworn in as **Uruguay's President** on **March 1, 2025**, marking the return of the **leftist Broad Front coalition** after five years of **conservative rule**. A former **history teacher** and **mayor**, Orsi aims to strengthen Uruguay's **social safety net** while tackling **economic stagnation**. His presidency will focus on balancing **leftist support** with **economic growth** and **investor confidence**, while navigating challenges like **labor disputes** and **fiscal constraints**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Trump administration** imposed significant **tariffs** on imports from **Canada, Mexico, and China** starting **March 4, 2025**, raising import duties to levels not seen in decades. While aimed at boosting **domestic manufacturing** and reducing **trade imbalances**, the move has sparked backlash from **trading partners** and **business groups** due to concerns over **higher consumer costs** and **economic instability**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Israel has appointed Eyal Zamir** as its new **Chief of Staff** amid ongoing military operations and rising regional tensions. A **former tank commander and defence ministry director**, Zamir succeeds **Lieutenant General Herzi Halevi**, who resigned after the **October 7, 2023 Hamas attack**. His leadership will focus on **Gaza operations, Iran tensions, and West Bank security**. **Prime Minister Netanyahu** has expressed confidence in Zamir's ability to achieve **"absolute victory"** against Hamas. ([Click here to read article](#))



Agreements/MoUs Signed

- The **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)**, **Indian Green Building Council (IGBC)**, and **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to offer accessible financing for **IGBC-certified green buildings**. This partnership aims to promote **energy-efficient construction, water conservation, and the use of renewable materials**, fostering **sustainable development** in India's real estate sector. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)** signed an **MoU** with the **Jammu & Kashmir government** to develop **river cruise tourism**, aiming to **boost tourism, employment, and economic growth**. Announced during **Chintan Shivir in Srinagar** in the presence of **Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal**, the initiative focuses on **three national waterways—River Chenab (NW-26), River Jhelum (NW-49), and River Ravi (NW-84)—with infrastructure development and navigational improvements** to facilitate cruise operations. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **HDFC Bank**, under its **Parivartan initiative**, signed an **MoU** with the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** and **CSC Academy** to launch **Project HAKK (Hawai Anubhavi Kalyan Kendra)**, aimed at supporting **defence pensioners, veterans, and their families with financial services and skill development**. The project will initially establish **25 centres at Air Force units in New Delhi, Bengaluru, Gurgaon, Pune, Secunderabad, Guwahati, Jodhpur, Chandigarh, and other locations**, promoting **economic inclusiveness and welfare**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **SIDBI** and **Federal Bank** have signed an **MoU** to enhance **financial support for MSMEs**, offering **project finance, equipment loans, working capital support, and loans against property**. The collaboration will also explore **joint financing options** to improve credit access for MSMEs, reinforcing their role in **India's manufacturing and industrial growth**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Australia-India Sports Excellence Forum** was inaugurated by **Minister of State for Sports Raksha Khadse** at **GIFT City, Gujarat, on March 6, 2025**, to strengthen sports collaboration between the two nations. The forum, attended by **Australian High Commissioner Philip Green** and **Gujarat Sports Minister Harsh Sanghavi**, focuses on **elite athlete development, sports infrastructure, and investment**. It aims to leverage **Australia's expertise** to enhance India's sports ecosystem beyond cricket and hockey. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **DPIIT** and **Mercedes-Benz India** have signed an **MoU** to enhance **manufacturing, road safety, and sustainability** in India. This partnership aims to **support startups** by providing **infrastructure, mentorship, funding, and market linkages** while fostering **technological advancements and sustainable innovations**. The collaboration will also strengthen **industry-academia linkages**, promote **green solutions**, and facilitate **international knowledge exchange** to drive impactful innovations in the **automotive sector**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Banking/Economy/Business News

- **YES BANK** partnered with the **World Trade Center (WTC)** Mumbai to host the **Export Conclave 2025** at **YES BANK House**, focusing on **empowering MSMEs**, enhancing **India's export ecosystem**, and discussing **trade trends, challenges, and global market opportunities**. The event highlighted **trade facilitation, financial support, and innovation in export services**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Bank of Baroda** has received the **ISO 22301:2019 Business Continuity Management System (BCMS)** certification from the **British Standards Institution (BSI)**, highlighting its commitment to **operational resilience, business continuity planning, and risk management**. The certification recognizes the bank's strategies to **mitigate risks, minimize disruptions, and ensure swift recovery** during crises. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Paytm** has partnered with **Perplexity**, an **AI-driven answer engine**, to integrate **AI-powered search** into the Paytm app, enabling users to ask questions, explore topics in **local languages**, and make informed **financial decisions**. Perplexity offers **real-time responses with in-line citations**, providing **accurate and reliable answers**, especially for **finance and market trends**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **GST collections in February 2025** rose by **9.1% YoY**, totaling **₹1.84 lakh crore**, reflecting strong domestic economic activity and improved compliance. The breakdown includes **Central GST (CGST) ₹35,204 crore, State GST (SGST) ₹43,704 crore, Integrated GST (IGST) ₹90,870 crore (with ₹41,702 crore from imports), and Compensation Cess ₹13,868 crore**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In **February 2025**, India's **digital payments ecosystem** showed mixed trends, with **UPI transactions declining MoM**, while **FASTag and AePS saw steady growth**. Despite this, the industry continued expanding **YoY**, driven by increased adoption of **cashless transactions** across the country. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **City Union Bank (CUB)** has partnered with **Chennai Super Kings (CSK)** to launch a **co-branded credit card** offering **exclusive rewards, special offers**, and unique **cricket-related experiences** for CSK fans, enhancing their purchasing experience and team spirit. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **RBI** imposed **monetary penalties** on **HSBC** (₹66.6 lakh) for violations related to **KYC norms, foreign currency exposures, and deposit interest rate rules**, and on **IIFL Samasta Finance** (₹33.1 lakh) for issues including **interest charges before loan disbursement, NPA misclassification, and customer identification**. Additionally, **three cooperative banks in Maharashtra** were penalized for **regulatory non-compliance**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Crisil** has forecasted **India's GDP growth** to stay at **6.5%** in **FY26**, with the **RBI's MPC** likely to reduce the **repo rate** by **50-75 basis points** to boost growth. While lower than the previous year's **9.2%**, it aligns closely with the **pre-pandemic average** of **6.6%**, maintaining India's position as the **fastest-growing major economy**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has kept the window open for the **exchange and deposit of ₹2000 denomination notes**, despite **98.18%** of the total value being returned to the banking system. This ensures that individuals still holding these notes have accessible channels for **deposit or exchange**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **circular economy** is expected to generate over **\$2 trillion** in market value and create nearly **10 million jobs** by **2050**, as per **Union Minister Bhupender Yadav**. At the **12th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum**, he highlighted the shift towards a sustainable, **reuse and recycle-based system**. India is also interested in hosting the **World Circular Economy Forum 2026**, launching key **initiatives, MoUs, and reports** to promote **sustainable waste management** and urban **circular economy practices**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **agriculture trade surplus** has been shrinking despite growth in exports like **basmati rice, spices, coffee, and tobacco**. The surge in imports of **pulses and edible oils** has contributed to this decline. The surplus peaked at **\$27.7 billion** in 2013-14, and dropped to **\$16 billion** in 2023-24. For **April-December 2024**, the surplus fell to **\$8.2 billion**, down from **\$10.6 billion** in the previous year. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **March 3, 2025**, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** appointed **Dr. Ajit Ratnakar Joshi** as its new **Executive Director (ED)**. He will oversee the **Department of Statistics and Information Management** and the **Financial Stability Department**. With over **30 years of experience** in **statistics, information technology, and cyber risk management**, Dr. Joshi brings extensive expertise to his new role. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **PhonePe** has launched the **'Insuring HEROES'** campaign ahead of **International Women's Day 2025**, aiming to **enhance financial security for women** by offering **exclusive discounts on term life and health insurance**. Available on the **PhonePe app** from **March 6 to March 9, 2025**, the campaign provides **up to 30% off on term life insurance** and **15% off on health insurance**, making **affordable insurance more accessible for women**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **SEBI** recorded a **48% YoY growth** in **total income**, reaching **₹2,075 crore** in **FY 2023-24**, driven by higher **fees and subscriptions** from **stock exchanges, market participants, and companies**. While **investment and other income** also increased, **total expenditure rose to ₹1,006 crore**. SEBI reported substantial funds in its **General Fund, Investor Protection & Education Fund (IPEF), and Disgorgement Fund**, highlighting its **strong financial position**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Appointments/Resignations

- **Manan Kumar Mishra** has been re-elected as **Chairman of the Bar Council of India (BCI)** for the seventh consecutive time, highlighting his strong influence in the legal community. Along with his legal expertise, Mishra is also a **BJP Member of Parliament** in the **Rajya Sabha** from **Bihar**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **March 1, 2025**, **Ajay Seth**, the **Economic Affairs Secretary**, was given the additional charge of **Secretary, Department of Revenue**, following the appointment of **Tuhin Kanta Pandey** as **SEBI Chairman**. The Revenue Secretary position became vacant after **Pandey** assumed charge on **March 1, 2025**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Levi's** has appointed **Diljit Dosanjh** as its **global ambassador**, making him the first **Punjabi artist** to join the brand's creative community. This collaboration blends **music, fashion, and culture**, strengthening Levi's brand presence in **India** and globally. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **March 1, 2025**, **Dr. Mayank Sharma** assumed office as the **Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA)**. A **1989-batch officer** of the **Indian Defence Accounts Service (IDAS)**, he brings over **three decades** of experience in key roles within the **Government of India**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **March 3, 2025**, the **Government of India** appointed **Ajay Bhadoo**, Additional Secretary in the **Department of Commerce**, as the new **CEO of Government e Marketplace (GeM)**. Bhadoo, a **1999-batch IAS officer** from the Gujarat cadre, will lead GeM as it transitions into a **next-generation digital marketplace** powered by **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Anju Rathi Rana** has made history as **India's first woman Law Secretary**, marking a significant milestone in the **Ministry of Law and Justice**. A distinguished **Indian Legal Service (ILS) officer**, she succeeds **Niten Chandra**, breaking a long-standing tradition of male leadership in the role. Her appointment reflects the **government's commitment to gender inclusion** in top administrative positions. ([Click here to read article](#))

Defence News

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully tested an **indigenous Integrated Life Support System (ILSS)** for the **Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas**. This **Oxygen Generating System-based (OBOGS) ILSS** eliminates the need for conventional liquid oxygen cylinders, generating breathable oxygen for aircrew during flight. Conducted by the **Defence Bio-Engineering & Electro Medical Laboratory (DEBEL)** in Bengaluru, the trial proved the system's effectiveness under extreme conditions, paving the way for its use in other aircraft like the **MiG 29K**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Sea Dragon 2025**, a **multilateral anti-submarine warfare (ASW) exercise**, has begun **off the Guam coast** from **March 4 to March 19, 2025**. Hosted by the **U.S. Navy's 7th Fleet**, it includes **India, Japan (JMSDF), Australia (RAAF), and South Korea (ROKN)**. The drill aims to **enhance maritime security coordination and strengthen tactical interoperability** among allies. ([Click here to read article](#))

Awards and Recognitions

- **Jay Shah**, Chairman of the **International Cricket Council (ICC)**, was awarded the **Icon of Excellence** at the **Forbes India Leadership Awards (FILA 2025)** for his significant contributions to **cricket administration**, introducing new ideas, and making the game more **inclusive and competitive** globally. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Dr. Suborno Bose**, Chairman of the **International Institute of Hotel Management (IIHM)**, received the **'Lifetime Achievement in Hospitality and Education Through Technology'** award at the **Vibrant Bharat Global Summit 2025**. Awarded by **Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Shekhawat**, the recognition honors Dr. Bose's work in integrating **AI and technology** into hospitality education. His new book, *Harmonizing Human Touch and AI in Tourism & Hospitality*, was also launched, highlighting **IIHM's AI-driven initiatives** like **NamAiste IIHM HospitalityGPT**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** received the prestigious **'Honorary Order of Freedom of Barbados'** for his **strategic leadership and support during the COVID-19 pandemic**. **Union Minister Pabitra Margherita** accepted the award on his behalf at a ceremony in **Bridgetown**, attended by **Barbadian President Dame Sandra Mason, PM Mia Amor Mottley, and Foreign Minister Kerrie Symmonds**. This honor underscores **India's strong diplomatic ties with Barbados** and its **commitment to global cooperation and development**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Summits and Conferences News

- India launched the **Cities Coalition for Circularity (C-3)** on **March 3, 2025**, to promote **sustainable urban development**. The initiative aims to foster **city-to-city collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and private sector partnerships** in **waste management and resource efficiency**, aligning with India's **Pro-Planet People (P-3)** approach and the **3R principles** (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) in a **circular economy**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **WAVES India: A Bird's Eye View Challenge** is a **Create in India** initiative organized by **BECIL** in collaboration with the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**. The competition invites **drone pilots and filmmakers** to create **2-3 minute videos** showcasing India's landscapes, heritage, and vibrant life through **aerial cinematography**, capturing the country's beauty from a **bird's-eye view**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Union Minister Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia** represented **India** at the **Mobile World Congress (MWC) 2025** in **Barcelona, Spain**. He highlighted India's **5G expansion, lowest data tariffs, indigenous telecom infrastructure, and cybersecurity framework**. Scindia emphasized **tech governance, innovation, and global partnerships** while unveiling the **India Mobile Congress 2025** and inaugurating the **Bharat Pavilion** to showcase India's telecom capabilities. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Union Minister Bhupender Yadav** inaugurated the **World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2025** in **New Delhi**, organized by **TERI**, to promote **global partnerships for sustainable development and climate solutions**. He highlighted **India's leadership in climate action** through initiatives like the **International Solar Alliance (ISA), Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), and Mission LiFE**. The summit saw participation from global leaders, including **Guyana's PM Brigadier Mark Phillip and Brazil's Minister Marina Silva**, reinforcing international cooperation on environmental sustainability. ([Click here to read article](#))

Ranks and Reports

- A study published in **The Lancet** predicts that by **2050, 44.9 crore Indians** will be **overweight or obese**, with **21.8 crore men** and **23.1 crore women** affected. This accounts for nearly one-third of India's projected population. India also had the highest number of **overweight or obese young adults** in **2021**, surpassing **China** and the **U.S.**
([Click here to read article](#))
- **Knight Frank's 'The Wealth Report 2025'** highlights the **global distribution of High Net-Worth Individuals (HNWIs)**, with **India ranking 4th** worldwide. The report estimates **85,698 HNWIs in India in 2024**, reflecting a **6% year-on-year growth** and **3.7% of the world's wealthy population**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **IndiGo Airlines** is the **world's second fastest-growing airline** in **seat capacity**, with a **10.1% YoY increase** to **134.9 million seats** in 2024, as per the **OAG report**. It follows **Qatar Airways** (10.4% growth). The report highlights **IndiGo's flight frequency growth, expanding international operations, strong financial performance, and future plans**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- LIC has been ranked **3rd strongest insurance brand globally** with a **Brand Strength Index (BSI) score of 88/100**, as per the **Brand Finance Insurance 100 (2025) report**. **Poland's PZU** secured the **top spot (BSI: 94.4)**, followed by **China Life Insurance (BSI: 93.5)**. LIC also holds the **12th position in brand value**, while **SBI Life** is the **only other Indian insurer** in the **top 100**, ranking **76th**. The **insurance sector grew by 9% in 2025**, driven by **higher investment returns, economic recovery, and rising demand**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Sports News

- **Virat Kohli** played his historic **300th ODI** on **March 2, 2025**, against **New Zealand** in **Dubai**, becoming the **7th Indian** and **22nd player** globally to reach this milestone. Kohli joins cricket legends like **Sachin Tendulkar** (463 ODIs) and **MS Dhoni** (347 ODIs) in this exclusive club. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Vidarbha** won their **third Ranji Trophy** title in seven seasons, defeating **Kerala** in the **2024-25 final** in **Nagpur**. Led by **Akshay Wadkar**, Vidarbha secured the victory on **March 2** after the final ended in a draw, thanks to their **first-innings lead** at the **Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Gulmarg**, the famous ski resort in **Jammu and Kashmir**, will host the **Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) 2025** from **March 9 to 12**. Originally scheduled for **February 22-25**, the event was postponed due to a lack of snow but has been rescheduled following **moderate to heavy snowfall** in the region. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Brandon Holt** of the **United States** won the **2025 Bengaluru Open ATP 125 Challenger**, defeating **Shintaro Mochizuki** of **Japan** in the final on **March 2, 2025** at the **KSLTA Tennis Stadium**. The tournament, part of the **ATP Challenger Tour**, had a **\$200,000 prize pool** and was played on **hard courts**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Steve Smith**, the Australian cricketing great, announced his retirement from **One-Day Internationals (ODIs)**, ending a remarkable career in the 50-over format. With **170 matches, 5800 runs, and two World Cup victories**, Smith leaves a lasting legacy in **Australian cricket**. Known for his unorthodox yet effective batting, he will continue playing **Test** and **T20 cricket** in future international assignments. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Khelo India Para Games (KIPG) 2025** will be held in **New Delhi** from **March 20-27**, featuring **1,230 para athletes**, including top performers from the **2024 Paris Paralympics** and **2022 Asian Para Games**. Announced by **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**, the event aims to promote **para sports** in India and will include six major disciplines, hosted at **premier sports venues** across the city. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Achanta Sharath Kamal**, India's legendary **table tennis** player, announced his retirement, with his farewell tournament being the **WTT Star Contender** in **Chennai** from **March 25-30, 2025**. A **10-time National Champion** and **five-time Olympian**, Sharath has earned recognition at the **Commonwealth Games, Asian Games, and Olympics**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Mushfiqur Rahim** has announced his **retirement from ODIs** after **Bangladesh's Champions Trophy** campaign, ending his **19-year ODI career**. The **37-year-old wicketkeeper-batsman** shared his decision on **Instagram**, citing recent challenges but reaffirming his **dedication and honesty** toward Bangladesh cricket. ([Click here to read article](#))



- In **December 2024**, **Jay Shah** stepped down as **ACC president** after three terms and was elected **ICC chairman**, assuming office on **December 1, 2024**. Following his departure, **Shammi Silva** became the new **ACC president**, while **Rajeev Shukla** and **Ashish Shelar** took on key roles in the **ACC Board**. This transition comes ahead of major cricket events like the **2025 Asia Cup** in the **UAE** and the **ICC Champions Trophy**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Science and Technology News

- NASA's **IM-2 mission**, launched on **February 26, 2025**, targets the **lunar south pole's Mons Mouton** to explore **water ice** and **rare minerals** for future lunar bases. The mission also aims to deploy **Nokia's 4G/LTE network**, enabling **high-speed communication** on the Moon. These objectives could support sustained **lunar habitation** and future **Mars missions**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **Aditya-L1 mission**, the first dedicated **solar observatory**, has captured the first-ever image of a **solar flare 'kernel'** in the **photosphere** and **chromosphere**. This groundbreaking discovery will enhance understanding of the **Sun's energy bursts** and **solar dynamics**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Researchers from **China** and **Japan** have provided evidence that **niobium diselenide (NbSe₂)** could exhibit a **Bose metal** state, where **Cooper pairs** form but fail to condense into a **superconducting state**. This discovery challenges traditional theories about metals and is a significant advancement in **condensed matter physics**, as reported in **Physical Review Letters** on **February 13, 2025**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **March 3, 2025**, **Firefly Aerospace's Blue Ghost spacecraft** successfully landed on the **Moon**, marking a major milestone in **private space exploration**. As part of **NASA's Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS)** program, it is the **third private moon mission** and the first with an almost flawless landing. The year 2025 is expected to see more **lunar missions** focused on **scientific research, exploration, and technology demonstration**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Union IT Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** launched the **IndiaAI Compute Portal** and **AIKosha Dataset Platform** under the **IndiaAI Mission** to accelerate AI innovation in India. The Compute Portal provides access to **18,000+ GPUs, cloud storage, and AI-related services**, supporting **students, startups, researchers, and government departments**. It aims to offer **affordable, high-performance AI computing** and facilitate the development of **India's own foundational AI model**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Important Days News

- **World Wildlife Day**, observed annually on **March 3**, promotes **wildlife conservation** through education, advocacy, and action. In 2025, the day will focus on the theme "**Wildlife Conservation Finance: Investing in People and Planet**" and marks the adoption of the **CITES** in 1973. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **National Defence Day** is observed on **March 3rd** annually in India to honor the sacrifices and bravery of the **armed forces**. The **2025** observance marked its **87th anniversary**, paying tribute to the **Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force** for their role in safeguarding the country's **sovereignty and territorial integrity**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **World Hearing Day** is observed on **March 3** to raise awareness about **hearing loss** and promote **ear and hearing care**. Organized by the **WHO**, the **2025 theme** is "**Changing mindsets: Empower yourself to make ear and hearing care a reality for all!**," encouraging individuals to take charge of their **hearing health**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **International Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness Day** is observed on **March 5** every year to raise global awareness about **disarmament** issues, especially among the youth. The day highlights the threats posed by **weapons of mass destruction (WMDs)** and underscores the importance of collective efforts for **global peace and security**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **National Dentist's Day**, observed annually on **March 6th**, highlights the importance of **oral hygiene** and recognizes the **dedication of dentists** in maintaining dental health. This day serves as a reminder to prioritize **regular dental checkups, brushing, and flossing**, which are essential for strong teeth and gums. It also aims to **raise awareness about oral health issues** and encourage better dental care habits while expressing gratitude to dental professionals. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Jan Aushadhi Diwas** is celebrated annually on **March 7** to promote **generic medicines** under the **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)**. A week-long awareness campaign from **March 1 to March 7** highlights the benefits of **affordable, high-quality medicines**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Obituaries News

- **Himmat Shah**, renowned Indian artist known for his **sculptures** and **modern art**, passed away at 92 on Sunday due to a **heart attack** at **Jaipur's Shalby Hospital**. Known for his belief that every material has life, he creatively transformed objects like **old bottles, wires, and ropes** into unique artworks. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Ron Draper**, the oldest living **Test cricketer**, passed away at **98 years and 63 days** in **Gqeberha** on **February 25, 2025**. A **top-order batsman** and occasional **wicketkeeper**, Draper played two **Test matches** for **South Africa** against **Australia** in **1950**. His death was confirmed by his son-in-law, **Neil Thomson**, on **February 28, 2025**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Padmakar Shivalkar**, one of India's finest **left-arm spinners**, passed away at **84** in **Mumbai**. A **legendary** figure in **Mumbai cricket**, Shivalkar was never able to represent **India** internationally due to the presence of **Bishan Singh Bedi**. His death follows the recent passing of former **Mumbai captain Milind Rege**, leaving the cricket fraternity in mourning. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Fred Stolle**, the legendary **Australian tennis player and commentator**, has passed away at the age of **86**. **Tennis**

Australia confirmed the news, honoring his **extraordinary skill** and contributions to the sport. Stolle was a key figure in **Australia's golden era of tennis in the 1960s**, leaving a lasting legacy both **on and off the court**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Miscellaneous News

- The **Cheetah Reintroduction Project** in India is expanding beyond **Kuno National Park** to **Banni Grasslands** in Gujarat and **Gandhisagar Sanctuary** in Madhya Pradesh. Announced by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** at the **National Board of Wildlife (NBWL)** meeting, the expansion aims to restore the **cheetah population** and enhance **biodiversity conservation** in India. ([Click here to read article](#))

Static Takeaways

Sr. No	Static Name	Static Details
Banking Organizations		
1	HDFC Bank	Chairman- Atanu Chakraborty Head office - Mumbai
2	Federal Bank	Chairman- Abhaya Prasad Hota Head office - Aluva, Kerala
3	Yes Bank	Chairman- R. Gandhi Head office - Mumbai
4	Bank of India	Chairman- M.R. Kumar Head office - Mumbai
5	City Union Bank	Chairman- M. Narayanan Head office - Mumbai
6	SEBI	Chief - Tuhin Kanta Pandey Head office - Mumbai
7	RBI	Governor - Sanjay Malhotra Head office - Mumbai
Space Organizations		
8	NASA	Acting Administrator - Janet Petro HQ - Washington D.C.
9	ISRO	Chairman - V. Narayanan HQ - Bengaluru, India
Countries of World		
10	USA	President - Donald Trump Capital - Washington D.C. Currency - American Dollar Facts - USA and Canada share the world's largest border with each other.
11	China	President - Xi Jinping Capital - Beijing Currency - Chinese Yuan Neighbouring Countries - India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Afghanistan, North Korea, Mongolia, Russia, Tajikistan, Vietnam, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan
12	Mexico	President - Claudia Sheinbaum Capital - Mexico City Currency - Mexican Peso Neighbouring Countries - USA, Guatemala, Belize

Sr. No	Static Name	Static Details
13	Uruguay	President - Yamandu Orsi Capital - Montevideo Currency - Peso Uruguayo Neighbouring Countries - Argentina, Brazil, Atlantic ocean to South
14	Israel	PM - Benjamin Netanyahu Capital - Jerusalem Currency - Israeli New Shekel Neighbouring Countries - Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon
Indian States		
15	Madhya Pradesh	Governor - Mangubhai Patel CM - Mohan Yadav Capital - Bhopal State Bird - Paradise Flycatcher State Animal - Swamp Deer (Barasingha) State Tree - Banyan Tree State Flower - Madonna Lilly State Fish - Mahasheer
16	Punjab	Governor - Gulab Chand Kataria CM - Bhagwat Man Capital - Chandigarh State Bird - Northern Goshawk State Animal - The Blackbuck State Tree - Shisham Tree
17	Haryana	Governor - Bandaru Dattatreya CM - Nayab Singh Saini Capital - Chandigarh State boundary - Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan State Animal - Black Buck State Bird - Black Francolin
18	Gujarat	Governor - Acharya Devvrat CM - Bhupendra Patel Capital - Gandhinagar Largest city - Ahmedabad State Boundaries - Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, UT of Daman & Diu, Dadar & Nagar Haveli International boundary - Pakistan Sea borders Arabian Sea State Animal - Asiatic Lion State Bird - Greater Flamingo State Tree - Mango State Flower - Golgotha
19	Kerala	Governor - V. Arlekar CM - Pinarayi Vijayan Capital - Thiruvananthpuram State Boundaries - Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Puducherry (Mahe) Number of Districts - 14 State Animal - Elephant State Bird - Great Indian Hornbill State Flower - Kanikonna or Indian laburnum or amaltus
20	Karnataka	Governor - Thawar Chand Gehlot CM - Siddharamaiya Capital - Bengaluru State Boundaries - Maharashtra, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Goa, Tamil Nadu Principal Language - Kannada Other Language - Tulu, Hindi, Bengali, Mahi State Animal - Asian Elephant State Bird - Indian Roller

Sr. No	Static Name	Static Details
21	Assam	<p>Governor - Lakshaman Prasad Acharya CM - Hemanta Biswa Sarma Capital - Dispur Silk - Muga, Eri, Pat silk Oil Industry - Digboi Refinery – birth place of the Oil Industry in India.</p>
22	Uttarakhand	<p>Governor - Gurmit Singh CM - Pushkar Singh Dhama Capital - Dehradun State Borders - Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh Char-Dhams - Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri, Yamunotri State Animal - Himalayan Musk deer State Flower - Brahm Kamal State Tree - Burans</p>



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