

Weekly One Liners 26th Jan to 01st of February 2026

Padma Awards 2026 Announced

Padma Vibhushan 2026 Winners (Exceptional & Distinguished Service)

Sr. No	Name	Field	State/Country
1	Shri Dharmendra Singh Deol (Posthumous)	Art	Maharashtra
2	Shri K T Thomas	Public Affairs	Kerala
3	Ms. N Rajam	Art	Uttar Pradesh
4	Shri P Narayanan	Literature & Education	Kerala
5	Shri V S Achuthanandhan (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Kerala

Padma Bhushan 2026 Winners (Distinguished Service of High Order)

Sr. No	Name	Field	State/Country
1	Ms. Alka Yagnik	Art	Maharashtra
2	Shri Bhagat Singh Koshyari	Public Affairs	Uttarakhand
3	Shri Kallipatti Ramasamy Palaniswamy	Medicine	Tamil Nadu
4	Shri Mammooty	Art	Kerala
5	Dr. Nori Dattatreya	Medicine	USA
6	Shri Piyush Pandey	Art	Maharashtra
7	Shri S K M Maeilanandhan	Social Work	Tamil Nadu
8	Shri Shatavadhani R Ganesh	Art	Karnataka
9	Shri Shibu Soren	Public Affairs	Jharkhand
10	Shri Uday Kotak	Trade & Industry	Maharashtra
11	Shri V K Malhotra	Public Affairs	Delhi
12	Shri Vellappally Natesan	Public Affairs	Kerala
13	Shri Vijay Amritraj	Sports	USA

Padma Shri Awardees 2026 (Distinguished Service in Any Field)

Sports

Sr. No	Name	State/Country
1	Shri Baldev Singh	Punjab
2	Shri Bhagwandas Raikwar	Madhya Pradesh
3	Ms. Harmanpreet Kaur	Bhullar Punjab
4	Shri K. Pajanivel	Puducherry
5	Shri Praveen Kumar	Uttar Pradesh
6	Shri Rohit Sharma	Maharashtra
7	Ms. Savita Punia	Haryana
8	Shri Vladimer Mestvirishvili	Georgia (Posthumous)

Art

Sr. No	Name	State/Country
9	Shri Anil Kumar Rastogi	Uttar Pradesh
10	Shri Arvind Vaidya	Gujarat
11	Shri Bharat Singh	Bharti Bihar
12	Shri Bhiklya Ladakya Dhinda	Maharashtra
13	Shri Bishwa Bandhu	Bihar (Posthumous)
14	Shri Chiranji Lal Yadav	Uttar Pradesh
15	Ms. Deepika Reddy	Telangana
16	Shri Dharmiklal Chunilal Pandya	Gujarat
17	Shri Gadde Babu Rajendra Prasad	Andhra Pradesh
18	Shri Gafruddin Mewati Jogi	Rajasthan
19	Shri Garimella Balakrishna Prasad	Andhra Pradesh (Posthumous)
20	Ms. Gayatri & Ms. Ranjani Balasubramanian	Tamil Nadu
21	Shri Hari Madhab Mukhopadhyay	West Bengal (Posthumous)
22	Shri Haricharan Saikia	Assam
23	Ms. Kalamandalam Vimala Menon	Kerala
24	Shri Khem Raj Sundriyal	Haryana
25	Shri Kumar Bose	West Bengal
26	Shri Madhavan Ranganathan	Maharashtra
27	Shri Maganti Murali Mohan	Andhra Pradesh
28	Shri Mir Hajibhai Kasambhai	Gujarat
29	Shri Nuruddin Ahmed	Assam
30	Shri Othuvaar Thiruthani Swaminathan	Tamil Nadu
31	Ms. Pokhila Lekthepe	Assam
32	Shri Prosenjit Chatterjee	West Bengal
33	Shri R. Krishnan	Tamil Nadu (Posthumous)
34	Shri Raghuv eer Tukaram Khedkar	Maharashtra
35	Shri Rajastapathi Kaliappa Goundar	Tamil Nadu
36	Shri Sangyusang S. Pongener	Nagaland
37	Shri Sarat Kumar Patra	Odisha
38	Shri Satish Shah	Maharashtra (Posthumous)
39	Shri Simanchal Patro	Odisha
40	Shri Taga Ram Bheel	Rajasthan
41	Shri Tarun Bhattacharya	West Bengal
42	Shri Thiruvaarur Bakthavathsalam	Tamil Nadu
43	Ms. Tripti Mukherjee	West Bengal
44	Shri Yumnam Jatra Singh	Manipur (Posthumous)

Medicine

Sr. No	Name	State/Country
45	Ms. Armida Fernandez	Maharashtra
46	Shri Guduru Venkat Rao	Telangana
47	Shri H. V. Hande	Tamil Nadu
48	Shri Kewal Krishan Thakral	Uttar Pradesh
49	Dr. Padma Gurmet	Ladakh
50	Shri Palkonda Vijay Anand Reddy	Telangana
51	Shri Prateek Sharma	USA
52	Dr. Punniamurthy Natesan	Tamil Nadu
53	Shri Rajendra Prasad	Uttar Pradesh
54	Shri Ramchandra & Ms. Suneeta Godbole	Chhattisgarh
55	Shri Saroj Mandal	West Bengal
56	Shri Shyam Sundar	Uttar Pradesh
57	Dr. Suresh Hanagavadi	Karnataka

Literature & Education

Sr. No	Name	State/Country
58	Shri Asok Kumar Halder	West Bengal
59	Shri Charan Hembram	Odisha
60	Shri Gambir Singh Yonzone	West Bengal
61	Shri Kailash Chandra Pant	Madhya Pradesh
62	Shri Mahendra Kumar Mishra	Odisha
63	Shri Mahendra Nath Roy	West Bengal
64	Shri Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar	Delhi
65	Ms. Mangala Kapoor	Uttar Pradesh
66	Shri Naresh Chandra Dev Varma	Tripura
67	Shri Rabilal Tudu	West Bengal
68	Shri Ratilal Borisagar	Gujarat
69	Prof. Shafi Shauq	J&K
70	Shri Shashi Shekhar Vempati	Karnataka
71	Ms. Sivasankari	Tamil Nadu
72	Shri Vempaty Kutumba Sastry	Andhra Pradesh
73	Ms. Liudmila Khokhlova	Russia

Science & Engineering

Sr. No	Name	State/Country
74	Shri A. E. Muthunayagam	Kerala
75	Shri Ashok Kumar Singh	Uttar Pradesh
76	Shri Chandramouli Gaddamanugu	Telangana
77	Shri Gopal Ji Trivedi	Bihar
78	Shri Juzer Vasi	Maharashtra
79	Shri K. Ramasamy	Tamil Nadu

Sr. No	Name	State/Country
80	Shri Krishnamurthy Balasubramanian	Telangana
81	Shri Kumarasamy Thangaraj	Telangana
82	Shri Prem Lal Gautam	Himachal Pradesh
83	Ms. Shubha Venkatesha Iyengar	Karnataka
84	Shri Veezhinathan Kamakoti	Tamil Nadu

Social Work/ Others/Public Service

Sr. No	Name	Field	State
85	Shri Anke Gowda	Social Work	Karnataka
86	Shri Brij Lal Bhat	Social Work	J&K
87	Dr. Budhri Tati	Social Work	Chhattisgarh
88	Shri Inderjit Singh Sidhu	Social Work	Chandigarh
89	Shri Hally War	Social Work	Meghalaya
90	Shri Janardan Bapurao Bothe	Social Work	Maharashtra
91	Shri Jogesh Deuri	Agriculture	Assam
92	Shri Kabindra Purkayastha	Public Affairs	Assam (Posthumous)
93	Ms. Kollakal Devaki Amma G	Social Work	Kerala
94	Shri Mohan Nagar	Social Work	Madhya Pradesh
95	Shri Narayan Vyas	Archaeology	Madhya Pradesh
96	Shri Raghupat Singh	Agriculture	Uttar Pradesh (Posthumous)
97	Shri Rama Reddy Mamidi	Animal Husbandry	Telangana (Posthumous)
98	Shri Ramamurthy Sreedher	Radio Broadcasting	Delhi
99	Sant Niranjan Dass	Spiritualism	Punjab
100	Shri Satyanarayan Nuwal	Trade & Industry	Maharashtra
101	Shri Shrirang Devaba Lad	Agriculture	Maharashtra
102	Shri T. T. Jagannathan	Trade & Industry	Karnataka (Posthumous)
103	Shri Techu Gubin	Social Work	Arunachal Pradesh

Republic Day 2026: Best Tableaux Winners

- In the States and Union Territories category, Maharashtra secured first place for its tableau titled “**Ganeshotsav: A Symbol of Aatmanirbharta**”, highlighting cultural self-reliance.
- Jammu and Kashmir followed in second place with “**Handicrafts and Folk Dances of J&K**”, showcasing regional heritage.
- Kerala ranked third for “**Water Metro & 100% Digital Literacy**”, linking technology with inclusive growth. These tableaux were judged on theme relevance, visual impact and storytelling.
- The selections reflected how states creatively aligned local identity with national priorities like Aatmanirbhar Bharat and cultural preservation.

Best Marching Contingents 2026

- Among the three Armed Forces, the **Indian Navy** was adjudged the Best Marching Contingent, praised for discipline and synchronization.
- In the category of Central Armed Police Forces and auxiliary forces, the **Delhi Police** won the top honour. Separate panels of judges evaluated marching units from the Services and CAPFs to ensure fairness.
- The awards highlighted operational excellence, ceremonial precision and professional standards.
- Marching contingents remain a central attraction of the parade, symbolising unity, strength and preparedness of India’s security forces.

Central Ministries and Special Awards

- The Ministry of Culture won the award for Best Tableau among Central Ministries for “**Vande Mataram – The Soul Cry of a Nation**”.

- Special awards were also announced.
- The Central Public Works Department was honoured for its tableau commemorating 150 years of Vande Mataram.
- Additionally, the dance group “**Vande Mataram: The Eternal Resonance of India**” received special recognition.
- These awards acknowledged artistic expression and historical themes that resonated strongly with the parade’s larger national narrative.

Popular Choice Awards: Public Voting Results

- The Popular Choice awards, based on voting through the **MyGov portal**, reflected public preference.
- The **Assam Regiment** was voted Best Marching Contingent among the Services, while the CRPF topped the CAPFs category.
- In tableaux, **Gujarat** ranked first with “Mantra of Swadeshi – Self-Reliance – Freedom”.
- **Uttar Pradesh** came second for “Culture of Bundelkhand”, and Rajasthan third for “Bikaner Gold Art (Usta Art)”.
- The Department of School Education and Literacy won among ministries for its NEP 2020 tableau.

Economic Survey 2025–26: Major Highlights, Growth Outlook and Key Findings

The Economic Survey 2025–26 is an important annual document that shows the real picture of India’s economy. Prepared under the guidance of Chief Economic Advisor Dr. V. Anantha Nageswaran, it reviews economic performance in 2025–26 and gives a roadmap for future growth. The Survey highlights key trends in GDP growth, inflation, employment, fiscal health, and sector-wise performance, while also explaining challenges and opportunities for India’s development in the coming years.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE

- **GDP Growth:** Real GDP growth projected at 7.4% and GVA growth at 7.3% for FY26
- **Future Projections:** Potential growth estimated at ~7%; FY27 GDP growth projected at 6.8-7.2%
- **Inflation:** Averaged historic low of 1.7% for April-December 2025
- **Forex Reserves:** USD 701.4 billion as of January 16, 2026 (11 months import cover, 94% of external debt)
- **Services Exports:** All-time high of USD 387.6 billion in FY25 (13.6% growth)
- **Banking Health:** GNPA’s at multi-decadal low of 2.2% in September 2025
- **Financial Inclusion:** 55.02 crore bank accounts under PMJDY; 12 crore unique investors (25% women)
- **Credit Ratings:** Three sovereign upgrades in 2025 (Morningstar DBRS, S&P Global, R&I Inc.)

1. STATE OF THE ECONOMY

Global Context

- Global environment remains fragile despite better-than-expected growth
- Elevated risks from geopolitical tensions, trade fragmentation, financial vulnerabilities
- Impacts may surface with a lag

India’s Performance – Fastest Growing Major Economy (4th Consecutive Year)

- **Real GDP Growth:** 7.4% (FY26)
- **GVA Growth:** 7.3% (FY26)

Consumption Demand

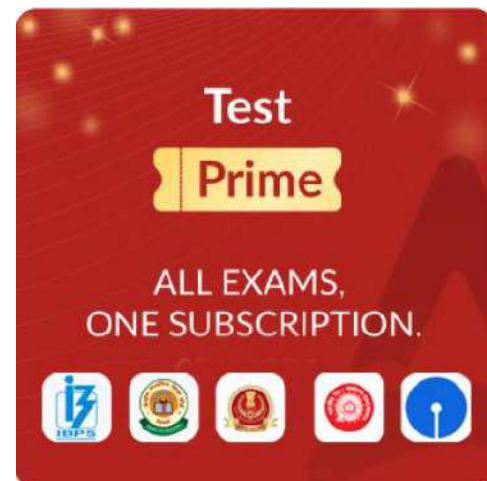
- **Private Consumption:** 7.0% growth, reaching 61.5% of GDP (highest since 2012)
- Supported by:
 1. Low inflation
 2. Stable employment
 3. Increasing real purchasing power
- **Rural consumption:** Bolstered by strong agricultural performance
- **Urban consumption:** Improved through tax rationalization

Investment Activity

- **Gross Fixed Capital Formation:** 7.8% growth, maintaining 30% share of GDP
- Driven by:
 1. Sustained public capital expenditure
 2. Revival in private investment (evident from corporate announcements)

Supply Side Dynamics

- **Services remain main growth driver**
- Services GVA: 9.3% growth in H1 FY26; 9.1% estimated for full year
- Indicates broad-based sectoral expansion



2. FISCAL DEVELOPMENTS: ANCHORING STABILITY THROUGH CREDIBLE CONSOLIDATION

Credit Rating Upgrades

- Three sovereign credit rating upgrades in 2025:
 1. Morningstar DBRS
 2. S&P Global Ratings
 3. Rating and Investment Information (R&I), Inc.

Revenue Performance

- **Centre's revenue receipts:** Rose to 9.2% of GDP in FY25 (PA)
 1. Up from average ~8.5% in FY16-FY20
- **Non-corporate tax collections:** Increased from ~2.4% to ~3.3% of GDP post-pandemic

Tax Base Expansion

- **Income tax returns filed:**
 1. FY22: 6.9 crore
 2. FY25: 9.2 crore
- Reflects improved compliance, technology adoption, growing tax base

GST Performance

- **Gross GST collections** (April-December 2025): ₹17.4 lakh crore (6.7% YoY growth)
- Aligned with nominal GDP growth
- **E-way bill volumes:** 21% YoY growth (April-December 2025)

Capital Expenditure

- **Central government effective capex:**
 1. Pre-pandemic average: 2.7% of GDP
 2. Post-pandemic: ~3.9% of GDP
 3. FY25: 4% of GDP
- **State capex:** Maintained at ~2.4% of GDP through SASCI scheme

Fiscal Deficit

- **State governments:** 3.2% of GDP in FY25 (reflecting emerging pressures)
- **Debt reduction:** General government debt-to-GDP ratio down 7.1 percentage points since 2020

3. MONETARY MANAGEMENT AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIATION

Banking Sector Performance

Asset Quality – Multi-Decadal Achievement

- **GNPA ratio:** 2.2% (September 2025) – multi-decadal low
- **Net NPA ratio:** 0.5% (September 2025) – record low
- **Credit growth:** 14.5% YoY (December 2025) vs 11.2% (December 2024)

Financial Inclusion Initiatives

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)

- **Total accounts:** 55.02 crore (as of March 2025)
- **Rural/semi-urban:** 36.63 crore accounts
- Established foundational infrastructure for previously unbanked populations

Other Schemes

- **Stand-Up India:** ₹10 lakh to ₹1 crore loans for SC/ST/women entrepreneurs
- **PM SVANidhi:** Collateral-free working capital for street vendors
- **PM Mudra Yojana:** ₹36.18 lakh crore disbursed across 55.45 crore accounts (till October 2025)

Capital Markets Expansion

Investor Participation

- **Demat accounts:** 235 lakh added in FY26 (till December); total 21.6+ crore
- **Unique investors:** Crossed 12 crore mark (September 2025); Nearly 25% are women
- **Mutual fund investors:** 5.9 crore unique investors; 3.5 crore from non-tier I & II cities (November 2025)

Infrastructure Development

- **GIFT City:** India's first international financial services centre

International Validation – FSAP 2025

IMF-World Bank Assessment Highlights

- Resilient, diversified, inclusive financial system
- **Total financial sector assets:** 187% of GDP (CY 2024)
- **Capital markets:** Expanded from 144% (CY 2017) to 175% of GDP (CY 2024)
- Banks and NBFCs have adequate capital buffers under severe stress scenarios

4. EXTERNAL SECTOR: PLAYING THE LONG GAME

Export Performance – Record Growth

Merchandise Exports

- India's global share nearly doubled: 1% (2005) to 1.8% (2024)
- **Non-petroleum exports:** Historic high of USD 374.3 billion (FY25)
- Non-petroleum, non-gems/jewellery: ~80% of aggregate exports

Services Exports – All-Time High

- **USD 387.6 billion in FY25** (13.6% growth)
- India's share in global services: 2% (2005) to 4.3% (2024)
- Reinforces position as global tech and business services hub

Total Exports

- **USD 825.3 billion in FY25** (6.1% YoY growth)

Trade Diversification

- UNCTAD 2025: India ranked 3rd in Global South for trade partner diversification
- Trade diversity score higher than all Global North economies

Current Account Management

- **CAD:** ~1.3% of GDP (Q2 FY26) – favorable vs major economies
- Supported by:
 1. Strong services exports
 2. Robust remittances offsetting merchandise deficit

Remittances – World’s Largest Recipient

- **USD 135.4 billion in FY25**
- Increased share from advanced economies (skilled/professional workers)

Foreign Exchange Reserves – Strong Buffer

- **USD 701.4 billion** (as of January 16, 2026)
- **Import cover:** ~11 months
- **External debt coverage:** 94%

Foreign Direct Investment

- **Gross FDI inflows:** USD 64.7 billion (April-November 2025)
- **Global rankings:**
 1. 4th in Greenfield investment announcements (2024) – 1,000+ projects
 2. Largest destination for Greenfield digital investments (2020-24)

5. INFLATION: TAMED AND ANCHORED

Historic Low Achievement

- **Average headline inflation** (April-Dec 2025): **1.7%**; Lowest since CPI series began
- Among sharpest declines in EMDEs: 1.8 percentage points drop (2025 vs 2024)

Key Drivers

- Disinflationary trend in food and fuel prices (52.7% of CPI basket)

6. AGRICULTURE AND FOOD MANAGEMENT

Sectoral Growth Performance

Livestock Sector

- GVA rose ~195% between FY15-FY24

Fisheries

- Fish production increased 140% (2014-2024) vs previous decade

Foodgrain Production – Record Output

- **3,577.3 lakh metric tonnes** (AY 2024-25)
- **Increase:** 254.3 LMT over previous year
- Driven by higher output of rice, wheat, maize, coarse cereals

Horticulture – Key Growth Driver

- **33% of agricultural GVA**
- **Production:** 362.08 million tonnes (2024-25)
- **Exceeded foodgrain production** (357.73 MT)

Agricultural Infrastructure

Marketing & Price Discovery

- **e-NAM Scheme** (as of December 31, 2025):
 1. 1.79 crore farmers
 2. 2.72 crore traders
 3. 4,698 FPOs
 4. 1,522 mandis across 23 States/4 UTs

Infrastructure Development

- Agriculture Marketing Infrastructure (AMI) sub-scheme
- Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)

Farmer Support Schemes

PM-KISAN

- **₹4.09 lakh crore released** since inception (21 instalments)
- Assured MSP for mandated crops

PM Kisan Maandhan Yojana (PMKMY)

- **24.92 lakh farmers enrolled** (December 31, 2025)
- Provides pension support

Rural Employment Transformation

- **Viksit Bharat-GRAMG:** Comprehensive statutory overhaul of MGNREGS; Aligns rural employment with Viksit Bharat 2047 vision

7. SERVICES: FROM STABILITY TO NEW FRONTIERS

Dominant Economic Role

- **Share in GDP:** 53.6% (H1 FY26)
- **Share in GVA:** 56.4% (FAE FY26) – highest ever
- Reflects rising weight of modern, tradable, digitally delivered services

Global Position

- **7th largest services exporter globally**
- Global services share doubled: 2% (2005) to 4.3% (2024)

FDI Magnet

- **Largest FDI recipient sector**
- **Average 80.2% of total FDI** (FY23-FY25); Up from 77.7% pre-pandemic (FY16-FY20)

8. INDUSTRY: STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION AND GLOBAL INTEGRATION

Industrial Performance

- **Industry GVA growth:** 7.0% in H1 FY26 (real terms)
- Despite subdued global headwinds

Manufacturing – Structural Recovery

- **Q1 FY26:** 7.72% GVA growth
- **Q2 FY26:** 9.13% GVA growth

Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Schemes – Transformative Impact

14 Sectors – Unprecedented Success

- **Actual investment:** ₹2.0+ lakh crore
- **Incremental production/sales:** ₹18.7+ lakh crore
- **Jobs created:** 12.6+ lakh (as of September 2025)

Innovation Performance

- **Global Innovation Index:** Improved to 38th (2025) from 66th (2019)

Semiconductor Mission – Strategic Capability Building

- **10 projects approved** across 6 States
- **Investment:** ~₹1.60 lakh crore
- Manufacturing and packaging capabilities

9. INVESTMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE: CONNECTIVITY, CAPACITY, COMPETITIVENESS

Government Capital Expenditure – 4.2x Increase

- **FY18:** ₹2.63 lakh crore
- **FY26 (BE):** ₹11.21 lakh crore
- **Effective capex FY26 (BE):** ₹15.48 lakh crore

Transport Infrastructure

National Highways – 60% Network Expansion

- **FY14:** 91,287 km
- **FY26 (up to December):** 1,46,572 km
- **High-Speed Corridors:** 10x increase; FY14: 550 km; FY26: 5,364 km

Railways – Extensive Modernization

- **Network:** 69,439 route km (March 2025)
- **FY26 addition target:** 3,500 km
- **Electrification:** 99.1% (October 2025)

Aviation – World’s 3rd Largest Domestic Market

- **Airports:** 74 (2014) → 164 (2025)

Power Sector – Historic Turnaround

Capacity Expansion

- **Installed capacity:** 509.74 GW (November 2025) – 11.6% YoY growth
- **Demand-supply gap:** 4.2% (FY14) → Nil (November 2025)

DISCOM Transformation – First-Ever Profitability

- **PAT:** ₹2,701 crore (FY25) – historic positive turnaround
- **AT&C losses:** 22.62% (FY14) → 15.04% (FY25)

Renewable Energy Leadership

- **49.83% of total generation capacity** (November 2025)
- **Global ranking:** 3rd in overall RE and installed solar capacity

Digital Infrastructure

- **Tele-density:** 86.76%
- **5G coverage:** 99.9% of districts

Water Security

- **Jal Jeevan Mission:** 81%+ rural households have clean tap water access (October 2025)

Space Infrastructure – Elite Global Club

- **4th nation** to achieve autonomous satellite docking (SpaDeX)
- Expanded indigenous missions
- Increased private-sector participation

10. ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Renewable Energy Installation (2025-26, up to December 31)

Total: 38.61 GW

- Solar: 30.16 GW
- Wind: 4.47 GW
- Bio-Power: 0.03 GW
- Hydro: 3.24 GW

11. EDUCATION AND HEALTH: ACHIEVEMENTS AND TRANSFORMATION

School Education – World’s Largest System

Scale

- **Students:** 24.69 crore
- **Schools:** 14.71 lakh
- **Teachers:** 1.01+ crore (UDISE+ 2024-25)

Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)

- Primary (I-V): 90.9
- Upper Primary (VI-VIII): 90.3
- Secondary (IX-X): 78.7
- Higher Secondary (XI-XII): 58.4

Key Schemes

- Poshan Shakti Nirman
- Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan

Higher Education – Massive Expansion

Institutional Growth

- **HEIs:** 51,534 (2014-15) → 70,018 (June 2025)

Premier Institutions (2014-15 to 2024-25)

- IITs: 23
- IIMs: 21
- AIIMS: 20
- International IIT campuses: 2 (Zanzibar, Abu Dhabi)

NEP Reforms – Implementation Progress

- **National Credit Framework (NCrF):** 170 universities adopted
- **Academic Bank of Credit:**
 1. 2,660 institutions
 2. 4.6+ crore IDs issued
 3. 2.2 crore APAAR IDs with credits
- **Flexible entry-exit pathways:** 153 universities
- **Target:** 50% GER by 2035

Health – Outpacing Global Averages

Maternal & Child Mortality Reduction (1990-2023)

- **Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR):** 86% reduction; Global average: 48%
- **Under-Five Mortality (U5MR):** 78% decline; Global: 61%
- **Neonatal Mortality (NMR):** 70% decline; Global: 54%

Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) – Decade of Progress

- **2013:** 40 deaths per 1,000 live births
- **2023:** 25 deaths per 1,000 live births
- **37% reduction**

12. EMPLOYMENT AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Employment Statistics

Total Employment

- **56.2 crore people** employed (aged 15+) in Q2 FY26
- **New jobs:** 8.7 lakh created in Q2 vs Q1 FY26

Manufacturing Sector (ASI FY24)

- **6% YoY employment increase**
- **10+ lakh jobs added** (FY24 vs FY23)

Worker Registration & Rights

e-Shram Portal – Massive Formalisation

- **31+ crore unorganised workers registered** (January 2026)
- **Women:** 54% of total registrants
- Strengthens gender-focused welfare schemes

Labour Codes

- Formal recognition of gig and platform workers
- Expanded social security, welfare funds, benefit portability

Job Matching Platform

National Career Service (NCS)

- **59 million registered job seekers**
- **5.3 million job providers**
- **Vacancies mobilised:** FY25: 2.8+ crore; FY26 (by September): 2.3+ crore

Skill Development

National Scheme for Upgradation of ITIs

- **Target:** Upgrade 1,000 government ITIs
 1. 200 hub ITIs
 2. 800 spoke ITIs
- **Features:** Smart classrooms, modern labs, digital content, industry-aligned courses

13. RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL PROGRESS

Poverty Reduction – Dramatic Progress

World Bank Revised Poverty Line (USD 3.00/day, 2021 prices)

- **2022-23 rates:**
 1. Extreme poverty: 5.3%
 2. Lower-middle-income poverty: 23.9%

NITI Aayog Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

- **2005-06:** 55.3%
- **2022-23:** 11.28%
- **Massive 44 percentage point reduction**

Social Services Expenditure – Rising Commitment

- **FY 2023-24:** 7.0% of GDP
- **FY 2024-25 (RE):** 7.7% of GDP
- **FY 2025-26 (BE):** 7.9% of GDP

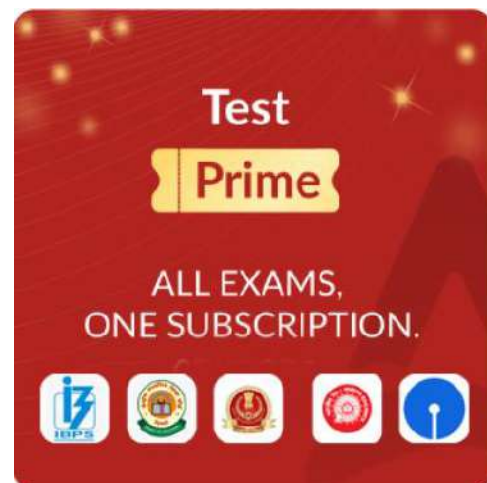
Rural Property Rights & Technology

SVAMITVA Scheme (December 2025)

- **Drone survey completed:** 3.28 lakh villages (of 3.44 lakh target)
- **Property cards prepared:** 2.76 crore for 1.82 lakh villages

Namo Drone Didi Scheme

- **1,094 drones distributed** to SHG Drone Didis (2023-24)
- 500 under government scheme; remainder by Lead Fertiliser Companies



14. EMERGING FRONTIERS

AI Ecosystem Evolution

- Focus on smaller, task-specific models for diverse economic landscape
- Demand driven by real-world problems (healthcare, agriculture, urban management, education, disaster preparedness, public administration)
- Emphasis on local hardware compatibility and low-resource settings

Urbanisation & Regional Connectivity

- **Namo Bharat Regional Rapid Transit System**
 1. Reshapes urban/peri-urban labour markets
 2. Expands job access
 3. Supports polycentric growth
 4. Eases pressure on core metros

Strategic Economic Vision – From Swadeshi to Global Indispensability

Three-Tiered Framework

1. **Critical vulnerabilities** – High strategic urgency
2. **Economically feasible capabilities** – Strategic payoffs
3. **Low strategic urgency** – High-cost substitution awareness

National Input Cost Reduction Strategy

- Treats competitiveness as infrastructure
- Ensures affordable, reliable inputs

Progressive Vision

- **Swadeshi → Strategic Resilience → Strategic Indispensability**
- Goal: World moves from “thinking about buying Indian” to “buying Indian without thinking”

President Approves Ashok Chakra for Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla

Ashok Chakra for Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla

- Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla has been awarded the Ashok Chakra, **India’s highest peacetime gallantry award.**
- He made history by becoming the first Indian to visit the International Space Station, marking a milestone in India’s aerospace and defence-linked achievements.
- The award recognises exceptional courage, leadership, and contribution beyond the call of duty.
- The Ashok Chakra is awarded for acts of valour, self-sacrifice, or devotion to duty away from the battlefield, underscoring the national importance of his achievement.

Other Gallantry Awards Announced

- Along with the Ashok Chakra, the President has approved Kirti Chakras for Major Arshdeep Singh, Naib Subedar Doleshwar Subba Singh, and Group Captain Prashanth Balakrishnan Nair. In addition, 13 Shaurya Chakras were conferred, including one posthumous award.

- The honours also include one Gallantry Bar to the Sena Medal, 44 Gallantry Sena Medals (five posthumous), six Gallantry Nao Sena Medals, and two Gallantry Vayu Sena Medals, recognising bravery across all three services.

Military Decorations for Distinguished Service

- Beyond gallantry awards, the President approved 301 military decorations for Armed Forces and other personnel.
- These include 30 Param Vishisht Seva Medals, four Uttam Yudh Seva Medals, 56 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals, and nine Yudh Seva Medals.
- Several Distinguished Sena, Nao Sena, and Vayu Sena Medals were also approved, highlighting exemplary service, leadership, and professionalism in both operational and non-operational roles.

Mentions-in-Despatches and Operational Recognition

- The President also approved 98 Mentioned-in-Despatches, including five posthumous recognitions.
- Most were awarded to personnel of the Indian Army, covering operations such as Operation Rakshak, Operation Snow Leopard, Operation Meghdoot, Operation Rhino, and Operation Sindoor, among others.
- Personnel from the Indian Navy and the Border Roads Development Board were also recognised, reflecting contributions in combat, rescue, logistics, and infrastructure support.

Gallantry Awards in India

- India’s gallantry awards system honours acts of bravery in both wartime and peacetime.
- The Ashok Chakra, Kirti Chakra, and Shaurya Chakra are peacetime gallantry awards, while medals such as the Param Vir Chakra are awarded during war.
- These honours uphold the values of courage, sacrifice, and devotion to duty, strengthening morale within the Armed Forces and inspiring future generations.

National Affairs

- **RBI Postpones Mandatory Climate Risk Reporting** - RBI delayed climate disclosure norms for banks citing implementation costs and lack of priority, despite India ranking 9th in global climate vulnerability.
- **Solid Waste Management Rules 2026 Notified** - New SWM Rules effective April 1, 2026 mandate 4-stream waste segregation and Extended Producer Responsibility to promote circular economy.
- **National Biodiversity Authority Disburses ₹17 Lakh to BMC** - NBA disbursed funds under ABS framework for microbial resource utilization, with Maharashtra receiving highest ABS support after Andhra Pradesh.

- **PANCHAM Chatbot Launched for Panchayat Governance** - Ministry launched AI-driven PANCHAM chatbot on January 25, 2026 to provide direct digital connect with 30 lakh panchayat functionaries.
- **New Aadhaar App Dedicated to Nation** - UIDAI launched privacy-first Aadhaar App enabling secure digital identity verification with selective data sharing and multi-profile management.
- **IBBI Organizes 3rd International Insolvency Conclave** - IBBI with INSOL India discussed decade of IBC achievements, cross-border insolvency, and UNCITRAL Model Law adoption.
- **77th Republic Day Celebrated with Operation Sindoor Theme** - Republic Day parade showcased LR-AShM hypersonic missile, indigenous defense hardware, and 150 years of Vande Mataram.
- **India Becomes Fastest-Growing Major Insurance Market** - Swiss Re projects India's insurance premiums will grow at 6.9% annually (2026-2030), highest among major markets.
- **RBI Flags PSL Compliance Gaps at HDFC and ICICI Banks** - RBI imposed ₹1,283 crore and ₹500 crore provisions on ICICI and HDFC respectively for agricultural loan misclassification.
- **Draft National Electricity Policy 2026 Released** - Ministry targets 2,000 kWh per capita by 2030 and 4,000 kWh by 2047, with 45% emissions intensity reduction.
- **World Bank Reaffirms India as Largest Client:** World Bank Group pledges USD 8-10 billion annually over five years to support India's development vision, with existing commitments of USD 20 billion across 79 IBRD projects and USD 16.72 billion across 174 IFC projects.
- **India's Ramsar Network Expands to 98 Sites:** India designated Patna Bird Sanctuary (Uttar Pradesh) and Chhari-Dhand (Gujarat) as new Ramsar wetlands on January 31, 2026, achieving 276% expansion from 26 sites in 2014 under PM Modi's conservation leadership.
- **Supreme Court Declares Menstrual Health a Fundamental Right:** India's apex court delivers landmark January 2026 judgment recognizing menstrual health as integral to human dignity under Article 21, with implications for taxation reforms and workplace accommodations.
- **Coking Coal Designated as Critical Strategic Mineral:** Government officially notifies coking coal as critical and strategic mineral under MMDR Act to reduce India's 95% import dependence through domestic exploration and preferential mining leases.
- **Digital Food Currency Pilot Launches in February:** Government to launch Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) pilot programme in Chandigarh, Puducherry, and three Gujarat districts, combining traditional welfare delivery with fintech innovation under RBI coordination.

States in the News

- **Maharashtra Bags 1st Prize in PESA Rankings 2026** - Maharashtra tops PESA implementation rankings followed by Madhya Pradesh (2nd) and Himachal Pradesh (3rd) among Fifth Schedule areas.
- **Gujarat Launches ₹1,250 Crore Namoo Laxmi Scheme** - Gujarat announced ₹50,000 financial assistance over 4 years for 12+ lakh girl students in Classes 9-12 to prevent dropouts.
- **Punjab Launches Mukhya Mantri Sehat Yojana** - Punjab government introduced free cashless healthcare up to ₹10 lakh per family annually covering 65 lakh families.
- **Gujarat Witnesses India's First Integrated Private Satellite Manufacturing Unit** - Azista Space laid foundation for Palmaro satellite manufacturing facility at Sanand to reduce import dependence.
- **Uttarakhand Implements Uniform Civil Code Amendment Ordinance 2026** - Uttarakhand enforced UCC amendments on January 31, 2026 with 100% digital marriage registrations post-implementation.
- **Kerala Declares Bacillus subtilis as State Microbe** - Kerala became first Indian state to formally recognize a microorganism as state symbol, promoting scientific awareness.
- **Assam Launches Mukhya Mantrir Eti Koli Duti Paat Scheme** - Assam announced ₹5,000 one-time assistance to 6+ lakh tea garden workers plus nutritional wage compensation.
- **Tamil Nadu Focuses on FPO Strengthening** - Ministry constituted high-level committee to review and strengthen Farmer Producer Organization governance and market linkages.
- **Andhra Pradesh Signs MoU with FICCI-FLO for Women's Industrial Park** - AP established women entrepreneurs' industrial park under FICCI partnership in 30-acre facility.
- **Haryana Secures ₹5,700 Crore World Bank Support for Jal Sanrakshit Project** - World Bank approved funding for canal restoration, micro-irrigation, and sustainable agriculture (2026-2032).
- **Sunetra Pawar Elevated to Deputy Chief Minister:** Maharashtra political milestone as Sunetra Pawar takes oath as Deputy Chief Minister in 2026, advancing women's representation in senior state governance positions.
- **Gujarat Launches Mukhyamantri Gramotthan Yojana:** Chief Minister village development scheme focuses on infrastructure, livelihood enhancement, skill training, and technological adoption to reduce urban-rural migration and create sustainable employment in rural areas.
- **Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train Achieves Engineering Milestone:** Completion of 100-metre steel bridge in Ahmedabad under Make in India initiative demonstrates indigenous engineering capability; project scheduled for 2027 completion with 320 km/hour connectivity.

International Affairs

- **USA Formally Exits WHO After 78 Years** - United States completed withdrawal from World Health Organization citing pandemic mishandling, with \$130+ million unpaid dues outstanding.
- **India-EU Free Trade Agreement Concluded** - Historic FTA negotiations concluded during 16th India-EU Summit, described as "Mother of All Deals" covering goods, services, and investments.
- **India-EU Signed First-Ever Defence and Security Partnership** - Comprehensive defence partnership signed covering maritime security, cyber cooperation, and defence industrial collaboration.
- **56th World Economic Forum 2026 Concludes in Davos** - WEF annual meeting highlighted India ranked 8th in AI investments (1.2%-1.8% of GDP), with major state investment commitments.
- **Spain's Foreign Minister Visits India for 70th Diplomatic Anniversary** - Spain formally joined Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative during bilateral visit, upgrading India-Spain ties to Strategic Association.
- **Donald Trump Launches Board of Peace Initiative at Davos** - US President launched Board of Peace initiative for Gaza reconstruction with 35+ countries participating; India took cautious stance.
- **Mozambique's Graca Machel Awarded Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2025** - Human rights activist recognized for lifetime contributions to education, women's empowerment, and peace with ₹1 crore award.
- **UNEP Report: Global Nature-Negative Spending 30 Times Higher Than Protection** - For every \$1 spent on nature protection, \$30 goes to harmful activities (\$7.3 trillion vs \$220 billion in 2023).
- **Japan Returns Last Two Giant Pandas to China** - Japan ended panda presence since 1972 by returning twin cubs amid tense diplomatic relations over Taiwan stance.
- **World Bank Approves \$815 Million for Dorjilung Hydropower Project in Bhutan** - World Bank financing approved for 1,125 MW project with Tata Power's 40% stake, strengthening India-Bhutan clean energy ties.
- **Smithsonian Returns Three Ancient Bronze Sculptures to India**: National Museum of Asian Art announces repatriation of 10th-century Chola Shiva Nataraja, 12th-century Chola Somaskanda, and 16th-century Vijayanagara sculpture after provenance research confirms illegal removal from Tamil Nadu temples between 1956-1959.

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- **GAIL Partners with K LINE and J M Baxi for LNG Carrier Equity** - GAIL signed term sheet for LNG ship-owning company equity participation with delivery scheduled 2027.
- **India-EU Sign Defence and Security Partnership** - Comprehensive agreement covers maritime security, cyber cooperation, and opens EU's SAFE defense financing program to Indian companies.
- **Drip Capital-Maharashtra Government MoU Signed** - Drip Capital committed ₹10,000 crore collateral-free trade finance to MSME exporters over 2026-2031.
- **Goa Government Signs MoU with Starlink** - Goa partnered with Starlink for satellite connectivity in remote areas and disaster preparedness (pending official launch in India).
- **Uttarakhand Signs MoU with ITBP for 'Swasth Seema Abhiyan'** - ITBP will provide healthcare services to 108 border villages through telemedicine and regular medical visits.
- **NITI Aayog Partners with NIIT Foundation for Digital Literacy** - Partnership aims 100% block coverage reaching 2 lakh beneficiaries with digital and financial skill training.
- **Department of Posts Partners with Stock Holding Services Limited** - DoP expanded capital market access through India Post network for Demat, MF, and IPO services.
- **CCRAS and CSU Conduct Ayurvedic Manuscripts Workshop** - 15-day workshop successfully transliterated 5 rare Ayurvedic manuscripts into Sanskrit and Malayalam.
- **RBI and ESMA Sign MoU on Central Counterparties Regulation** - Agreement enables supervisory cooperation between Indian and EU clearing house regulators, facilitating cross-border clearing.
- **BISAG-N Signs MoU with QNu Labs for Quantum-Resilient Cybersecurity** - Vedic Kavach cryptographic software integrated with quantum hardware for indigenous cybersecurity solutions.

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Books and Authors

- **Sumant Batra Launches "The Life and Legacy of Arun Jaitley"** - Biography of late leader published by Om Books International, launched by former VP M. Venkaiah Naidu.
- **Telugu Book on President Draupadi Murmu Released at Andhra University** - "Agni Sarsulu Vikasinchina Kamalam Draupadi Murmu" released under tree by woman sanitation worker, emphasizing social equality.
- **COAS General Upendra Dwivedi Launches "Red Lines Redrawn: Operation Sindoor"** - Book detailing 88-hour military operation covering tri-service coordination and geopolitical implications.

Banking/Economy/Business News

- **FDI Inflows to India Jump 73% to USD 47 Billion in 2025** - UNCTAD report highlights India's strong FDI growth driven by IT, R&D, and manufacturing sectors.
- **PhonePe Receives SEBI Approval for IPO of ₹12,000 Crore** - Digital payments platform targeting ₹12,000 crore OFS, with 45% UPI market share.
- **Juspay Becomes India's First Homegrown Unicorn of 2026** - Bengaluru-based fintech raised \$50 million Series D at \$1.2 billion valuation after processing \$1 trillion TPV.
- **Life Insurance Corporation Reduces ICICI Bank Stake Below 5%** - LIC sold 70 crore shares reducing stake from 6.737% to 4.731%, exiting large shareholder obligations.
- **State Bank of India Surpasses ICICI Bank in Market Capitalization** - SBI (₹9.60 trillion) regained position as second-most valuable bank after 6+ years, ahead of ICICI (₹9.57 trillion).
- **Securities and Exchange Board Approves PhonePe IPO** - SEBI approved PhonePe's IPO targeting ₹12,000 crore through Offer for Sale with zero fresh capital infusion.
- **Microsoft Launches Maia 200 AI Chip** - Second-generation in-house AI processor manufactured by TSMC using 3nm technology, deployed at Iowa data center.
- **PFRDA Constitutes SAARG Committee for NPS Investment Framework Review** - High-level committee chaired by Narayan Ramachandran to modernize NPS guidelines within 9 months.
- **India Ranks 6th in Asia Manufacturing Index 2026** - India mid-tier ranking reflects competition but reveals gaps in execution speed and innovation depth.
- **Global IT Services Brand Valuation Reaches \$167.2 Billion** - Accenture retained top position; Indian IT companies account for 36% of top 25 brands' value at \$60.4 billion.

Appointments/Resignations

- **Arijit Basu Appointed as Chairman of IndusInd Bank** - Former SBI MD appointed part-time chairman effective January 31, 2026, succeeding Sunil Mehta.
- **Kota Ravi Appointed as CMD of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited** - HAL appointed Kota Ravi with 30+ years aerospace experience as new Chairman & Managing Director.
- **Randhir Singh Steps Down as OCA President** - Five-time Olympic shooter Randhir Singh resigned as Olympic Council of Asia President; Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani elected successor.
- **Amelia Valverde Appointed as India Women's Football Head Coach** - Costa Rican coach with World Cup qualification record joined Indian Blue Tigresses for AFC Asian Cup 2026.

Defence News

- **Chief of Defence Staff Unveils Military Quantum Mission Policy Framework** - CDS General Anil Chauhan released comprehensive quantum technology adoption roadmap for armed forces.
- **Defence Research and Development Organisation Unveils LR-ASHM Hypersonic Missile** - DRDO showcased 1,500 km range hypersonic glide missile with Mach 5+ sustaining speeds at Republic Day parade.
- **Indian Army Performs India's First 3D Flex Aqueous Angiography with iStent** - Army Hospital Delhi Cantt conducted breakthrough glaucoma surgery using advanced imaging technology.
- **HAL and Indian Army Inaugurate Helicopter MRO Hub in Assam** - MRO facility at Missamari will reduce repair turnaround time and strengthen regional combat readiness.
- **Ministry of Defence Signs ₹4,666 Crore Deals for Military Equipment** - Contracts signed for Close Quarter Battle carbines (₹2,770 crore) and Heavy Weight Torpedoes (₹1,896 crore).
- **Indian Navy's First Training Squadron Enhances Maritime Ties with Indonesia** - 1TS deployment involving four ships strengthened IONS framework cooperation and bilateral maritime engagement.
- **Indian Army Partners with IISc to Develop Indigenous AI Defence System** - MoU signed for joint development of fully indigenous AI system addressing digital warfare challenges.
- **IA Signs Agreement with USA's Shield AI for V-BAT Autonomous Drones** - Vertical take-off drones to be manufactured in India by JSW Defence starting December 2025.

- **Ministry of Defence Signs ₹4,666 Crore Contracts** - Contracts awarded for CQB carbines and heavy-weight torpedoes for naval modernization.
- **Chief of Defence Staff Releases Military Quantum Mission Policy** - Comprehensive framework released for quantum communications, computing, sensing, and materials in defense operations.
- **Pechora Missile System Digitized for Enhanced Combat Efficiency:** India completes digitization of Soviet-era air defence system with modern digital capabilities, enabling real-time target tracking, improved accuracy, and integration with advanced defence systems.
- **Indian Railways Achieves Kavach 4.0 Safety Milestone:** Largest one-day deployment of automatic train protection system in January 2026 demonstrates progress in collision avoidance technology, integrating GPS, wireless communication, and automation for real-time safety management.

Awards and Recognitions

- **President Approves 131 Padma Awards for 2026** - 5 Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan, 113 Padma Shri awarded; Maharashtra leads with 15 awardees.
- **President Approves Gallantry Awards for 70 Armed Forces Personnel** - 70 military decorations including 1 Ashoka Chakra and 3 Kirti Chakras approved on Republic Day eve.
- **Taylor Swift to be Inducted into Songwriters Hall of Fame** - At 36, Swift becomes second-youngest inductee, joining 14-time Grammy winner recognition milestone.
- **Dr Chandrakant Lahariya Wins Wiley Research Heroes Prize 2025** - First Indian to win global award for impact beyond academia in public health policy research.
- **Sikkim Police Conferred President's Police Colour Award** - Sikkim becomes 15th state and 3rd from North-East to receive highest police honor since independence.
- **NVIDIA CEO Jensen Huang Awarded 2026 IEEE Medal of Honor** - Huang recognized for lifetime visionary leadership and pioneering GPU technology worth \$2 million prize.
- **Republic Day Parade Best Marching Contingents and Tableaux Announced** - Indian Navy wins Best Marching; Maharashtra wins Best State Tableau for Ganeshotsav theme.
- **President Droupadi Murmu Approves Jeevan Raksha Padak Series Awards** - 30 individuals honored for courage and life-saving acts across three categories with monetary awards.
- **Department of Food & Public Distribution's Anna Chakra Named Finalist for Franz Edelman Award** - Initiative among top 6 global finalists for Nobel Prize of Operations Research.
- **President Approves 2026 Gallantry Awards for ICG Personnel** - Indian Coast Guard personnel recognized for maritime security, rescue missions, and professionalism.

- **SAIL Certified Third Time as Great Place to Work:** Steel Authority of India Limited earns consecutive certification reflecting comprehensive HR practices, employee benefits, workplace safety, and inclusive organizational culture prioritizing worker satisfaction and development.

Summits and Conferences News

- **Election Commission Hosts India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management** - IICDEM 2026 held January 21-23 with Delhi Declaration 2026 adopted on five pillars of electoral integrity.
- **56th World Economic Forum Annual Meeting Concludes in Davos** - WEF held January 19-23 with 3,000 leaders from 130 countries discussing global cooperation and innovation.
- **86th All India Presiding Officers' Conference Held in Uttar Pradesh** - AIPOC 2026 with 36 presiding officers adopted 6 resolutions for strengthening legislatures and democracy.
- **India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management 2026** - ECINET digital platform launched integrating 40+ election services in 22 Indian languages.
- **India-AI Impact Summit 2026 Scheduled for February:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi announces first global AI summit hosted in Global South scheduled for February 19-20 in New Delhi, focused on People, Planet, and Prosperity pillars with 100+ nation participation.
- **India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management:** IICDEM 2026 inaugurated January 21 at Bharat Mandapam with 100 international delegates from 70 countries; ECI launches ECINET digital platform for election information and services.
- **6th National Crop Nutrition Summit Scheduled for 2026:** Summit brings agricultural experts and policymakers to address crop nutrition and soil health through precision agriculture, micronutrient management, organic farming transitions, and climate-smart agricultural practices.

Ranks and Reports

- **India Ranked 6th in Asia Manufacturing Index 2026** - Asia Manufacturing Index 2026 shows India mid-tier ranking with gaps in execution and innovation depth.
- **Global IT Services Brand Valuation Report 2026** - Accenture leads at \$42.3 billion; Indian IT companies hold 36% of top 25 brands' value at \$60.4 billion.
- **RBI Releases Report on State Finances 2025-26** - State consolidated fiscal deficit at 3.3% of GDP, with demographic transition impacting state finances.
- **SEBI Survey: Only 9.5% of Indian Households Invest in Securities** - Out of 33.72 crore households, just 3.21 crore participate in securities markets, indicating significant under-penetration.

Sports News

- **Nat Sciver-Brunt Becomes First Centurion in Women's Premier League History** - English batter scored unbeaten 100 off 57 balls for Mumbai Indians against Royal Challengers Bengaluru.
- **Khelo India Winter Games 2026 Phase 1 Concludes** - Haryana emerges overall champion in ice sports phase with 5 gold medals.

Schemes and Committees News

- **Sukanya Samridhi Yojana Marks 11 Years of Empowering Girl Child** - Scheme since January 22, 2015 offers 8.2% interest with EEE tax benefits, reaching 40+ lakh girl accounts.
- **PFRDA Launches 'NPS Swasthya Pension Scheme'** - Health-linked pension scheme under regulatory sandbox allows 25% withdrawal for medical expenses after ₹50,000 corpus.
- **Government Approves Smart Fishing Harbour in Andaman & Nicobar Islands** - Mayabunder harbour with ₹199.24 crore funding approved under PMMSY for 430 fishing vessels.
- **Government Establishes National Shipbuilding & Heavy Industries Park SPV** - NSHIP with 2,000-acre facility at Thoothukudi aims to boost commercial shipbuilding under SbDS.
- **NITI Aayog Constitutes High-Level Committee for NPS Investment Framework** - SAARG committee with 9 expert members to modernize NPS guidelines in 9-month tenure.
- **PFRDA Forms Strategic Asset Allocation Committee for NPS** - Narayan Ramachandran-led SAARG to benchmark NPS against global pension systems.

Science and Technology News

- **IIT Guwahati Develops Framework to Identify 492 Potential Glacial Lake Sites** - Bayesian Neural Network model identifies high-risk glacier locations in Eastern Himalayas for early warning systems.
- **2026 Doomsday Clock Set at 85 Seconds to Midnight** - Closest ever point reflects heightened nuclear, climate, and AI risks globally.
- **Zoho Launches New ERP Platform for India's SMEs** - Affordable, easy-deploy ERP targets underserved small and medium enterprise sector.
- **Japan Restarts Reactor No. 6 at Kashiwazaki-Kariwa Nuclear Plant** - Japan advances nuclear energy return after 15 years, planning 50% nuclear share by 2030.
- **Zoological Survey of India Unveils New Rare Caecilian Species** - Gegeneophis valmiki discovered in Maharashtra's Western Ghats after 10+ year gap in genus discoveries.

- **National Aeronautics and Space Administration Rolls Out Space Launch System Rocket** - NASA's 322-foot SLS ready for first crewed lunar fly-around mission in 50+ years with February 2026 launch window.
- **Ola Electric Gets BIS Certification for Residential Battery Energy Storage System** - Ola Shakti 6kW system with indigenously developed 4680 Bharat Cells receives BIS approval.
- **Embraer Partners with Adani Defence & Aerospace for Regional Transport Aircraft** - MoU for 90-seat aircraft manufacturing with Final Assembly Line in India supporting UDAN scheme.
- **Kavach 4.0 India's Automatic Train Protection System Launched** - Commissioned on Bajwa-Ahmedabad 96 km section with SPAD prevention and automatic speed control.
- **Austrian Brown Swiss Cow Veronika First Known Cow to Use Tools** - Scientists document first verified tool use in cattle, challenging assumptions about cattle intelligence.
- **ISRO Confirms Gaganyaan Mission Launch in March 2026:** First uncrewed mission (G1) to carry humanoid robot Vyommitra scheduled for March 2026; four IAF pilots—Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, Ajit Krishnan, Angad Pratap, Shubhanshu Shukla—selected for crewed mission (H1) in Q1 2027.

Important Days News

- **National Tourism Day 2026 – January 25** - Day celebrates India's tourism sector and cultural heritage preservation efforts annually.
- **National Voters Day 2026 – January 25** - 16th observance marks Election Commission of India foundation day promoting electoral participation.
- **International Day of Clean Energy 2026 – January 26** - Second-year observance emphasizes fair and inclusive clean energy transition for people and planet.
- **International Customs Day 2026 – January 26** - 73rd commemoration of Customs Cooperation Council first meeting marks global trade facilitation efforts.
- **Republic Day 2026 – January 26** - 77th Republic Day celebrated under "150 Years of Vande Mataram" theme showcasing defense and cultural prowess.
- **International Holocaust Remembrance Day 2026 – January 27** - 81st anniversary of Auschwitz liberation marks global commitment against antisemitism and intolerance.
- **International Data Privacy Day 2026 – January 28** - Focus on India's Digital Personal Data Protection Act ensuring resident-centric data governance.
- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Marks 11 Years** - Scheme improved sex ratio at birth from 918 (2014-15) to 930 (2023-24).
- **World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day 2026 – January 30** - "Unite. Act. Eliminate" theme highlights 1 billion affected by 21 communicable diseases.

- **Martyrs' Day or Shaheed Divas – January 30** - 78th death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi honors national martyrs and freedom fighters.
- **International Zebra Day Celebrated January 31:** Global awareness day highlights zebra conservation challenges including habitat loss, poaching, and climate change impacts; encourages scientific research, community engagement, and policy initiatives for species protection.

Obituaries News

- **Veteran Journalist Mark Tully Passed Away at 90** - BBC's "voice of India" Sir Mark Tully, Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan recipient, died in Delhi.
- **Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar Passed Away at 66** - Ajit Pawar, 6-time deputy CM and NCP chief, died in aircraft crash at Baramati on January 28, 2026.
- **Former BCCI President Inderjit Singh Bindra Passed Away at 84** - Cricket administrator who modernized Indian cricket and served as BCCI President (1993-1996) died in Delhi.
- **East Bengal and Former India Defender Ilyas Pasha Passed Away at 61** - East Bengal legend and Indian football defender Ilyas Pasha died at Bengaluru at age 61.

Miscellaneous News

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & DIPLOMACY INITIATIVES

- **Raisina Science Diplomacy Initiative (RSDI) 2026 - January 8, 2026:** Office of Principal Scientific Adviser to Government of India and Observer Research Foundation partnered to launch inaugural Raisina Science Diplomacy Initiative 2026 scheduled for March 5-7, 2026 during Raisina Dialogue providing dedicated platform exploring intersection of science, technology, and diplomacy with focus on emerging technologies, scientific cooperation in multipolar world, and technology control regimes.
- **RSDI Composition & Structure:** Raisina Science Diplomacy Initiative bringing together scientists, diplomats, policymakers, and industry leaders through high-level sessions and expert roundtables fostering science-based foreign policy development and international scientific cooperation strengthening India's diplomatic engagement.

DIGITAL IDENTITY & ACCESSIBILITY

- **UIDAI Launches Aadhaar Mascot 'Udai' - January 8, 2026:** UIDAI Chairman Neelkanth Mishra unveiled new Aadhaar mascot named "Udai" in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala strengthening public outreach and awareness in Aadhaar-related services serving as resident-facing communication companion explaining enrollment, authentication, selective information sharing, and new technology adoption to 1.4 billion Aadhaar users.

- **Aadhaar Mascot Design & Symbolism:** Mascot "Udai" designed by Arun Gokul from Thrissur with name suggested by Riya Jain from Bhopal symbolizing progress and empowerment making Aadhaar-related services more accessible and engaging for citizen understanding.

CLEAN ENERGY & NATURAL GAS TRANSITION

- **GAIL & PNGRB Launch NonStop Zindagi Campaign - January 1 to March 31, 2026:** GAIL and Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) launched NonStop Zindagi Campaign promoting adoption of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) targeting 15% share of natural gas in India's energy mix by 2030 supporting clean energy transition.
- **NonStop Zindagi Campaign Strategy:** Multi-platform strategy including digital outreach through social media and influencers combined with on-ground activities through Resident Welfare Association toolkits, mobile vans, and festival-based messaging targeting domestic households, commercial establishments, industrial users, and CNG vehicle consumers.
- **PNGRB "One Nation, One Grid, One Tariff" Framework:** Standardizes natural gas transportation charges strengthening integration of national gas grid and promoting uniform tariff structure across India advancing natural gas infrastructure development and accessibility.

CIRCULAR ECONOMY & SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

- **India Becomes World's First Country to Commercially Produce Bio-Bitumen - January 7, 2026:** Union Minister Nitin Gadkari announced India's achievement in commercially producing bio-bitumen from agricultural waste like paddy straw converted to bio-oil through pyrolysis technology developed by CSIR-Central Road Research Institute and CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum.
- **Bio-Bitumen Technology & Benefits:** Bio-bitumen blended with conventional bitumen with 15% blending can save nearly Rs 4,500 crore in foreign exchange substantially reducing dependence on imported crude oil pioneering circular economy, sustainable infrastructure, and waste-to-wealth conversion.
- **Bio-Bitumen Commercial Rollout:** CSIR Technology Transfer ceremony titled "From Farm Residue to Roads" held in New Delhi with licenses issued to multiple Indian manufacturers establishing commercial production of bio-bitumen supporting sustainable road construction.

AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION & EXPORT PROMOTION

- **BHARATI Startup Challenge Launched by APEDA:** Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority initiative promoting innovation and entrepreneurship in agriculture and processed food export sectors supporting startups in value addition and export promotion strengthening India's agricultural exports.

- **Indusfood 2026 New Pavilions & Initiatives:** Food and beverage trade event introduced new Pet Food Pavilion and Cookware Pavilion highlighting growing global demand for wellness-focused and premium lifestyle products expanding market opportunities for Indian exporters.
- **India–United Arab Emirates Food Corridor Launch - Indusfood 2026:** Abu Dhabi Food Hub launched India-UAE Food Corridor aiming to strengthen food security and bilateral food trade creating seamless framework for agricultural product exchange between nations.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT & FINANCIAL INCLUSION

- **Karnataka Extends Gruha Lakshmi Scheme with Digital Marketing Portal:** Government of Karnataka extended Gruha Lakshmi Scheme launching Digital Marketing Portal helping women entrepreneurs reach global markets providing vocational training and financial support including Rs 2,000 monthly assistance to eligible households.
- **Gruha Lakshmi Digital Portal Features:** Verified platform enabling women to sell handicrafts, food items, jewellery, clothing, and traditional products globally with registration available online, through District In-charge Officers, and Department Head Office assuring product authenticity and market reach.
- **Choice Wealth Launches Digital Investment Platform:** Launched for India Post Payments Bank customers offering online mutual fund aggregation and Robo-advisory services accessible via mobile applications, web platforms, and micro ATM devices supporting first-time and underserved investors in semi-urban and rural areas advancing financial inclusion.

AVIATION SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

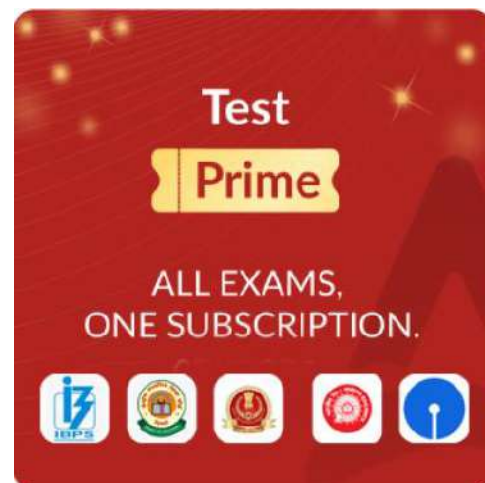
- **Akasa Air Becomes Fifth Indian Airline to Join IATA - January 2026:** Akasa Air joined International Air Transport Association as 5th Indian member representing global body of over 360 airlines and 80%+ of global air traffic enabling participation in industry-wide dialogue on safety management, digital transformation, and sustainable aviation.
- **Akasa Air IATA Membership Achievement:** Membership followed successful completion of IATA Operational Safety Audit in December 2025 positioning Akasa Air alongside other Indian IATA members Air India, Air India Express, IndiGo, and SpiceJet strengthening India's aviation sector globally.
- **Akasa Air Operations & Fleet:** Akasa Air founded in 2020 by Vinay Dube connecting 26 domestic and 6 international cities operating 31 Boeing 737 MAX aircraft representing significant growth in India's aviation capacity and connectivity.

SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES & BIODIVERSITY

- **New Reed Snake Species 'Calamaria mizoramensis' Discovered in Mizoram - January 2026:** Scientists from Mizoram University in collaboration with researchers from Russia, Germany, and Vietnam discovered new reed snake species published in international scientific journal Zootaxa advancing biodiversity documentation.
- **Calamaria mizoramensis Characteristics:** Small dark brown to blackish snake with faint stripes and yellow underside non-venomous, nocturnal, and semi-fossorial inhabiting humid forested hill regions at 670-1,295 metres elevation confirmed in six Mizoram locations bringing global Calamaria count to 70.
- **Mizoram Herpetofauna Update:** New reed snake species discovery updates Mizoram's herpetofauna record to 169 species with tentative Least Concern IUCN status reflecting state's rich biodiversity and ecological importance.

HIGHER EDUCATION & INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

- **UNSW Australia Bengaluru Campus Operational by August 2026:** Expected operational date August 2026 at Manyata Tech Park, Bengaluru under India-Australia Education Cooperation Framework (2025-2030) offering undergraduate programmes in commerce, media, computer science, data science and postgraduate cybersecurity programme expanding international higher education access in India.
- **Galgotias University Inaugurates IIT Mandi Catalyst Satellite Centre:** Established to support early-stage startups promoting deep-technology innovation bridging research with real-world applications serving as innovation hub offering mentorship, investor access, market linkages, technology commercialisation, and acceleration support.
- **Galgotias University Research Partnerships:** University signed MoUs with National Institute of Technology Jamshedpur and Jharkhand University of Technology Ranchi facilitating joint research, faculty exchange, and co-creation of deep-technology startups strengthening academic-industry collaboration.



MINING & CIRCULAR ECONOMY

- **Hindustan Zinc Develops India's First Zinc Tailings Recycling Facility:** Rampura Agucha Mines will recover metals from processing waste under circular economy initiative establishing pioneering metal waste recycling capability supporting sustainable mining practices.

FINANCIAL SERVICES & DIGITAL PAYMENTS

- **Receivables Exchange of India Limited (RXIL) Returns Capital to Shareholders:** RXIL first Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) platform to declare 21.6% interim dividend marking historic milestone in fintech and MSME financing growth.
- **Buyforex Gets In-Principle PSP Nod at GIFT IFSC:** EbixCash subsidiary Buyforex authorized for account issuance, e-money issuance, merchant acquisition, and cross-border transfers at GIFT International Financial Services Centre expanding financial services infrastructure.

RAILWAY INNOVATION & SECURITY

- **Indian Railways Deploys First Humanoid Robot ASC ARJUN at Visakhapatnam:** Indigenously developed robot with AI-based crowd monitoring and face recognition deployed at Visakhapatnam railway station enhancing station security and passenger safety through advanced technology integration.

MARITIME & ENERGY INITIATIVES

- **GAIL Joins K LINE and J M Baxi for LNG Carrier Equity:** GAIL partnered with K LINE (Japanese shipping) and J M Baxi establishing LNG ship-owning company Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) in Singapore for charter operations with 2027 delivery scheduled supporting India's LNG infrastructure.

- **Government Establishes NSHIP for Mega Shipbuilding Cluster:** Government of India established new Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) NSHIP (National Shipbuilding and Heavy Industries Park) for 2,000-acre Thoothukudi shipbuilding hub targeting 0.5 million gross tonnage capacity by 2035 supporting India's maritime manufacturing.
- **Assam Petro-Chemicals Signs MoU with Deendayal Port:** Assam Petro-Chemicals signed MoU with Deendayal Port for 150 TPD e-methanol facility at Kandla Port with Rs 1,200 crore investment supports green shipping and sustainable chemical production.
- **Reliance Industries and ONGC Offshore Energy Agreement:** Reliance Industries and ONGC signed offshore energy resource-sharing agreement for joint asset utilization in KG Basin and Andaman blocks optimizing operational efficiency and reducing costs in deepwater operations.

CRITICAL MINERALS & RESOURCE SECURITY

- **Government Notifies Coking Coal as Critical Mineral:** Government of India notified coking coal as critical mineral reducing 95% import dependence despite possessing 37.37 billion tonnes domestic resources supporting energy security and self-reliance objectives.

INFRASTRUCTURE MONITORING & GOVERNANCE

- **MoSPI Operationalizes PAIMANA Portal for Infrastructure Projects:** Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation operationalized PAIMANA web-based monitoring portal for infrastructure projects monitoring Rs 150 crore+ Central Sector Scheme projects replacing 2006 OCMS system enhancing project oversight and transparency.

Static Takeaways

Entity / Topic	Key Details
Gujarat	<i>Chief Minister:</i> Bhupendra Patel <i>Governor:</i> Acharya Devvrat <i>Capital:</i> Gandhinagar <i>National Parks:</i> Gir NP, Blackbuck NP, Vansda NP, Marine NP <i>Wildlife Sanctuaries:</i> Nal Sarovar Bird Sanctuary, Velavadar Blackbuck Sanctuary, Kutch Desert Wildlife Sanctuary, Barda Wildlife Sanctuary, Purna Wildlife Sanctuary
Punjab	<i>Chief Minister:</i> Bhagwant Mann <i>Governor:</i> Gulab Chand Kataria <i>Capital:</i> Chandigarh <i>Wildlife Sanctuaries:</i> Abohar, Aishvan, Bir Bhadson, Bir Bunerheri, Bir Dosanjh Wildlife Sanctuaries
Spain	<i>Prime Minister:</i> Pedro Sánchez <i>Capital:</i> Madrid <i>Currency:</i> Euro (EUR)
Indian Army	<i>Headquarters:</i> New Delhi <i>Chief of Army Staff:</i> General Upendra Dwivedi
IndusInd Bank	<i>Headquarters:</i> Mumbai, Maharashtra, India <i>Founded:</i> 1994 <i>Slogan:</i> "We Make You Feel Richer"
Ministry of Finance (India)	<i>Cabinet Minister:</i> Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman <i>MoS:</i> Shri Pankaj Chaudhary
Uttar Pradesh	<i>Chief Minister:</i> Yogi Adityanath <i>Governor:</i> Anandiben Patel <i>Capital:</i> Lucknow <i>Wildlife Sanctuaries:</i> National Chambal WLS, Kaimoor WLS
World Health Organization (WHO)	<i>Director-General:</i> Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus <i>Headquarters:</i> Geneva, Switzerland <i>Role:</i> UN's global health emergency coordination agency

Entity / Topic	Key Details
Ministry of Railways (India)	<i>Cabinet Minister:</i> Ashwini Vaishnaw <i>MoS:</i> V. Somanna, Ravneet Singh Bittu <i>Chairman & CEO (Railway Board):</i> Satish Kumar
ICICI Bank	<i>Headquarters:</i> Mumbai, Maharashtra, India <i>CEO:</i> Sandeep Bakhshi <i>Founded:</i> Bank in 1994 (ICICI established 1955) <i>Slogan:</i> "Hum Hai Na, Khayal Apka"
India Intl Institute of Democracy & Election Management (IIIDEM)	<i>Established:</i> 2011 <i>Role:</i> Training for free, credible elections <i>Location:</i> Full campus at Dwarka, Delhi
Japan	<i>Prime Minister:</i> Shigeru Ishiba <i>Capital:</i> Tokyo <i>Currency:</i> Japanese Yen (JPY)
SEBI (India)	<i>Established:</i> 12 Apr 1988 (statutory from 30 Jan 1992) <i>Headquarters:</i> Mumbai, Maharashtra <i>Chairman:</i> Tuhin Kanta Pandey <i>Role:</i> Securities & commodity markets regulator under MoF
Kerala	<i>Chief Minister:</i> Pinarayi Vijayan <i>Governor:</i> Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar <i>Capital:</i> Thiruvananthapuram <i>National Parks:</i> Eravikulam NP, Silent Valley NP, Parambikulam Tiger Reserve, Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary <i>Wildlife Sanctuaries:</i> Wayanad, Idukki, Chilika Lake
AIFF (All India Football Federation)	<i>Founded:</i> 23 June 1937 <i>Role:</i> Governing football, futsal, beach soccer in India <i>Affiliation:</i> Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports <i>President:</i> Kalyan Chaubey
State Bank of India (SBI)	<i>Founded:</i> 1955 <i>Headquarters:</i> Mumbai, Maharashtra, India <i>Chairman:</i> Challa Sreenivasulu Setty <i>Slogan:</i> "The Banker to Every Indian"
UIDAI	<i>Statutory Authority:</i> Under Aadhaar Act 2016 <i>Chairman:</i> Neelkanth Mishra <i>CEO:</i> Bhuvnesh Kumar <i>HQ:</i> New Delhi <i>Product:</i> 12-digit Aadhaar ID
IBBI (Insolvency & Bankruptcy Board of India)	<i>Established:</i> 1 Oct 2016 (statutory via IBC 2016) <i>Role:</i> Insolvency regulation for Individuals, Companies, LLPs <i>HQ:</i> New Delhi
IEEE	<i>Established:</i> 1917 <i>President:</i> Mary Ellen Randall <i>HQ:</i> New York City <i>IEEE Medal of Honor:</i> Highest technical contribution award
DRDO (India)	<i>Headquarters:</i> New Delhi, India <i>Chairman:</i> Samir V. Kamat
Ministry of Commerce & Industry (India)	<i>Union Minister:</i> Piyush Goyal <i>MoS:</i> Jitin Prasada
Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (India)	<i>Union Minister:</i> Sarbananda Sonowal <i>MoS:</i> Shantanu Thakur
UNCTAD	<i>Secretary-General:</i> Rebeca Grynspan <i>Headquarters:</i> Geneva, Switzerland <i>Established:</i> 1964
UNESCO	<i>Director-General:</i> Khaled El-Enany <i>Headquarters:</i> Paris, France <i>Members:</i> 194 <i>Established:</i> 1945
Ministry of Tourism (India)	<i>Union Minister:</i> Gajendra Singh Shekhawat <i>MoS:</i> Suresh Gopi
Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying (India)	<i>Union Minister:</i> Rajiv Ranjan Singh (Lalan Singh) <i>MoS:</i> S.P. Singh Baghel, George Kurian
PFRDA (India)	<i>Chairman:</i> Sivasubramanian Ramann <i>Headquarters:</i> New Delhi <i>Established:</i> Interim 2003; Statutory 2014
Maharashtra	<i>Chief Minister:</i> Devendra Fadnavis <i>Governor:</i> Acharya Devvrat <i>Capital:</i> Mumbai <i>Airports:</i> Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Int'l, Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji Airport
IRENA	<i>Director-General:</i> Francesco La Camera <i>Headquarters:</i> Abu Dhabi, UAE <i>Established:</i> 2009
Assam	<i>Chief Minister:</i> Himanta Biswa Sarma <i>Governor:</i> Lakshman Prasad Acharya <i>Capital:</i> Dispur <i>National Parks:</i> Nameri NP, Orang NP
NITI Aayog (India)	<i>CEO:</i> B.V.R Subrahmanyam <i>Headquarters:</i> New Delhi <i>Established:</i> 2015
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (India)	<i>Union Minister:</i> Shivraj Singh Chouhan <i>MoS:</i> Ram Nath Thakur, Bhagirath Choudhary
Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (India)	<i>Union Minister:</i> Mansukh Mandaviya <i>MoS:</i> Raksha Khadse

Entity / Topic	Key Details
United Nations (UN)	<i>Secretary-General: António Guterres</i> <i>HQ: New York, USA</i> <i>Established: 1945</i>
Tamil Nadu	<i>Chief Minister: M.K. Stalin</i> <i>Governor: R.N. Ravi</i> <i>Capital: Chennai</i> <i>National Parks: Mudumalai NP, Gulf of Mannar NP</i>
IRDAI (India)	<i>Chairman: Ajay Seth</i> <i>Headquarters: Hyderabad, Telangana</i> <i>Established: 1999</i>
Slice Small Finance Bank (Slice SFB)	<i>CEO: Rajan Bajaj</i> <i>Headquarters: Guwahati, Assam</i> <i>Established: 2016</i>
World Health Organization (WHO) (Duplicate Entry)	<i>Director-General: Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus</i> <i>HQ: Geneva, Switzerland</i> <i>Established: 7 Apr 1948</i>

