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PM Modi Launches Nationwide HPV Vaccination Programme for 14-Year-Old Girls from Ajmer



- On 28 February, the nationwide Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination Programme for girls aged 14 years launched from Ajmer, Rajasthan, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The roll-out has been designed as a decisive public health intervention aimed at strengthening women's healthcare across the country.
- Approximately 1.15 crore girls each year across all States and Union Territories will be targeted under this initiative.
- The vaccine will be provided free of cost at designated government health facilities nationwide.
- Vaccination services will be delivered through Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, Community Health Centres, Sub-District and District Hospitals, and Government Medical Colleges.
- The administration of the vaccine will be carried out on a voluntary basis after obtaining informed consent from parents or guardians.
- Cervical cancer, which remains the second most common cancer among women in India, accounts for over 1.2 lakh new cases and nearly 80,000 deaths annually as per GLOBOCAN 2022 data.

- The quadrivalent HPV vaccine, Gardasil, will be utilised under the national programme to prevent high-risk HPV infections, particularly types 16 and 18.
- More than 80% of cervical cancer cases in India are caused by this.
- A special mission-mode campaign will be conducted for three months to ensure daily vaccination of eligible girls at designated centres.
- With this launch, India will join more than 160 countries that have incorporated HPV vaccination into their national immunisation schedules, thereby reinforcing preventive healthcare delivery.

VACCINE

Sanjay Seth Inaugurates Rebuilt Chungthang-Lachen Road & Taram Chu Bridge in North Sikkim

- Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth inaugurated the Chungthang-Lachen Road in North Sikkim.
- He also inaugurated the 400-foot-long Bailey suspension Taram Chu Bridge.
- It was repaired by the Border Roads Organisation.
- This reconstruction work was carried out following natural disasters in the area, including a cloudburst in May-June 2025, Cyclone Remal in June 2024, and a glacial lake outburst flood in October 2023.
- The BRO removed 96 landslides to restore connectivity. It rebuilt four major bridges and repaired two more under Project Swastik.
- The 7.5 km Naga-Tung section was opened in October 2025.
- The 28 km Chungthang-Lachen Road and Taram Chu Bridge will improve ease of movement for people.
- These projects are expected to boost economic activity in North Sikkim.



Indian Navy's Sail Training Ship INS Tarangini Arrives in Trincomalee Under 'Bridges of Friendship' Initiative

- The Indian Navy's sail training ship INS Tarangini arrived in Trincomalee, Sri Lanka.
- This visit is part of the maritime outreach initiative called 'Bridges of Friendship.'
- The program aims to strengthen naval cooperation with Sri Lanka.
- The ship is commanded by Commander Nitin Gajjar.
- It is a three-masted barque used for sail training.
- The ship is on its return voyage from Visakhapatnam, where it participated in the International Fleet Review 2026.
- During this visit, three Sri Lankan Navy officers will embark on board.
- Twenty-five Sri Lankan Navy trainee officers will also join the ship.
- They will receive practical ocean-sailing training. The training will include both harbor and sea phases.
- INS Tarangini is the Indian Navy's first sail training ship. The ship circumnavigated the globe in 2004.
- After departing Trincomalee, the ship will proceed to Colombo. The Colombo visit will include further training and engagement activities.



Jammu and Kashmir wins maiden Ranji Trophy



- J&K defeated **Karnataka** at KSCA Stadium, in Hubballi, Karnataka, on February 28, 2026.
- The title run also bookends skipper Paras Dogra's incredible red-ball domestic career. The 41-year-old warhorse, a veteran of 153 First Class matches, is only the second man after Mumbai legend Wasim Jaffer to score more than 10,000 runs in the Ranji Trophy.
- Launched in 1934, the Ranji Trophy is India's premier domestic first-class cricket championship, played annually between teams representing regional and state cricket associations.
- Jammu and Kashmir etched their name in history by winning the Ranji Trophy 2025-26 in their maiden final appearance.
- At the KSCA Cricket Stadium in Hubballi, J&K defeated eight-time champions Karnataka by securing a massive first-innings lead of 291 runs.
- Led by captain Paras Dogra, the team celebrated in style as Chief Minister Omar Abdullah watched from the stands.
- With this triumph, Jammu and Kashmir became only the 10th team in 92 years to win the Ranji Trophy in their debut final.

Key Performers: Shubham Pundir and Aquib Nabi Dar Shine

- Shubham Pundir scored a crucial century in the first innings.
- Aquib Nabi Dar picked up a match-winning five-wicket haul (fifer).
- Karnataka were bowled out for 293 runs, despite resistance from Mayank Agarwal.
- Captain Paras Dogra led confidently and declared strategically in the second innings.
- The team displayed strong batting depth and disciplined bowling.
- The balanced team performance ensured Jammu and Kashmir's maiden final win.

Ranji Trophy Legacy

- The Ranji Trophy, started in 1934-35, is India's premier domestic cricket tournament.
- Named after Maharaja Ranjitsinhji, it has shaped Indian cricket for decades.
- Over 92 years, only a handful of teams have managed to win the title in their maiden final appearance.
- Traditionally dominated by teams like Mumbai (Bombay) and Karnataka, the tournament remains a key platform for emerging cricketers across India.

Sikkim to Rename Pakyong Airport After Freedom Fighter Trilochan Pokhrel



- **Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang** announced that **Pakyong Airport**, the only airport in the Himalayan state, will be **renamed after freedom fighter Trilochan Pokhrel**.
- The announcement was made during the **31st Foundation Day celebration of the Akhil Sikkim Khas Chettri Bahun Kalyan Sangh at Rangpo**.
- Trilochan Pokhrel, popularly known as **“Gandhi Pokhrel,”** is regarded as **Sikkim’s first independence activist** and played a significant role in spreading nationalist ideas in the region.
- He actively participated in major movements of India’s freedom struggle, including the **Non-Cooperation Movement (1920–22)**, **Civil Disobedience Movement (1930–34)** and **Quit India Movement (1942)**, and was deeply inspired by **Mahatma Gandhi**.
- Belonging to the Khas, Chettri, Bahun community, he contributed to connecting Sikkim’s population with the broader Indian independence movement.

- The renaming of Pakyong Airport symbolises official recognition of Sikkim's contribution to India's freedom struggle and honours a leader associated with courage, unity and national pride.
- Pakyong Airport is located about **30 km from Gangtok** and is the **only airport in Sikkim**, significantly improving air connectivity, tourism, trade and regional accessibility in the Himalayan region.
- The airport was inaugurated on **24 September 2018** by **Narendra Modi** as a strategic connectivity project.
- During the Foundation Day event, the Chief Minister also highlighted the role of the Akhil Sikkim Khas Chettri Bahun Kalyan Sangh in preserving cultural heritage, promoting unity among communities and strengthening social harmony in Sikkim.
- Sikkim became the **22nd state of India in 1975** after a referendum, and despite its small size, holds strategic and geopolitical importance in the Himalayan region.
- The decision to rename the airport reinforces Sikkim's commitment to preserving historical legacy and celebrating local freedom fighters who contributed to India's independence movement.

About Sikkim:

- Chief Minister: Prem Singh Tamang
- Governor: Om Prakash Mathur
- Capital: Gangtok
- National Parks: Khangchendzonga National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Fambong Lho Wildlife Sanctuary, Kyongnosla Alpine Sanctuary, Maenam Wildlife Sanctuary

India's First Commercial Semiconductor Memory Module Production Begins in Gujarat



- The state-of-the-art Semiconductor Assembly, Test and Packaging (ATMP) facility of Micron Technology inaugurated in Sanand, Gujarat, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The event officially marked the start of commercial production and shipment of the first Made-in-India semiconductor memory module.
- The facility has been established with a total investment of over ₹22,500 crore under the India Semiconductor Mission.
- The project, whose ground-breaking was performed in September 2023, has now been readied to convert advanced DRAM and NAND wafers into finished products for global markets.
- The inauguration is being regarded as a transformative step for India's expanding technology ecosystem.
- Nearly 500,000 square feet of cleanroom space has been created at the plant, placing it among the largest raised-floor cleanrooms worldwide.

- Indigenous memory modules will begin commercial shipments from this facility, strengthening domestic manufacturing capabilities.
- The initiative represents the first proposal approved under the national semiconductor mission.

About Gujarat state

- Capital: Gandhinagar
- Governor: Acharya Devvrat
- Chief Minister: Bhupendra Patel
- National Parks: Gir National Park, Blackbuck National Park (Velavadar), Marine National Park (Gulf of Kachchh), Vansda National Park

RAV Achievers felicitated with Jeevan Gaurav and Ayurveda Gaurav Samman at National Arogya Fair 2026



- Prestigious honours were conferred upon eminent Vaidyas associated with Rashtriya Ayurveda Vidyapeeth (RAV) during the National Arogya Fair 2026 held at Shegaon, Maharashtra.
- The awards were presented by President Droupadi Murmu in recognition of exemplary contributions to Ayurveda.
- The ceremony was organised by the Ministry of Ayush in association with the Akhil Bhartiya Ayurved Mahasammelan.
- The Jeevan Gaurav Samman was conferred upon Devendra Triguna for his lifelong service and leadership in Ayurveda.
- The Ayurveda Gaurav Samman was awarded to distinguished practitioners including Prof. Rakesh Amarnath Sharma, P. M. Warriar, Ramdas Avhad, Maneesha Upendra Kothekar and Ashutosh Satish Gupta.
- The honours acknowledged dedication, scholarship, clinical excellence and global promotion of Ayurveda.
- The National Arogya Fair 2026 was conducted from 25 to 28 February 2026, highlighting the promotion of traditional healthcare systems.

Awardees and Honours Conferred:

1. Jeevan Gaurav Samman-

- **Vaidya Shri Devendra Triguna Ji:** Recipient of Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan; President, RAV (Ministry of Ayush); President, All India Ayurved Mahasammelan Trust

2. Ayurveda Gaurav Samman

- **Prof. Vaidya Shri Rakesh Amarnath Sharma Ji:** Governing Body Member, RAV; President, All India Ayurved Mahasammelan
- **Vaidya Shri P. M. Warriar Ji:** Managing Trustee & Chief Physician, Arya Vaidya Sala; CRAV Guru, RAV
- **Vaidya Shri Ramdas Avhad Ji:** Recipient of National Dhanvantari Ayurveda Award 2023; CRAV Guru, RAV
- **Vaidya Smt. Maneesha Upendra Kothekar Ji:** Chairperson, National Commission for Indian System of Medicine
- **Vaidya Shri Ashutosh Satish Gupta Ji:** Fellow of Rashtriya Ayurveda Vidyapeeth (FRAV); Former President, Maharashtra Council of Indian Medicine, Mumbai

India's real GDP grew by 7.8% in the third quarter of the current fiscal year

- Real GDP growth is projected to be 7.6% for 2025–26. This is higher than the 7.1% recorded in 2024–25.
- The Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation released a new series of annual and quarterly national accounts estimates.
- The revised series uses 2022–23 as the base year. This replaces the previous base year of 2011–12.
- The year 2022–23 was chosen because it reflects a stable period post-COVID.
- The economy grew by 8.4% in the second quarter of the current fiscal year. Growth slowed slightly to 7.8% in the third quarter.
- India recorded real GDP growth of 7.2% in 2023–24. Growth was 7.1% in 2024–25.
- The manufacturing sector has been a key driver of economic resilience. It achieved double-digit growth in 2023-24.
- The secondary sector recorded growth of over 9% in the current financial year. The tertiary sector also grew by over 9%.
- Trade, hotels, transport, broadcasting-related services, and storage sectors achieved a growth rate of 10.1% at constant prices in 2025-26.
- Private final consumption expenditure increased by over 7% in 2025-26.
- Gross fixed capital formation also increased by over 7% during the year.



Google has launched Nano Banana 2, which is the successor to its viral AI image-generation tool

- Nano Banana 2 has been rolled out in the Gemini app. It is also available in AI Mode.
- It is included in Flow, the company's AI-powered video platform.
- The original Nano Banana tool was introduced in August. The tool attracted 13 million new users to the Gemini app in four days.
- By mid-October, users had generated over five billion images.
- Google released Nano Banana Pro in November. Nano Banana 2 runs on Gemini's Flash models.
- The new version generates images more quickly. It also improves editing speed.
- The model follows user instructions more accurately. It produces sharper and more detailed images.
- Google unveiled Gemini 3 in November. The Gemini app recorded more than 750 million monthly active users by the end of December.



Haryana to Launch CM Shri Schools on PM Shri Model



- **Haryana Education Minister Mahipal Dhanda** announced the launch of **CM Shri Schools** on the lines of **PM Shri Schools** during the Budget Session of the Haryana Vidhan Sabha.
- The schools will follow the **CBSE curriculum pattern**, aiming to ensure uniform academic standards, structured evaluation, skill-based learning and better preparation for competitive examinations.
- The initiative focuses on **modern infrastructure, smart classrooms, experiential learning and improved teaching methodologies**, in line with reforms under **National Education Policy 2020**.
- The objective is to upgrade state-run schools into model institutions and improve overall learning outcomes across Haryana.
- The state continues to implement **25% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and Disadvantaged Groups (DG)** in private schools under the **Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act**.
- During the last academic session, **14,127 applications** were received under RTE provisions, and **11,803 students** were **allotted seats** in private schools.

- The RTE Act mandates **free and compulsory education for children aged 6–14 years**, with the government reimbursing private schools for admitted students.
- The introduction of CM Shri Schools, along with continued RTE implementation, reflects Haryana's dual focus on **quality education reform and inclusive access for disadvantaged students**.

About Haryana:

- Chief Minister: Nayab Singh Saini
- Governor: Ashim Kumar Ghosh
- Capital: Chandigarh
- National Parks: Sultanpur National Park, Kalesar National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary, Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary, Nahar Wildlife Sanctuary

US and Israel attack Iran



- The United States and Israel launched a massive, coordinated military offensive against Iran on 28 February 2026.
- Named ‘**Operation Epic Fury**’ by the U.S. and ‘**Operation Roaring Lion**’ by Israel, the strikes targeted Iranian leadership, nuclear facilities, and missile infrastructure across the country.
- Iran immediately launched a counter-offensive, codenamed ‘**Operation Truthful Promise 4**’, targeting Israeli and U.S. assets across the Middle East.
- Iranian state media confirmed that Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was killed in the strikes, a major escalation in the conflict.
- The U.S. military confirmed three American service members killed and several seriously wounded amid ongoing combat operations.
- Reports indicate significant civilian and military casualties inside Iran, though exact figures vary; Iranian sources reported hundreds killed and many more injured.

- Hezbollah and other Iran-aligned militant groups carried out attacks in Lebanon and Iraq, prompting further Israeli strikes beyond Iran's borders.
- The conflict has triggered volatility in global markets, particularly in oil prices, due to fears about stability in the Persian Gulf region and potential closure of key trade routes.
- With Khamenei's death, Iran has shifted to temporary leadership, raising uncertainty about future governance and diplomatic responses.

Core Underlying Issues

- **Iran's Nuclear and Missile Program:** The U.S. and Israel have long accused Iran of trying to develop nuclear weapons and advanced ballistic missiles that could threaten them and their allies. They want Iran to *halt enrichment and accept strict verification*, while Iran insists its program is peaceful — a claim the other side doubts.
- **Regional Power Struggle:** Iran is seen as seeking to expand its influence across the Middle East — supporting allied militias and political movements in places like Lebanon (Hezbollah), Syria, Iraq, and Gaza — which Israel and the U.S. view as destabilizing.
- **Hostile Israel–Iran Relations:** Since the 1979 Iranian Revolution, Iran's government has refused to recognize Israel's right to exist, while Israel sees Iran as an *existential security threat*. This ideological hostility fuels deep mistrust and proxy conflicts.
- **Geopolitical Alliances:** The U.S. and Israel are close allies, with shared strategic goals in the region. Iran's adversarial relationship with both makes escalation more likely, especially when diplomatic negotiations fail.
- **Attempts at Regime Change:** Some U.S. leaders have openly stated that their goal is not just halting nuclear advances but *weakening or changing Iran's political system*, which Tehran sees as a direct threat to its sovereignty.

- **Proxy and Proxy-Linked Conflict:** Iran funds and arms armed groups opposed to Israel (like Hezbollah and Hamas). These groups have engaged in cross-border attacks, prompting Israeli military responses and contributing to the tensions.
- **Breakdown of Diplomacy:** Prior negotiations (including talks mediated by third countries) over Iran's nuclear activities frequently stalled or collapsed, pushing both sides back toward military actions instead of peaceful settlement.
- **Security Perceptions:** Israel considers any Iranian nuclear capability or missile capability as a *direct existential threat*, while Iran sees U.S. and Israeli military presence and strikes as infringements on its sovereignty and security.
- **Retaliation Dynamics:** Each military action by one side — strikes, missile launches, or support to proxies — triggers a retaliatory response, creating a cycle that intensifies the conflict.
- **Regional Impact and Spillover Risk:** Because of alliances and military bases across the Middle East, what starts as a U.S.–Israel–Iran clash can quickly draw in neighboring countries or affect global interests (like oil and trade routes), increasing stakes for all parties.

About Iran country

- Capital: **Tehran**
- Currency: **Iranian rial (IRR)**
- Official Language: *Persian (Farsi)*.

About Israel country

- Capital: **Jerusalem**
- Currency: **New Israeli Shekel**
- Official Language: **Hebrew** (*primary official language*); **Arabic** also has special status.