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First-Ever Khelo India Tribal Games to Be Held from March 25 to April 6 in Chhattisgarh



- The first-ever Khelo India Tribal Games (KITG) will be held in Chhattisgarh from March 25 to April 6, 2026, across the three cities of Raipur, Jagdalpur and Sarguja.
- Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports Dr Mansukh Mandaviya announced the event, emphasising that the Games are part of expanding opportunities for youth and strengthening India's sports talent base emerging from tribal areas.
- The KITG will feature seven medal sports: athletics, football, hockey, weightlifting, archery, swimming and wrestling, and two demonstration sports mallakhamb and kabaddi.
- The event aims to identify talented tribal athletes early, support them systematically, and integrate them into the national sports framework.
- The logo, theme song and mascot of the first-ever Khelo India Tribal Games (KITG) were formally unveiled at the Late B. R. Yadav Sports Stadium in Bilaspur on December 23.
- The launch ceremony was graced by Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Shri Vishnu Deo Sai and Deputy Chief Minister Shri Arun Sao.

- The official mascot ‘Morveer’, is a name deeply rooted in Chhattisgarh’s cultural ethos. Derived from two powerful words — ‘Mor’, meaning mine or our own in Chhattisgarhi, and ‘Veer’, symbolising courage and valour — Morveer represents the spirit, pride and identity of India’s tribal communities.
- Chhattisgarh is the first state to host this landmark national event, marking a significant step in tribal empowerment and grassroots sports inclusion.
- The Games are jointly managed by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Sports Authority of India (SAI), Indian Olympic Association, National Sports Federations and the Chhattisgarh state organising committee, with standards benchmarked against international competitions.
- KITG is part of the Khelo India Scheme, a flagship Central Sector Scheme aimed at promoting mass participation and sporting excellence in India.
- The Khelo India Games were declared an ‘Event of National Importance’ in 2020 under the Sports Broadcasting Signals Act, 2007.

About Chhattisgarh:

- Formation: 1 November 2000. It is carved out of Madhya Pradesh
- Capital: Raipur
- Governor: Ramen Deka
- Chief Minister: Vishnu Deo Sai
- National Parks & Wildlife Sanctuaries: Indravati National Park, Kanger Valley National Park, Guru Ghasidas National Park.
- Major Wildlife Sanctuaries: Achanakmar Wildlife Sanctuary, Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary, Udanti-Sitanadi Wildlife Sanctuary

India's Forex Reserves Reach Record High Of Over 728 Billion USD

- India's foreign exchange reserves reached a record high of \$728.494 billion for the week ended February 27, 2026, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- The total reserves increased by approximately \$4.88 billion during the reporting week, reversing a decline in the previous week.
- Foreign currency assets (FCA), the largest component of the forex reserves, rose by about \$561 million to \$573.125 billion, reflecting valuation effects of major global currencies such as the US dollar, euro, pound and yen.
- Gold reserves surged by around \$4.141 billion to \$131.63 billion, contributing significantly to the overall increase in reserves.
- Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) held with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) increased by about \$26 million to \$18.87 billion, while India's reserve position with the IMF rose by roughly \$158 million to \$4.87 billion.
- The previous all-time high of forex reserves was recorded at around \$725.727 billion in mid-February 2026.
- Record forex reserves enhance India's ability to manage currency volatility, support imports, and provide a buffer against external economic shocks.



Smriti Mandhana named in Barbie's first-ever Dream Team

- Indian women's cricket vice-captain Smriti Mandhana has been named in Mattel's first-ever Barbie Dream Team.
- The Dream Team is a global initiative celebrating women who have broken barriers in their fields, announced ahead of International Women's Day 2026.
- Mandhana becomes the first cricketer in the world to be honoured with a one-of-a-kind Barbie doll modelled in her likeness, recognising her outstanding achievements and influence in women's cricket.
- The announcement was made on March 5, 2026, just days before International Women's Day (March 8), underscoring her role as an inspirational role model for young girls worldwide.
- The limited-edition Barbie doll reflects Mandhana's identity as a cricketer, featuring her jersey (No.18) and cricket gear, and is a symbolic commemorative tribute that will not be commercially sold.
- The Barbie Dream Team includes a select group of global women achievers, such as Serena Williams (tennis legend), Chloe Kelly (footballer), Kellie Gerardi (astronaut), Regina Sirvent Alvarado (race car driver), Helene Fischer (pop artist), Zoja Skubis (mountaineer), and Stephanie Gilmore (surfer).



India Launches World's First Franchise-Based Road Cycling League



- Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Mansukh Mandaviya unveiled the logo of the world's first franchise-based Road Cycling League, named the Cycling League of India, on March 5, 2026.
- The Cycling League of India is the first professional franchise-based road cycling league in the world, aimed at creating a structured professional ecosystem for cycling in India.
- The initiative seeks to promote cycling as a competitive sport, nurture young talent, and attract global attention to India's cycling ecosystem, while supporting the vision of a fit and vibrant India.
- The league will feature eight city or region-based franchises, with each team consisting of 10 cyclists.
- The team composition will include two international riders to bring global expertise and two junior cyclists to nurture emerging Indian talent and ensure long-term sustainability of the sport.
- The competition will be conducted in three structured phases leading to a grand finale, with race formats such as criterium races, team time trials, and mass-start races.

- The initiative builds on the growing popularity of professional cycling events in India, including the Pune Grand Tour, which has emerged as the world's largest (Union Cycliste Internationale) UCI 2.2 stage race, attracting around 2.5 million spectators and generating ₹144 million in PR value (Public Relations value.).
- The cycling movement in India has also gained momentum through the Fit India Sundays on Cycle programme launched in December 2024, which has recorded over 25 lakh participants across more than 2.5 lakh locations in 63+ editions.
- The programme has expanded from five locations and about 500 participants initially to over 10,000 locations every Sunday, with more than 10 lakh citizens regularly participating.
- The movement has received encouragement from Narendra Modi, promoting cycling as a people-led solution for fitness and reducing pollution.
- Other major cycling events supporting the sport's growth in India include the Statue of Unity Cyclothon and the HCL Cyclothons.
- The Cycling League of India is expected to strengthen India's cycling ecosystem, provide greater opportunities for athletes, and enhance India's presence in the global sports landscape.
- The initiative reflects the rapid expansion of professional sports leagues in India, with 2026 expected to witness the launch of several new professional leagues across multiple sports.

L&T Finance launches specialised 'Spoorthi' programme for women entrepreneurs

- L&T Finance launched a specialised programme called “Spoorthi” aimed at empowering women entrepreneurs by providing easier access to finance.
- The programme was launched ahead of International Women’s Day 2026 to support women who are running businesses individually or jointly and require financial assistance.
- The Spoorthi initiative offers specialised Home Loans and Loan Against Property (LAP) to help women entrepreneurs purchase house property or obtain funds for business expansion and working capital needs.
- Under the programme, home loans and LAP loans are offered with extended tenures of up to 25 years, while industrial LAP loans can have tenures up to 12 years.
- The scheme provides relaxed eligibility norms, including higher debt-to-income ratio limits, allowing women entrepreneurs greater financial flexibility.
- The programme also reduces the minimum business vintage requirement to two years for loans up to ₹75 lakh, making it easier for emerging women entrepreneurs to access credit.
- To qualify, the woman borrower must play a key role in managing the business, and in case of non-individual entities she should hold at least a 50% ownership stake.
- The initiative will initially be rolled out in major metropolitan cities such as Mumbai (MMR), Delhi-NCR, Bengaluru, Chennai, Pune, Ahmedabad, Kolkata, and Hyderabad.
- According to Sudipta Roy, Managing Director & CEO of L&T Finance, the programme aims to support women borrowers, encourage entrepreneurship, and contribute to a more inclusive financial ecosystem.
- The launch reflects the growing focus of financial institutions on promoting women-led enterprises and expanding access to credit for women entrepreneurs in India.

RBI caps claims for small-value digital frauds at Rs 50,000

RBI CAPS DIGITAL FRAUD PAYOUTS AT ₹25,000 PER VICTIM

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued draft guidelines in March 2026 to strengthen customer protection against digital banking frauds and unauthorised electronic transactions.
- The proposed rules aim to provide compensation to customers for small-value digital frauds involving losses up to ₹50,000 in electronic banking transactions.
- Under the new framework, affected customers will receive 85% of the net loss amount or ₹25,000, whichever is lower as compensation.
- The compensation benefit can be availed only once during a customer's lifetime for such fraud cases.
- The rules will apply to electronic banking transactions, including UPI payments, mobile banking, internet banking, debit/credit card transactions, and ATM transactions.
- To be eligible for compensation, the victim must report the fraud within five days to the bank and through the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal or helpline 1930.
- The burden of proving customer negligence or liability will lie with the banks, strengthening consumer protection in digital transactions.

- In cases where the fraud occurs due to bank negligence or a third-party breach and is reported promptly, customers may receive zero liability protection and full reversal of the transaction.
- The compensation amount will be shared among institutions, with RBI bearing about 65% of the payout, while the customer's bank and beneficiary bank contribute around 10% each in certain cases.
- The proposed rules are part of the Reserve Bank of India (Commercial Banks – Responsible Business Conduct) Third Amendment Directions, 2026, and are expected to come into effect from 1 July 2026.
- The framework aims to enhance customer confidence in digital payments and improve grievance redressal mechanisms amid rising cases of digital banking fraud.

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Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka become first Indian states to ban social media for children



- Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh became the first Indian states to move towards restricting social media access for children, reflecting growing concern over the impact of digital platforms on minors' mental health, safety and academic performance.
- In Karnataka, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced in the 2026–27 State Budget that children below 16 years will be banned from using social media platforms, with the objective of preventing the adverse effects of increasing mobile phone and social media usage among minors.
- The Karnataka proposal was included under the School Education section of the state budget, and aims to reduce problems such as excessive screen time, mobile addiction, negative behavioural impact, and mental health issues among students.
- The measure is intended to protect children from risks such as cyberbullying, exposure to harmful content, online grooming, privacy threats, and addictive algorithm-driven engagement, which may affect psychological well-being and learning outcomes.

- In Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu announced that the state government plans to introduce legislation within about 90 days to restrict children below 13 years from accessing social media platforms.
- The Andhra Pradesh proposal was based on recommendations by IT and HRD Minister Nara Lokesh, who studied the risks of unchecked online content and increasing digital exposure among children.
- The state is also considering additional regulations for the 13–16 age group, after wider consultations with stakeholders and experts.
- The Andhra Pradesh government constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM), including Home Minister V. Anitha, to study global practices and recommend policy measures regarding social media restrictions for minors.
- Proposed measures include stricter age-verification mechanisms on social media platforms, requiring proof of identity and age verification, and improving algorithms to prevent inappropriate content from being shown to children.
- The Andhra Pradesh government may introduce legislation and, if required, seek approval from the Union Government, while also advocating for the possibility of a uniform national policy on regulating children's social media usage in India.
- These initiatives align with global debates on regulating children's access to social media, as governments worldwide explore measures to reduce digital addiction and safeguard minors online.

Dipali Das from Assam becomes first to get Indian citizenship after two years in detention camp



- Dipali Das, a 59-year-old woman from Assam, became the first person in the state who had earlier been declared a foreigner and kept in a detention centre to later receive Indian citizenship under the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 (CAA).
- She is a resident of Hawaithang village in Cachar district and had been living in the region for several decades with her family.
- Dipali Das was born in 1966 in Sylhet district (now in Bangladesh) and later migrated to India after marrying Abhimanyu Das.
- In 2013, a police investigation questioned her citizenship status and a chargesheet alleged that she had entered India after 25 March 1971, which is the cut-off date used in Assam to identify illegal migrants.
- Based on this case, a Foreigners' Tribunal declared her an illegal migrant on 5 February 2019, after which she was sent to a detention centre in Silchar.

- She remained in detention for nearly two years and was released on bail in May 2021 following directions from the Supreme Court of India regarding prolonged detention of declared foreigners.
- Although the CAA was enacted in 2019, its implementation rules were notified only in 2024, enabling eligible migrants to formally apply for Indian citizenship.
- Dipali Das applied for citizenship under the CAA, and after verification by authorities and the Ministry of Home Affairs, she was granted an Indian citizenship certificate on 6 March 2026.
- The case is significant in Assam's citizenship debate, as it marks the first instance of a person earlier declared a foreigner and detained being granted citizenship under the CAA.

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NABARD unveils climate innovation challenge with ₹15 lakh top prize



- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) launched the Climate Innovation Challenge to encourage innovative technological solutions for climate-resilient agriculture and rural development in India.
- The initiative is implemented in collaboration with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Dalberg Advisors, aiming to strengthen India's climate data and innovation ecosystem.
- The challenge focuses on developing a National Climate Stack, which will integrate multiple climate datasets to provide reliable climate intelligence for agriculture, rural finance and policymaking.
- The programme is built on NABARD's DiCRA (Data in Climate Resilient Agriculture) platform, which is being developed as a digital public infrastructure for climate data and risk analytics.
- The initiative seeks solutions for forecasting climate hazards for the next 10–15 years, enabling better preparedness against risks such as droughts, floods, cyclones and heatwaves affecting rural livelihoods.

- The Climate Innovation Challenge was launched on 6 March 2026, with applications open from 6 March to 30 March 2026 for participants across India.
- The challenge invites participation from startups, research institutions, universities, climate scientists and technology innovators to design practical tools using climate data.
- Under the competition, the top three winners will receive prize money of ₹15 lakh (first prize), ₹10 lakh (second prize) and ₹5 lakh (third prize).
- The initiative aims to improve climate-risk management and strengthen climate-resilient agricultural planning in India, supporting sustainable rural development.

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YES Bank appoints Vinay Muralidhar Tonse as MD & CEO-designate

- Private sector lender YES Bank announced the appointment of Vinay Muralidhar Tonse as its Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
- The appointment of Vinay Muralidhar Tonse has been approved by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and is subject to the approval of the bank's shareholders.
- He has been appointed for a tenure of three years as MD & CEO of YES Bank.
- Before formally taking charge, he will serve as MD & CEO-Designate from 12 March 2026 to 5 April 2026 to ensure a smooth leadership transition.
- Vinay Muralidhar Tonse will officially assume charge as MD & CEO on 6 April 2026.
- He will succeed Prashant Kumar, whose tenure as MD & CEO of YES Bank is scheduled to end on 5 April 2026.
- Prior to this appointment, Vinay Muralidhar Tonse served as Managing Director (Retail Business & Operations) at State Bank of India (SBI).
- He retired from State Bank of India on 30 November 2025 after a long career in the bank.
- During his tenure at State Bank of India, he oversaw retail banking operations, digital banking initiatives, and the management of the bank's extensive branch network.
- He possesses over three decades of experience in banking, particularly in retail banking, corporate banking, international banking, and risk management.



Hurun Global Rich List 2026

- The Hurun Global Rich List 2026 was released by the Hurun Research Institute, ranking the world's richest individuals based on their net worth.
- According to the report, the number of billionaires worldwide reached a record 4,020 in 2026, the first time the global billionaire count crossed 4,000.
- United States ranked first globally with about 1,000 billionaires, followed by China with about 1,110 billionaires, while India ranked third with 308 billionaires.
- India added 57 new billionaires in 2026, increasing the country's total number of billionaires to 308, highlighting rapid wealth creation in the country.
- The combined wealth of Indian billionaires reached approximately ₹112.6 lakh crore, registering around 10% growth compared with the previous year.
- Mukesh Ambani remains richest person in India and Asia with ₹9.8 lakh crore wealth.
- Gautam Adani ranked 2nd, despite 14% fall in wealth to about ₹7.5 lakh crore.
- Roshni Nadar Malhotra is India's richest woman and the only woman in the top-10.
- Mumbai emerged as the city with the highest number of billionaires in India, reinforcing its status as the financial capital of the country.
- The report noted that the healthcare sector produced the largest number of billionaires in India (53), followed by industrial products (36) and consumer goods (31) sectors.
- Ritesh Agarwal, founder of OYO, was identified as the youngest billionaire in India at the age of 32.

Top 10 Richest Indians – Hurun Global Rich List 2026:

Rank (India)	Name	Company / Group	Net Worth
1	Mukesh Ambani	Reliance Industries	₹9.8 lakh crore
2	Gautam Adani	Adani Group	₹7.5 lakh crore
3	Roshni Nadar Malhotra	HCL Technologies	₹3.2 lakh crore
4	Cyrus S. Poonawalla	Serum Institute of India	₹3.0 lakh crore
5	Kumar Mangalam Birla	Aditya Birla Group	₹2.5 lakh crore
6	Niraj Bajaj	Bajaj Group	~₹2.3 lakh crore
7	Dilip Shanghvi	Sun Pharmaceutical Industries	~₹2.3 lakh crore
8	Azim Premji	Wipro	~₹2.2 lakh crore
9	Ashok P. Hinduja	Hinduja Group	~₹1.9 lakh crore
10	Radhakishan Damani	Avenue Supermarts (DMart)	~₹1.8 lakh crore

- Globally, the report highlighted that Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become a major driver of wealth creation, with over 100 billionaires linked to AI-related companies worldwide.
- The Hurun Global Rich List 2026 highlights India's growing position as one of the world's fastest-growing billionaire ecosystems, with rising wealth creation across technology, healthcare, and manufacturing sectors.
- Elon Musk topped the list with \$792 billion, mainly driven by growth in Tesla and SpaceX.

Top 5 Richest People in the World – Hurun Global Rich List 2026:

Global Rank	Name	Company	Net Worth
1	Elon Musk	Tesla, SpaceX	\$792 billion
2	Jeff Bezos	Amazon	\$300 billion
3	Larry Page	Alphabet (Google)	\$271 billion
4	Larry Ellison	Oracle	\$267 billion
5	Sergey Brin	Alphabet (Google)	\$247 billion

Gujarat BJP MLA Govind Parmar dies at 72

- Govind Parmar, a four-time MLA from Gujarat, passed away at the age of 72.
- He was elected from Umreth constituency in Anand district as a BJP candidate in 2017 and 2022.
- Parmar was first elected to the Gujarat Legislative Assembly in 1995 from Sarsa constituency as an independent candidate.
- He won the Sarsa seat again in 1998, representing the Indian National Congress (INC).
- After losing subsequent elections, he joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).
- The Sarsa constituency was merged into Umreth in 2008.
- Parmar faced defeat in the 2012 elections but won from Umreth in 2017 and 2022 as a BJP candidate.
- Born in 1953, Parmar had a political career spanning over three decades across multiple parties.

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah Launches Development Projects Worth Over Rs 3,700 Crore In Odisha

- Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah inaugurated and laid foundation stones for projects worth ₹3,770 crore in Odisha.
- The projects included 173 state government initiatives, with 61 completed (₹1,230 crore) and 112 foundation stones laid (₹2,116 crore).
- Central government projects included 3 under the Ministry of Home Affairs and 4 under the Ministry of Cooperation.
- A Sulphuric Acid Plant-III at IFFCO, Paradip was inaugurated to strengthen domestic fertiliser production and reduce import dependence.
- Foundation stone was laid for the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) campus in Odisha and a Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) campus.
- A temporary NFSU campus was inaugurated, with full operations expected in 3 years, offering ~30 courses and capacity for ~2,500 students.
- Cooperative sector initiatives included projects by NDDDB and OMFED, aiming to establish a strong dairy cooperative network in every village.
- Focus was given to enhancing law enforcement, forensic capacity, and internal security, with Odisha targeting elimination of Left-wing extremism by March 31, 2026.
- The event was attended by Odisha CM and other central ministers, covering sectors like education, health, police, cooperative development, and rural infrastructure.



Aviation Regulator DGCA Grants Aerodrome License For Noida International Airport At Jewar



- The DGCA has granted the Aerodrome License to Yamuna International Airport Private Limited (YIAPL) for Noida International Airport (NIA) at Jewar, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh.
- The airport is developed under a Public–Private Partnership (PPP) model by YIAPL, a wholly owned subsidiary of Zurich Airport International AG, with the Government of Uttar Pradesh and the Government of India.
- The concession period started on 1 October 2021 and will continue for 40 years.
- NIA is licensed under the Public Use category for all-weather, 24×7 operations.
- The airport has a runway (10/28) measuring 3,900 m × 45 m, equipped with an Instrument Landing System (ILS) and Aeronautical Ground Lighting (AGL) system.
- It has parking for 24 Code C and 2 Code D/F aircraft, with ARFF Category 9 facilities, capable of handling wide-body aircraft such as Boeing 777-300ER.

- The airport is being developed in four phases along with a multi-modal cargo hub, with Phase 1 handling 12 million passengers annually and the final phase expected to handle up to 70 million passengers per year, making it a major aviation hub for NCR and Western Uttar Pradesh.
- The development of NIA is part of India's broader vision under the Ministry of Civil Aviation to build a robust aviation ecosystem.
- India's operational airports have increased from 74 in 2014 to 164 in 2026, making it the third-largest domestic aviation market in the world, with a long-term goal of developing over 400 airports by 2047.
- India is expanding its aviation network through greenfield airports, brownfield upgrades, and regional airstrips, supported by initiatives such as the UDAN scheme.
- Civil Aviation Minister Rammohan Naidu Kinjarapu highlighted that NIA will strengthen aviation connectivity, boost regional economic growth, tourism, and investment, provide a world-class passenger experience, and help ease congestion at existing airports in the region.

2nd Edition Of Fit India Carnival To Begin At Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi



- The second edition of the Fit India Carnival began at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium (JLN), New Delhi on March 8, 2026, coinciding with International Women’s Day.
- The carnival is organised over three days (March 8–10, 2026), promoting health, sport, fitness, and community participation.
- Bandi Sanjay Kumar, Minister of State, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, formally inaugurated the event, in the presence of Secretary (Sports) Hari Ranjan Rao and distinguished guests.
- The opening day featured participation from celebrities such as Milind Soman, Ragini Dwivedi, Aishwarya Raj, and Tarun Khanna, as well as fitness experts including Dr Ririi Trivedi.
- Notable athletes present included heptathlete and Asian Games bronze medalist Nandini Agasara, judoka Garima Chaudhary, chess grandmaster and Fit India champion Tania Sachdev, para-athlete Simran, and fencing athlete Taniksha Khatri.
- The carnival was made fully accessible for senior citizens and specially-abled persons, in collaboration with organisations like Svayam, promoting inclusive participation.

- Activities included fitness stations, game zones, kids zone, cultural performances, flash mobs, musical performances, and interactive talk sessions on health, discipline, and mental well-being.
- The event focused on encouraging participants to adopt daily physical activity, promoting the slogan “Fitness Ka Dose, Aadha Ghanta Roz”, motivating families, youth, and communities.
- The carnival is part of the Fit India Movement, launched on August 29, 2019, which aims to create behavioural change and promote active lifestyles across India.
- Initiatives such as Fit India Sundays on Cycle have expanded the movement into a nationwide, community-driven fitness effort.
- The carnival brings together fitness enthusiasts, sportspersons, celebrities, youth, students, and citizens, showcasing a mix of sports demonstrations, wellness workshops, and interactive sessions to make fitness a part of daily life.
- The first edition of the Fit India Carnival was inaugurated by Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya at JLN Stadium in 2025.