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## International Day of Women and Girls in Science- February 11.



- International Day of Women and Girls in Science is celebrated annually on February 11.
- The United Nations observes this day to encourage and ensure equal opportunities and active involvement of women and girls in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).
- The theme for International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2026 is “Synergizing AI, Social Science, STEM and Finance: Building Inclusive Futures for Women and Girls.”
- This theme highlights how Artificial Intelligence, STEM education, social sciences and financial investment can work together.
- By integrating these four pillars, the International Day of Women and Girls in Science promotes balanced participation and sustainable development across industries and research ecosystems.
- The United Nations established the International Day of Women and Girls in Science to tackle the ongoing gender imbalance in STEM fields.

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- Although women have made significant progress in accessing higher education, their representation in scientific research and top leadership positions continues to be limited.
- In 2013, the UN General Assembly passed a resolution calling for equal opportunities for women and girls in science and technology.
- As a result, February 11 is celebrated worldwide each year to encourage gender equality in STEM disciplines.
- The observance aligns with the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, emphasizing that inclusive participation in science fosters stronger innovation and contributes to sustainable economic growth.

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## India's first-ever 'musical road' has been inaugurated in Mumbai



- Mumbai has launched India's first-ever Melody Road, an innovative musical roadway.
- The special road stretch plays the popular song "Jai Ho" when vehicles move over it at a specific speed.
- The melody is generated through specially designed grooves on the road surface.
- The project was inaugurated by Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.
- The musical stretch is located on the northbound carriageway between Nariman Point and Worli, just after vehicles exit the Coastal Road tunnel.
- The melody road works through precisely cut grooves (rumble strips) on the surface.
- When vehicles drive at 70–80 km/h, the tyres create vibrations. These vibrations produce musical notes.
- Over a 500-metre stretch, the tune of "Jai Ho" from the movie Slumdog Millionaire can be heard.
- Officials say the choice of "Jai Ho" aims to promote patriotism and create a joyful driving experience.
- The project was commissioned by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) at an estimated cost of ₹6.21 crore.

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- The idea of a melody road was first identified in 2007 in Japan by engineer Shizuo Shinoda, who discovered that specially cut grooves on roads could produce musical sounds.
- Following this innovation, similar musical roads have been developed in countries such as Japan, Hungary, South Korea, and the United Arab Emirates.
- Mumbai's installation is said to be among the few such projects globally and the first in India. The technology used is inspired by Hungarian engineering techniques.

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## Delhi Government Launches Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana for Financial Support to Girls



- The Delhi government has announced a new financial assistance programme called Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana.
- The scheme is aimed at girls from economically weaker families.
- The scheme will replace the existing Ladli Yojana (2008) and will come into effect from April 1, 2026.
- The main objective is to reduce school dropouts caused by financial stress.
- The programme also seeks to create a savings fund for girls.
- The savings amount will mature when girls reach higher education milestones or adulthood.
- Under the Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana, staged deposits totaling ₹56,000 will be made throughout a girl's schooling and higher education journey.
- The deposited amount will earn interest over time.
- With accrued interest, the total amount is expected to grow to around ₹1 lakh.
- The funds will be credited to an Aadhaar-enabled bank account in the girl's name.
- This mechanism aims to strengthen direct benefit transfer (DBT) and ensure better transparency and traceability.

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## World's First Doctor-Led AI-Powered Home Healthcare Ecosystem 'iLive Connect' Launched



- India has introduced 'iLive Connect', the world's first home healthcare ecosystem led by doctors and powered by Artificial Intelligence.
- The platform enables 24/7 medical supervision of patients directly from their homes, particularly benefiting senior citizens and individuals with high health risks.
- It was developed by cardiothoracic surgeon Dr. Rahul Chandola and interventional cardiologist Dr. Viveka Kumar.
- The system is structured to deliver ICU-like personalised care within a home setting.
- It incorporates FDA-approved and CE-certified wearable medical devices to ensure safety and reliability.
- The wearable technology includes a chest-based biosensor patch and a wristband, allowing continuous real-time health monitoring.

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- The platform measures key health indicators such as two-lead ECG, heart rate, respiratory rate, oxygen levels, body temperature, blood pressure patterns, physical activity, and heart rate variability.
- Patient data is securely uploaded to a cloud-based digital system.
- Specialist doctors at a centralized medical command centre review and monitor the data around the clock.
- The introduction of iLive Connect represents a significant advancement in tech-enabled healthcare, enhancing home-based treatment and minimizing reliance on hospital monitoring.

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## Indian Army, IDFC FIRST Bank Ink Memorandum of Understanding to Offer Tailored Banking Services and Enhanced Insurance for Army Personnel



- The Indian Army entered into a three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IDFC FIRST Bank, which will remain in force until February 2029, to offer customised banking and insurance solutions to both serving and retired Army personnel.
- As per the agreement, a Personal Accidental Insurance (PAI) cover of ₹60 lakh will be provided without the compulsory condition of salary or pension credit, and will instead be based on maintaining minimum monthly account credits.
- The package also includes enhanced insurance benefits such as a ₹35 lakh nominee cover and ₹1 crore Air Accident Insurance, strengthening financial security for Army families.

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- Additional welfare provisions include ₹4 lakh coverage for higher education and up to ₹2 lakh assistance for the marriage of a girl child, promoting educational and social support.
- Overall, the MoU aims to ensure comprehensive financial protection, social welfare assistance, and inclusive banking benefits for the Army community under a well-defined framework.
- About IDFC First Bank:
  - ❖ Founded: 2015
  - ❖ Headquarters: Mumbai
  - ❖ Managing Director & CEO: V. Vaidyanathan

## Aditya Pandya Becomes India's Youngest Male Analog Astronaut

- Seventeen-year-old Aditya Pandya became India's youngest male analog astronaut after completing a lunar-habitat-inspired mission.
- The mission was conducted by AAKA Space Studio, a registered ISRO Space Tutor organization.
- It was carried out from February 1 to 8 in the white plains of Dholavira, Kutch, Gujarat.
- Analogue missions are designed to replicate Moon-like conditions, including isolation, confinement, and operational autonomy, to prepare astronauts for real space missions.
- The mission used a container-based lunar habitat, engineered to simulate physical and operational conditions of the Moon.



- The crew consisted of four analog astronauts, who lived and worked inside the container-based lunar analog habitat throughout the mission duration.
- AAKA Space Studio is registered as a Space Tutor of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and focuses on planetary analogue environments.

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## India Improves Rank in Global Corruption Index 2025

- India has improved its ranking by 5 places to the 91st spot out of 182 countries with a score of 39 out of 100.
- The index is released by Transparency International and evaluates perceived levels of public sector corruption in 182 countries and territories.
- India's score increased by one point compared to the previous year, moving up from 96th to 91st rank.
- The CPI score ranges from 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean public sector).
- The marginal rise in India's score reflects limited progress in governance and anti-corruption efforts rather than a major structural reform.



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- The report notes that improvements remain fragile and uneven.
- Globally, the average CPI score has fallen to a historic low of 42, and more than two-thirds of countries scored below 50.
- The report warns that corruption continues to weaken public services, disaster preparedness, and long-term development worldwide.
- India is listed among countries considered risky for journalists reporting on corruption, while globally 829 journalists have been killed in non-conflict zones since 2012, with over 90% of these deaths occurring in countries scoring below 50.
- Restrictions on civic space and threats to media and civil society reduce democratic accountability and allow corruption to persist.
- In CPI 2025, Denmark retained the top rank with a score of 89, followed by Finland and Singapore, while South Sudan and Somalia ranked lowest with nine points each.
- Among major democracies, the United Kingdom ranked 20th and the United States 29th, indicating concerns about declining anti-corruption performance even in established systems.

## Puducherry Doctors Win Chang-Crandall Humanitarian Award 2026



- Two senior ophthalmologists from Puducherry, Dr Hari Priya Aravind and Dr R. Venkatesh, have been selected for the Chang-Crandall Humanitarian Award 2026.
- The award recognises their exceptional contribution in reducing cataract blindness and visual disability.
- They will receive the honour at the ASCRS Foundation conference in Washington DC on April 11.
- The award was instituted in 2017 through an endowment by David and Victoria Chang to celebrate humanitarian service in cataract care.

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- It includes a grant of \$100,000, which the recipients have decided to donate to the Aravind Eye Care System to support its non-profit initiatives.
- Dr Haripriya Aravind serves as Chief of Cataract and Intraocular Lens (IOL) Services and has worked to enhance surgical outcomes in high-volume hospital settings.
- She initially specialised in paediatric ophthalmology before moving into adult cataract and IOL services.
- Dr R. Venkatesh, Chief Medical Officer, completed his residency in 1997 and developed expertise in manual small incision cataract surgery (MSICS).
- He has extensive experience in high-volume outreach surgeries and focuses on training young ophthalmologists while maintaining quality standards.
- He played a key role in expanding Aravind's services to Puducherry after its establishment there in 2003.
- Over two decades, he has significantly contributed to outreach programmes delivering affordable eye care to underserved communities.
- Both doctors have advanced cost-effective, high-quality surgical models that combine scale, innovation, and community service within the Aravind system.

## World Radio Day 2026



- World Radio Day is observed on 13th February every year to commemorate the establishment of the United Nations Radio in 1946.
- The theme of World Radio Day 2026 “Radio and Artificial Intelligence: AI is a tool, not a voice”
- To mark World Radio Day 2026, Akashvani Raipur, Chhattisgarh, in collaboration with UNESCO, is organising a World Radio Day Conclave
- World Radio Day originated from a resolution passed by UNESCO at its 36th General Conference in 2011.

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- In 2012, the United Nations General Assembly officially endorsed the observance, declaring 13 February as an international day.

### **All India Radio:**

- All India Radio (AIR), officially known as Akashvani since 1957, is India's national public radio broadcaster and functions under Prasar Bharati. Established on 8 June 1936, it is one of the world's largest radio networks.
- AIR covers nearly 92% of India's geographical area and reaches about 99.19% of the country's population.
- Operating under the motto "Bahujan Hitaya, Bahujan Sukhaya" (for the welfare and happiness of the masses), it broadcasts diverse content in 23 languages and 182 dialects.

## **Community Radio in India:**

- Community Radio Stations (CRSs) are low-power, non-commercial stations set up and operated by local communities to address their specific communication needs.
- Community Radio (CR) is the third tier of radio broadcasting in India, distinct from Public Service and Commercial Radio.
- The journey of Community Radio in India started in the year 2002, when the Government of India approved a Policy for the grant of licenses for setting up of Community Radio Stations to well established educational institutions including IITs/IIMs.
- The first Community Radio Station was inaugurated on February 1, 2004 by Bharat Ratna Shri Lal Krishna Advani.
- A key milestone followed in 2005 with the launch of Anna Community Radio (90.4 MHz) by Anna University.
- Ram Singh Boudh from Amroha, Uttar Pradesh, known as the “Radio Man of India,” was recognised by Guinness World Records in 2025 for owning the world’s largest collection of 1,257 radios.

## BOBCARD Launches Braille-Enabled Premier Credit Card in Manipal, Karnataka



- BOBCARD Limited, the credit card subsidiary of Bank of Baroda, launched a Braille-enabled variant of its Premier Credit Card in Manipal, Karnataka.
- The specially designed card aims to improve accessibility for visually impaired customers, enabling them to identify and use the card independently during daily transactions.
- It features Braille markings to enhance usability, boost user confidence, and promote greater financial inclusion.
- The card combines inclusive Braille design with premium credit card functionalities.
- Customers can earn accelerated reward points on travel, dining, lifestyle spending, and international purchases.
- It also offers travel-related benefits, including complimentary access to domestic airport lounges.
- Cardholders are provided with curated lifestyle privileges along with other exclusive premium advantages.

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