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23rd Edition BioAsia 2026 Held in Hyderabad

- The Chief Minister of Telangana, A. Revanth Reddy, inaugurated the 23rd edition of BioAsia 2026 at the HITECH Exhibition Centre in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- BioAsia 2026 is Asia's premier life sciences and health-tech forum.
- The two-day global summit was held on 17–18 February 2026.
- The event highlighted Telangana's emergence as a key hub for TechBio, biotechnology, and advanced healthcare innovation.
- The theme of BioAsia 2026 was “TechBio Unleashed – AI, Automation and the Biology Revolution.”
- The summit was organised by the Government of Telangana, with Hyderabad as the permanent host city.
- Hyderabad is globally recognised as the “Vaccine Capital of the World,” contributing nearly one-third of global vaccine production.
- The Next-Gen Life Sciences Policy (2026–2030), unveiled at the World Economic Forum in Davos, aims to attract USD 25 billion in investments and generate 5 lakh high-quality jobs by 2030.
- Five startups received the BioAsia 2026 Innovation Awards: Achala Health Services, Exquinz Life Sciences, Helex, Natural Solutions & Nutraceuticals, and Sree Guravey Life Sciences OPC.



India & UK Launch Offshore Wind Taskforce Under Vision 2035

- On February 18, 2026, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), and David Lammy, Deputy Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, jointly launched the 'India–UK Offshore Wind Taskforce' along with the '4th India–UK Energy Dialogue' in New Delhi.
- The initiative aims to fast-track the growth of India's offshore wind energy sector.
- The task force has been constituted under the India–UK Vision 2035.
- The initiative seeks to provide strategic leadership and coordination for India's offshore wind sector while promoting long-term energy security and enhancing industrial competitiveness.
- Gujarat and Tamil Nadu have been earmarked for early development offshore wind projects.
- The Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme has allocated Rs 7,453 crore to support early-stage offshore wind projects.
- The collaboration is structured around three key pillars: Ecosystem Planning, Infrastructure Development, and Financing Framework.
- As of 2026, India's installed non-fossil fuel capacity has crossed 272 GW, including over 141 GW of solar and 55 GW of wind capacity.
- During the Financial Year 2025-26, India added more than 35 GW of solar and 4.61 GW of wind capacity.



IIT Madras Global to establish its First Applied AI Innovation Centre at Dubai CommerCity

- On February 18, 2026, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras Global Research Foundation launched its first international Applied Artificial Intelligence (AI) Innovation Centre.
- The Centre is located at Dubai CommerCity in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- The MoU was signed on the sidelines of WORLDEF Dubai 2026, the Middle East region's largest global gathering dedicated to digital commerce, held from 12th to 14th February 2026.
- In its initial phase, the centre will host six applied AI startups.
- These startups have a combined valuation of approximately USD 118 million and projected revenues of USD 281 million over five years.
- The centre will focus on developing products, fast-tracking the deployment of AI solutions, creating Intellectual Property (IP) and innovations, and building collaborations with industry, government, and ecosystem partners.
- Facilitated by MCA Gulf, a strategic partner of IITM Global in Dubai, the Centre aims to position Dubai as a regional and global hub for applied AI innovation.
- The Centre enables AI solutions to be developed, deployed, and scaled through a long-term platform focused on sustainable innovation and value creation.
- The initiative aligns with India-UAE cooperation frameworks, such as the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).



Axis Bank Partners with IndiGo to Launch Two Co-branded Credit Cards

- In February 2026, **Axis Bank Limited**, India's third-largest private sector bank, collaborated with **IndiGo (InterGlobe Aviation Limited)** to launch two co-branded travel and lifestyle credit cards: 'IndiGo Axis Bank Credit Card' and 'IndiGo Axis Bank Premium Credit Card'.
- These credit cards offer rewards through IndiGo's loyalty programme, **IndiGo BluChip**.
- The **IndiGo Axis Bank Credit Card** is priced at Rs 799 (including GST) and is targeted at retail customers.
- It provides a balanced range of travel and lifestyle benefits across major spending categories.
- The **IndiGo Axis Bank Premium Credit Card** is priced at Rs 5,000 (including GST) and is designed for affluent customers seeking enhanced travel privileges and premium lifestyle benefits.
- Both co-branded credit cards are available on the RuPay and Visa networks.
- IndiGo Axis Bank Credit Cardholders receive a 1,200 BluChips voucher on joining and renewal.
- Benefits include complimentary domestic airport lounge access and accelerated rewards on UPI transactions.
- IndiGo Axis Bank Premium Credit Cardholders receive vouchers worth 5,000 BluChips on joining and renewal.
- Premium card benefits include complimentary domestic and international airport lounge access and a reduced forex markup of 2.5% on international transactions.



Delhi Rolls Out Bhu-Aadhaar for Unique Land IDs

- In February 2026, the Government of Delhi announced the rollout of 'Bhu-Aadhaar', a system that assigns a unique 14-digit identification number to every land parcel in the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi.
- The initiative is part of the implementation of the Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) system aimed at modernising land records and improving transparency in property ownership.
- Each land parcel will be assigned a geo-referenced identification code to ensure accurate mapping, ownership verification, and transparent record maintenance.
- Land records are being digitised using drone surveys and high-resolution ortho-imaging technology.
- Nearly 2 terabytes (TB) of geospatial data have been processed for precise demarcation and improved record accuracy.
- The initiative is being implemented under the Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP).
- The rollout has commenced in 48 villages mapped under the SVAMITVA Scheme.
- The system will be gradually expanded to achieve uniform digitisation of land records across Delhi.



TVS SCS partners ALA Group to tap aerospace and defence supply chains

- In February 2026, **TVS Supply Chain Solutions (TVS SCS)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **ALA Group**, an Italy-based aerospace and defence supply chain integrator.
- The partnership aims to jointly tap opportunities in India's rapidly growing **USD 28 billion aerospace and defence (A&D) supply chain market**.
- The objective is to develop integrated supply chain services across production and aftermarket lifecycles, including Production Support (PS), Spare Parts Distribution (SPD), Inventory Optimisation (IO), Defence-grade Logistics (DGL), Logistics Engineering (LE), and Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO).
- The collaboration will focus on India's A&D sector, aligned with Defence Offset Programmes (DOP), with plans for phased global expansion.
- The services will offer end-to-end certified solutions such as complex assembly logistics, regulated procurement, digital inventory management, spare parts supply to Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), and defence-compliant engineering solutions aligned with **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** Stock Numbers (NSN) standards.
- The MoU is expected to strengthen India's domestic aerospace and defence ecosystem through indigenisation, compliance, digitalisation, global supply chain integration, and increased participation in international A&D value chains.



BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF US®

The Indian Army hosts the first ever (UN) Fellowship Training Programme on SALW Control in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh

- The **Indian Army (IA)** is hosting the first-ever **United Nations (UN) Fellowship Training Programme on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) Control** for the Asia-Pacific region.
- The programme is being held from **16 February to 6 March 2026** at the **Military College of Materials Management (MCMM)** in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh.
- This marks the **first time** the UN Fellowship Programme on SALW Control is being conducted in Asia.
- The training is organized by the **United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)** through its **United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD)**.
- It is conducted under the framework of India's **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** and **Ministry of Defence (MoD)**.
- Delegates from **13 countries** across the Asia-Pacific region are participating in the programme.
- The training focuses on strengthening technical and operational skills related to small arms control.
- It supports the implementation of UN frameworks such as the **UN Programme of Action (PoA)** and the **International Tracing Instrument (ITI)**.
- The programme also aims to enhance regional cooperation, improve weapons tracing systems, and promote responsible stockpile management of arms.



Airtel Money, a subsidiary of Bharti Airtel receives RBI nod to operate as Type II NBFC-ND

- On February 17, 2026, Airtel Money, a subsidiary of Bharti Airtel, received a Certificate of Registration (CoR) from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as a Type II – Non-Deposit Taking Non-Banking Financial Company – Investment and Credit Company (Type-II NBFC-ND (ICC)).
- The Certificate of Registration was issued under Section 45-IA of the RBI Act, 1934.
- As a non-deposit taking NBFC, Airtel Money is not permitted to accept public deposits, ensuring compliance with RBI's prudential regulations.
- The company is authorised to undertake credit and investment-related activities, including lending and other financial transactions, without accepting deposits from the public.

