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# Current Affairs

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## Famous Personalities

## Famous Personality

## Why in the News/Achievements

Narendra Pratap Singh, Jodhpur -



Akanksha Sharma, Kota-



Ramdev Singh Meel-



Princess Sirivannavari Nariratana of Thailand-



Rohit Kumar Singh-

- Studying at the Central Sanskrit University Study Centre (MA Hindu Studies) at the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), Jaipur Regional Centre, under the PM-YUVA 3.0 scheme.
- The **only selection** from across the country in **Sanskrit** in the All India List.
- Accepted writing topic: "Maker of Modern India – Sachin Tendulkar"
- Writing on Indian sports tradition and cricket terminology in Sanskrit
- Successfully climbed **Mount Kilimanjaro** (19,341 ft - 5,895 m) in **Tanzania**, Africa's highest peak, on January 30, 2026.
- Earlier, in September 2025, hoisted the Indian flag on **Mount Elbrus** in Russia, Europe's highest peak.
- **First mountaineer from Kota to achieve this feat.**
- Kanwarpura village, Sikar – An example of organ donation awareness and indomitable will power
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised his struggle and success in the 131st episode of 'Mann Ki Baat' on February 22, 2026.
- Won 1 gold, 1 silver, and 2 bronze medals at the 'World Transplant Games 2025' held in Germany.
- He underwent a kidney transplant in 2012 (his mother donated the kidney).
- **February 6–10 Rajasthan Tour - Chief Secretary V. Srinivas reviewed arrangements at the Secretariat with Ms. Chavanart Thangsumphant, Ambassador of the Royal Thai Embassy.**
- **Jaipur Tour: Amer Fort, Hawa Mahal, City Palace, Tripolia Bazaar.**
- **Jodhpur Tour: Mehrangarh Fort, Umaid Bhawan Palace, Jaswant Thada.**
- **Versatile Talent: Fashion Designer, Major in the Royal Thai Army, Skilled Horse Rider.**
- Former IAS officer of Rajasthan cadre (1989 batch).
- Appointed Chairman of the Global Value Chain Committee and Advisor to the Board of Directors by the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF).

**Manish Gupta-**

- Elected as a member (2026-27) of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Rajasthan State Council.
- Chairman of INA Solar Limited.
- Currently serving as the Co-Chairman of FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry) Rajasthan and Vice President of FORTI (Federation of Rajasthan Trade and Industry).

**Nirmal Verma, Sikar-**



- His Film "Keeper of the Last Herd" was awarded the "Cinekind Award 2025" (Cinematic Impact Award for Animal Welfare).
- The film documents the fragile ecosystem of Dhawa Doli, a community-protected oran (sacred grove) in western Rajasthan.
- The award was jointly presented by the Film Federation of India (FFI) and People for Animals (PFA) in December 2025.

**Dr. D.P. Sharma, Dholpur-**



- UNESCO appointed Durga Prasad Sharma as the lead author for its 'Science and Innovation Report'.
- Report theme: The digital divide between the public and private sectors in science and technology innovation.
- Currently a digital diplomacy expert at UNDP (United Nations Development Programme).
- Was the national brand ambassador of the Swachh Bharat Mission.
- Awarded the Rajasthan Ratna Bharat Award (2024).

**Krishna Kumar Gupta-**



- Appointed State Brand Ambassador for the third time of Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) by the Government of Rajasthan.
- His 'Dungarpur Model' (cleanliness and garbage free awareness) made Dungarpur an open defecation free(ODF) city.

**Ramavtar Sharma-**

- Assumed charge as Accountant General (Audit-I), Jaipur on February 13. Also holds the additional charge of Accountant General (Audit-II). He is Senior officer of the 2003 batch of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service.

**Sanjay Agarwal-**

- RBI approves reappointment of Shri Narendra Modi as MD & CEO of AU Small Finance Bank for a period of 3 years. • The new term will commence from April 19, 2026.

**Ranjeet Shankar-**

- Took charge as the new Regional Director and Chief General Manager of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Jaipur in February 2026.




**Phoolchand Gurjar-**

- Two-time BJP MLA from Neemkathana (Sikar) (8th and 9th Rajasthan Legislative Assembly).
- Passed away on January 2nd Was a member of the Assembly's Library Committee and other legislative committees.

**Hem Singh Bhadana-**

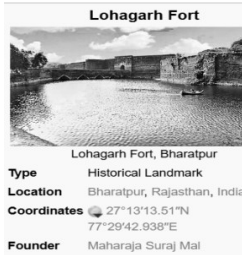
- Former BJP cabinet minister (Vasundhara Raje government) passed away on February 2.
- He was a two-time MLA from Thanagazi (Alwar) (2008, 2013).

# Famous Places

Famous Places	Why in the News
<p><b>Alwar District</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under the '<b>Insurance Campaign-2047</b>', the district became the country's <b>first 100% insured</b>.</li> <li>• 9 villages declared fully insured – Bhulla Ka Bas, Bichpuri, Palankheda, Antapada, Hanumanta, Kalyanpura, Morkhedu, Kodalka, Lalpur.</li> <li>• Part of the Government of India and IRDAI's "<b>Insurance for All by 2047</b>" vision.</li> <li>• Target – Insurance coverage for every citizen by 2047.</li> <li>• Through a door-to-door survey, 1,367 eligible citizens above the age of 10 were provided insurance cover.</li> <li>• Insurance provider – <b>United India Insurance Company Limited</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Desula village (Alwar)</b> was declared the country's first 100% insured village in August 2025.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Siliserh Lake, Alwar</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rajasthan's first 'model wetland' will be developed.</li> <li>• Decision: February 10 meeting of the Technical Committee of the State Wetland Authority.</li> <li>• In December 2025, it will receive international recognition as India's 96th and Rajasthan's 5th Ramsar site.</li> <li>• Objective – To make it a model for wetland conservation and management for other districts under the Environment and Climate Change Department's scheme.</li> <li>• At least one wetland will be developed in each district.</li> <li>• Wetlands in all districts will be listed, digitized, and regularly monitored.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sajjangerh Park, Jaipur</b>      <b>Biological Park, Udaipur</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launch: "<b>Rajasthan's Second Lion Safari</b>" (February 16)</li> <li>• Inauguration: Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria</li> <li>• Developed over an area of approximately <b>20 hectares</b> within the Sajjangerh Wildlife Sanctuary.</li> <li>• Attractions: "<b>Samrat</b>" and "<b>Sunena</b>", a pair of Asiatic lions from Junagadh, Gujarat.</li> <li>• Inauguration: Modern Reptile House and Wildlife Rescue Center</li> <li>• Rajasthan's <b>First Lion Safari: Nahargarh Biological Park, Jaipur</b></li> <li>• Location: Vidyadhar Nagar (Vidyashram Industrial Area), Jaipur</li> <li>• Foundation stone laid: February 4 by <b>Acting Chief Justice Sanjeev Prakash Sharma</b>.</li> <li>• This will be <b>India's first</b> Judicial Officers Association building and guest house.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Judicial Association Jaipur</b>      <b>Officers Building, Jaipur</b></p> <p><b>Sumerpur-Jawai Railway Station, Pali</b>      <b>Dam</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jawai Dam Railway Station was renamed as "<b>Sumerpur-Jawai Dam Railway Station</b>".</li> <li>• Implementation date: February 1, 2026.</li> <li>• Notification: Issued by the <b>General Administration Department, Government of Rajasthan</b>.</li> </ul>

## Bharatpur

### District



- The 293rd Foundation Day was celebrated on February 19th.
- Bharatpur is known as the "Lohagarh City".
- A 7-day festival (February 13–19) was organized jointly by the District Administration and the Tourism Department.
- Special Guest: Sunil Waghmare, the famous "Birdman" from Chandrapur, Maharashtra, attended the event.

## Ajmer

### District



## Krishna Ganj, Ajmer

- The State Cabinet (February 25) approved the draft of 'The Rajasthan Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy University, Ajmer Bill, 2026'.
- The establishment of this university will provide a new direction to teaching and research in the fields of Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, and Homeopathy.
- This will be the **second Ayurveda-based university** in the state after Jodhpur.
- Ajmer's 'Christian Ganj' police station and outpost have been renamed "Krishna Ganj." •Order was issued by the **Rajasthan Home Department**.
  - Foy Sagar ➔ Varun Sagar
  - King Edward Memorial ➔ Maharishi Dayanand Rest House
  - Hotel Khadim (RTDC) ➔ Hotel Ajaymeru
  - Elevated Road ➔ Ram Setu

## Nehru Sahakar Bhawan, Jaipur



## National Institute of Ayurveda (NIA), Jaipur



- Rajasthan's first 'NAFED Bazaar' was established.
- Inauguration: by **Gautam Kumar Dak** (Minister of State for Cooperation, Independent Charge)
- Concept: Based on '**From Farmer to Kitchen**'.
- Operation: National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED)
- Objective: To ensure fair prices to farmers for their produce and to provide pure, unadulterated products to consumers.
- NAFED was established on October 2, 1958 (Gandhi Jayanti).
- It is India's premier national-level cooperative organization, engaged in the marketing of agricultural produce.
- Establishment Year: **1976**.
- Golden Jubilee Celebration: On completion of **50 years on February 9, 2026**.
- It is currently the **country's first Ayurveda deemed university**.
- Chief Guest: Chief Minister Bhajan Lal, Union Minister of State for AYUSH Pratap rao Jadhav of GoI.
- Inauguration of Medicinal Plant Garden '**Dhanvantari Upvan**'.
- Inauguration of New OPD Block '**Sushruta Bhavan**'.

# Schemes/ Programme/ Campaign

## 'Rajasthan Industrial Park Promotion Policy-2026'

- ❑ Approved: on **February 25th** In the **State Cabinet meeting** held under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister.
- ❑ Main Objectives: Promotion of Private Investment: Encouraging the establishment of **industrial parks** in the state through the **private sector**, MSME Development: Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises, employment generation.
- ❑ **Nodal Agency:** Rajasthan Industrial Development and Investment Corporation (**RIICO**)
- ❑ Application Process: All applications are submitted through a **single-window system** through the '**RajNivesh Portal**'.
- ❑ Key Provisions and Features -

### 1. **Four Models of Development** - Four categories for the development of industrial parks

Model	Land Arrangement
Model A	Land provided entirely by RIICO.
Model B	80% developer and 20% RIICO land sharing.
Model C	100% private developer owns land.
Model D	Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.

### 2. Eligibility Criteria -

- ◆ A minimum of **50 acres of land** is required for a private industrial park.
- ◆ The park **must have at least 10 industrial units**.

### 3. Capital Grant - The first 10 park developers will receive a capital grant of 20%, with the following limits:

Area of Industrial Park	Maximum Capital Grant
Up to 100 acres	₹20 Crore
100 - 250 acres	₹30 Crore
More than 250 acres	₹40 Crore

### 4. Infrastructure and Pollution Control-

- ◆ Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP): **50% of the expenditure** will be reimbursed by the State Government (**maximum Rs. 12.5 crores**).
- ◆ Approach Road: **60% of the expenditure** on road construction to the park will be borne by the State Government (**maximum Rs. 3 crores**).

### 5. Additional Financial Benefits-

- ◆ Electricity Charges: **100% rebate for 7 years** on captive renewable energy.
- ◆ **Stamp Duty: 25% rebate** on stamp duty and conversion charges.
- ◆ Additional incentives under RIPS-2024 for '**plug-and-play**' office complexes.

### **'Rajasthan Homestay (Paying Guest House) Scheme-2026'**

- ❑ News- **Amendments** made in the new policy keeping in mind 'Ease of Doing Business' (EoDB)-
- ❑ Key amended provisions-

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Revised Provisions</b>
Increase in Accommodation Capacity	The maximum number of rooms in a homestay unit has been <b>increased from 5 to 8.</b>
Bed Capacity	A homestay will be permitted to have a <b>maximum of 24 beds.</b>
Residential Requirement Eliminated	It will <b>no longer be mandatory</b> for the owner or their family to <b>reside on the premises to operate a homestay.</b>
Operational Arrangements	Homestays can be operated even in the owner's absence.
Foreign Guest Information	It is mandatory to provide information <b>about foreign guests</b> staying at the place <b>to the administration.</b>
Guest Register	The guest register must be maintained for <b>at least 7 years.</b>
Temporary Registration	Temporary permission to commence operations will be granted <b>within 7 working days</b> of application.
Permanent Registration	Following a successful inspection within <b>3 months</b> , permanent registration <b>will be granted for 2 years.</b>
Categories	Homestays have been classified into two categories – Silver and Gold (registration fee). Silver – ₹1,000 Gold – ₹2,000

### **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Rajasthan Visit (February 28, 2026)**

- ❑ The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone and inaugurated development projects worth **16,686 crore.**
- ❑ **Rojgar Utsav:** Appointment letters were presented to **21,863 newly recruited youth** in various government departments.
- ❑ **National HPV Vaccination Campaign -**
  - ◆ Launch: By the Prime Minister on February 28, 2026, from **Kayad Vishram Sthal, Ajmer.**
  - ◆ Objective: To protect **girls aged 9-14** years against cervical cancer.
  - ◆ HPV - Human Papilloma Virus
  - ◆ **U-WIN Portal** - For mandatory registration for vaccination.
  - ◆ **Vaccine:** A single dose of **Gardasil-4, a quadrivalent HPV vaccine** will be administered.
  - ◆ This vaccine provides protection **against HPV types 16, 18** (which cause cervical cancer), as well as **types 6 and 11.**
  - ◆ Beneficiaries: **Approximately 1.15 crore girls** across the country will be provided free vaccination every year.

### **Rajasthan: Final Voter Lists for 199 Assembly Constituencies Released**

- ❑ Final Voter List: The Rajasthan Election Department published the voter list for **199 Assembly constituencies** on **February 21, 2026**, after a Special Intensive Revision (SIR).
- ❑ Currently, the Chief Electoral Officer of Rajasthan:- **Naveen Mahajan**.
- ❑ Appeal: Appeals against the decision of the Electoral Registration Officer regarding any entry in the voter list may be made under **Section 24** of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, and **Rules 23 and 27 of the Electoral Registration Rules, 1960**:
  - ◆ **First Appeal**: To the **District Magistrate** within **15 days** from the date of final publication.
  - ◆ **Second Appeal**: In case of dissatisfaction with the decision of the District Magistrate, an appeal can be filed before the **Chief Electoral Officer, Rajasthan** within **30 days** of the **District Magistrate's decision**.
- Voter Statistics (Total Voters: 5,15,19,929 = approximately **5 crore 15 lakh**)

Category	Number
Male Voters	2,69,57,881
Female Voters	2,45,61,486
Transgender	562

- 'Major Statistical Changes and Reforms'-

Topics	Details
<b>Voter Sex Ratio</b>	The voter sex ratio in the state improved by 2 points, increasing from <b>909 to 911</b> .
Youth Participation (18-19 Years)	The number of young voters <b>increased by 435,061 (0.82%)</b> .
Increase in voters in districts (Top 5)	1. <b>Jaipur</b> : 3.45% 2. <b>Phalodi</b> : 3.22% 3. <b>Bharatpur</b> : 2.78% 4. <b>Sirohi</b> : 2.72% 5. <b>Bundi</b> : 2.71%
Revisions (During SIR)	<b>12.91 lakh</b> new names were <b>added to</b> the voter list, while <b>44.27 lakh</b> names were <b>removed from</b> the list.
Important Note	The final voter list for <b>Anta</b> Assembly constituency will be released on <b>March 12, 2026</b> (revision ongoing).

### **Rajasthan again tops the country in PMMVY Implementation**

- ❑ Implementation of Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana: Ranked first in India **in the January 2026 monthly ranking**.
- ❑ Rajasthan also ranked **first in the September 2025** monthly ranking.

## प्रधानमंत्री मातृ वन्दना योजना

### राजस्थान को एक बार फिर प्रथम स्थान

उपमुख्यमंत्री तथा महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्री दिया कुमारी ने आईसीडीएस राजस्थान को एक बार फिर से प्रधानमंत्री मातृ वन्दना योजना में राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर जारी होने वाली मासिक रैंकिंग (जनवरी 2026) में प्रथम स्थान प्राप्त करने पर बधाई दी है।

□ उपमुख्यमंत्री ने कहा कि महिला एवं बाल विकास विभाग के तहत आईसीडीएस की ओर से सितम्बर 2025 में प्रधानमंत्री मातृ वन्दना योजना में मासिक रैंकिंग में प्रथम स्थान करने के बाद पुनः जनवरी 2026 में भी प्रथम स्थान प्राप्त करना गर्व की बात है।

□ इसके लिए सभी विभागीय अधिकारियों द्वारा अच्छा कार्य किया गया है।

□ मुख्यमंत्री श्री भजनलाल शर्मा के मार्गदर्शन में विभाग निरंतर कीर्तिमान रचे रहा है, जिसमें उक्त उपलब्धियों के साथ ही पिछले वर्ष 2025 में विभाग को पोषण माह में दूसरा तथा पोषण पखवाड़ा में प्रथम स्थान मिलना भी उल्लेखनीय उपलब्धि है।

□ आईसीडीएस निदेशक श्री वासुदेव मालावत ने बताया कि राजस्थान के प्रथम स्थान के साथ ही उक्त मासिक रैंकिंग में कर्नाटक दूसरे स्थान पर तथा असम तीसरे स्थान पर है। महाराष्ट्र और उत्तरप्रदेश क्रमशः चौथे और पाचवें स्थान पर हैं।

□ देश के सभी जिलों में 01 जनवरी 2017 से प्रधानमंत्री मातृ वन्दना योजना लागू है।

□ नवीन पोर्टल पर पंजीकरण 1 अप्रैल, 2023 से प्रारम्भ किया गया।

□ मातृ वन्दना योजना में प्रथम बच्चे पर 1 अप्रैल, 2023 से निर्धारित शर्तों को पूरी करने पर दो किशतों में कुल राशि 5,000 रुपये (3,000 एवं 2,000) का लाभ प्रदान किया जा रहा है।

□ दूसरे बच्चे के जन्म पर 1 अप्रैल, 2022 से (केवल लड़की होने पर) निर्धारित शर्तों एवं दस्तावेज के प्रमाणीकरण उपरान्त एकमुश्त राशि 6,000 रुपये का लाभ प्रदान किया जा रहा है।

#### Sex-Sorted Semen Scheme -

- Launch: August 11, 2025 (Rajasthan)
- Rajasthan's first state-of-the-art 'Sex-Sorted Semen Lab' was inaugurated by Dairy and Animal Husbandry Minister Joraram Kumawat in Bassi, Jaipur.
- Objective: The scheme aims to ensure the **birth of only female calves** with an accuracy of up to 85%. This will **reduce** the number of **stray animals** and increase milk production.

- ❑ Collaboration: Operated in collaboration with the Rajasthan Cooperative Dairy Federation (RCDF), the Rajasthan Livestock Development Board (RLDB), and the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB).
- ❑ Production Capacity: The unit has the capacity to produce approximately **10-25 lakh semen doses per year**.
- ❑ Subsidy: The state government has increased the **subsidy** for this technology **from 50% to 75%**.
- ❑ National Context: Rashtriya Gokul Mission, Government of India- an Indigenous Breed Improvement Program launched in 2014.



### **'Gaon Gwal' Scheme**

- ❑ Launched by the Rajasthan government for the **conservation** and prosperity of **cattle**.
- ❑ Launch: **February 22, 2026** (by Education and Panchayati Raj Minister **Madan Dilawar** from **Kherli** village, **Ramganj Mandi, Kota**)
- ❑ Key Features -
  - To revive the ancient cowherd tradition (the practice of grazing cows).
  - To transport stray cattle roaming the roads to safe pastures to reduce road accidents.
  - **One 'village cowherd'** will be appointed for the care and grazing of **every 70 cows**.
  - In the initial phase, cowherds were **appointed in 14 villages**.
  - Salary: The appointed cowherds receive an honorarium of **₹ 10,000 per month** (the cost is **borne by Bhamashah (Philanthropists)** and not the government).

### **PM-SETU (Prime Minister's Skill Development and Employability Upgradation) Scheme**

- ❑ Rajasthan's Rank:- **first** in the country in **implementation of PM SETU Scheme**.
- ❑ Green Indicators: Rajasthan is the **only state in the country** to achieve all '**green indicators (standards of best performance)**' on the dashboard of the **Ministry of Skill Development, Government of India**.
  - Note: Under PM-SETU, the **India-France National Centre of Excellence in Aeronautics** will be established in **Kanpur**.
- ❑ PM-SETU Scheme -
  - It is a **three-tier partnership model** between the central, state, and private industries.
  - Objective: To **modernize government ITI institutes** and provide training tailored to industry needs.
  - Partnership: Industries provide technical training, and the government (central/state) provides financial assistance.
  - Duration: **10 years** (government **financial support for the first 5 years**).
  - Employment Guarantee: Mandatory provision for direct employment of trained youth.

### **Bharat-VISTAAR Scheme Phase-1**

- ❑ Announcement: In the **Union Budget 2026-27**.
- ❑ Launch: On **February 17, 2026**, by **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** (Union Agriculture Minister) at the State Institute of Agricultural Management (SIAM), **Durgapura, Jaipur**.
- ❑ In attendance: Chief Minister **Bhajan Lal Sharma** and Rajasthan Agriculture Minister **Dr. Kirori Lal Meena**.
- ❑ Implementing Ministry- Ministry of Agriculture.
- ❑ **Bharat-VISTAAR (Virtually Integrated System to Access Agricultural Resources)**, an **AI-powered multilingual tool** designed to provide farmers with relevant information
- ❑ Integrated solutions for farmers under Bharat Vistar Phase-1:
  - ◆ Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) - Weather information.
  - ◆ Agricultural Marketing Information Network - Latest market prices.
  - ◆ National Pest Monitoring System - Based pest control solutions.

- Key technology pillars: ‘Bharati’ AI chatbot -
  - ◆ Voice-first and multimodal (local language communication).
  - ◆ Internet-free solutions: Special helpline number = 155261
  - ◆ Instant solutions to farmers’ problems (such as pest management, soil health).

Features:	Description/Importance
<b>Key Objectives</b>	To modernize and make Indian agriculture and farmers ‘smart’ through AI.
<b>Single Gateway</b>	A single digital destination for all agricultural information and services for farmers. <b>Information</b> related to crop management and <b>at least 10 major central government schemes</b> . Eg-
<b>Technological Integration</b>	It is integrated with data from Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), and various agritech systems.
<b>Multilingual Support</b>	Currently available in <b>Hindi and English</b> ; soon to be expanded to 9 other regional languages. In the next 3 months, it will be available in Tamil, Bengali, Assamese, and Kannada, and related state government schemes will be added. Schemes and services from other states will be added phase-wise. In the next 6 months, it will be available in a total of 11 languages.
<b>Agri Kosh AI Strategy Roadmap</b>	It is an ‘AI strategy roadmap’ that will keep agricultural data secure, well-organized, and reliable.
<b>AI Hackathon</b>	A <b>special competition</b> organized to encourage <b>new startups and innovations</b> in the agriculture sector.

### Kalibai Bhil Udaan Yojana (Rajasthan)

- News: The Supreme Court delivered a landmark decision in the case of **Dr. Jaya Thakur vs Union of India, 2026**, recognizing **menstrual health as part of the “right to life and dignity”** under **Article 21**.

#### Updates in Kalibai Bhil Udaan Scheme due to SC Decision-

- ◆ Supreme Court instructed to provide free biodegradable sanitary pads to students (Class 6-12) in all government, aided and private schools.
- ◆ Arrangements for safe disposal of sanitary pads are mandatory.
- ◆ Menstruation is a “public health and human rights issue.”
- ◆ Article 21: Refers to dignity and bodily autonomy.
- ◆ Article 14: Formal equality – against structural exclusion.

### PM-KK KY - Rajasthan Update February 2026

- NITI Aayog and the Government of Rajasthan aim to increase mineral production capacity through development and expansion works in **27 aspirational blocks as well as 5 aspirational districts of the state** under the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PM-KK KY).
- Effective Implementation: District Mineral Foundation (DMF)

□ Target Areas -

- ◆ 05 Aspirational Districts: Sirohi, Jaisalmer, Baran, Karauli, Dholpur
- ◆ 27 Aspirational Blocks: Neemrana, Sajjangarh, Kishanganj, Ramsar, Vaira, Kotri, Kolayat, Keshoraipatan, Nimbahera, Rajgarh, Ramgarh-Pachwara, Baseri, Jothri, Sangaria, Fatehgarh, Ahor, Khanpur, Shergarh, Masalpur, Jayal, Rani Station, Pipalkhunta, Bhim, Gangapur City, Abu Road, Piplu, Khairwada

**‘Mobile Veterinary Unit’ Scheme**

- Total Treatment: Rs. 61,30,856 animals through on-call service camps till February 15, 2026.
- Dairy and Animal Husbandry Minister Zoraram Kumawat gave this information in the Assembly.
  - ◆ Units: 536 Mobile Veterinary Units (MVUs) are active in Rajasthan.
  - ◆ Rajasthan: Mobile Veterinary Unit Scheme -
    - Launch: **February 24, 2024**, Toll-free helpline: **1962**
    - Standard: **1 mobile unit per 1 lakh livestock.**
    - **Funding: Centrally Sponsored -**
      - 100% vehicle cost = Central Government
      - Operating expenses = **Central: State - 60:40**
      - **Target-** treatment of an average of **6 animals/day per unit.**

**Amrit Bharat Station Scheme - Rajasthan, 2026 Update**

- Lok Sabha (Written Answer): Ashwini Vaishnav  
(Union Minister of Railways, Information and Broadcasting, and Electronics and IT)
- Total identified stations:- National Level= **1337 (Rajasthan = 85)**
- Till now **12 stations in Rajasthan are fully developed:** Barmer, Bundi, Deshnok, Fatehpur Shekhawati, Gangapur City, Gogamedi, Govindgarh, Jaisalmer, Khairthal, Mandalgarh, Mandawar Mahwa Road, Rajgarh.
- 8 stations inaugurated by the Prime Minister (from Deshnok)
- Bandikui Junction: 80 rail service connectivity.
- Dausa Station: 72 rail service connectivity.
- **Rajasthan falls under the jurisdiction of five railway zones:** Northern Railway, North Central Railway, North Western Railway, Western Railway, and West Central Railway.
- Indian Railways: Road Under Bridges/Underpasses Status (1-04-2025)
  - ◆ Total in India: 14,745 ◆ In Rajasthan: 1,918 ◆ Jhunjhunu District: 63
  - ◆ Budget 2026-27: Record allocation to Rajasthan Railways -
    - Year 2026-27: Rs. 10,228 crore.
    - Nearly 15 times more than in 2009-2014.

- Names of stations identified for development under the Amrit Bharat Station Yojana in Rajasthan:

State	Number of Stations	Station Names
Rajasthan	85	Abu Road, Ajmer, Alwar, Anupgarh, Asalpur Jobner, Balotra,, Bandikui, Baran, Barmer, Bayana, Beawar, Bharatpur, Bhawani Mandi, Bhilwara, Bijaynagar, Bikaner, Bundi, Chanderia, Chhabra Gugor, Chittorgarh Junction, Churu, Dakaniya Talav, Dausa, Deeg, Degana, Deshnok, Dholpur, Didwana, Dungarpur, Falna, Fatehnagar, Fatehpur Shekhawati, Gandhinagar Jaipur, Gangapur City, Gogamedi, Gotan, Govindgarh, Hanumangarh, Hindaun City, Jaipur Junction, Jaisalmer, Jalore, Jawai Dam, Jhalawar City, Jhunjhunu, Jodhpur, Kapasan, Khairthal, Kherli, Kota Junction, Lalgarh Junction, Mandalgarh, Mandawar Mahwa Road, Marwar Bhinmal, Marwar Junction, Mavli Junction, Merta Road Junction, Nagaur, Naraina, Neem Ka Thana, Nokha, Pali Marwar, Phalodi Junction, Phulera Junction, Pindwara, Raisingh Nagar, Rajgarh, Ramdevra, Ramganj Mandi Junction, Rana Pratap Nagar, Rani, Ratangarh Junction, Ren, Ringas, Sadulpur, Sanganer, Sawai Madhopur, Shri Mahavirji, Sikar, Sojat Road, Somesar, Sriganganagar, Sujangarh, Suratgarh, Udaipur City

#### CCS-NIAM, Jaipur - Fifth Convocation

- CCS-NIAM: Chaudhary Charan Singh National Institute of Agricultural Marketing, Jaipur - February 17, 2026
- Chaired by: Shivraj Singh Chouhan - Union Minister of Agriculture, Farmers Welfare and Rural Development
- Book Release: **“Handbook of Entrepreneurial Ecosystems”**
  - ◆ Guide to Entrepreneurial Ecosystems
  - ◆ Topics: Opportunity Identification, Business Planning, Financial Support, Legal and Ethical Aspects, Enterprise Establishment and Expansion Strategy.
- Startup Launches: New Product Launches (5 Startups) -
  - Singodwala Warehousing & Logistics Pvt. Ltd.
  - Nimit Madhumakhiwala Pvt. Ltd.
  - SNP Superfoods LLP
  - Bahula Foods Pvt. Ltd.
  - Jagatsukh Industries Pvt. Ltd.

#### 13th ‘India Stonemart-2026’

- India’s Largest International Stone Industry Exhibition.
- Venue: Jaipur Exhibition and Convention Centre (JECC), Sitapura, Jaipur.
- Duration: **February 5-8, 2026.**
- Inauguration:** By Chief Minister **Bhajan Lal Sharma** on February 5, 2026.
- Theme: **‘Stone for Sustainability’**



- **Event: 6th Jaipur Architecture Festival (JAF) 2026**
  - ◆ **Inauguration:** By Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari on February 6.
  - ◆ **Theme:** ‘Lessons from Vernacular Architecture: Timeless Use of Local Stones’
  - ◆ **Knowledge Partner:** Indian Institute of Architects, Rajasthan Chapter.
  - ◆ **Focus:** **On Sustainable Architecture and India’s Rich Stone Tradition.**
  - ◆ **Renowned architect** Jitendra Mehta - ‘Indore Development Model’
  - ◆ **Andhra Pradesh Mining Minister** Kollu Ravindra Garu: Expressed positive views on inter-state cooperation, investment, and technical collaboration possibilities in the stone industry.
  - ◆ **Digital initiative:** Chief Minister launches ‘**India Stonemart Mobile App**’.
- **Grand finale of India Stone Mart 2026, 36 best stalls and craft artists honored** in the presence of the **Governor-**

Category	Winners/Honorees
Best Overall Display	Suzuki India
Indoor Stone Display	RSG Stone, AUM Industry
Stone Art Products	India Stone Arts, Mittal Art & Export
Machinery Category	Karma Machine Tools Pvt. Ltd., Shri Bhagwati Machines
Outdoor Category	Spinning Rock LLP (Garnov), J.B. International
Foreign Exhibitors	Resa Madencilik (Turkey), Margraf (Italy)
Shilpgram Pavilion	Naveen Sharma, Rajesh Kumar Sharma, Gopali, Banwari Lal Saini
State Pavilion	Gujarat (First), Odisha (Second)
Government Category	<b>Rajasthan - Department of Mines and Petroleum (First)</b>

#### **12th All India Stone Architecture Awards (AISAA) 2025**

- Announced during the inaugural ceremony (5th February) of India Stonemart 2026, Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari honored the winners in each category with a shield and a citation, along with a cash prize of ₹ 100,000.

Category	Winner	Project
Exterior Facing	Architect Pramod Jain	Marwar International Centre, Jodhpur
Green Architecture	Tribhuvan, Ahmedabad	"An Architect's Own Studio"
Landscape Design	Aayatam Design Studio, Pune	"Built with the Unbuilt"
Interior Design	Tatiwala Ghena	For excellent craftsmanship and use of materials

#### **Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) - Rajasthan**

- **Launched:** By Prime Minister Narendra Modi on **October 2, 2014.**
- **Goal:** To make the country ‘Open Defecation Free’ (ODF) by providing toilet facilities to all rural households by October 2, 2019.

- ❑ **Phase II:** Launched in **April 2020 and will run until 2025-26**. The focus is on maintaining ODF sustainability and transforming villages into ODF Plus (Model).
- ❑ **ODF Plus:-** means a village that is not only open defecation free but also ensures solid and liquid waste management, plastic waste management, and visual sanitation.
- ❑ Progress in Rajasthan - December 14, 2025 -
  - ◆ **ODF Plus villages: 42,492 villages** in Rajasthan have been declared ODF Plus so far.
  - ◆ Toilet construction: 262,000 individual and over 4,000 community toilets constructed in the state.
  - ◆ State-level program: “Swachhata Awareness and Shramdan Program” on the embankment of Jal Mahal in Jaipur on December 14, 2025 - In this Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma administered the cleanliness pledge.

### **National Food Security Scheme (NFSA)**

- ❑ Implementing Department: **Food and Civil Supplies Department**, Government of Rajasthan
- ❑ **Food Minister: Sumit Godara** (Lunkaransar-Bikaner)
- ❑ The Food Security Portal was opened for new enrollment on January 26, 2025.
- ❑ The Central Government has set the beneficiary limit for Rajasthan at 44,661,960.
- ❑ Applications will be processed based on Schedule 1 (32 inclusion categories) of the Rajasthan Food Security Rules, 2023.

## **सामाजिक न्याय एवं अधिकारिता विभाग की पहल रंग लाई**

**मुख्यमंत्री** श्री भजनलाल शर्मा के निर्देश पर प्रदेश के सभी जिलों में 12 जनवरी से 15 फरवरी तक संचालित शिविरों में घुमन्तु एवं अर्द्धघुमन्तु (डीएनटी) समुदाय के 12 हजार 455 व्यक्तियों को पहचान पत्र जारी किए गए।

❑ सामाजिक न्याय एवं आधिकारिक मंत्री श्री अविनाश गहलोत ने कहा कि राज्य सरकार घुमन्तु एवं अर्द्धघुमन्तु समुदाय के सामाजिक एवं आर्थिक सशक्तिकरण के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है।

❑ इनके उत्थान और उन्हें समाज की मुख्यधारा में जोड़ने के लिए लगभग एक महीने के शिविर सभी जिलों में संचालित किए गए।

## **डीएनटी समुदाय के 12,455 व्यक्तियों को पहचान मिली**

### **जिलावार जारी पहचान-पत्र**

जिला	लाभार्थी
श्रीगंगानगर	1,884
पाली	1,286
बीकानेर	1,263
अजमेर	1,006
अलवर	969

❑ शिविरों में कुल 17 हजार 21 आवेदन प्राप्त हुए।

❑ इनका परीक्षण कर 12 हजार 455 व्यक्तियों को शिविरों में पहचान पत्र जारी कर दिए गए। शेष का परीक्षण किया जा रहा है और प्रक्रियाधीन है।

❑ शिविरों में ई-मित्र के माध्यम से निःशुल्क आवेदन की सुविधा प्रदान की गई थी।

❑ साथ ही, अधिकारियों को मतदाता पहचान पत्र, आधार कार्ड, जाति प्रमाण पत्र एवं मूल निवास प्रमाण पत्र आदि बनवाकर मदद के लिए भी नियोजित किया गया था।

❑ इनके माध्यम से समुदाय के अधिकाधिक व्यक्तियों को राज्य एवं केंद्र सरकार की योजनाओं से जोड़ने का उद्देश्य सफलतापूर्वक आगे बढ़ाया गया है।

❑ पात्र व्यक्तियों को योजनाओं का लाभ दिलाने की प्रक्रिया सतत जारी रखी जाएगी।

# Awards

Major Award Winners	Description/Information
<p><b>Nasirabad Cantonment Board, Ajmer</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Award: <b>Defence Minister Excellence Award, 2025</b></li> <li>• Conferred by:: Defence Minister <b>Rajnath Singh</b>.</li> <li>• Presented on: December 16, 2025, New Delhi</li> <li>• This is the first time in the history of Nasirabad Cantonment Board that this award has been received.</li> <li>• Reason: Digital Governance, Innovation- 'Public Dialogue': 'Cantonment Board at your doorstep.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Dr. Norbert Peabody, England</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Award: <b>Maharaj Sir Pratap Singh Ji Samman (International Marwar Ratna)</b></li> <li>• For bringing global recognition to the historical heritage of Marwar.</li> <li>• Conferred by: Mehrangarh Museum Trust, Jodhpur (presented by Maharaja Gaj Singh) – Umaid Bhawan Palace, Jodhpur – February 2.</li> <li>• Significance: Awarded to foreign scholars who have made significant contributions to the preservation of the history and culture of Rajasthan and Marwar.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Kumar Ajay Ghanghu Village, Churu Young Writer</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Award: Surjaram Jaliwala Rajasthani Srijan Samman.</li> <li>• Conferred by: Srijan Seva Sansthan, Sri Ganganagar - January 31.</li> <li>• Major Books- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rajasthani Poetry Collections: 'Sanjeevani', 'Ubhau Hoon Ajai', 'Rinki Tailor'</li> <li>▪ Hindi Poetry Collection: 'If You Have to Say It, Say It'</li> <li>▪ Diary: 'Sorrows in Souls', 'I Can Smile If I Want To'.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Dr. Bhavana Sharma, Jaipur</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Honor: Fellow of the Indian College of Physicians (FICP)</li> <li>• Reason: Outstanding contribution to the field of neurology.</li> <li>• Occasion: During 'APCON-2026' held in Patna.</li> <li>• Area: Advanced research and excellent medical care in neurology.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sushil Kumar Kulhari, Jhunjhunu</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Honor: Jaipur Legend Award</li> <li>• Position: Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer.</li> <li>• Reason: Dedication to sports and health.</li> <li>• Achievement: Successfully completed his 16th full marathon (42.2 km) at the 17th AU Jaipur Marathon held in Jaipur on February 1.</li> </ul>

**Dr. Arvind Gupta, Jaipur**



**Dr Arvind Gupta**  
DIABETOLOGIST

**State-Level Republic Day Celebration 2026**  
**Tableau Results**



**Rajasthan Legislative Assembly - Garden**



**Shabir Hussain, North Western Railway - Jaipur Division**

**Namita Gokhale**



Namita Gokhale receives Lifetime Achievement Award as Banaras Lit Fest honours India's top literary voices

- Award: Shri Arumugam Medical Research Award (Initiated for the first time)
- Reason: Significant contribution to the field of medical research.
- Research: to identify specific genes associated with diabetic kidney disease.
- Event: 82nd API Annual Conference, Patna (February 2026)
- Chief Secretary V. Srinivas honored the winning departments at the Government Secretariat on February 9.
- **First - Agriculture Department: Namo Drone Didi**
- **Second - Art and Culture Department: Rajasthani Art**
- **Third - Medical and Health Department: Maa Yojana**

- Award: 'Best Exhibitor of the Show' Shield
- Occasion: '**Rose Show 2026' (Floral Exhibition)** held in Jaipur
- Conferred by: The Rose Society of Rajasthan.
- Reason: Excellent maintenance of beauty and diversity of the garden , about 70 varieties of flowering plants.

- Award: DRM Award (Divisional Railway Manager Award)
- Reason: Outstanding service in the field of sports within the Railways.
- Ceremony: 70th Railway Service Awards Ceremony (February 2026)
- Shabbir Hussain- Sports Inspector of Jaipur Division and former cricket coach.

Award: **Bhartendu Harishchandra Lifetime Achievement Award**  
She is an eminent writer and **co-founder of the Jaipur Literature Festival (JLF).**

- Occasion: Presented at the second edition of the Banaras Literature Festival (BLF) 2026, Varanasi.
- Prize money: ₹100,000 in cash and a citation.
- Major Books:
  - '**Paro: Dreams of Passion**': A scathing satire on the upper class of Delhi and Bombay.
  - 'Things to Leave Behind': Won the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2021.
  - The Himalayan Trilogy: A beautiful account of the culture and history of the Kumaon region.
  - 'Shakuntala': Based on Indian mythology and themes of reincarnation.

**Namit Mehta**  
(DM, Udaipur)

Major Rajendra Singh  
Shekhawat

**Army Medal (Gallantry)**



Neeraj Jain and Banna Lal

Ashok Bishnoi, Phalodi



Dr. Hetu Bhardwaj, Jaipur



- Silver Elephant Award: **The highest national honor of the Bharat Scouts and Guides.**
- **Reason:** For the successful organization of the 18th National Scout-Guide Jamboree (Rohat, Pali) in 2022-23 while serving as the District Collector of Pali.
- **Conferred by:** Governor Haribhau Bagde on February 11, Scout-Guide State Training Center, Jagatpura, Jaipur
- Resident: Daudsar Khandi, Kuchaman-Didwana
- Honor: 'Army Medal (Gallantry)' on February 10, 2026 - at the Eastern Command Investiture Ceremony held at Umroi Military Station, Meghalaya.
- Courage: For his exceptional courage and tactical skills displayed during a counter-insurgency operation in Manipur.
- Award: **Medal of Merit**
  - Neeraj Jain: Public Relations Incharge (Scout & Guide Organization) and Assistant Editor
  - Banna Lal: State Training Commissioner (Scout)
- Rajasthan State Bharat Scouts & Guides State-Level Awards Ceremony:  
February 9-12, 2026 - State Training Centre, Jagatpura, Jaipur
- Organizer: Rajasthan State Bharat Scouts & Guides, State Headquarters, Jaipur
- IRS officer, currently posted at CGST, Jaipur.
- Honor: Awarded for Effective Implementation of Official Language Hindi.
- Achievement: His office secured **second place in the Northern Region** under the Official Language Policy of the Government of India.
- Conferred by Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, at a function held in Agartala, Tripura.
- Award: Ghasiram Verma Literary Award: 2026
- Conferred by:- **Prayas Sansthan, Churu**
- Work: **Poetry-drama 'Poornavatar'**.
- **Cash prize of ₹51,000**, shawl, and coconut.
- This annual award has been presented to Hindi writers from Rajasthan since 2008.

# Science & Technology

## Kitchen Knife: IS 16301:2017

- ❑ Product: Kitchen Knife
- ❑ Ministry: **Ministry of Consumer Affairs**, Food and Public Distribution, Government of India
- ❑ First All-India License Awarded.
- ❑ Licensing Agency: Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Branch Office: Jaipur
- ❑ **Licensed Company: Kai Manufacturing India Pvt. Ltd. (Neemrana, District-Alwar)**
- ❑ Quality Testing: Hardness Test, Cutting Edge Test, Flexibility Test, Corrosion and Staining Test, Boiling Test.

## MagicModa-FDDI Agreement, 2026

- ❑ Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India
- ❑ Partnership: Magicmoda + Footwear Design and Development Institute (FDDI)
- ❑ Focus Area: Fashion and Footwear Design Education.
  - ◆ Magicmoda: AI technology.
  - ◆ FDDI: Education system.
- ❑ Objective/Goal: To integrate AI-based fashion design technology into academic curriculum and provide practical experience in “Design to Production.”
- ❑ Key differences between the two:

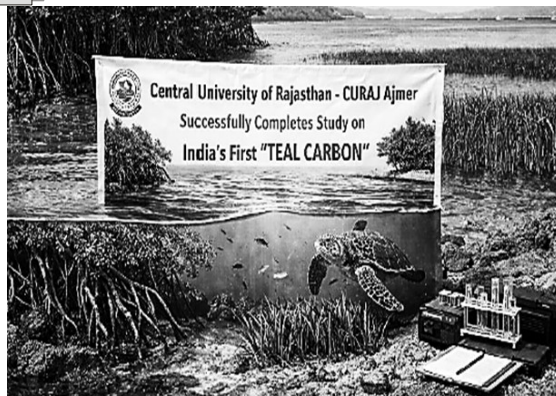
Foundation	Magicmoda	FDDI
<b>Nature</b>	Private AI Startup	Government Organization
<b>Establishment</b>	Recent Years (AI Fashion Tech Startup)	Established in 1986
<b>Establishment</b>	Vibhu Srivastava (Founder)	Government of India, Ministry of Commerce and Industry
<b>Function</b>	AI-Based Fashion Technology	Fashion and Footwear Education
<b>Role</b>	Tech Solutions Provider	Degree/Diploma Provider
<b>Focus</b>	Design-to-Production Workflow	Academic Courses + Training
<b>Goal</b>	Industry Efficiency	Building Skilled Human Resources

## Safe Internet Day - NIC Jaipur Workshop

- ❑ On February 10, 2026.
- ❑ Organized by: **National Informatics Centre (NIC), Jaipur**
- ❑ Three Core Principles: **Safety, Responsibility, Respect**
- ❑ Theme: ‘**Smart Technology, Safe Choices - Safe and Responsible Use of AI**’

### Central University of Rajasthan's 'Teal Carbon' Study

- ❑ India's first study- Focused on carbon management in freshwater wetlands.
- ❑ Study Site: **Keoladeo National Park (KNP), Bharatpur**
- ❑ Methane Emissions Revealed -
  - ◆ High CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> emissions associated with wetland degradation/pollution.
  - ◆ Warning of the shift from a carbon sink to a **greenhouse gas source**.
- ❑ Innovative Solution: '**Biochar**'
  - ◆ Suggestion to reduce methane emissions.
  - ◆ Increased soil fertility, Nature-Based Solution.
  - ◆ Greater carbon storage capacity than forests.
  - ◆ Ecological benefits - groundwater recharge, flood control, reduction of urban heat island effect.



Title	Important Information
<b>Teal Carbon</b>	Carbon stored in <b>non-tidal freshwater wetlands (lakes, marshes, ponds, etc.)</b> encompassing <b>vegetation, microbial biomass, and soil organic matter.</b>
<b>Note</b>	It is a <b>colour-based terminology</b> that reflects the <b>classification of the organic carbon</b> based on its functions and location rather than its physical properties.
<b>Classification Basis</b>	Peatlands, freshwater marshes, inland lakes and ponds, rivers and streams
<b>Major Sources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan) (India's first study site)</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Loktak Lake (Manipur)</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Freshwater marshes of the Amazon Basin.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Climate Significance</b>	Greater carbon storage capacity than forests, Flood control, groundwater recharge, and reduction of the urban heat island effect.
<b>GHG Control</b>	Helps mitigate global warming by absorbing CO <sub>2</sub> .

### REE Reserves in Rajasthan - February 2026

- ❑ Ministry - Ministry of Mines, Government of India
- ❑ Lok Sabha Question 725: Dushyant Singh (MP from Jhalawar-Baran)
- ❑ Answer: G. Kishan Reddy ? (Union Minister of Coal and Mines)

- ❑ Resource Status -
  - ◆ After the MMDR Amendment Act, 2015.
  - ◆ REE resources established in Rajasthan by GSI.
  - ◆ Total: **83.59 million tonnes.**
- ❑ Major districts: **Balotra and Sikar (Ladi ka Bas)**

District	Total Resources
Sikar	1.73
Balotra	81.86
Total	83.59



- ❑ REE blocks auctioned in the last 3 years-

Block	District	License Type	Exploration-stage	Status
Southeast Gugrot REE-Nb	Balotra	Composite Licence	G3	Auction in the 6th Critical Mineral Tranche
Bhatikheda REE - India's first 'hard rock' potash block (Nb, Zr) Siwana Ring Complex	Balotra	Mining Licence	G2	Preferred Bidder Announced (NIT 16.09.2025)
Navatla-Devgarh REE	Balotra	Exploration Licence	Baseline Geological Data	LOI Issued (16.10.2025)

#### **New stations of 'My FM' -**

- ❑ Launch: By Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma on February 16, 2026.
- ❑ **5 new stations:** Pali, Bhilwara, Sriganganagar, Alwar, Sikar
- ❑ The **Central Government's FM Phase-III policy** aims to expand radio's reach from major metropolises to smaller cities (**Tier-2 and Tier-3**).
- ❑ Radio frequency licenses were auctioned for the cities of Pali, Bhilwara, Sriganganagar, Alwar, and Sikar.
- ❑ **Dainik Bhaskar (MY FM)**'s role: 'My FM' purchased the licenses from the government.



#### **PRERNA Abhiyaan 2.0: Health and Nutrition**

- ❑ Organized by: Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Directorate of Rajasthan, January 19-February 19, 2026.

- ❑ Main objective: To strengthen maternal and child health and nutrition.
- ❑ Registration: Under the campaign, **children up to 6 years of age, pregnant women, and lactating mothers** were registered on the Nutrition Tracker.
- ❑ Achievement: 2,47,114 increase in the number of beneficiaries, Now Total Beneficiary- **12,17,393 new ABHA IDs**.

### **Sparsh Leprosy Awareness Campaign-2026**

- ❑ Time Period: January 30-February 13, 2026.
- ❑ Slogan: **“Ending discrimination, Ensuring Dignity”**
- ❑ Main objectives: Ending Stigma, Early Diagnosis, Dignity & Inclusion Leprosy
- ❑ Cause: Infectious disease caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium leprae*.
- ❑ Treatment: Multi-Drug Therapy (MDT) free.
  - ◆ World Leprosy Day: **January 25, 2026**
  - Theme: **“Leprosy is curable, the real challenge is stigma”**. (National Level Day- 30 January, 2026)



### **Medical Legal Cases + Postmortem Reports in Rajasthan -**

- ❑ New Digital System: **MedLEaPR**
- ❑ Full Form: Medico-Legal Examinations and Post-Mortem Reporting System
- ❑ Mandatory **from:- February 1, 2026** (as per the Rajasthan High Court order in Mukesh Kumar alias Mangej case 2025).
- ❑ Fully Digital: Now all **MLC and postmortem reports** will be generated **only through MedLEaPR, TEAM-PR, and CCTNS** (Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems) software.
- ❑ Manual Reports Discontinued: After February 1, 2026, they will **no longer be legally valid**.
- ❑ Responsibility Fixed: If any report is found to be manual after February 1, the concerned Station House Officer (SHO), Investigating Officer (IO), and Superintendent of Police (SP) will be held personally responsible.

Case	Key Facts
Mukesh Kumar alias Mangej v. State of Rajasthan (2025)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The MLC (Medico-Legal Report) submitted to the court was handwritten. The doctor's handwriting was so illegible that neither the lawyer nor the judge could read it.</li> <li>• The court observed – "Doctors' illegible handwriting is an impediment to the administration of justice."</li> </ul>

### **'India AI Impact Summit-2026'**



- ❑ **Venue:** Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- ❑ **Duration:** February 16-20, 2026.
- ❑ **3 Themes:** People, Planet, and Progress - “3Ps”
- ❑ **7 Chakras:** 1. Human Capital, Inclusion for Social Empowerment  
2. Safe and Trusted AI 3. Resilience, Innovation and Efficiency,  
4. Science 5. Democratizing AI Resources 6. AI for Economic Growth & Social Good.
- ❑ **Participation of Rajasthan Pavilion -**
  - ◆ Representation: Department of Information Technology and Communications (DoIT-C)
  - ◆ Official Visit: IT Commissioner Himanshu Gupta.
  - ◆ Stalls: Approximately 20 stalls showcasing technological innovations.
  - ◆ State government presented a roadmap for three policies:
    1. Rajasthan AI/ML Policy-2026
    2. Rajasthan Data Center Policy
    3. Rajasthan AVGC-XR Policy (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics and the Extended Reality)

#### ❑ **Key AI technologies showcased:**

Technique	Main Function	Effect
RajKisan	AI-based crop health monitoring	Quick identification of diseases
SMART-Service Management with AI and Real-Time Tracking System	Real-time monitoring of Govt projects, Digital management of citizen services.	AI based management of govt services will strengthen digital administration.
Raj GPT- Rajasthan AI Guidance Platform	Investor AI guide	Assistance in the land and approval process

### **Indigenous Heavy Drop System-20L (HDS-20L)**

- ❑ Successful test: **February 17, 2026, at Mahajan Field Firing Range, Bikaner.**
- ❑ System name: ‘Advanced 28-foot Heavy Drop System-20S (Type V)’
- ❑ Key features:
  - Development: Jointly developed by ADSL and Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE) (Agra), a DRDO laboratory, under the ‘Make in India’ initiative.
  - During the test, for the first time, a successful airdrop of an approximately 15-ton BMP (Boyevaya Mashina Pekhoty - Infantry Combat Vehicle) armored personnel carrier was carried out.
  - Strategic significance: This technology provides the Army with unprecedented capability to rapidly deploy heavy combat equipment and tanks in high-altitude and inaccessible areas (such as Ladakh or Arunachal).

### **'Rajasthan Sea-Side Startup Summit-2026'**

- ❑ Held: February 27th – March 1st, 2026, at Hotel Taj Amer, Jaipur
- ❑ Inauguration: February 27th by Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma.
- ❑ Objective- To develop Rajasthan as a global startup hub.
  - ◆ To provide Indian entrepreneurs with opportunities for strategic partnerships with investors from South Asia, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East.
- ❑ The summit was also attended by **Ambassador Vahag Afyan of Armenia**.
  - Rajasthan: Over 50 startups were from Rajasthan, reflecting the thriving startup culture in the state.
- ❑ Collaborators
  - ◆ Department of Information Technology and Communications, Government of Rajasthan
  - ◆ Open Innovation Lotus Foundation
  - ◆ Startup Armenia Scientific Educational Foundation (Government of Armenia)



### **Rajasthan Science Festival-2026**

- ❑ Venue: Malaviya National Institute of Technology (MNIT), Jaipur, February 26-28
- ❑ Occasion: To commemorate **National Science Day on February 28**.
- ❑ Inaugurated by:- Rajasthan Legislative Assembly Speaker **Vasudev Devnani**.
- ❑ Main Objective: "Scientific Innovation for a Developed India."
- ❑ Theme: "**Women in Science: Catalysing Viksit Bharat**".
  - ◆ Organizer: A joint effort of the Department of Science and Technology, Rajasthan, Vigyan Bharti Rajasthan, and DCPJ.
  - ◆ Historical significance: This day commemorates the discovery of the Raman Effect by the great scientist C.V. Raman on February 28, 1928, for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize.

## **राष्ट्रीय विज्ञान दिवस 2026**

**"विज्ञान में महिलाएं: विकसित भारत को उत्प्रेरित करना"**

**(Women in Science: Catalysing Viksit Bharat)**

- राष्ट्रीय विज्ञान दिवस प्रतिवर्ष 28 फ़रवरी को मनाया जाता है।
- यह दिन महान वैज्ञानिक सर सी.वी. रमन द्वारा 28 फरवरी 1928 को की गई "रमन प्रभाव" की खोज की याद में मनाया जाता है।
- इस खोज के लिए सर सी.वी. रमन को वर्ष 1930 में नोबेल पुरस्कार से सम्मानित किया गया था।
- वे भौतिकी में नोबेल पुरस्कार पाने वाले भारत ही नहीं, बल्कि एशिया के पहले वैज्ञानिक थे।
- वर्ष 1986 में नेशनल काउंसिल फॉर साइंस एंड टेक्नोलॉजी कम्युनिकेशन (NCSTC) ने भारत सरकार के सामने 28 फरवरी को राष्ट्रीय विज्ञान दिवस के रूप में मनाने का प्रस्ताव रखा और पहला विज्ञान दिवस 28 फरवरी 1987 को मनाया गया।
- राष्ट्रीय विज्ञान दिवस 2026 का विषय (थीम) "विज्ञान में महिलाएं: विकसित भारत को उत्प्रेरित करना" (Women in Science: Catalysing Viksit Bharat) है।
- इस थीम के माध्यम से विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी के क्षेत्र में महिलाओं की सशक्त भूमिका और विकसित भारत के निर्माण में उनकी सक्रिय सहभागिता को रेखांकित किया गया है।




## Major military exercise held in Rajasthan (February 2026)

Military Exercise	Khadag Shakti-2026	Vayu Shakti-2026
Organizer	Indian Army's Khadag Corps (II Corps)	Indian Air Force (IAF)
Date	February 23, 2026	February 27, 2026
Venue	Mahajan Field Firing Range, Bikaner	Pokaran Field Firing Range, Jaisalmer
Chief Guest	Army Commanders and Senior Officers	President Smt. Draupadi Murmu
Main Objective	A test of integrated warfare skills and tactical preparedness on the western border.	Demonstration of indigenous firepower and joint Air Force-Army operations.
Special Attractions	A demonstration of cutting-edge military technologies and offensive tactics.	Display of Rafale, Sukhoi-30 MKI, Tejas, Jaguar, and Prachand helicopters.
Key Facts	The Khadag Corps is a premier 'strike corps' with its headquarters in Ambala.	The President flew in the indigenous helicopter 'Prachand' in Jaisalmer.

Special note: President Draupadi Murmu set a new record by flying the 'Prachanda' helicopter with **Group Captain Nayan Shantilal Bahua** on February 27. She had previously flown a Sukhoi in 2023 and a Rafale in 2025.



# Famous Festivals/Celebrations/Conferences/Fairs

Topic	Description/Information
<p><b>State-Level Forest Fair</b></p> <p>— वन धन - जन धन —</p>  <p>आयोजक: वन विभाग, राजस्थान सरकार</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Event: February 9-10, Secretariat Nursery, Jaipur</li> <li>• Organizer: <b>Forest Department, Government of Rajasthan</b></li> <li>• Slogan: <b>Van Dhan - Jan Dhan</b></li> <li>• Launched by: Sanjay Sharma, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Forest, Environment, and Climate Change</li> <li>• Objective: To provide markets for forest produce (herbs, honey, handicrafts) and strengthen the livelihoods of forest dwellers, with the vision of "Van Dhan - Jan Dhan."</li> </ul>
<p><b>Hadoti Forest Fair -</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organized by: <b>Rajasthan Forest Department, Kota Division</b>, February 7-8, 2026.</li> <li>• <b>Theme: "Self-Reliant India through Forest Produce"</b>.</li> <li>• Venue: Artistry and Rural Handicrafts Market, Kota.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Agricultural Science Fair, Jodhpur</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Venue: Agricultural University, Jodhpur, February 14.</li> <li>• <b>Theme: "Advanced Agriculture in the Desert: Self-Reliant India"</b></li> <li>• Participation: National Institute of Hydrology (NIH), North Western Regional Centre, Jodhpur - under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India.</li> <li>• Objective: Promote agricultural water management and groundwater, hydrological modeling and climate resilience, and water conservation for arid and semi-arid regions.</li> <li>• Partners: NABARD, IFFCO, ATMA</li> <li>• NABARD: National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development</li> <li>• IFFCO: Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited</li> <li>• ATMA: Agricultural Technology Management Agency</li> </ul>
<p><b>'Malani Festival' -</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Announcement: Minister of State Krishna Kumar Vishnoi on February 14, 2026.</li> <li>• Inspiration: To be organized on the lines of the famous 'Maru Mahotsav' of Jaisalmer.</li> <li>• Main Center: The event will be held in <b>Balotra district</b>.</li> <li>• Cultural Center: The main center for cultural programs will be the <b>Kiradu Temple complex (Barmer)</b>, known as the <b>Khajuraho of Rajasthan</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Rawal Mallinath Ji</b> was a great warrior and saint of western Rajasthan.</li> <li>• The 'Malani' region of Barmer is named after him.</li> <li>• In his memory, the famous Mallinath Animal Fair is also held every year in Tilwara-Balotra from Chaitra Krishna Ekadashi to Chaitra Shukla Ekadashi. (Malani breed horses)</li> </ul>

**Hydrological Modeling Training Program (CAZRI, Jodhpur)**

- **Event: February 2-6,** Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI)
- **Organizing agency: National Institute of Hydrology (NIH).**
- **Technique: Use of Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT).**
- **Objective: To provide technical training to researchers and water experts for scientific management, planning, and scientific assessment of water resources.**

**Maa Katyayani Devi Cattle Fair (Sayla, Jalore)**



- **Event: February 15-19 -** Katyayani Mata Temple, Sayla (Jalore).
- **Inauguration: Animal Husbandry Minister Joraram Kumawat.**
- **Exhibition: Display of dairy animals, bulls, and special Marwari breed horses.**
- **Religious: Mother Katyayani is the sixth form of Navadurga, worshipped on the sixth day of Navratri.**
- **According to religious texts, Katyayani was born as a result of the penance of sage Katyayana.**
- **Worship of Mother Katyayani removes obstacles in marriage and Manglik Dosha.**
- **Favorite colors and offerings: Yellow color and honey are very dear to the Mother Goddess.**

**Shri Nimbeshwar Cattle Fair**



- **Event: February 13-17, 2026, Sanderao (Pali)**
- **Coordinator: Animal Husbandry Department, Rajasthan + District Administration**
- **Features: Exhibition of Punganur (a rare indigenous breed of India), Gir, Kankrej, and Thar cow breeds, and Marwari horse competitions at the fair, held after 35 years.**
- **Nimbeshwar Mahadev: Ancient holy pilgrimage site of Nimbeshwar Mahadev.**
- **Significance: Part of a series of district-level fairs organized in 11 districts as announced in Budget 2025-26.**

**39th Surajkund International Crafts Fair: 2026**



- **Organized by: Faridabad, Haryana - Rajasthan's Role -**
  - **First Time: Officially included in the year 2026.**
  - **Management: By Rajasthan Small Industries Corporation (RAJSICO).**
  - **Attraction: 'Rajasthan Chowk' - the center of the state's culture at the fair.**
  - **Exhibitions: Art, culture and handicrafts - 20 stalls were set up.**
  - **ODOP: Display of regional products under the "One District, One Product" scheme.**
  - **Rajasthan was previously the theme state of the fair in 1989 and 2010.**

**All India Institutional Leadership Conclave: 2026**



- **Event: February 16-17, Rajasthan International Centre (RIC), Jaipur**
- **Theme: "A Dialogue on Inter-Institutional Development"**
- **Partner Institutions: Vidya Bharati Higher Education Institute + UGC**
- **Objective: To promote collaboration among various higher education institutions and discuss the integration of modern technology (AI, robotics) with the Indian knowledge tradition.**

**Sahakar Manthan -  
"Prosperity through  
Cooperation"**



**Suryakiran Aerobatic  
and Sarang Helicopter  
Display Program: 2026**



**Vision 2047: Mining  
and Minerals  
Perspective**



**Alwar Bird Festival -**

- **Event:** February 17, 2026, Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- **Chaired by:** Amit Shah (Union Minister of Home Affairs and Cooperation)
- **Rajasthan represented by:** Gautam Kumar Dak (Minister of State for Cooperation, Rajasthan)
- **Rajasthan's key achievements:**
  - **Grain Storage:** Effective implementation of the Grain Storage Scheme: First place.
  - **MPACS:** Formation of new M-PACS: Second place.
  - **Membership of Life Insurance Cooperative Society of India Limited:** First place.
  - **State cooperative societies have established 225 millet outlets so far.**
- **Event:** Indian Air Force displays strength and prowess in the skies of Jaipur, **February 22 - Jal Mahal, Mansagar Lake, Jaipur**
- **Chief Guests:** Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma and Governor Haribhau Bagde
- **Sarang Helicopter Team:** Created intricate shapes such as the 'Sarang Split', 'Dolphin Leap', 'Diamond', and 'Inverted Wine Glass'.
- **Suryakiran Team:** Greeted the audience with shapes such as the 'Barrel Roll', 'Bomb Burst', 'DNA Structure', and 'Heart'.
- **Cultural Message:** Pilots honored Rajasthani culture by saying 'Khamma Ghani' and 'Ram-Ram Sa' through radio messages.
- **Local Pilots:** Wing Commander Rajesh Kajla, Wing Commander Ankit Vashishtha, Squadron Leader Sanjesh Singh
- **Organised by** - The Jaipur Chapter of the Mining Engineers' Association of India (MEAI)
- **Date-** on February 13-15, 2026.
- **Objective:** To discuss the strategic role of the mineral industry in realizing **the vision of a 'developed India' by the year 2047**, and to promote modern technology and innovation.
- **Event:** February 7, 2026, at Siliserh Lake (Alwar).
- **Inaugurated by:** Union Minister Bhupendra Yadav and Minister of State Sanjay Sharma.
- **Bird Diversity:** Over 200 species of native and migratory birds.
- **Announcement:** **Kattighati region in Alwar - New Biological + Science Park developed.**

**Tiger Range States Conference, Sariska**



**Sambhar Bird Festival**



**Kota Festival-2026**



**Women Entrepreneurship Program (WISE-2026)**

- A meeting was held at Sariska Tiger Reserve, Alwar, on February 7-8, 2026, to review 50 years of tiger conservation and formulate future strategies.
- Convener: National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)
- Chaired by: Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav (Alwar Lok Sabha constituency)
- Key tiger directives: Active Management, Rescue-Rehabilitation-Release, AITE (All India Tiger Estimation)
- Event: February 27, 2026, Forest Department, Government of Rajasthan
- Venue: Sambhar Lake - Kochya Ki Dhani and Jhapok region.
- Objective: To raise public awareness about the biodiversity of Sambhar Lake, its wetland ecology, and the conservation of migratory birds (especially flamingos).
  - Live demo of traditional salt production. Information on using the 'eBird' app for birdwatchers.
  - Special Campaign: Launch of the 'Wetland Friend Registration Campaign' to engage local people in conservation efforts.
- Event: February 21-22, 2026 – Shiksha Nagari, Kota
- Coordinators: Kota District Administration and Rajasthan Tourism Department.
- Objective: To promote the art, culture, and tourism of Kota.
- Chambal Maha Aarti: With 2,100 lamps on the western ghats of the riverfront.
- On Kishor Sagar's embankment – Flower show.
- Rajputana Ghat – 'Didi Ki Haat' • Seven Wonders Park – 'Pet Show'
- Doria Fashion Show, featuring Kota Doria products
- Nirogi Kota: Ayurveda, Yoga, and Health Talk Show at Ghanti Ghat.
- Theme: **Empowered Women, Developed Rajasthan**
- Event: February 27-28 – Constitution Club of Rajasthan, Jaipur
- Special: This event was organized as part of Women's International Summit on Entrepreneurship (WISE)- 2026.
- Organized by: RAJIVIKA and COWE (Confederation of Women Entrepreneurs).
- Guest: Former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje, while Smriti Irani addressed virtually.

**Mewar Heritage Festival -**



**Heritage**

- Held in Menar, known as the "Bird Village."
- Venue: Bird Village Menar, Udaipur - February 15-16, 2026
- Organizer: Incredible India and Ethereal Circuit
- Chief Guest: Nivriti Kumari Mewar
- Theme and Program -
  - Day 1: A dialogue on wetlands and birdlife, themed "Love with Nature and Connection."
  - Day 2: A "Marathon for Wetlands" to promote environmental conservation.

**"India's World Heritage: Rajasthan" Exhibition**

**World Heritage: Rajasthan"**

- Venue: Jawahar Kala Kendra (JKK), Jaipur, February 22-March 3, 2026
- Organised by: National Archives of India (NAI) and Ministry of Culture
- Attractions: The exhibition showcases the UNESCO-listed heritage sites of Rajasthan -
  - 6 hill forts: Chittorgarh, Kumbhalgarh, Ranthambore, Amer, Jaisalmer, and Gagron.
  - Other sites: Jantar Mantar and Jaipur's Walled City
- Event: The Rose Society of Rajasthan, February 7-8, City Park Mansarovar, Jaipur - a grand exhibition of over 500 varieties of roses.

**51st Roz Show - 2026**



- Major awards:
  - Arjun Lal: King of Roses
  - Secretary (Jaipur Development Authority): Queen of Roses
  - PWD Kota: Princess of Roses

**First 'Printpack-Rajasthan'**



**'Printpack-Rajasthan'**

- Event: February 21-23, 2026, at the Jaipur Exhibition and Convention Centre (JECC), Sitapura, Jaipur (the "Mahakumbh" of the printing and packaging industry).
- Organizer: Indian Printing Packaging and Allied Machinery Manufacturers' Association (IPAMA).
- Objective: To showcase the latest technologies and innovations in printing, packaging, and allied machinery in Rajasthan and provide a common platform for entrepreneurs.
- Special Honor: Jaipur industrialist **Nirmal Goyal receives the "Print Shree Award 2025"**

**National Conference on Cyber Security and Justice**



**Conference**

- Event: February 20-22 at the Rajasthan International Centre (RIC)
- Objective: Making justice and security accessible in the digital age.
- Chief Guest: Chief Justice of India Surya Kant & CM Bhajan Lal Sharma
- RLSA launched the 'e-Samadhaan' platforms as well as the 'Mahila Panchayat Pan Rajasthan' campaign, which will help increase legal awareness and dispute resolution at the rural level.

6th Meeting of the Board of Investment (BoI) -

- Date: February 14 - Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma.
- Total investment approval: Investments worth ₹46,000 crore approved in Rajasthan.
- Special customized packages approved for a total of 10 ultra mega projects.
- Key sectors: Investment promotion in four key sectors of the state - energy, manufacturing, natural resources, and services.

11th Marwar Horse Show -

- Event: February 7-8, 2026 - Jodhpur
- Conveners: All India Marwari Horse Society (established 2003) and Marwari Horse Stud Book Registration Society of India (established 2008)

State-Level Health Camp -



- Event: RUHS Campus, Jaipur, December 15, 2025, on the completion of two years of the state government's tenure.
- Easy access to quality, world-class medical facilities in villages.
- Critical Care Block at Rajasthan University of Health Sciences, Jaipur - Cost: ₹20 crore.
- Heal in Rajasthan Policy, 2025 - Promoting medical tourism.
- Free testing - 'Hub and Spoke Model' = Implemented under the National Health Mission.
- More than 100 specialized tests, such as cancer markers, biopsy, and thyroid, are free.
- Infrastructure: 42 mother labs, 137 hub labs, and 1,333 spokes identified in the state.
- (Currently, 11 mother labs and 400 spokes are operational)

जयपुर, सोमवार, 23 फरवरी, 2026

मुख्यमंत्री ने दी बार एसोसिएशन जयपुर के नव निर्वाचित पदाधिकारियों को शपथ दिलाई

राज्य सरकार  
ने 42 नए  
न्यायालय  
स्थापित किए





मुख्यमंत्री ने कहा कि हमारी सरकार ने न्यायपालिका को मजबूत बनाने के लिए 42 नए न्यायालय स्थापित किए हैं।

□ फलौदी, खैरथल-तिजारा सहित कुल 8 जिला एवं सेशन न्यायालयों का सृजन किया गया है।

□ बड़ी सादड़ी एवं केशोरायपाटन कैम्प कोर्ट के स्थान पर नियमित अतिरिक्त जिला एवं सेशन न्यायालय तथा हनुमानगढ़, सवाईमाधोपुर, चूरू, बीकानेर एवं जोधपुर में विशेष (पाँक्सो एक्ट) न्यायालय का सृजन किया गया है।

□ झुंझुनू में विशेष न्यायिक मजिस्ट्रेट (एन.आई. एक्ट) न्यायालय का सृजन तथा पहाड़ी (डीग) एवं खैरथल-तिजारा में सिविल न्यायाधीश एवं न्यायिक मजिस्ट्रेट न्यायालय का सृजन किया गया है।

## Key Agreements of the Government of Rajasthan: February 2026

S.No.	MoU/Project	Between whom	Cost/Date	Objectives/Information
1.	<b>Center of Excellence for Climate Change - IIT</b> 	Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board (RSPCB) IIT Jodhpur	₹150 crore	Research, policy development, and innovation on climate change. Preparing a climate map of Rajasthan and developing an Early Warning System (EWS).
2.	<b>Clean and Green Technology Development Center - MNIT</b> 	Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board (RSPCB) MNIT Jaipur	₹250 crore	To develop data and knowledge hub for green technology development, pollution control, promotion of green skilling and circular economy (waste to resource).
3.	<b>EVM Technical Cooperation</b> 	State Election Commission- Rajasthan+Madhya Pradesh.	February 3, Jaipur	Addressing EVM shortage for upcoming urban body and panchayat elections; MP commission to lease 30,000 CU (Control Units) and 60,000 BU (Ballot Units) to Rajasthan; FLC testing by BEL engineers.
4.	<b>Education and Military Health Cooperation -</b> 	Mahatma Gandhi University of Medical Sciences and Technology, Jaipur + Sapta Shakti Command, Indian Army, Jaipur	February 3, Jaipur	Higher education support for military personnel and families of martyrs, coordination of medical education and military health services. Scholarships: ₹100,000 per year for medical/dental courses; up to 33% tuition fee waiver for other courses.

जयपुर, गुरुवार, 26 फरवरी, 2026

### मुख्यमंत्री ने राष्ट्रपति का जैसलमेर आगमन पर पुष्पगुच्छ भेंट कर स्वागत किया

राज्यपाल श्री हर्भाज बागडे एवं मुख्यमंत्री श्री भजनलाल शर्मा ने गुरुवार को जैसलमेर में एयरफोर्स स्टेशन पर राष्ट्रपति श्रीमती द्रौपदी मुर्मू का पुष्पगुच्छ भेंट कर स्वागत किया। इस अवसर पर स्थानीय जनप्रतिनिधि सहित अधिकारीगण उपस्थित रहे।

□ राष्ट्रपति दो दिवसीय यात्रा पर राजस्थान पहुंची हैं। 27 फरवरी (शुक्रवार) को श्रीमती मुर्मू जैसलमेर के पोकरण में आयोजित वायुशक्ति-2026 अभ्यास में शामिल होंगी।



## Miscellaneous Activities

### Alwar Tiger International Half Marathon-2026



- ❑ **Event:** February 8, 2026?Pratap Auditorium, Alwar
- ❑ **Inauguration/Flag-Off:** Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma, Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari, Union Minister of Forests and Environment Bhupendra Yadav, Minister of State for Forests and Environment Sanjay Sharma.
- ❑ **Marathon Brand Ambassador:** Actor Randeep Hooda
- ❑ **Theme:** Prime Minister's 'Fit India Mission', Tiger Conservation, and Alwar Tourism Promotion under the 'Alwar MP Sports Festival'.
- ❑ **Honors:** The Chief Minister honored the Prime Minister's 'Fit India Mission' (Fit India Mission) under the 'Alwar MP Sports Festival'.
- ❑ **Honors:** The Chief Minister honored the Prime Minister's 'Prashant Shri' (2026) winner, Bhapang player Gafuruddin Mewati Jogi, by presenting him a shawl.
- ❑ **Marathon categories:** 21 km Elite (Thdhad), 21 km Force Run, 21 km Open Half Marathon, 10 km Open
- ❑ **Prize money:** A total prize money of over ₹ 90 lakh was announced, with the top prize being \$7,500 (approximately ₹ 6.2 lakh).

Social class	Place	Players	Country	Time	Prize
Male	1st	Simon Maiwa	Kenya	1:00:36	\$7,500 (approximately ₹6.78 lakh)
	2nd	Clinton Kibet Mutai	Kenya	1:00:36	—
Woman	1st	Diana Wanja	Kenya	1:08:46	—
	2nd	Vivian Cheruiyot	Kenya	1:09:29	—
Male	7th	Harmanjot Singh	India	1:01:46	First in the Indian Elite Category
Woman	11th	Ujala	India	<b>1:15:49</b>	First in the Indian Elite Category

### Census-2027 State Level Training Conference -

- ❑ **Participants:** District/Sub-District Census Officers, Master Trainers, Administrative Officers.
- ❑ **Objective:** Training on enumeration process, forms/schedules, digital tools, and quality control.
- ❑ The census will be **conducted digitally for the first time** in the country.
- ❑ The census work in Rajasthan will be conducted in two major phases:
  - ◆ **Self-enumeration:** Citizens will be able to **register** for the **first time** through a mobile app/portal from **May 1-May 15, 2026**.
  - ◆ **First Phase** (Houselisting + Enumeration): May 16-June 14, 2026, and will ask **33 different questions**.
  - ◆ **Second Phase** (Population Enumeration): The **actual population** will be counted in **February 2027**.

**‘Gram Sansad’ (February 23, 2026) – Governor**

- ❑ Special Vision for Sarpanches: ‘Carriers of Development – True Bhagiraths’
- ❑ **Pipalantri Model**, Environmental Conservation model, was Appreciated: **Rajsamand**
  - ◆ Initiated: Former Sarpanch **Dr. Shyam Sundar Paliwal (Padma shri)**
  - ◆ ‘Father of Eco-Feminism’ (Global Example)
  - ◆ Celebration of Daughter’s Birth: 111 trees are planted in the village for every daughter’s birth.
  - ◆ Financial Security: FD of Rs. **31,000 (Education + Future)** in the Daughter’s Name
  - ◆ Water Conservation: Rainwater Harvesting, Check Dams.
  - ◆ Aloe Vera Cultivation: To protect trees.



**Administrative Reforms - Two important committees formed -**

- ❑ Announcement: On January 26, 2026 (77th Republic Day).
- ❑ Objective: To enhance the efficiency of state employees and address their service-related problems.
- ❑ Beneficiaries: All government employees of the state of Rajasthan.

Committee Name	Chairman	Main Objective
1. Efficiency and Competency Committee	Secretary, Department of Personnel	To provide suggestions for improving the efficiency of employees and providing them with better working facilities.
2. Cadre Disparity Resolution Committee	Chief Secretary	To provide permanent solutions to cadre (position) related problems and service rule discrepancies of state employees.

**‘Save Khejri Movement 2026’ – Bikaner**

- ❑ Launch: February 2 – Became a symbol of the struggle between environment and development (solar plant).
- ❑ Duration: Lasted for 11 consecutive days, after which the government accepted the demands.
- ❑ Cause: Protest against the felling of Khejri trees in the name of a solar power project.
- ❑ Key demands: Legal protection for old trees, accountability and strict punishment for illegal felling, and a complete legal ban on Khejri felling throughout Rajasthan.
- ❑ Historical Connection: Environmentalists inspired the movement with the slogan “Sar Saate Rukh Rahe To Bhi Sasto Jaan” (“If a tree is saved even at the cost of one’s life, the sacrifice is still worth it.”).
- ❑ Leadership: Saints of the Bishnoi community, women, and environmentalists (from all walks of life)
- ❑ Result: The government sent an official letter on the 11th day, promising to enact a special law for Khejri conservation.



### State Wetlands Authority - Technical Committee Meeting

- ❑ Organized by: **Jaipur Secretariat - February 10, 2026.**
- ❑ Chaired by: **Vijay N.** (Secretary, Raj Department of Environment and Climate Change)
- ❑ Key Points -
  - ◆ **At least one wetland** will be developed in each district.
  - ◆ **Siliserh Lake** in **Alwar** district will be developed as a model wetland. It will serve as a benchmark for other districts.
  - ◆ Digitization and Monitoring: Wetlands in all districts will be listed and digitized, and regular monitoring will be ensured.
- ❑ State-level celebration of **World Wetlands Day** on **February 2, 2026** -
  - ◆ Venue: **Taya Palace**, located on the embankment of Fateh Sagar Lake, **Udaipur**.
  - ◆ Organizer: Forest Department and District Environment Committee, Udaipur
  - ◆ It was celebrated in Udaipur as it became **India's first 'Ramsar Wetland City', along with Indore, MP.**
  - ◆ Basis of selection: Udaipur was chosen for the conservation of **five major lakes (Pichola, Fateh Sagar, Rang Sagar, Swaroop Sagar, and Doodh Talai)** and their importance in urban planning.



### 'Ramashray Ward' (Geriatric)

- ❑ Geriatric means medical care for the elderly.
- ❑ Launch: **March 14, 2024**
- ❑ According to the *Medical and Health Department, Rajasthan*:
  - ◆ As of February 3, 2026, approximately **32 lakh elderly people** in the state have benefited from this humanitarian innovation.
  - ◆ Principal Secretary of Medical and Health Department: **Gayatri Rathore**

### 'PM e-Bus Service': 8 major cities in the state selected

- ❑ Launch: **August 16, 2023** (by the Govt of India)
- ❑ Objective: **To operate 10,000 electric buses** across the country based on the E-bus model, thereby reducing pollution, saving fuel, and improving urban transportation.
- ❑ A total of **675 e-buses** have been approved for operation in **8 major cities** of **Rajasthan**.
- ❑ First phase (trial) in Jaipur -
  - ◆ Date: Trials conducted from February 26-28, 2026.
  - ◆ Category: This includes **9-meter and 12-meter class buses**.
  - ◆ Special: During the trial, earthen canisters and bags were placed in the buses to simulate passenger load and to check their capacity and balance.



◆ City-wise bus allocation -

Cities	E-buses allocated
Jaipur	150
Jodhpur, Ajmer, Kota	100 (each)
Bikaner	75
Alwar, Bhilwara, Udaipur	50 (each)

### Rajasthan Tourism-2025 Statistical Report

- Total Domestic Tourists: Over 1.52 crore tourists visited 10 major historical monuments in 2025.
- Growth Rate: This number is 11.78% higher than in 2024 (1.36 crore). The average growth rate for the state is 9.10%.

◆ Top 5 Historical Sites (Tourist Number in Lakhs)

Rank	Historical Sites	Tourists (2025)	Increase/Decrease (%)
1.	Jaisalmer Fort	41.92 lakh	-5.09%
2.	Hawa Mahal (Jaipur)	18.24 lakh	+24.34%
3.	Amer Fort (Jaipur)	18.15 lakh	+13.15%
4.	City Palace (Udaipur)	15.23 lakh	+15.69%
5.	Chittorgarh Fort	13.44 lakh	+51.01%

### The mandatory two-child requirement for elections has been abolished (PRIs + ULBs)

- Decisions taken on **February 25, 2026** by the Rajasthan Cabinet.
- The disqualification for having more than two children from contesting Panchayat and Municipal elections has been removed.
- Legal amendments approved:
  - ◆ The Rajasthan Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2026: **Section 19** of the original Act
  - ◆ The Rajasthan Municipality (Amendment) Bill, 2026: **Section 24** of the original Act
  - ◆ Historical context: This rule was implemented in **1995** during the **Bhairon Singh Shekhawat** government and has now been repealed after 31 years.
  - ◆ Reason: The state's total fertility rate (TFR), which was **3.63 (children per woman) in 1991-94**, has now **declined to 2.0**, leading the government to consider the need for this.
  - ◆ Other Decision by Cabinet on 25th Feb:- **Changes related to leprosy**: In compliance with the Supreme Court's decision, leprosy has now been **removed** from the category of **'dangerous disease.'** People affected by this disease will also be **able to contest elections** without any discrimination.
- **New directorates to curb economic crimes -**
  - Formation of **Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and Economic Offences (DRI-EO)**.
  - Changes: The old 'Directorate of State Revenue Intelligence' has been abolished and a new unified body has been formed.
  - Function: Effective monitoring of economic crimes like tax evasion, financial frauds, and multipurpose marketing in the state.

## Important One-Liner

### Gram Panchayat Indraoka-Luni, Jodhpur

- Foundation stone laid for new Government Ayurveda Dispensary - February 15, 2026
- Construction cost = Rs 30 lakh - Parliamentary Affairs Minister **Jogaram Patel** laid the foundation stone.

### Rajasthan's First e-Seva Kendra

- In **Pali** District Court complex.
- Inauguration: **Justice Kuldeep Mathur**, in Rajasthan High Court, February 2026
- Objective: To provide free and easy access to case status, next hearing date, and digital documents to common citizens and advocates.

### Gram Panchayat Anoppura-Pali

- Pali district's first digital Panchayat Learning Center:- e-Library.
- Inaugurated by Animal Husbandry, Gopalan, Dairying and Devasthan Minister **Jora Ram Kumawat** under the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) in Gram Panchayat Anoppura of **Sumerpur** Assembly Constituency.

### Release of the book "Zindagi Muskurati Rahen"

- Author: Dr. **Liladhar Dochaniya** (Retired Deputy Director of the *Information and Public Relations Department*)
- Events: Release of this poetry collection on **February 6, 2026**, at the Rajasthan International Centre (RIC) in Jaipur.

### सामाजिक सुरक्षा पेंशन योजना: राज्य सरकार का बड़ा फैसला

## मासिक पेंशन राशि को 1,250 से बढ़ाकर 1,300 रुपये किया

मुख्यमंत्री श्री भजनलाल शर्मा के निर्देश पर राजस्थान न्यूनतम आय गारंटी अधिनियम, 2023 के प्रावधानों की अनुपालना में राज्य सरकार ने सामाजिक सुरक्षा पेंशन राशि में वृद्धि करने का महत्वपूर्ण निर्णय लिया है।

□ वृद्धावस्था, विधवा या एकलनारी, दिव्यांगजन तथा लघु एवं सीमान्त कृषकों को दी जाने वाली मासिक पेंशन राशि 1,250 से बढ़ाकर 1,300 रुपये कर दी गई है।

□ सामाजिक न्याय एवं अधिकारिता मंत्री श्री अविनाश गहलोत ने बताया कि पेंशन वृद्धि से

**1 जनवरी 2026 से बढ़ी हुई राशि प्रभावी मानी जाएगी**

राज्य सरकार पर प्रतिवर्ष लगभग 550 करोड़ रुपये का अतिरिक्त वित्तीय भार आएगा।

□ सरकार जनकल्याण के प्रति अपनी प्रतिबद्धता निभाते हुए यह निर्णय ले रही है।

□ यह कदम अंत्योदय की भावना को सशक्त करेगा।

□ श्री गहलोत ने बताया कि बढ़ी हुई राशि 1 जनवरी 2026 से प्रभावी मानी

जाएगी तथा फरवरी 2026 से देय होगी।

□ इस निर्णय से प्रदेश के लगभग 91 लाख पेंशनर्स को सीधा लाभ मिलेगा।

□ मुख्यमंत्री श्री भजनलाल के नेतृत्व वाली राज्य सरकार समाज के कमजोर एवं जरूरतमंद वर्गों के सम्मानजनक जीवन के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है।

□ पेंशन राशि में यह बढ़ोतरी सामाजिक सुरक्षा को और मजबूत करेगी तथा लाभार्थियों को आर्थिक संबल प्रदान करेगी।

□ राज्य सरकार के इस निर्णय का प्रदेशभर में स्वागत किया जा रहा है।



**Inauguration of 'Seva Teerth' and 'Kartavya Bhavan'**

- ❑ Inauguration: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 'Seva Teerth', 'Kartavya Bhavan-1', and 'Kartavya Bhavan-2' on February 13, 2026.
- ❑ They were constructed under the Central Vista Redevelopment Project.
- ❑ Seva Teerth: This complex consists of three buildings that house the country's most important administrative offices.
  - Seva Teerth-1: Prime Minister's Office (PMO).
  - Seva Teerth-2: Cabinet Secretariat.
  - Seva Teerth-3: Office of the National Security Advisor.
  - Originally named 'Executive Enclave', it was renamed 'Seva Teerth' on December 2, 2025.
  - The message 'Nagrik Devo Bhava' is inscribed on the Seva Teerth building.
  - Construction: L&T (Cost: Rs. 1189 crore)
- ❑ Key decisions of the Prime Minister's first day at Seva Tirtha:
  - Approval of the increasing PM RAHAT (Road Accident Victim Hospitalization and Assured Treatment) Scheme.
  - Doubling the target of the Lakhpati Didi initiative to create 6 crore 'Lakhpati Didis'.
  - Approval of the increasing allocation for the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund from Rs. 1 lakh crore to Rs. 2 lakh crore.
  - Approval of the Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 (Rs. 10,000 crore).
- ❑ Kartavya Bhavan-1 and Kartavya Bhavan-2: the offices of key ministries of the country are situated here.
  - Both buildings are part of the 10 buildings constructed under the Common Central Secretariat (CCS).

- The Prime Minister inaugurated Kartavya Bhavan-3 on August 6, 2025.
- ❑ The old buildings North Block and South Block will be merged to form the 'Yuge Yugeen Bharat National Museum'.

**Central Vista Project**

- ❑ Central Vista is a 3.2 km long central administrative zone extending from Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate.
- ❑ Project announcement: 2019
- ❑ Architect: Dr. Bimal Patel
- ❑ Foundation stone laid by PM Modi on December 10, 2020.
- ❑ Objective: To develop modern, adaptable, and eco-friendly infrastructure to meet the dynamic needs of integrated central Secretariat for Parliament, Executive, Vice President's Enclave, and all ministries of India.
- ❑ Buildings included: New Parliament Building, Kartavya Path, Common Central Secretariat (CSS), Vice President's Enclave, Seva Teerth, Yuge Yugeen Bharat National Museum.
- ❑ The redevelopment of the Kartavya Path (2022) and the construction of the new Parliament Building (2023) and Vice President's Enclave (2024) have been completed.
- ❑ The Central Vista Master Plan focuses on administrative efficiency and places environmental sustainability at the core of all activities.

**Prime Minister's Visit to Assam**

- ❑ On February 14, 2026 PM Narendra Modi inaugurated and launched several projects in Assam.
- ❑ Inauguration of Moran Airport.
  - Location: Built on the Dibrugarh-Moran section of National Highway (NH)-127.
  - Northeast India's first Emergency Landing Facility (ELF).

- First ELF: Developed on the Barmer-Jalore Highway (NH-925A) in Rajasthan in 2021.
- A total of 28 such facilities are being developed in the country.
- Inauguration of Kumar Bhaskar Verma Setu
  - Construction: Over the Brahmaputra River in Assam.
  - First 6-lane extradosed pre-stressed concrete bridge.
  - Connectivity: Will connect North Guwahati with Guwahati.
  - Total length: Approximately 2.86 kilometers.
- Inauguration of Hyperscale data center inaugurated: Amingaon, Kamrup district (Assam).

#### **Namo Bharat Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS)**

- Inauguration: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the remaining sections of the RRTS, including the 82-kilometer-long Delhi-Meerut Namu Bharat Corridor.
- India's first rail-based regional rapid daily passenger transit system.
- Speed: Up to 180 km/h (semi-high-speed).
- Implementing agency: National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC).
  - A joint venture of the Central Government and the states of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, and Delhi.
- Meerut Metro Service (Uttar Pradesh): Inaugurated by the Prime Minister.
  - It will operate on the same infrastructure of Namu Bharat.
  - This is the first initiative of its kind in the country.
  - India's fastest metro system (maximum operating speed - approximately 120 kmph).

#### **Inauguration of Micron ATMP Facility**

- Inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 28, 2026, in Sanand, Gujarat.
- The Center developed by Micron Semiconductor Technology India Private Limited, will provide semiconductor assembly, testing, marking and packaging (ATMP) facilities.

#### **PRAHAAR**

- The Ministry of Home Affairs released the first comprehensive national counter-terrorism policy and strategy, "PRAHAAR."
- India has consistently opposed terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.
- India does not associate terrorism with any particular religion, ethnicity, nationality, or civilization.
- India has adopted a "Zero Tolerance" policy towards terrorism.
- India's counter-terrorism strategy, PRAHAAR, is inspired by these ideals and is based on the following seven principles:
  - P - Prevention: Prevention of terror attacks to protect Indian citizens and interests.
  - R - Response: Responses, which are swift and proportionate to the threat posed.
  - A - Aggregation: Aggregating internal capabilities for achieving synergy in a whole-of-government approach.
  - H - Human Rights: Human rights and 'Rule of Law' based processes for mitigation of threats.
  - A - Attenuating: Attenuating the conditions enabling terrorism, including radicalization.
  - A - Aligning: Aligning and shaping the international efforts to counter-terrorism.
  - R - Recovery: Recovery and resilience through a whole-of-society approach.

#### **No-confidence Motion Against Lok Sabha Speaker**

- Recently, the opposition introduced a no-confidence motion against Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.
- Legal Provisions: Under Article 94(c) and Rules 200-203 of the Rules of Conduct and Procedure in Lok Sabha.

- ❑ So far, no-confidence motions have been moved three times against the Speaker of the Lok Sabha i.e. - against G.V. Mavalankar, Hukam Singh, and Balram Jakhar.
- ❑ No Speaker has been removed from office through a no-confidence motion till date.

#### **Procedure for a Resolution to Remove the Speaker or Deputy Speaker (Lok Sabha Rules)**

- ❑ Rule 200: Under Article 94(c), the member moving the motion must give written notice of the resolution to the Lok Sabha Secretary-General.
  - The motion will be entered in the list of business on a day fixed by the Speaker under the name of the member concerned.
  - The day fixed will be any day within fourteen days after the date of receipt of the notice of the resolution.
- ❑ Rule 200A: Necessary conditions for a resolution.
- ❑ Rule 201: The support of at least 50 members of the House is required to introduce a resolution.
  - If the required support is not obtained the motion is rejected.
- ❑ Article 95 : Passing of the Resolution. The resolution must be passed by a majority of all the then members of the house (effective majority)
- ❑ Article 96, the Speaker or Deputy Speaker shall not preside if a resolution for the removal of the Speaker or Deputy Speaker is under consideration.

#### **Guidelines Regarding the Observance of Vande Mataram**

- ❑ The Union Home Ministry has issued detailed guidelines regarding the observance of, the national song of India. "Vande Mataram".
- ❑ Duration: The duration of the presentation or playing of the official version shall be about 3 minutes and 10 seconds.
- ❑ It should be performed or played during major state functions such as -
  - hoisting of the national flag, ceremonial arrival and departure ceremonies at official functions of the President and Governors, etc.

- ❑ Presented Whenever the National Song and the National Anthem are sung together, the National Song shall be sung first, followed by the National Anthem.

#### **President's Rule Ended in Manipur**

- ❑ President's Rule in the state was removed on February 4, 2026.
- ❑ Imposed: Under Article 356 of the Constitution on February 13, 2025.
- ❑ So far, President's Rule has been imposed 11 times in Manipur.
- ❑ A Council of Ministers has been formed in the state.
- ❑ Chief Minister: Yumnam Khemchand Singh (BJP).
- ❑ Deputy Chief Ministers: Nemcha Kipgen (the state's first woman Deputy Chief Minister, from the Kuki community) and Losi Dikho (from the Naga community).

#### **Gita Mittal Committee**

- ❑ Why in the news? The Supreme Court has extended the tenure of the committee for another six months.
- ❑ Objective: To address humanitarian concerns arising from ethnic conflict in Manipur.
- ❑ Composition: 3 members (all women)
  - Chairperson: Justice Gita Mittal (former Chief Justice of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court).

#### **Menstrual Health recognized as a Fundamental Right under the Constitution**

- ❑ Case: The Supreme Court (SC) in Dr. Jaya Thakur vs. Union of India and Others (2026).
- ❑ Ruling: Menstrual health and hygiene (MHH) was recognized as a fundamental right under Article 21 (Right to life and Dignity).
- ❑ The lack of sanitary products affects the Right to Education under Article 21(1) of the Constitution and the Right to Education (RTE) Act.
- ❑ Direction of the SC: The government must provide free biodegradable sanitary napkins to all schools in states and union territories.

- Ensure separate functional toilets for boys and girls in every school.

### First Semiconductor Unit in Uttar Pradesh

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the HCL-Foxconn Semiconductor Unit in Jewar (Gautam Buddha Nagar), Uttar Pradesh on February 21, 2026.
- Established under the name 'India Chip Private Limited', the project is the first unit in North India focussed on chip packaging and testing (OSAT- Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and test).
- Joint Venture: This project is a strategic partnership between HCL Group (60%) and Taiwan's Foxconn (40%).
- Project Cost: Approximately Rs. 3,700 crore

### Puppets of India: 8 Commemorative Postage Stamps issued :

- On February 13, 2026, the Indian Postal Department released a special set of 8 commemorative postage stamps on the theme 'Puppets of India' on the occasion of the 22nd Ishara International Puppet Theatre Festival (New Delhi).
- Released by: Ms. Vandita Kaul, Secretary Department of Posts.
- Designer: The stamps have been designed by Shankha Samanta.
- Value: Each stamp is priced at Rs. 5 (500 paise).
- Puppets included:
  - Rajasthan: Traditional string puppets. (Kathputli)
  - West Bengal: Dangar Putul and Benir Putul.
  - Odisha: Ravanachhaya and Kathi Kundai.
  - Others: Yakshagana Gombeyatta (Karnataka), Pavakathakali (Kerala), and Tolu Bommalata (Andhra Pradesh).
- India's traditional puppetry is broadly classified into four forms: String Puppets, Glove Puppets, Rod puppets, and Shadow Puppets.

### Centenary Celebrations of Ol Chiki Script

- Inaugurated by President Draupadi Murmu on February 16, 2026.
- Organized by the Ministry of Culture in New Delhi.

- The President released a commemorative coin and postage stamp of ₹100.

## Popular Places

### Kerala

- On February 24, 2026, the Union Cabinet approved the proposal to change the name of the state of Kerala to 'Keralalm'.
  - Bill: 'Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026'
  - Constitutional Provision: Under Article 3.
  - Kerala Legislative Assembly passed a resolution to change the state's name on June 24, 2024.

### Procedure (Article 3)

- Opinion of Legislative Assembly: The President of India sends the bill to the state's Legislative Assembly to express its opinion.
- Recommendation of President : The bill is introduced in Parliament with the prior consent of President.
- Passing : The bill is passed in Parliament by a simple majority.
- The first state in India to formally draft and approve a comprehensive urban policy.
- The first state in the country to present a separate budget for the elderly.

### V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority, Tuticorin

- The authority received the IGBC Platinum Rating for sustainable and eco- friendly buildings and the Energy Efficiency Certification for energy-efficient, durable buildings.
- It is the first port in India to receive the Platinum rating by the IGBC (Indian Green Building Council).
- Advanced Anti-Drone System has been installed at the port.
  - Installed for the first time at any port in India.

## Appointment

Name	Appointment	Details
<b>Hari Shankar Verma</b>	Member (Operations and Business Development) of the Railway Board.	Former position: Director General (Security) at the Railway Board.
<b>Punit Agarwal</b>	Ambassador of India to Thailand.	Served as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.
<b>Uday Kotak</b>	Appointed Chairman of Gujarat International Finance Tec-City Company Limited (GIFTCL).	Appointed by the Government of Gujarat.

## Person in News

### Thanya Nathan C (Kannur, Kerala)

- ❑ Became India's second visually impaired and the first female visual by impairment (100%) judge.
- ❑ Recently passed the Kerala Judicial Service Examination.
- ❑ Brahmanand Sharma (Rajasthan): The country's first (2013) fully visually impaired judge.

### Mountaineer Kabak Yano (Arunachal Pradesh)

- ❑ Successfully climbed Mount Aconcagua (Argentina), the highest peak in South America.
- ❑ This peak is part of the 7-Summit Challenge.
- ❑ Mount Aconcagua is the world's highest peak outside Asia.
- ❑ Previously climbed Mount Everest (Asia), Kilimanjaro (Africa), and Elbrus (Europe).

### Chakravarti Rajagopalachari

- ❑ Event: Rajaji Utsav was celebrated at Rashtrapati Bhavan on February 23, 2026.
- ❑ During this event, President Draupadi Murmu unveiled the statue of Chakravarti Rajagopalachari (Rajaji).
- ❑ This statue has been installed in place of the Edwin Lutyens statue.
- ❑ Mahatma Gandhi called him his "conscience keeper."
- ❑ He became the last and only Indian Governor-General of India (1948-1950), succeeding Lord Mountbatten.
- ❑ He was awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1954.

## Death

### André Beteille

- ❑ Indian sociologist Beteille passed away on February 3, 2026.
- ❑ Awards: Prabhu Bhushan (2005) - for his contributions to literature.
- ❑ Notable book: Caste, class and Power (1965) - a story of ethnics challenges in a village in Tamil Nadu.

### Mukul Roy (West Bengal)

- ❑ Former Union Railway Minister Mukul Roy passed away on February 23, 2026.
- ❑ He was a founding member of the All India Trinamool Congress (TMC).

## Campaign

### Global Road Safety Awareness Campaign

- ❑ The Indian edition of the "Make A Safety Statement" campaign was launched in New Delhi.
- ❑ Launched by: Jean Todt (United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety)
- ❑ Objective: To promote road safety.
- ❑ Target: To halve the number of road accident deaths by 2030.
- ❑ Sachin Tendulkar: Named Global Champion for Road Safety.

- ❑ If a road accident victim is taken to a hospital within the first hour (golden hour), approximately 50% of deaths can be prevented.

### 'Saving Lives and building a healthier Bharat' Campaign

- ❑ Launched: February 24, 2026, by President Draupadi Murmu from Mumbai.
- ❑ Organized by: PD Hinduja Hospital.

### Mass Drug Administration Campaign

- ❑ Launched: Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda from New Delhi.
- ❑ Objective: Eliminate lymphatic filariasis from the 12 affected states.
- ❑ Target for a filariasis-free India - Year 2027.

## Conference

Major Conferences Held in New Delhi	Subject/Description
<b>World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS)</b> Event: February 25-27, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Inauguration:</b> Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav inaugurated the Silver Jubilee (25<sup>th</sup>) edition of WSDS.</li> <li>• <b>Organizer:</b> The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)</li> <li>• <b>Role :</b> Over the past 25 years, the conference has become a leading platform for the Global South.</li> <li>• The Act4Earth Manifesto was released.</li> </ul>
<b>National Conference of State Election Commissioners (SECs)</b> Event: February 24, 2026. (Last organized in 1999)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Organizer:</b> Election Commission of India (ECI).</li> <li>• <b>Chairman:</b> Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar.</li> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> To establish harmony in the functioning of the ECI and State Election Commissions within their respective legal frameworks.</li> <li>• ECI launched a book titled 'Loktantron Ka Sangam'.</li> </ul>
<b>International Conference on the Changing Landscape of Housing Finance (February 12-13, 2026)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Organized by:</b> National Housing Bank and Asia Pacific Union for Housing Finance.</li> <li>• <b>Theme:</b> Inclusiveness, stability and Sustainability.</li> </ul>
<b>PlastIndia 2026 (February 5-10, 2026)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Organized by:</b> Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).</li> <li>• <b>Theme: Bharat Next</b></li> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> To make India a manufacturing hub and create large-scale employment opportunities.</li> </ul>
<b>High-Level Regional Conference of State Water Secretaries</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Organized by:</b> Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.</li> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> To improve coordination between the Centre and the States and to expedite the implementation of ongoing water resources projects/schemes.</li> </ul>
<b>National Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Summit 2026</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Organized by:</b> Times of India Group</li> </ul>

Major Conferences: 2026 (Events)	Theme/Description
<b>National Conference on UDISE Plus</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Held on February 27-28, 2026, in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Organized by:</b> Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education.</li> <li>Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE Plus) is an educational management information system under the Department of School Education and Literacy.</li> </ul>
<b>National Naturopathy Conference-2026</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Held on February 5-6, 2026, in Jhajjar, Haryana.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organized jointly by the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga and the Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy, Ministry of AYUSH.</li> <li><b>Theme:</b> "Yoga and Naturopathy for a Strong and Healthy You"</li> <li><b>Objective:</b> To create a shared knowledge base for public health interventions through the integration of AYUSH systems with modern medicine.</li> </ul>
<b>International Conference on Dam Safety (ICDS) 2026</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Held on February 13-14, 2026, at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Inaugurated by:</b> Karnataka Chief Minister Mr. Siddaramaiah.</li> <li><b>Organized by:</b> Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti and Department of Water Resources, Government of Karnataka.</li> <li><b>Collaborated by:</b> World Bank, Central Water Commission (CWC) and IISc, Bengaluru.</li> <li>Organized under Phase II and Phase III of the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project. (DRIP)</li> </ul>
<b>All India Official Language Conference</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Held on February 13-14, 2026, in Agartala, Tripura</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Organizer:</b> Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs.</li> <li><b>Objective:</b> To promote effective implementation of the official language Hindi.</li> <li>Goal to : Facilitate exchange of best practices among ministries, institutions and organizations.</li> </ul>

#### National Conference on Safety of Women at Workplace (SHe-Box)

- ❑ Event: February 14, 2026, New Delhi
- ❑ Organized by: Ministry of Women and Child Development
- ❑ Objective: To ensure effective implementation of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013.
- ❑ Features of the SHe-Box portal were discussed at the conference.

#### SHe-Box Portal

- ❑ Full name: Sexual Harassment electronic Box
- ❑ Launched: August 29, 2024, by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- ❑ It serves as a platform for registering complaints of sexual harassment at the workplace.
- ❑ Women working in both the government (public) and private sectors can register their complaints on this portal.
- ❑ This portal is equally available to women in the organized sector and the unorganized sector.

## Festival

### Surajkund International Crafts Mela, Haryana

- ❑ Inaugurated by Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan in Faridabad.
- ❑ Theme: Local to Global
- ❑ Objective: To give international recognition to the traditional art of local artisans.
- ❑ Organized jointly by the Haryana Tourism Corporation and the Union Ministries of Tourism, Textiles, Culture, and External Affairs.
- ❑ Focus States: Uttar Pradesh and Meghalaya.
- ❑ Partner Country: Egypt.

### Mamangam Festival

- ❑ Held on the banks of the Bharatappuzha River in Tirunavaya (Malappuram district, Kerala).
- ❑ Re-organized after a gap of approximately 250-259 years.
- ❑ Held every 12 years until the 18th century.
- ❑ Other names: Mahamagham Festival or Kerala Kumbh.

### National Arogya Mela 2026

- ❑ Inaugurated by President Draupadi Murmu on February 25, 2026.
- ❑ Held at Shegaon (Buldhana district, Maharashtra) from February 25-28, 2026.
- ❑ Organized by: Union Ministry of AYUSH in collaboration with All India Ayurvedic Congress.
- ❑ Objective: To promote AYUSH systems of medicine among the general public.

### Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela 2026

- ❑ Held at: Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi.
- ❑ Theme: 'Developed Agriculture - Self-Reliant India'.
- ❑ Inaugurated by: Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

## Awards

### Gallantry Awards

- ❑ Sanctioned by: President Draupadi Murmu on the 77th Republic Day.
- ❑ Ashok Chakra-1 (Highest peacetime gallantry award)
  - Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, Flying (Pilot), Air Force
- ❑ Kirti Chakra-3 (Second highest peacetime gallantry award)
  - Major Arshdeep Singh, Army
  - Naib Subedar Doleshwar Subba, Army
  - Group Captain Prashant Balakrishnan Nair, Flying (Pilot), Air Force
- ❑ Shaurya Chakra - 13 (including 1 posthumous).
  1. Lieutenant Colonel Ghatage Aditya ShriKumar, Army
  2. Major Anshul Baltoo, Army
  3. Major Shivkant Yadav, Army
  4. Major Vivek, Army
  5. Major Leishangthem Deepak Singh, Army
  6. Captain Yogender Singh Thakur, Army
  7. Subedar P.H. Moses, Army
  8. Baldev Chand, Army (posthumously)
  9. Rifleman Manglem Sang Vaiphei, Army
  10. Rifleman Dhurba Jyoti Dutta, Army
  11. Lieutenant Commander Dilna K., Navy
  12. Lieutenant Commander Roopa A., Navy
  13. Assistant Commandant Vipin Wilson, Ministry of Home Affairs

### The 3rd Ramnath Goenka Sahitya Samman 2025

- ❑ Presented by Vice President of India C.P. Radhakrishnan at a ceremony held in Chennai.
- ❑ Lifetime Achievement Award: Dr. Chandrashekhara Kambara (Kannada writer) Other Awards: Padma Bhushan, Jnanpith Award (2010).
- ❑ Best Fiction: Subi Taba (Arunachal Pradesh)

- ❑ Best Non-Fiction: Sudeep Chakraborty
- ❑ Best Debut: Neha Dixit (renowned investigative journalist)
- ❑ Bestower: The New Indian Express Group.

### 35th G.D. Birla Award for Scientific Research 2025

- ❑ Awarded to Professor Bushra Ateeq (IIT Kanpur).
- ❑ Contribution: For research on the molecular mechanisms of prostate cancer (Biological Sciences).
- ❑ Bestower: K.K. Birla Foundation (1991).

### Swachhata Pakhwada Award 2025

- ❑ First Prize: Paradip Port Authority (PPA), Odisha.
- ❑ Contribution: The Authority successfully implemented the three pillars of Swachhata Pakhwada-2025.  
Three pillars: Jan Bhagidari, Ek Ped Maa ke Naam and Safai Mitra Suraksha.
- ❑ Provider: Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW)

### Crafoord Prize 2026

- ❑ Winner: Veerabhadran Ramanathan (Indian-American scientist).
- ❑ Field: Geosciences (Climate Science).
- ❑ Provider: Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
- ❑ Nobel Prize in Earth Sciences.

### Wings India 2026 Awards

- ❑ Awarded awards in various categories for excellence in the aviation sector at Wings India 2026 held at Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad.
- ❑ Best Airport of the Year: Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) in Delhi
- ❑ Best State for Promotion of Aviation Ecosystem: Uttarakhand
- ❑ Best Aviation Service Provider: InterGlobe Aviation Limited
- ❑ Cargo Services Category: Jointly between Air India Limited and WFS (Bengaluru) Private Limited.

## Environment

### Bee Corridor Initiative

- ❑ The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has announced the development of pollinator or bee corridors along national highways.
- ❑ Implementation Plan
  - Each regional office will develop at least three corridors in 2026-27.
  - These will consist of a continuous linear stretch of bee-friendly vegetation (flowering trees/plants).
  - Developed based on agro-climatic conditions and local suitability.
- ❑ Significance: The corridors will ensure year-round availability of nectar and pollen.
- ❑ NHAI's plantation target: Planting approximately 4 million trees in 2026-27.
  - Approximately 60% of these trees will be planted under the 'Bee Corridor' initiative.

### Project Cheetah

- ❑ Under Project Cheetah, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupendra Yadav released nine cheetahs acquired from Botswana into Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh, on February 28, 2026.
- ❑ This is the third time African cheetahs have been reintroduced to India under this program. (2022-Namibia, 2023-South Africa)
- ❑ This is the first intercontinental translocation initiative of a large wild carnivore in the world.
- ❑ Implementing Agency: National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).
- ❑ Technical support: Provided by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII).

### Him-Connect Program

- ❑ Launched: Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change at the World Sustainable Development Summit.

- ❑ Objective: Connect researchers working in the Himalayan region with startups, industry, and policymakers.
  - Promote environmentally friendly development.
- ❑ Goal: To translate research conducted under the National Mission for Himalayan Studies (NMHS) into solutions that can be implemented on a large scale.

#### **Hornbill Restaurant**

- ❑ Established: In the Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve (Garibandh District) by the Chhattisgarh Forest Department.
- ❑ These are areas where the rare Malabar Pied Hornbill can find its main diet (fruit) in abundance.

#### **Malabar Pied Hornbill (*Anthracoceros coronatus*)**

- ❑ Habitat: Evergreen forests of the Western Ghats, Central India, and Sri Lanka.
- ❑ A major frugivorous bird.
- ❑ IUCN Status: Near Threatened.
- ❑ Other names: Lesser Pied Hornbill.

#### **Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026**

- ❑ Issued: Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- ❑ Basis: Under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- ❑ Effective: From April 1, 2026.
- ❑ Four-way segregation of solid waste based on source is mandatory:
  - Wet waste: Kitchen waste, etc.
  - Dry waste: Plastic, paper, metal, glass.
  - Sanitary waste: Diapers, sanitary napkins.
  - Special care waste: Bulbs, batteries, medicines.
- ❑ Centralized online portal: A portal will be developed to track all stages of solid waste management.

## **Portal**

#### **Udyami Bharat Portal (UBP)**

- ❑ Launched by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- ❑ Designed as a one-stop shop for MSME services.
- ❑ Unified Portal: All portals and services of the Ministry of MSME.
  - Portals and services of other Central Ministries/Departments and State Governments have been integrated.
- ❑ MSME Technology Transfer Platform (MTTP): Provides MSMEs with access to advanced technologies, testing facilities, skill development, and support related to commercialization of intellectual property (IP).

#### **RailTech Portal**

- ❑ Launched by Union Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw.
- ❑ Launched as part of Indian Railways' '52 Reforms in 52 Weeks' campaign.
- ❑ It is a dedicated online portal where any innovator, startup, industry, or organization can present their technology idea to the Railways.

#### **The Government of India + The Government of Nagaland + The Eastern Nagaland People's Organization (ENPO).**

- ❑ A tripartite agreement was signed in New Delhi between representatives of these three.
- ❑ Provisions:
  - Formation of the Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority (FNNTA): To administer the six districts of Eastern Nagaland.
  - A mini-secretariat will be established for the FNNTA.
  - Powers over 46 subjects of the state government will be transferred to the FNNTA.

- Development funds for the Eastern Nagaland region will be allocated in proportion to the population and area.
- **Note:** The ENPO is the highest body representing the eight major tribes of the eastern region of Nagaland.



Important agreements (between whom)	Objective/Description
❖ Food Corporation of India (FCI) + World Food Programme (WFP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> To supply rice in support of global humanitarian operations aimed at combating hunger.</li> <li>• Under this initiative, the FCI will supply 200,000 metric tons of rice to the World Food Programme.</li> </ul>
❖ Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) + Synergy Quantum India Private Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> To strengthen cybersecurity against emerging quantum computing threats in India.</li> <li>• Synergy Quantum India Pvt. Ltd. is a deep-tech sovereign quantum security company providing comprehensive post-quantum cryptography solutions in both hardware and software.</li> </ul>
❖ Indian Council of Agricultural Research + Dr. Reddy's Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> To promote agricultural vocational training in rural areas of the country.</li> <li>• To strengthen farmer extension services.</li> </ul>
❖ Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) + RITES Limited (RITES)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening logistics and operational efficiency at IITs' plants and mines.</li> </ul>
❖ Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) + Google	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To display authorised Aadhaar centres on Google Maps.</li> </ul>

## Important One-Liner

- Under whose chairmanship has the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeiTY) constituted a high-level committee to harmonize the regulatory framework for DigiLocker?  
**Mr. Ajay Sawhney (Former Secretary, MeiTY)**
- Where did Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, in partnership with Airbus, inaugurate a Center of Excellence to promote sustainable aerospace research, innovation, and skill development?  
**Vadodara (Gujarat)**
- Where did the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, in collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the International Centre for Agriculture Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA), hold the National Consultation and Strategy Meeting on the Rashtriya Dalhan Atmanirbharta Mission?  
**Sehore, Madhya Pradesh**
- On which river is the Agham Hydroelectric Project proposed?  
**Shyok River (Ladakh)**

- ❑ Who released the report, "Socio-Economic Impact Analysis of an Incentive Scheme for Promoting RuPay Debit Cards and Low-Value BHIM-UPI (Person-to-Merchant) Transactions"?

**Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance**

- ❑ Where did Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurate the Saras Ajeevika Mela for Lakhpati Didis?
- ❑ Where did Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and former Chief Justice of India Justice Bhushan R. Gavai inaugurate India's first 'Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Advocate Training and Research Centre', established by the Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa?

**Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra**

- ❑ Where did President Draupadi Murmu inaugurate the Bastar Pandum-2026 Festival?

**Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh.**

- ❑ For which state did NITI Aayog recently present its 'Clean Energy Transition Blueprint' under its 'ASSET' (Accelerating Sustainable State Energy Transition) platform? Andhra Pradesh
- ❑ Where was the National Conference on Innovation and Evidence in Unani Practice organized by the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine, Ministry of AYUSH?

**Mumbai**

- ❑ Where was the 39th Indian International Leather Fair held?

**Chennai**

- ❑ The Sikkim Organic Conclave-cum-International Buyer-Seller Meet was organised in Gangtok by which organisation in collaboration with the Government of Sikkim?

**The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).**

# Economy Current Affairs

## Scheme

### PM RAHAT Scheme

- ❑ Launched by the Prime Minister on February 13, 2026, as his first decision in Seva Teerth.
- ❑ Full name: Pradhan Mantri Road Accident Victim Hospitalization and Assured Treatment Yojana.
- ❑ Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH).
- ❑ Objective: To provide immediate cashless treatment to road accident victims.
- ❑ Coverage: Treatment cover up to Rs. 1.5 lakh will be provided to a person injured in a road accident for 7 days from the date of the accident.
- ❑ Treatment duration: Stabilization treatment will be provided up to a maximum of 24 hours in non-life-threatening cases and for a maximum of 48 hours in serious life-threatening cases subject to police certification.
- ❑ Integrated digital system: MoRTH's Electronic Detailed Accident Report (eDAR) platform has been integrated with the National Health Authority's Transaction Management System (TMS 2.0).
  - The entire process from accident reporting to hospitalization, police clearance, treatment, and payment will be online.
- ❑ Payment: Payment will be made within 10 days after approval from the State Health Agency.
- ❑ Financing: Reimbursement to hospitals will be made through the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund (MVAFF).
  - If the offending vehicle is insured, the amount will be borne by contributions from general insurance companies.
  - Expenses for uninsured vehicles and hit-and-run cases will be met from the budgetary provision of the Government of India.
- ❑ Grievance Redressal: Through a Grievance Redressal Officer.
  - Appointment: By the District Road Safety Committee (Chaired by the District Collector/District Magistrate/Deputy Commissioner).
- ❑ It is integrated with the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) helpline number 112, through which anyone can request ambulance service.

### Launch of Bharat Taxi

- ❑ Formal launch: Union Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah on February 5, 2026, in New Delhi.
- ❑ It is India's first cooperative-based ride-hailing platform and was established on June 6, 2025.
- ❑ Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Cooperation
- ❑ Society: Sahakar Taxi Cooperative Limited (STCL)
  - Established under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002.
- ❑ Objective: Increase drivers' profits and income.
- ❑ Features
  - Bharat Taxi's four mantras: Ownership, Security, Dignity, and Everyone's Wheel, Everyone's Progress.

- Sarthi Owner Model: Each sarthi owner (driver) can become an owner with a maximum share capital of Rs. 500.
- 80% of the net profits from the platform will go directly to the drivers, while 20% will go to the company's expansion fund.
- Promoters: It is backed by eight of the country's top cooperatives, including Amul, IFFCO, NAFED, and KRIBCHO.
- Expansion: Currently launched in Delhi-NCR and Rajkot (Gujarat), it will be expanded nationwide in the next 2-3 years.
- A Special 'Sarthi Didi' Option: Female passengers who choose this option will be picked up by a female Sarthi.
- Sarthi will be provided with personal accident insurance and family health insurance of Rs. 5 lakh.
- This platform operates on a zero-commission and surge-free pricing model.

#### **Vibrant Village Programme-II (VVP-II)**

- ❑ Launched: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on February 20, 2026, from Nathanpur village (Cachar district, Assam).
- ❑ Implementation : April 2, 2025. Type: Central Sector Scheme. Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Home Affairs
- ❑ Aim: To ensure sustainable development of border villages through a saturation-based and convergence-driven approach.
  - Providing better living conditions to the border population.
  - Generating adequate livelihood opportunities.
  - Developing the border population as the 'eyes and ears' of the Border Security Forces.
- ❑ Financial Outlay: Rs. 6,839 crore (till FY 2028-29).
  - It is proposed to spend Rs. 3 crore per village.
- ❑ Coverage: Covers 1954 villages in 334 blocks across all 15 border states and 2 Union Territories.
  - Strategic coverage expanded beyond the China border to include villages located on the borders of Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Myanmar.
  - VVP-I villages are excluded from the scope.
- ❑ Goal: Develop all villages as the 'first village', not the 'last village', in four thematic areas.
  - Areas: All-weather road connectivity, telecom connectivity, television connectivity, electrification.

#### **Vibrant Village Programme-I**

- Approved by the Government on February 15, 2023, as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- Financial Outlay: ₹4,800 crore.
- Period: 2022-23 to 2025-26.
- Coverage: 662 selected villages in the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, and the Union Territory of Ladakh, located along the northern border (China).

### **Lakhpati Didi Initiative**

- ❑ The Prime Minister has doubled the target of the initiative to create 6 crore 'Lakhpati Didis' by March 2029.
- ❑ Previous target: 3 crore. (Achieved ahead of the March 2027 deadline.)
- ❑ Launch in: 2023 under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).
- ❑ Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)
- ❑ Objective: To uplift women from rural self-help groups out of poverty and diversify their livelihoods through skill development, financial inclusion, and market access.

### **Lakhpati Didi**

- Definition: A Lakhpati Didi is a member of a self-help group whose annual household income is Rs. 100,000 or more.
- This income is calculated over at least four agricultural seasons or four business cycles.
- Those whose average monthly income is more than Rs. 10,000.

### **Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)**

- ❑ The Prime Minister has approved doubling the AIF outlay from Rs. 1 lakh crore to Rs. 2 lakh crore.
- ❑ Objective: To improve post-harvest management infrastructure and community agriculture assets.
- ❑ Type: Central Sector Scheme.
- ❑ Implementation Period: 2020-21 to 2029-30.
- ❑ Loan Facility: Beneficiaries will be eligible for loans up to Rs. 2 crore under the scheme.
- ❑ Interest Subvention: An interest subvention of 3% per annum is provided on loans up to Rs. 2 crore.
- ❑ Credit Guarantee: The government provides credit guarantee coverage for loans up to Rs. 2 crore.

### **Urban Challenge Fund (UCF)**

- ❑ The Union Cabinet approved the Rs. 1 lakh crore fund.
- ❑ Objective: To build resilient, productive, inclusive, and climate-resilient cities.
- ❑ Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- ❑ Type: Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- ❑ Announced in: Budget 2025-26.
- ❑ Implementation Period: FY 2025-26 to 2030-31 (extendable to year 2033-34)
- ❑ Features:
  - 25% of the project cost will be provided as central assistance from the UCF.
  - At least 50% of the project cost must be raised from market sources.
  - Source: Municipal bonds, bank loans, and public-private partnerships (PPPs).
  - 5,000 crore Credit Enhancement Fund: To enhance the creditworthiness of 4,223 cities, including Tier-II and Tier-III cities.

- Credit Repayment Guarantee Scheme: It will provide a central guarantee of up to Rs. 7 crore or 70% of the loan amount (whichever is lower) for first-time loans to small urban local bodies (ULBs).
- Eligibility:
  - All cities with a population of 1 million or more (2025 projections).
  - All state and union territory capitals.
  - Major industrial cities with a population of 100,000 or more.
  - All urban local bodies in hilly states, northeastern states, and small urban local bodies (ULBs) with a population of less than 100,000 will be eligible to receive assistance under the credit Repayment Guarantee Scheme.

#### **CBDC-based Digital Food Currency Pilot Project**

- Launched: By home Minister Amit Shah on February 15 from Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- It is country's first Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)-based transparent, modern, and simple Public Distribution System (PDS).
- Programmable Digital Rupee (e-rupee): This will be used to credit beneficiaries' ration subsidy directly to their digital wallets in the form of digital currency.
  - It will contain the name, quantity, and price of the grain.
  - It can only be used to purchase designated food grains at fair price shops through a QR code or coupon code.

#### **Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0**

- The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of the Startup India Fund of Funds (FoF) 2.0 under the Startup India initiative.
- Total corpus approved: Rs. 10,000 crore.
- build on the success of FoF 1.0, launched in 2016.
- Nodal Ministry: Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- Fund Managed by: Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).
- Objective: Strengthen the venture capital ecosystem by raising long-term domestic capital.
  - provide financial support to innovation-based startups.
  - Supporting deep tech, technology-driven entrepreneurship.
  - Providing support to early growth stage startups.

#### **Startup Recognition Framework**

- The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has amended the startup recognition criteria under the Startup India Action Plan.
- Key Amendments:
  - Increase in Turnover Limit: The turnover limit for recognition as a startup has been increased from Rs. 100 crore to Rs. 200 crore.

- Deep Tech Startups: A dedicated category has been introduced for them.
- ◆ The recognition period from the date of registration has been extended from 10 years to 20 years.
- ◆ The turnover limit has been increased to Rs. 300 crore.
- Recognition of Cooperatives as Startups
- ◆ Multi-State Cooperative Societies (under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002).
- ◆ The Cooperatives registered under the Cooperative Acts of both states and union territories will be eligible.

### Export Promotion Mission (EPM)

- Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal launched seven additional measures under the EPM.
- Currently, 10 out of the 11 measures proposed under EPM are operational.

Measures Under Niryat Protsahan	Measures under the Niryat Disha
i. Support for Alternative Trade Instruments (Export Factoring).	i. Trade Regulation, Accreditation and Compliance Enablement (TRACE)
ii. Credit Support for E-commerce Exporters.	ii. Facilitating Logistics, Overseas Warehousing and Fulfillment (FLOW)
iii. Support for Emerging Export Opportunities.	iii. Logistics Intervention for Freight and Transportation (LIFT)
iv. Interest Subsidy on Export Credit (Pre- and Post-certification)	iv. Integrated Support for Trade Intelligence and Facilitation (INSIGHT)
v. Collateral Guarantee Support for Export Credit	v. Market Access Assistance.

## Index/Report

### 16th Finance Commission (FC) Report

- The report of the 16th Finance Commission was presented to Parliament on February 1, 2026.
- Duration : 2026-27 to 2030-31 (5 years).
- Article 281 - The Central Government shall present to Parliament the report of the Finance Commission and the action taken thereon.
- Constitution: A constitutional body constituted every five years by the President of India under Article 280.
- Composition: A Chairperson and four members with expertise in finance, economics, or public administration.

Chairman: Arvind Panagariya (former Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog)

Members: Ajay Narayan Jha (replaced by T. Rabi Shankar), Annie George Mathew, Dr. Niranjan Rajadhyaksha (replaced by Dr. Manoja Panda), Dr. Soumya Kanti Ghosh

Secretary: Ritwik Ranjanam Pandey

### Recommendations

- State's Share in Central Taxes: The share of states in the divisible pool of central taxes has been recommended at 41%. (15th FC-41%)

□ Key Criteria for Horizontal Devolution

Criteria	15th Finance Commission (2021-26)	16th Finance Commission (2026-31)
Income Distance	45%	42.5%
Population (2011)	15%	17.5%
Demographic Performance	12.5%	10%
Area	15%	10%
Forest	10%	10%
Tax and Fiscal efforts	2.5%	-
Contribution to GDP	-	10%

1. Per Capita GSDP Distance (Income Distance): This is the difference between a state's per capita GSDP and the average of the per capita GSDP of the top three large states with the highest per capita GSDP.
  - ◆ States with lower per capita GSDP will receive a higher share under this parameter.
  - ◆ This will help ensure equity in inter-state financial transfers.
2. Population: State's population as per the 2011 Census.
3. Demographic Performance: The 16th Finance Commission redefined this to take into account population growth between 1971 and 2011 rather than changes in the total fertility rate (TFR).
  - ◆ States with lower population growth will receive a higher share under this parameter.
4. Forests: The 16th Finance Commission has given weightage to both a state's share in its total forest area and its share in the increase in total forest area between 2015 and 2023.
  - ◆ Additionally, open forests have also been included in determining the total forest area.
  - ◆ The 15th Finance Commission considered only dense and medium dense forests.
5. Contribution to GDP: The 16th Finance Commission introduced this parameter to take into account the contribution to national GDP.
  - ◆ It replaces the 15th Finance Commission's tax and fiscal reforms parameter.

□ Grants- in -aid: The 16th Finance Commission has recommended grants worth Rs. 9.47 lakh crore over a period of five years. These include:

1. Grants for urban and rural local bodies
2. Grants for disaster management

○ The 16th Finance Commission has discontinued the following grants recommended by the 15th Finance Commission:

- (i) Revenue Deficit Grants (ii) Sector-Specific Grants (iii) State-Specific Grants

□ Grants for Local Bodies: The 16th Finance Commission has recommended grants of Rs. 4 lakh crore each and Rs. 3 lakh crore each for rural and urban local bodies, respectively.

○ These grants are divided into basic (80%) and performance-based (20%) components.

○ Basic Grant: 50% of the basic grant will be untied, and the remaining 50% will be tied to:

- (i) sanitation and solid waste management, and/or (ii) water management.

- Performance Grants: These grants for local bodies have been further divided into two parts: State Performance Grants and Local Body Performance Grants.
- Special Infrastructure Grants and Urbanization Premium Grants have also been recommended for urban local bodies.
- Special Infrastructure Grants: This component will be linked to the development of comprehensive wastewater management systems in cities with a population of 10-40 lakh as per the 2011 Census.
  - ◆ Eligible cities under the Special Infrastructure Component from Rajasthan: Jaipur, Jodhpur
- Urbanization Premium Grant: These grants will be released as one-time grant sum to states for:
  - (i) merging peri-urban villages into adjoining urban local body areas, and
  - (ii) formulating a rural-to-urban transition policy.
- ◆ Under the Urbanization Premium Component, Rs.10,000 crore has been recommended.
- Disaster Management Grants: The Commission has recommended a Disaster Management corpus of Rs.2,04,401 crore for the State Disaster Relief and Management Funds (SDRF and SDMF).
  - The cost sharing pattern between the Centre and states has been suggested as follows: 90:10 for North-Eastern and Himalayan states and 75:25 for all other states.

#### Other Recommendations

- Fiscal Roadmap: The central government should reduce the fiscal deficit to 3.5% of GDP by FY 2030-31.
  - It is recommended that the annual fiscal deficit limit for states be set at 3% of GSDP.
  - It is also recommended that states should strictly discontinue the practice of off-budget borrowing and include all such borrowings in their budgets.
  - The definition of fiscal deficit and debt should be expanded to uniformly include all types of off-budget borrowing.
- Power Sector Reforms: The Commission recommended that states actively pursue the privatization of power distribution companies (DISCOMs).
  - To shield private investors from the debt burden after the acquisition of a DISCOM, a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) could be created to warehouse the debt.
- Subsidy Expenditure Reforms: The Commission recommended states review and rationalize their subsidy expenditures.
  - It also noted that unconditional cash transfer schemes tend to have large and untargeted beneficiary numbers.

#### Rajasthan

- 14th Finance Commission - 5.5%    □ 15th Finance Commission - 6.0%    □ 16th Finance Commission - 5.9%
- However, the state's total allocation increased from Rs. 83,940.45 crore to Rs. 90,445.85 crore.

- ❑ Grants to Rajasthan
- Disaster Management Grant: Rs 9,211 crore

Type	Rural Bodies Grants	Local (RLB)	Urban Bodies Grants	Local (ULB)
Basic	Rs. 25,173 crore		Rs. 10,145 crore	
RLB/ULB Display	Rs. 3,147 crore		Rs. 1,268 crore	
State performance	Rs. 3,147 crore		Rs. 1,268 crore	

## Miscellaneous

### Change in the base year for GDP, IIP, and CPI

- ❑ Announcement: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- ❑ Committee constituted to change the base year: Advisory Committee on National Accounts Statistics (Chairman: Biswanath Goldar).

Index	New base year	Revised Series Release Dates	Previous Base Year
Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	2022-23	February 27, 2026	2011-12
Index of Industrial Production (IIP)	2022-23	May, 2026	2011-12
Consumer Price Index (CPI)	2024	February, 12, 2026	2012

### Changes in CPI

- Number of groups: Increased from six to 12.
- Number of items: Increased from 299 to 358 (308 items and 50 services).
- ❑ Revised from 2012 to 2024 based on the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey 2023-24.
- ❑ Newly added items: Rural housing, online media service providers/streaming services such as OTT, value-added dairy products, barley and its products, pen drives and external hard disks, attendants, babysitters, and exercise equipment.

- ❑ Deleted items: VCR/VCD/DVD players and rental charges, radios, tape recorders, used clothes, CD/DVD audio/video cassettes, and coconuts/rope.
- ❑ Consumer Price Index (CPI)
  - Annual inflation rate of 2.75 percent has been recorded in January 2026 compared to January 2025.
  - During the same period, inflation rates for rural and urban areas have been 2.73 percent and 2.77 percent, respectively.

### Key features of the new GDP series (Base year 2022-23)

- ❑ GDP growth rate at constant prices: Growth is projected at 7.6% in FY 2025-26. Growth rates of 7.2% and 7.1% are expected during FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25, respectively. The overall economic performance in FY 2025-26 is mainly due to strong real growth witnessed in the second quarter (8.4%) and third quarter (7.8%).
- ❑ GDP growth at current prices: Growth of 8.6% is expected in FY 2025-26. It has registered growth rates of 11.0% and 9.7% during FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25, respectively.

### Change in base year for Merchandise trade indices

- ❑ Compilation and publication: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ❑ Base year revision: Changed from FY 2012-13 to FY 2022-23.
- ❑ Objective: To measure changes in the unit values and volumes of India's exports and imports over time.
- ❑ Committee: On the recommendations of a committee constituted by DGCI&S under the chairmanship of Professor Nachiketa Chattopadhyay.

- ❑ Key indices: Export Unit Value Index, Import Unit Value Index, Trade Index (Export/Import) as per Core Commodity (PC) classification, Standard International Trade Classification Trade Index, etc.

#### **Underwater Road-cum-Rail Project, Assam**

- ❑ The Union Cabinet approved the country's first road-cum-rail tunnel project under the Brahmaputra River in Assam.
- ❑ Total capital cost: Rs. 18,662 crore
- ❑ **Features:**
  - 4-lane access-controlled greenfield connectivity project.
  - Total length: 33.77 km, construction of a 15.79 km twin tube tunnel under the Brahmaputra River.
  - It will connect Gohpur on NH-15 in Assam to Numaligarh on NH-715.
  - It will be India's first and the world's second underwater road-cum-rail tunnel.
  - Construction: Engineering Procurement Construction (EPC) model.

#### **Rice Fortification Process**

- ❑ The Central Government has temporarily suspended the rice fortification process under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) and other welfare schemes of the Government of India.
- ❑ This decision was taken after Kharagpur assessed the shelf life of fortified rice kernels (FRK) and fortified rice (FR) under realistic storage conditions in various agro-climatic zones of the country.
- ❑ According to the study, factors such as moisture content, storage conditions, temperature, relative humidity, and packaging material reduce the stability and shelf life of FRK and FR.

#### **Advanced powers to Power Grid**

- ❑ The Union Cabinet has approved granting additional powers to Power Grid.

- ❑ The additional powers have been granted in addition to the existing guidelines for delegation of powers applicable to Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).
- ❑ Increase in equity investment limit per subsidiary: Increased from the current Rs. 5,000 crore to Rs. 7,500 crore.
- ❑ Total investment ceiling kept unchanged. (15% of the company's total net worth)

#### **Total Installed Power Generation Capacity**

- ❑ India's total installed power generation capacity as of January 31, 2026 is 520 GW.
- ❑ Fossil fuel-based capacity: 248541.62 MW
- ❑ Non-fossil fuel capacity: 271969.33 MW
  - Nuclear energy: 8,780 MW
  - Renewable energy sources: 263,189 33 MW
- ❑ During the current financial year 2025-26, a record 52,537 MW of generation capacity has been added from all sources.

#### **Kamala Hydroelectric Project**

- ❑ The Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) of the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has recommended approval for the construction of the multipurpose project.
- ❑ Location: Proposed in Lower Subansiri district, Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❑ River: On the Kamala River (tributary of the Subansiri River).
- ❑ Total installed capacity: 1800 MW
- ❑ Establishment : National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited (NHPC).

#### **Yantra India Limited (YIL)**

- ❑ YIL has been granted Miniratna Category-I status.
- ❑ Approval: By Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
- ❑ Establishment: Under the Department of Defence in 2021.
  - Conditions : 'A' Defence Public Sector Undertaking (DPSU).

- ❑ Conditions for Miniratna Category-I:
  - The PSU must have made profits continuously for the last three years.
  - To have a profit of Rs. 30 crore in at least one of these years.
- ❑ Profit: The company can invest up to Rs. 500 crore or its net worth (whichever is lower) without government approval.

#### **'Access Pass' for Fishing**

- ❑ Launch: Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Rajiv Ranjan Singh on February 20, 2026.
- ❑ Location: Veraval, Gujarat.
- ❑ Objective: To encourage fishing of valuable fish such as tuna in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).
- ❑ Features: Free, available online (from the 'ReALCRaft' portal).
  - Traditional non-motorized fishermen are exempted from the need for access passes.

- ❑ India's EEZ covers approximately 2.4 million square kilometers, between 12 and 200 nautical miles.

#### **Strategic Asset Allocation and Risk Governance (SAARG) Committee**

- ❑ Constituted by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).
- ❑ Objective: To strengthen the investment structure of the NPS (National Pension System).
- ❑ Members: 9 (eminent experts in the fields of capital markets, asset management, and securities law).  
Chairman: Mr. Narayan Ramachandran (former Country Head and CEO of Morgan Stanley India).
- ❑ Objective: To promote long-term retirement asset creation.  
To increase investment diversification in.  
To improve risk management functions and expand options for subscribers.



**French President's Visit to India**

- France's President Emmanuel Macron visited India from 17 to 19 February 2026 and participated in the AI Impact Summit 2026.
- Key Points
  - Bilateral ties elevated to "Special Global Strategic Partnership."
    - ◆ France was the first country with which India launched its first-ever Strategic Partnership on 26 January 1998.
  - Guided by the **Horizon 2047 Roadmap** (adopted during the 25th anniversary of the Strategic Partnership in 2023).
  - Establishment of an **Annual Foreign Ministers Comprehensive Dialogue**.
  - India was invited to participate in the **G7 Summit 2026 (hosted by France)**
  - Announcement of "**India-France Year of Innovation 2026**" in Mumbai and "**India-France Innovation Network**".
- Background
  - France is India's **3rd-largest EU trading partner (after the Netherlands and Germany)**.
  - France is emerging as India's 2nd-largest arms supplier after Russia.
  - Both have a joint satellite mission named **TRISHNA Mission** (Thermal Infrared Imaging Satellite for High-resolution Natural Resource Assessment).
- Defence & Security
  - Emphasis on **co-design, co-development, and co-production** (Defence Industrial Roadmap 2024).
  - Creation of a "Joint Advanced Technology Development Group" for emerging & critical technologies.
- Safran-HAL cooperation on **IMRH helicopter engine development**.
- Inauguration of MRO facilities for **LEAP and M-88 engines**.
- **H125 Helicopter** Final Assembly Line
  - ◆ Inaugurated at **Vemagal, Karnataka**
  - ◆ **Inaugurated by Modi Ji and E. Macron**.
- BEL (Bharat Electronics Ltd)-Safran joint venture for **HAMMER missile** production in India.
- Success of **Scorpène (Project-75 Kalvari) submarine program** (6th submarine delivered Jan 15, 2025).
- Regular bilateral exercises: **Varuna (Navy), Shakti (Army), Garuda (Air Force)**.
- Others
  - **UPI** is operational in France (the first European country).
  - Target: **30,000 Indian students** annually in France by **2030** (currently ~10,000).
  - **Namaste France** to be celebrated in **2028**.
  - Namaste France 2028 to mark 30 years of strategic partnership.
  - Opening of **Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre in Paris**.
  - Visa-free airport transit (6-month pilot) announced.
  - Launch of **Indo-French Centre for AI in Health** at AIIMS, New Delhi.
  - Mediterranean Edition of **Raisina Dialogue** held in **Marseille**.
  - Support for **Gaza Peace Plan (UNSC Resolution 2803)**.
  - **India-France National Centre of Excellence in Aeronautics** will be established in **Kanpur** under **PM-SETU**.

- Note:- The updated India- France Tax treaty (Double taxation Avoidance Treaty) removes France from India's Most Favoured Nation (MFN) clause.

### President Lula da Silva's Visit to India

- The **Brazilian** President **Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva** was on a state visit to India from February 18 to 22, 2026
- **Brazil** is India's largest trade partner in Latin America,
- Target -beyond \$20 bn over the next 5 years.
- An **agreement** reached on **critical minerals and rare earths** marks a significant step towards building resilient supply chains.
- The establishment of a **Centre of Excellence in Brazil for oilseeds, pulses, and integrated farming**
- Signed **MoU** in the field of the **steel sector**, the **postal sector**, the **pharmaceutical** and **MSME** sectors.
- India and Brazil have a close and diverse relationship, both bilaterally and in various multilateral bodies like **BRICS, BASIC, IBSA** and **G4**.

### India - USA relation

- News- S Jaishankar visited Washington DC, USA to participate in the **Critical Minerals Ministerial meetings**.
- **Critical Mineral Ministerial Meeting 2026:** a multilateral forum convened by USA Secretary of State **Marco Rubio**, in Washington, D.C.

- **FORGE Initiative-**

- S. Jaishankar announced India's support for the **Forum on Resource, Geostrategic Engagement (FORGE)**,
- It is a newly launched global initiative aimed at strengthening cooperation on critical minerals supply chains.
- **South Korea** will **chair** this initiative until June 2026.

### India-US Interim Trade Deal Framework

- On February 7, 2026
- The U.S. will reduce reciprocal tariffs on Indian imports **from 50% to 18%**.
- It also proposes that India "**intends**" to purchase **\$500 billion** worth of **US goods** over **five** years.
- India also agreed to address long-standing non-tariff barriers to the trade in **US food and agricultural products**.
- India has **secured concessions** on certain aircraft and aircraft parts, tariff rate quotas for automotive parts and generic pharmaceuticals.



## International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA)

- ❑ The U.S. Supreme Court on 20th Feb ruled that the US President lacked the authority to impose broad import tariffs on trade partners under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), 1977.

## PM Modi's Israel Visit

- ❑ Established full diplomatic relations in 1992.
- ❑ Elevated to A **“Special Strategic Partnership for Peace, Innovation & Prosperity”**.
- ❑ PM Modi was honoured with the Israeli Parliament (Knesset)'s highest honour, **“Speaker of “the Knesset Medal.”**
  - 1st Indian PM to receive this award.
  - Speaker- **Amir Ohana**
  - PM Modi also addressed the Israeli Parliament.
- ❑ PM Modi met President **Isaac Herzog** and planted a tree under the “Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam” initiative.
- ❑ India's Export- refined oil, Diamonds, rice etc.
- ❑ Top Import- Rough Diamond, Mineral or chemical fertilisers etc.
- ❑ New initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies led by the **National Security Advisors of the two countries.**
- ❑ **India-Israel Industrial R&D and Innovation Fund (I4F):-** jointly implemented by the Department of Science and Technology of India and the Israel Innovation Authority
- ❑ **India-Israel Joint Research Calls (IIJRC):-** implemented by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), India, and the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology (MOST), Israel.
  - Increase of contribution of both sides from the current \$1 million to \$1.5 million each.
- ❑ Declaration of Intent for cooperation in establishing a **‘Horizon Scanning/Strategic Foresight Mechanism’**.
- This mechanism identifies emerging global trends in technology, economy, and society using data, AI, and expert insights to support strategic planning and decision-making.
- ❑ NPCI International and Israel's MASAV signed an agreement to implement UPI and enable cross-border payments.
- ❑ **India-Israel Innovation Centre for Agriculture (IINCA) at ICAR-** The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Israel's agency for international development cooperation, MASHAV, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to set up this.
- ❑ **Centres of Excellence** established with Israel's cooperation are **set to expand to 100** following their success.
- ❑ Creation of **‘Villages of Excellence’** to bring Israeli technology to Indian villages and boost farmers' income and productivity.
- ❑ JCM on Science and Technology was elevated to the ministerial level
- ❑ Financial Dialogue
- ❑ **Tech-Gateway Initiative**
- ❑ 20 Joint Fellowships in Agricultural Research
- ❑ Increase of contribution of both sides for the Joint Research Calls
- ❑ Quota of up to 50,000 Indian workers over the next 5 years.
- ❑ **Yad Vashem**-PM Modi visited Yad Vashem - The World Holocaust Remembrance Centre in Jerusalem.
- ❑ The first round of negotiations for the India-Israel Free Trade Agreement (FTA), held from 23 to 26 February 2026 in New Delhi, concluded successfully

## Project Vault (USA)

- ❑ **US President Donald Trump** launched Project Vault.
- ❑ It seeks to secure an uninterrupted mineral supply for industries and reduce dependence on foreign sources.
- ❑ Total Funding- \$12 bn.

### PM Modi's Malaysia Visit

- ❑ PM Narendra Modi visited Malaysia from **February 7 to 8, 2026.**
- ❑ PM of Malaysia- **Anwar bin Ibrahim**
- ❑ **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.**
- ❑ PM Modi attended the **10th India-Malaysia Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Forum**, held in Kuala Lumpur, to discuss trade, investment, and economic cooperation.
- ❑ India **set up a Consulate General** in Malaysia to strengthen diplomatic, commercial, and people-to-people ties.
- ❑ **The Thiruvalluvar Centre**- set up to promote the Tamil language, literature, and Indian culture in **Malaysia.**
- ❑ An **MoU** was signed between the **University of Cyberjaya (UoC), Selangor (Malaysia)**, and the Institute of Training and Research in Ayurveda (ITRA), **Jamnagar (Gujarat)**, on academic collaboration in **Ayurveda.**
- ❑ **UPI-DuitNow partnership**- NPCI International signed an agreement with **Malaysia's PayNet** to enable QR-based cross-border payments between India and Malaysia.

### India - Nepal

- ❑ India and Nepal **sign MoU** to strengthen cooperation in Forests, biodiversity conservation, and Climate Change.
- ❑ Emphasis on key species such as elephants, Gangetic dolphins, rhinoceroses, snow leopards, tigers, **and vultures.**
- ❑ India & Nepal Sign "Mutual Legal Assistance Agreement" on **Criminal Matters**

### 10th Conclave of the Indian Army Chiefs

- ❑ Venue- New Delhi, 27-28 February.
- ❑ Leadership- Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi,
- ❑ Participation:- Former Chiefs of the Army Staff of Nepal, who are also honorary Generals in the Indian Army.

### New Country Partnership Framework (NCPF)

- ❑ It is a strategic partnership between **India and the World Bank Group** for the period **2026-2031.**
- ❑ Objective- accelerating job creation across both urban and rural areas of the country with **\$ 8-10 billion in annual financing** over the next 5 years.

### 5th Goa Maritime Conclave 2026

- ❑ Venue: **Naval War College, Goa, 21st February.**
- ❑ Organised by: **Indian Navy.**
- ❑ Theme -"**Common Maritime Security Challenges in the IOR**"
- ❑ Participants: **Naval Chiefs** and maritime leaders from **15 Indian Ocean Region (IOR) Countries.**
- ❑ Chief of Naval Staff: **Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi**

### Operation Herof 2.0 (Pakistan)

- ❑ It is a military offensive launched by the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) in Pakistan's Balochistan province.

### Operation Ghazab Lil-Haq

- ❑ Following Afghanistan's attack on Pakistani positions, Pakistan launched this counter-operation on 26 February.

### Seychelles President's visit to India

- ❑ President **Patrick Herminie** of **Seychelles** visited India from 5- 10 February
- ❑ Both adopted the Joint Vision for **Sustainability, Economic Growth and Security through Enhanced Linkages (SESEL).**
- ❑ India announced a **\$175 million Special Economic Package**, comprising \$125 million Line of Credit and \$50 million in grant assistance

### BCIC Agreement

- ❑ **India** joined the **BRICS Centre for Industrial Competencies (BCIC)**

- ❑ Nodal Centre- National Productivity Council
- ❑ About BCIC- established in 2024-25.
  - Launched at the headquarters of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO).
  - Aim- to strengthen manufacturing capabilities and support MSMEs across BRICS nations with a focus on Industry 4.0 competencies.
  - Supported under the BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution (PartNIR).

#### Tyagaraja Aradhana festival

- ❑ Held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, at the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, celebrating the Carnatic composer Saint Tyagaraja.

#### Reliance Oil Import

- ❑ Reliance received US approval to import oil from **Venezuela**.
- ❑ Venezuela produces sour crude oil.

#### Tamil Brahmi inscription in Egypt

- ❑ Around 30 **Tamil-Brahmi, Prakrit, and Sanskrit inscriptions** (1st-3rd century CE) were discovered in Egypt's Valley of the Kings.
- ❑ These inscriptions provide strong archaeological evidence of ancient India-Roman trade links and show that Indian traders travelled deep into Egypt.
- ❑ The discovery was made during a 2024-25 study by Prof. Charlotte Schmid (EFEO, Paris) and Prof. Ingo Strauch (University of Lausanne).

#### G4 Group

- ❑ News- meeting of the G4 group held during the 62nd Munich Security Conference in Germany

#### E- Signature Pact

- ❑ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**) and the **DG CONNECT of the European Commission (EC)** signed an Administrative Arrangement on "Advanced Electronic Signatures and

Seals" to strengthen India-European Union (EU) digital cooperation in January 2026.

#### Visa Intelligent Commerce

- ❑ **Singapore's DBS Bank** became the first bank in Asia-Pacific to pilot Visa Intelligent Commerce for daily payments.

#### World Bank Approves \$830 Million Loan for PM-SETU to Upgrade India's ITIs

- ❑ Aim- to revamp ITIs to align skills training with labour market needs and enhance youth employment opportunities.

#### Charax Spasinou

- ❑ The lost ancient port city "**Charax Spasinou**" of Alexander the Great's empire, hidden under sand in **Iraq**, was revealed.
- ❑ Located on the **Tigris River**.

#### Arctic Sentry Mission

- ❑ Launched by NATO
- ❑ Objective: The mission will use NATO's collective strength to protect its territory and keep the Arctic and High North secure.
- ❑ Military exercises include major drills such as **Exercise Cold Response and the UK-led Lion Protector**.

#### India- UK

- ❑ '**India-UK Offshore Wind Taskforce**'-
  - jointly launched during the '4th India-UK Energy Dialogue' in New Delhi.
  - The offshore wind Project will be developed in **Gujarat and Tamil Nadu** under India and **UK Vision 2035**.
- ❑ India signed a bilateral Social Security Agreement with the United Kingdom(UK) of Great Britain & Northern Ireland
  - Pact eliminates dual social security contributions for Indian and UK workers.

#### PAX SILICA

- ❑ **India formally joined** the Pax Silica Coalition during the India AI Impact Summit 2026.

- The term “Pax” denotes peace, while “Silica” refers to silicon-based semiconductor technologies, symbolising a stable and cooperative global technology order.
- The move advances the vision of deeper tech cooperation under the **Transforming the Relationship Utilising Strategic Technology (TRUST) initiative in India-U.S. relations.**
- Launched in **December 2025** by the USA’s **Department of State.**
- **Signatories**
  - Australia, Greece, Israel, Japan, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Singapore, UAE, United Kingdom, India (new entrant).
  - Non-signatory participants: Canada, European Union, Netherlands, OECD, Taiwan.
- **Core Objectives**
  - Reduce **coercive dependencies**
  - Partner to **secure global tech supply chains**, address AI supply chain opportunities and vulnerabilities, and explore joint investment
  - **Protect sensitive technologies** and build a **trusted digital infrastructure**
- Pax Silica aims to secure the “silicon stack” – from critical minerals  
→ semiconductor fabrication → advanced AI systems → deployment infrastructure.
- Key measures under Pax Silica focus on **promoting joint ventures and strategic co-investments.**

#### UN Secretary General

- PM Modi met the UNSG **António Guterres** on the sidelines of the AI Impact Summit
- The UN **proposed** the creation of a **Global Scientific Panel on Artificial Intelligence.**
- **UN-80 Initiative** - a platform for UN reforms, launched In March 2025
- **Note-**
  - In February 2026, India paid \$35.18 million to the United Nations (UN) Regular Budget for 2026. (1.016% of Total regular budget).

- Following this contribution, India has now joined the UN’s ‘honour roll’ alongside 51 other member states who have paid their regular budget dues in full and on time.

#### The India-Spain conference on Higher Education

- Venue- New Delhi on 19–20 February 2026.
- Addressed by: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.
- 2026 marks 70 years of India-Spain diplomatic relations (Spain-India Dual Year 2026).

#### India-Netherlands Hydrogen Fellowship Programme

- Launched by the Department of Science and Technology (**DST**), Ministry of Science & Technology (MoS&T) in New Delhi.
- DST also hosted the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) between the **University of Groningen**, the Netherlands, and **19** Indian Institutes of Technology (**IITs**)

#### Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)

- India assumed the Chairmanship of the IONS during the 9th Conclave of Chiefs held in Visakhapatnam in February 2026

#### About IONS

- It is a voluntary and inclusive multilateral forum of navies of the Indian Ocean Region, established - **2008.**
- Member Nation- **25.**
- Initiated by the Indian Navy.

#### Board of Peace

- Recently, India attended its inaugural meeting (19th Feb) as an **Observer.**
- Aim:- To discuss the reconstruction of Gaza.
- The board, mentioned in **UNSC Resolution “2803”**, is responsible for **supervising** the Gaza peace plan.
- It oversees the **National Committee for the Administration of Gaza (NCAG)** and the **International Stabilisation Force (ISF).**

- ❑ Participating countries are required to contribute **US\$1 billion** to the organisation to renew membership **after the first three years**.
- ❑ Executive Leadership
  - Chairman: **Donald Trump** (Indefinite/ Life term)
  - Director-General / High Representative for Gaza: **Nickolay Mladenov** (Bulgarian diplomat and former UN envoy)
  - Executive Boards: These boards are tasked with the day-to-day operations and strategic management of the organisation's mission.
- ❑ Members - 25 of the 62 invited countries have signed the board's charter. 22 Countries took part in the first meeting as "Observers" - which include India, the UK, Germany, and Switzerland.

#### India- South Korea

- ❑ India and South Korea Hold 6th Foreign Policy and Security Dialogue (FPSD), Reaffirming **Special Strategic Partnership**.

#### India Grids of the Future Accelerator

- ❑ Launched by the **Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP)**
- ❑ Venue- Mumbai Climate Week 2026 at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai.
- ❑ To modernise India's power distribution networks and accelerate renewable energy integration.

#### Devnimori relics

- ❑ First International public exposition of these holy relics of Lord Buddha in Sri Lanka
- ❑ These relics were discovered in Gujarat.

#### India- Kenya

- ❑ The 1st Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting on Agriculture was held in a virtual mode.
- ❑ Kenya signed an agreement with India for the DigiLocker pilot project.

#### Sweden-India Technology and Artificial Intelligence Corridor (SITAC)

- ❑ The IndiaAI Mission and Business Sweden signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the field of AI and digital technologies and to promote trade and investment engagement.
- ❑ As part of this partnership, both will launch the Sweden-India Technology and Artificial Intelligence Corridor (SITAC) programme.

#### India-Mauritius talks

- ❑ India and Mauritius reviewed cooperation in trade, investment, maritime security, AI, and development assistance.

#### India-New Zealand cooperation

- ❑ **Both countries held the first Joint Working Group meeting on horticulture cooperation.**

#### US Embassy in Syria

- ❑ The US plans to reopen its embassy in **Damascus** after 14 years, which had closed during Syria's civil war in 2012.

### Events/Conferences/Meetings

#### BIOFACH 2026

- ❑ Venue- **Nuremberg**, Germany (10-13 Feb 2026).
- ❑ India received the "**Country of the Year**" award.
- ❑ BIOFACH is the world's largest organic trade fair.
- ❑ India's participation was organised by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products

Export Development Authority (APEDA) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

#### 1st BRICS Sherpa meeting

- Venue- **New Delhi**, 9-10 February.
- India highlighted priorities like resilience, innovation, cooperation, and sustainability.
- BRICS Sherpa of India- **Sudhakar Dalela**,
- BRICS Sous (Deputy) Sherpa of India- **Shambhu L. Hakki**.

#### World Seafood Congress 2026

- Venue: **Chennai, Tamil Nadu** (1st time in India), 9-11 February.
- This is a **biennial** global forum on fisheries and aquaculture.
- Organised by - The International Association of Fish Inspectors, PDA Ventures, and the National Fisheries Development Board, Hyderabad.

#### 4th World Ocean Science Congress

- **Venue - Goa, 23-26 February.**
- It brings together scientists, policymakers, maritime industries and coastal communities at the National Institute of Oceanography in **Panaji**.
- It is a biannual international-level conclave.
- Theme- **Ocean, Health & Sustainable Future**
- The congress is co-organised by the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), and Goa University.
- Earlier editions were held in **Visakhapatnam, Kochi and Chennai**.

#### Bharat Bodhan AI Conclave 2026

- Venue- **Bharat Mandapam**, New Delhi (12-13 February).
- Initiating the development of the **Bharat EduAI Stack for AI-** enabled education across India.

- Launch of **Bodhan AI Centre of Excellence** by Union Education Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan**.
- MoU between **IIT Bombay** and **Columbia University** to establish a **Centre of AI for manufacturing**

#### Black Swan Summit India 2026

- Venue- **Bhubaneswar**, 6-7 February.
- President **Droupadi Murmu** addressed this summit.
- organised by the Government of **Odisha** under the **BharatNetra initiative**, in partnership with the Singapore-headquartered **Global Finance & Technology Network (GFTN)**,
- The **Black Swan Summit** is a policy-focused global platform that examines high-impact economic and technological shifts often called “black swan” events.

#### World Government Summit, 2026

- Held **annually** in **Dubai**, United Arab Emirates. (10-13 February)
- Theme- **“Shaping Future Governments”**
- Participation- With over 6,250 participants, including more than 60 heads of state and government,
- Aim: Strengthen governance, boost international cooperation, and tackle growing economic, social, and technological challenges.

Important Announcement - Dubai is set to become **the second city in the world, after Las Vegas**, to launch an underground transport system.

#### Tourism Leadership Summit

- News- Vice President **C.P. Radhakrishnan** addressed this summit.
- Venue- **New Delhi**
- Organised by the **US India Partnership Forum** and the **Sankala Foundation**

### 2nd India-Arab Foreign Ministers' Meeting

- ❑ Date- January 31, 2026,
- ❑ Venue- New Delhi
- ❑ Co-Host- India and The UAE
- ❑ 1st Meeting- Bahrain in 2016
- ❑ India and the League of Arab States (LAS) formally adopted the Delhi Declaration.

### 23rd BioAsia 2026 Summit

- ❑ Inaugurated by Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy
- ❑ Venue- HITEX Exhibition Centre, Hyderabad.
- ❑ Theme- "TechBio Unleashed"
- ❑ **Hyderabad** is known as India's "Genome Valley" due to its biotech clusters.

## Reports

### Network Readiness Index 2025

- ❑ Released by the **Portulans Institute**.
- ❑ Rank- 1. USA 2. Finland 3. Singapore
- ❑ **India- 45th**
- ❑ India ranked 2nd, behind Vietnam among lower-middle-income economies,

### Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2026

- ❑ Launched by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
- ❑ The Report warns that this region is on track to fail 103 of 117 measurable targets by 2030.

### Chang-Crandall Humanitarian Award 2026

- ❑ Recipients: Dr. Haripriya Aravind and Dr. R. Venkatesh
- ❑ Institution: Aravind Eye Care System, Puducherry
- ❑ Prize Amount: \$100,000
- ❑ Field: For preventing cataract-related blindness and providing affordable and accessible eye care.

### India's 155 Million Student Mandate

- ❑ Released by - the Knight Frank India, Deloitte India and Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) jointly
- ❑ Findings- New Delhi has emerged as "the world's most affordable student city, ranked first globally"
- ❑ Around 150 cities were assessed under 6 categories.

### USGBC LEED List 2025

- ❑ Released by:- the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) and Green Business Certification Inc. (GBCI).
- ❑ Rank- 1.China 2.India

### Corruption Perception Index 2025

- ❑ Published by **Transparency International**, a Germany-based NGO.
- ❑ 1. **Denmark** (for 8th consecutive year) 2. Finland 3. Singapore
- ❑ **India- 91st** (improved by 5 places)
- ❑ Score - 39 out of 100.

### Global Mental Health Report

- ❑ Released by - American Non-Government Organisation (NGO) Sapien Labs
- ❑ youth adults in India (aged 18 to 34 years) rank **60th out of 84 countries** surveyed, with a Mind Health Quotient (MHQ) score of 33.
- ❑ In contrast, Indians aged 55 and above rank at the **49th spot** globally, with an overall MHQ score of 96.

### Global R&D Spending in 2024

- ❑ According to the latest data from the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) based on the **Global Innovation Index 2025 (GII 2025)** and related Research and Development (R&D) expenditure estimates,
- ❑ India ranked **7th in 2024**, investing approximately \$75.73 billion in research activities.
- ❑ 1. China 2. USA 3. Japan

### Henley Passport Index- February 2026

- ❑ Released by Henley & Partners.
- ❑ India's passport improved its global position to **75th rank**, up from 80th in January 2026
- ❑ 1. Singapore 2. Japan 3. South Korea.
- ❑ Last rank 101. Afghanistan

### State of Energy Innovation 2026 report

- ❑ Released by the International Energy Agency (IEA)

## Award

### 79th BAFTA Awards (British Academy of Film and Television Arts)

- ❑ India won its first-ever BAFTA Award with the **Manipuri film "Boong."**
- ❑ Category: Best Children and Family Film.
- ❑ Director: Lakshmi Priya Devi.
- ❑ Language/Region: Manipuri film.
- ❑ BAFTA is considered the British equivalent of the Oscars.

Category	Winner	Film
Best Film	One Battle After Another	
Best British Film	Hamnet	
Best Director	Paul Thomas Anderson	One Battle After Another
Best Leading Actor	Robert Aramayo	I Swear
Best Leading Actress	Jessie Buckley	Hamnet

### UNESCO Asia-Pacific Award for Cultural Heritage Conservation

- ❑ The Our Lady of Grace Cathedral, Vasai (Maharashtra) has won the Award of Merit at the 2025 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation.
- ❑ About Vasai Cathedral
  - A 16th-century Catholic cathedral located in Pady village, Vasai (Maharashtra), representing early Portuguese colonial architecture in India.

### 68th Annual Grammy Awards

- ❑ Held in **Los Angeles, USA.**
- ❑ The 14th Dalai Lama (Tenzin Gyatso) won the Grammy for Best Audiobook, Narration & Storytelling Recording for his album "Meditations: Reflections of His Holiness the Dalai Lama."
  - Musician Rufus Wainwright accepted the award on his behalf.
- ❑ The track "Golden" from KPop Demon Hunters won Best Song Written for Visual Media, marking the first Grammy win for a Korean Pop (K-Pop).
- ❑ Album of the Year: "Debí Tirar Más Fotos"
  - Artist: Bad Bunny
  - First Spanish-language album to win AOTY.
- ❑ Record of the Year- "Luther"
  - Artists: Kendrick Lamar & SZA.
- ❑ Song of the Year- "Wildflower"
  - Writers: Billie Eilish & Finneas O'Connell.
- ❑ Best New Artist- Olivia Dean.

### Global Teacher Prize 2026

- ❑ Won by Indian educator **Roubal Nagi**, receiving \$1 million.
- ❑ At the World Government Summit held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- ❑ She was honoured for her project "**Living Walls of Learning**," which transforms slum walls into educational murals for teaching poor children.
- ❑ About Prize
  - The prize is presented by **GEMS Education** and organised by the Varkey Foundation in collaboration with **UNESCO**.

### 22nd Upendra Nath Brahma 'Soldier of Humanity' Award 2025

- ❑ The Queen of Bhutan, Gyalum Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, was awarded.
- ❑ Given by the State of Assam.

### Delhi Airport

- According to OAG data, Delhi airport gets 5th position in the list of the busiest airports in Asia Pacific in the year 2025.

## International Organisation

### Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network

- New York City (United States of America, USA) joined this
- GOARN is a WHO-coordinated network established in 2000.
- It brings together over 360 institutions worldwide.
- The initiative aims to detect, monitor, and respond quickly to disease outbreaks and public health emergencies.

## Person In News

### Tarique Rahman

- Became 11th Prime Minister of **Bangladesh**.
- Total parliament (Jatiya Sangsad) seat= 300, Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) won 2/3rd majority.
- **Speaker Om Birla** and Foreign Secretary **Vikram Misri** was present at Rahman's swearing-in.
- Earlier head of the interim govt- **Mohammad Yunus**

### Sanae Takaichi

- She has made history by becoming the **first woman to be elected as Japan's Prime Minister**.

### Anutin Charnvirakul

- He became the New Prime Minister of **Thailand**.

### David J. Farber

- Known as the **Grandfather of the internet**, American computer scientist David J. Farber died at age 91 in Tokyo.

- He played a key role in integrating computing and telecommunications.

### Mia Amor Mottley

- Prime Minister of **Barbados**
- She won a historic third consecutive electoral victory.

### Andrey Gyurov

- Newly elected Prime Minister of **Bulgaria**.

### Jesse Jackson

- USA Civil Rights activists passed away
- 2 times US Presidential candidate.

### Professor B. Ravindran

- He was appointed to the United Nations **Independent International Scientific Panel in Artificial Intelligence (AI)**.
- He is a professor in IIT Madras.

### Rob Jetten

- Youngest and first openly gay Prime Minister of the Netherlands

## Place In News

### El-Fasher city

- A UN mission reported signs of genocide in the paramilitary siege of El-Fasher.
- The Sudan conflict is mainly between:
  - Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF).
- Other conflict regions
  - **Khartoum** - Capital city and major battle zone.
  - **Darfur** Region (Western Sudan)
  - El Fasher - Capital of North Darfur
  - **Kordofan** Region - Capital: El Obeid
  - Blue Nile State

### Chagos Archipelago

- The United States urged Britain not to hand over Diego Garcia or Chagos to Mauritius.

- ❑ About
  - Became a British territory along with Mauritius in **1814** under the Treaty of Paris.
  - After the 2019 International Court of Justice ruling and rising global pressure, the UK agreed in 2025 to return Chagos to Mauritius while retaining the Diego Garcia base on a 99-year lease.

### Takeshima/ Dokdo Island Dispute

- ❑ South Korea protested the Takeshima Day event held by Japan's Shimane Prefecture, calling it an unjust sovereignty claim.
- ❑ About
  - The Takeshima / Dokdo islands are a territorial dispute between Japan and South Korea.
  - Called **Takeshima** by Japan.
  - Called **Dokdo** by South Korea.

#### Important One Liner

- ❑ The **Food Corporation of India (FCI)** signed a MoU with the World Food Programme (WFP) for the supply of **5 lakh metric tonne rice** in **5 years** for Global Hunger Relief, aimed at alleviating hunger.
- ❑ The Government of India (GoI) signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)/ agreements **with 23 countries** to share and promote its Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and components of the India Stack framework.
- ❑ **Russia** ordered to block the messaging app **WhatsApp**
  - **Now Russia is** promoting an indigenous messaging app- **MAX**

- ❑ The **first European Legal Gateway Office** was inaugurated in New Delhi.
- ❑ Inaugurated by **S. Jaishankar**.
- ❑ An eruption occurred at the **Piton de la Fournaise Volcano** on Reunion Island.
- ❑ Seoul Court sentenced former **South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol** to life imprisonment.
- ❑ **IIT Madras** Global Research Foundation launched an **AI Innovation Centre in Dubai**.
- ❑ **Spain** has announced a ban on the use of social media by children aged less than 16 years. Earlier, **Australia and France** (15 years old) also banned the use.
- ❑ **Walmart** has become the world's first retail company to reach a market valuation of 1 trillion USD.
- ❑ **India and Greece** signed a Joint Declaration of Intent aimed at strengthening the defence industrial cooperation between the two countries.
- ❑ **ADB approved a \$182 million** loan to boost **Assam's** flood and riverbank erosion resilience along the **Brahmaputra**.
- ❑ The Government of **Gujarat** signed a **Letter of Intent (LoI) with Starlink Satellite Communications Private Limited**, a subsidiary of Elon Musk-founded SpaceX.
- ❑ Cyclone **Gezhani** caused devastation in Madagascar.
- ❑ France has become the **first European Union country** to establish a diplomatic mission in this autonomous territory of Denmark.
- ❑ Israel announced that it will sever ties with seven major United Nations (UN) agencies and affiliated bodies, including UN Women, UNCTAD, etc.



## Space Technology

### NASA postpones Artemis-II mission until March

- ❑ **Reason:** Hydrogen leak while refueling the SLS rocket during a wet dress rehearsal.
- ❑ **Artemis-II:** Will be the first manned mission carrying 4 astronauts to orbit the Moon and return

### Qualification load test of "drogue parachute" for the Gaganyaan mission -

- ❑ **Location:** Rail Track Rocket Sled Facility, Chandigarh (under DRDO)
- ❑ **Collaboration:** Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)

### HAVEN-1

- ❑ World's first commercial space station
- ❑ **Developed by:** American aerospace company VAST
- ❑ **Launch:** During early 2027 via SpaceX's Falcon-9 rocket

## Defence Technology

### VSHORADS (Very Short Range Air Defence System)

- ❑ **Why in the news?-** DRDO conducted 3 successful flight tests of the VSHORADS from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, Odisha
- ❑ **Range:** 6 km
- ❑ **Speed:** Mach 1.5 to 2 (Supersonic)
- ❑ **Guidance System:** Equipped with an Infrared Homing Seeker, which tracks the target by detecting its heat

- ❑ **Operation:** Man Portable Air Defence System (MANPADS), means that it can be launched by a soldier from a shoulder mount.

- ❑ **Users:** All 3 armed forces

### Agni-3

- ❑ **Why in the news?-** Successfully tested from the ITR, Chandipur
- ❑ **Type:** Medium-range ballistic missile
- ❑ **Range:** 3000-3500 km
- ❑ **Speed:** 5-6 km/sec
- ❑ **Fuel:** 2-stage solid fuel
- ❑ **Features:**
  1. Equipped with advanced navigation and guidance systems
  2. Capable of changing targets during flight.

### Rajnath Singh launches defense initiatives at BEL Bengaluru

- ❑ Inauguration of **Missile Integration Facility**
- ❑ Inauguration of **new missile integration facility** at BEL campus
  - Unveiling of **Mountain Fire Control Radar**
  - Combat systems- **Akash-III and IV regiments** get ahead
  - Formal launch of **BEL's AI policy**
- ❑ Virtual inauguration of **AI Centre of Excellence** in Pune

### Sayyad-3G Missile

- ❑ **By:** Iran
- ❑ **Type:** Surface-to-air naval missile
- ❑ **Speed:** 4.5 to 5.1 Mach
- ❑ **Range:** 150 Km

### Strela-10 Missile

- ❑ **Why in the news?:** The Indian Army's Konark Corps successfully conducted a precision test at the Pokhran Field Firing Range.
- ❑ **Type:** Short-range surface-to-air targets
- ❑ **Range:** 6-10 km

### Solid-fuel ducted ramjet technology

- ❑ **Why in the news?:** Successfully tested at the ITR Chandipur
- ❑ **Achievement:** India joins a group of countries possessing this cutting-edge technology
- ❑ **Significance:** Will be helpful in the developing long-range air-to-air missiles

### First United Nations Fellowship Training Programme on SLAW Control in India

- ❑ **SLAW:** Small & Light Weapons
- ❑ **Organized by:** Military College of Material Management (MCM) Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh
- ❑ **Duration:** February 16 -March 6
- ❑ **Participants:** Representatives from 13 countries in the Asia-Pacific region
- ❑ **Organizers:**
  1. Ministry of External Affairs
  2. Ministry of Defence
  3. United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs

### Krishna

- ❑ **What is it?:** First indigenously designed and built Cadet Training Ship (CTS).
- ❑ **Launched by:** Indian Navy at L&T Shipyard, Kattupalli (Chennai)
- ❑ **Named after:** Krishna River
- ❑ **Features:**
  1. First of the 3 CTSs being built under a contract with the Ministry of Defence
  2. Yard Number: 18003

3. Will be delivered to the Indian Navy by the end of 2026

### H-125 Helicopter Final Assembly Line

- ❑ **Location:** Vemagal, Kolar, Karnataka
- ❑ **Inauguration:** PM Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron virtually in Mumbai

### Indigenous Marine Jet Power Waterjet Production Facility

- ❑ **Inauguration:** By Indian Coast Guard Director General Paramesh Sivamani in Panjim, Goa.
- ❑ India is the 3<sup>rd</sup> country (after USA & South Korea) to develop this technology
- ❑ A marine jet or waterjet is an advanced propulsion system for ships and boats which uses a powerful jet of water instead of conventional wings.

## Robotics

### Tele-Robotic Ultrasound

- ❑ **Why in the News?:** AIIMS Delhi was connected to the Maitri Research Centre in Antarctica through tele-robotic ultrasonography in a special demonstration held in Goa
- ❑ **Ministry:** Led by the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- ❑ **Collaboration:** IIT Delhi, AIIMS Delhi, and Rajiv Gandhi Super-specialty Hospital
- ❑ **Tele-robotic Ultrasound:** This is an advanced medical technology in which specialist doctors, sitting thousands of kilometers away, can perform ultrasound examinations on patients through robotic systems.

## Artificial Intelligence

### Vikram LLM

- ❑ **Development:** Sarvam AI (Bengaluru)

- ❑ Sarvam AI launched two new large language models called Vikram:
  1. 30 billion Parameters
  2. 105 billion Parameters
- ❑ **Features:**
  - Designed to perform in 22 scheduled languages of India
  - Will provide accurate translation and content generation in local dialects

### BharatGen AI

- ❑ India's 1<sup>st</sup> indigenous AI model built entirely on government funding
- ❑ **Development:** IIT Bombay (Department of Development and Technology)

## Major Exercise

### 13th MILAN: 2026

- ❑ **To be held:** February 15-25 in Visakhapatnam
- ❑ **Participation:** 75 friendly nations
- ❑ **Closing Ceremony:** Held on INS Vikrant

### International Fleet Review:

- **To be held:** February 18 in Visakhapatnam
- **To be reviewed by:** President Draupadi Murmu
- **Theme:** "United through the sea"
- **Participation:** More than 70 nations

### Agni Varsha

- ❑ **Venue:** Pokhran Field Firing Range, Rajasthan
- ❑ **Organizer:** Southern Command of the Indian Army

### 7th Dharma Guardian Exercise

- ❑ **Venue:** Chaubaria (Uttarakhand)
- ❑ **Participants:** Ladakh Scouts (India) and 32<sup>nd</sup> Infantry (Japan)

### Agni Pariksha Exercise

- ❑ **Venue:** Arunachal Pradesh
- ❑ **Participants:** Indian Army and ITBP

### 13<sup>th</sup> Khanjar Exercise

- ❑ **Venue:** Misamari (Assam)
- ❑ **Participants:** Parachute Regiment (India) and Kyrgyzstan

### 16th Vajraprahar

- ❑ **Event:** February 24-March 16, Special Forces Training School, Bakloh (Himachal Pradesh)
- ❑ **Participants:** 45 soldiers from the Indian Army and 12 soldiers from the US Green Berets Special Forces

### Operation Himrahat

- ❑ **Venue:** Near Jawaharlal Nehru Marg (East Sikkim)
- ❑ **Objective:** Rescue tourists and vehicles stranded in heavy snowfall and extreme cold.
- ❑ **Response Action:** Indian Army rescued 46 civilians and towed over 150 vehicles to safety.

## Conferences

### INCOIS's 27th Foundation Day

- ❑ **Host:** Hyderabad
- ❑ **Full form:** Indian National Center for Ocean Information Service
- ❑ 3 initiatives were launched during this event:
  1. **Jelly AIIP** (Jelly fish AI Information Platform): A "data-based prediction platform" to find out about jellyfish occurrences
  2. **SAMUDRA 2.0** Mobile App
  3. **SNAS** (Storm & Inundation Warning System): An early warning system

### QA Quality Assurance Industry Conference

- ❑ **Venue:** Manek Shaw Auditorium (New Delhi)
- ❑ **Theme:** "Traceability, Speed & Trust - Leveraging Technology for Smarter Quality Assurance"
- ❑ **Organizer:** Ministry of Defence and Indian Navy

### 9th Conclave of Chiefs of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)

- ❑ **Host:** Visakhapatnam
- ❑ **Chaired by:** India (Indian Navy took over this responsibility from the Royal Thai Navy)
- ❑ **Participants:** Naval chiefs and maritime security agencies from 33 countries

### RISE Conclave: 2026

- ❑ **Full name:** Research-Industry-Startup-Entrepreneurship Conclave
- ❑ **Held:** February 14-15 in Chennai
- ❑ **Inaugurated by:** Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh

### 3rd World Defence Exhibition

- ❑ **Inauguration:** February 8-9, attended by Sanjay Seth, Minister of State for Defence.
- ❑ **Organizer:** Saudi Arabia

### 24th Officers-in-Charge Conference and 7th IT Projects and Infrastructure Meeting

- ❑ **Host:** Naval Armament Organization  
**Organizer:** Institute of Technology Management, DRDO, Mussoorie

### Bharat Bodhan AI Conference: 2026

- ❑ **Organizer:** Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

### International AYUSH Exhibition and Conference

- ❑ **Host:** Dubai

## Miscellaneous

### Development of a new cathode for zinc-iron batteries

- ❑ **Developed By:** Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences, Bengaluru
- ❑ A material called sulfur vacancy-induced 1T-phase molybdenum disulfide (1T-MoS<sub>2</sub>) has been used
- ❑ **Use:** For grid storage

### 2 Community Radio Initiatives of the Indian Army

1. IBEX Tarana 88.4 FM: Jyotirmath (Uttarakhand)
2. Radio Sangam 88.8 FM: Rajouri (Jammu and Kashmir)

### SUJVIKA Portal

- ❑ AI-powered biotech product data portal
- ❑ **Launch:** Department of Biotechnology on its 40th Foundation Day
- ❑ **Function:** Provides authentic data on imports of biotechnology products
- ❑ **Development:** Department of Biotechnology in collaboration with ABLE.
- ❑ **Significance:** Will strengthen the bio-economy vision

### Blockchain India Challenge

- ❑ **Launch:** February 23, by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, New Delhi
- ❑ **Operated by:** Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and C-DAC
- ❑ A national initiative aimed at encouraging visionary Indian startups to develop and to test cutting-edge blockchain-based digital governance solutions

### Indian Air Force Cup and Eastern Air Command Cup

- ❑ **Host:** Kolkata
- ❑ **Guest:** Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh
- ❑ **Winners:**
  - a. IAF Cup: Antony Raj S (Horse: Abhichandra)
  - b. EAC Cup: M.S. Devra (Horse: Laguna)

## Important One-Liners

- ❑ A two-day national conference on "Innovation and Evidence in Unani Practice" was organized at the Yashwantrao Chavan Centre (Mumbai).
- ❑ PM inaugurated the Northeast's first emergency landing facility- Dibrugarh (Assam)



**International Tournaments****BWF (Badminton World Federation) Super 300 Thailand Masters**

- ❑ Winner: Devika Singh
- ❑ Runner-up: Malaysia's Goh Jin Wei who retired midway due to injury when Devika was leading by 21-8, 6-3
- ❑ Tournament details:
  - Full name is PRINCESS SIRIVANNAVARI Thailand Masters, named after current Thai princess who is a former badminton player (She recently visited Hawa mahal, Panna Meena Kund etc).
  - Held between 27th Jan and 1st Feb 2026 in Bangkok, Thailand
  - It is a part of BWF World Tour
- ❑ About BWF World Tour:
  - It is a circuit of 31 tournaments conducted all over the year across world, attracting the top world-ranked players in singles (men's and women's), doubles (men's, women's) and mixed.

**BWF (Badminton World Federation) Para World Championships 2026:**

- ❑ Venue: Manama, Bahrain
- ❑ India won 15 medals: 2 Gold, 5 Silver, 8 Bronze
- ❑ 2 Gold:
  1. Pramod Bhagat- Men's Singles SL3 (4th time consecutively)
  2. Pramod Bhagat & Sukant Kadam- Men's Doubles SL3-SL4

**Winter Olympics 2026:**

- ❑ "Host: Milan & Cortina, Italy
- ❑ Schedule: 6th Feb to 22nd Feb

- ❑ Motto: "IT's your vibe"; where IT stands for Italy
- ❑ Opening Ceremony Theme: "Harmony" (Armonia)
- ❑ Closing Ceremony Theme: "Beauty in Action"
- ❑ Logo: Named "Futura"- features a minimalist, ice-white, single-stroke number "26" designed to look like a finger tracing in the snow
- ❑ Mascot: 2 Siblings- Tina (Olympic mascot), Milo (Paralympic mascot)
- ❑ Edition: 25th
- ❑ Medal Tally:

Place	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Norway	18	12	11	41
2	USA	12	12	9	33
3	Netherlands	10	7	3	20

- ❑ Indian contingent was of 2 members:
  - Arif Mohammad Khan- Alpine Skiing-ended at 39th place
    - ◆ Flag-bearer of opening ceremony
  - Stanzin Lundup- Cross- Country Skiing-ended at 104th place
    - ◆ Flag-bearer of closing ceremony
- ❑ It was 11th time that India has participated in the winter Olympics.

**South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Under-19 Women's Championship**

- ❑ India won by defeating Bangladesh by 4-0
- ❑ Captain: Julan Nongmaithem (Manipur)
- ❑ Venue: Pokhara Rangasala Stadium, Nepal

**12th Asian Indoor Athletics Championships**

- ❑ India ends up at 6th place in medal tally with 5 medals (1 Gold, 2 Silver, 2 Bronze)
  - Tejaswin Shankar (Delhi) won the only gold for India in Men's heptathlon event

- ❑ China topped with 34 medals
- ❑ Host: Tianjin, China

#### Zagreb Open wrestling tournament 2026:

- ❑ Venue: Zagreb, Croatia
- ❑ India won 14 Medals: 2 Gold, 5 silver, 7 Bronze
- ❑ Gold medalists:
  1. Sujeet Kalkal- 65kg men's freestyle category
  2. Manisha Bhanwala- 57kg women's freestyle category

#### Australian Open 2026

- ❑ Winner: Carlos Alcaraz (Spain) (1st time at the age of 22)

Event Category	Winner(s)	Runner Up(s)
Women's Singles	Elena Rybakina (Kazakhstan)	Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus)
Men's Doubles	Christian Harrison & Neal Skupski	Jason Kubler & Marc Polmans
Women's Doubles	Elise Mertens & Zhang Shuai	Anna Danilina & Aleksandra Krunic
Mixed Doubles	Olivia Gadecki & John Peers	Kristina Mladenovic & Manuel Guinard

#### 10th Asian Winter Games 2029 host changed:

- ❑ New Host: Almati, Kazakhstan
- ❑ Earlier to be hosted by Saudi Arabia

#### Tennis World Cup "Davis Cup" 2026:

- ❑ India qualified for Qualifier Round-2 which will be played in Sept 2026
- ❑ Won against Netherlands (world no. 6) by 3-2

#### Open Masters Games Abu Dhabi 2026

- ❑ West Asia's largest mass participation (over 25000) multi-sports event in 38 disciplines including 6 traditional Emirati heritage sports (e.g., falconry, camel racing).
- ❑ For athletes aged 30 and above in open format i.e., no qualification standards required
- ❑ India came 2nd with 142 medals: 48 Gold,

- Becomes youngest man to complete the career grand slam (winning all 4 major championship)

- ❑ Runner-up: Novak Djokovic (Serbia)

- ❑ About Australian Open:

- First of the four Grand Slam events of the tennis season
- Followed by French Open, Wimbledon, and the US Open
- Held in: Melbourne, Australia
- Other winners of major events in Australian Open:

52 silver, 42 Bronze (1st: UAE with 185 medals)

#### Asian Shooting Championship

- ❑ Venue: Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range in New Delhi, India
- ❑ Date: 2-14 February 2026
- ❑ India won 94 medals: 51 Gold, 23 Silver, 20 Bronze

- India topped the medal tally followed by Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan

- ❑ Major Medal Winners from Rajasthan:

- Shiksha Saharan (Bikaner)- 2 gold medals in the 10m Air Pistol events
- Manini Kaushik (Jaipur)- Gold medal Women's 50m Rifle team event (with Sift Kaur Samra, Tejaswini Sawant)

- Vanshika Choudhary, Rashmika Sehgal, Agam Agarwal- Gold medal in Junior Girls Rifle team event
- Khwaish Sharma (Sikar)- Bronze medal Junior Women's 50m Rifle event
- Manvendra Singh Shekhawat- Bronze medal in Junior Men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions
- Elavenil Valarivan (Gujarat): Won 3 Gold medals in all 3 individual, mixed and women team events

### 16th ICC U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup

- Winner: India (6th time) (Captain: Ayush Mhatre)
- Opponent: England (Captain: Thomas Rew)
- India won by 100 runs
- Vaibhav Suryavanshi (Bihar)
  - Player of the match for his 175(80) with 15 fours, 15 sixes in the finals
  - Player of the tournament
  - Represents Rajasthan Royals in IPL
- Venue: Harare Sports Club, Zimbabwe
- Host countries: Zimbabwe and Namibia
- Most Runs: Ben Mayes (ENG) (444 runs)
- Most Wickets: Manny Lumsden (ENG) (16 wickets)
- BCCI announced award of Rs 7.5 Cr for U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup winning team

### Jaipur Polo Season 2026:

- 19th Jan to 29th Mar 2026
- Venue: Rajasthan Polo Club and Rambagh Polo Club
- 11 major competitive tournaments and 7 exhibition matches (played for entertainment, charity, or historical commemoration) featuring international players.
- Till now 5 competitive tournaments have been held among which
  - "Jaipur Team" has won "Kognivera Polo Cup"

- "Jaipur Aravalli" team has won "Raffles Sirmour Cup"
- Both featured Padmanabh Singh (Kachhwaha).

### Qatar Open 2026 (Tennis):

- Winners:
  - Women's Singles: Karolína Muchová (Czech Republic)
  - Women's Doubles: Anna Danilina(Kazak) and Aleksandra Kruni? (Serbia)
  - Men's Singles: Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)
  - Men's Doubles: Harri Heliövaara(Finland) and Henry Patten(Britain)
- Note:
  - For women: It was WTA 1000 (Women's Tennis Association 1000) i.e. 1000 points being provided to the winners, hence it is one of the highest tier events.
  - For men: It was ATP 500 (Association of Tennis Professionals 500) i.e. 500 points being provided to the winners, hence it is one of the mid-tier events.

### ATP 500 Rio Open (Tennis):

- Venue: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- Winners:
  - Men's Singles: Tomas Martin Etcheverry (Argentina)
  - Men's Doubles: Joao Fonseca(Brazil) and Marcelo Melo (Brazil)

### Delhi Open 2026 (Tennis):

- Venue: Delhi Lawn Tennis Association (DLTA) Complex in New Delhi (16-22 Feb)
- Surface: Outdoor Hard Court
- Category: ATP Challenger 75
- Winners:
  - Men's Singles: Stefanos Sakellariadis (Greece)
  - Men's Doubles:
    - ◆ Champions: Siddhant Bantia (India) & Alexander Donski (Bulgaria)

- ◆ Runner-ups: Kaliyanda Poonacha (India) & Pruchya Isaro (Thailand)

#### Women's Asia Cup Rising Stars 2026 (Cricket):

- ❑ Winner: India A beat Bangladesh A by 46 Runs
- ❑ Venue: Terdthai Cricket Ground, Bangkok, Thailand
- ❑ Played in T-20 format
- ❑ Indian Captain: Radha Yadav

#### 4th t20 Women's Premier League (WPL)

- ❑ Winners: Smriti Mandhana led Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) (2nd title)
- ❑ Runner-Up: Delhi Capitals
- ❑ Player Of the Match: Smriti Mandhana
- ❑ Venue: Vadodara International Cricket Stadium, Kotambi
- ❑ Player of the tournament: NZ all-rounder Sophie Devine (Gujrat Giants)
- ❑ Orange Cap (most runs): Smriti Mandhana
- ❑ Purple Cap (most Wickets): Sophie Devine

#### 5th Pro Wrestling League (2026)

- ❑ franchise-based wrestling league
- ❑ Organizer: Wrestling Federation of India (WFI)
- ❑ Haryana Thunders defeated Delhi Dangal Warriors

### National and Regional tournaments

#### Para Throwball National Federation Cup 2026:

- ❑ Venue: Singhania University, Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan

Category	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Men	Andhra Pradesh	Telangana	Haryana
Women	Jharkhand	<b>Rajasthan</b>	Telangana

#### 79th National Football Championship "Santosh Trophy":

- ❑ Services defeated Kerala by 1-0
- ❑ Rajasthan reached till quarter-finals.
- ❑ Venue: Dhakuakhana Football Stadium in Assam
- ❑ Most Successful Team: West Bengal (33 times)

#### 5th Soft Hockey National Championship:

- ❑ Venue: SMS Stadium, Jaipur
- ❑ 29th Jan to 1 Feb 2026

Category	Gold
Senior Men	Rajasthan
Senior Women	Puducherry (Silver- Rajasthan)
Junior Boys	Rajasthan
Junior Girls	Rajasthan
Sub-Junior Boys	Rajasthan
Sub-Junior Girls	Rajasthan

#### 6th National Rafting Championship:

- ❑ Venue: Chenab River, Doda, J&K
- ❑ Theme: "The Ultimate River Battle"
- ❑ Objective: To increase adventure tourism in J&K
- ❑ 15 teams participated among which BSF men and women's performed the best and won gold in Men's marathon, Women's marathon, Men's Sprint, Women's sprint events.

#### 69th National School Games 2025-26:

- ❑ Organizer: School Games Federation of India (SGFI)
- ❑ Rajasthan: 7th in medal tally with 174 medals
  - Gold: 55, Silver: 48, Bronze: 71
  - Major Gold medals
    - ◆ Basketball (U-19): Both boys' and girls' teams won Gold Medals. The girls' team made history with their first-ever national title
    - ◆ Hockey (U-19 Boys): Secured the Gold Medal by defeating Odisha
    - ◆ Handball: Both the boys' and girls' teams clinched Gold Medals

### NTPC Khelo India West Zone Open Archery Tournament-2026

- ❑ Venue: Jagatpura Archery Range, Jaipur, Rajasthan
- ❑ Participant States: Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Daman & Diu
- ❑ Winners from Rajasthan:
  - Recurve Women: Amandeep Kaur- Gold, Pranjal Tholiya- Silver, Harpreet Kaur- Bronze
  - Compound Men: Pulkit Kajla- Gold, Yogesh Joshi- Silver, Devansh Singh- Bronze
  - Compound Women: Priya Gurjar- Bronze

### 6th Khelo India Winter Games

- ❑ Venue: Leh (for Ice hockey and Skating) and Gulmarg (for snow sports like Ski Mountaineering, Alpine Skiing, etc.)
- ❑ Date: 20th Jan to 26th Feb 2026
- ❑ These games are played under Khelo India Scheme which is a flagship Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports launched with the twin objectives of mass participation and promotion of excellence in sports.
- ❑ 700+ athletes for a total of 136 medals participated
- ❑ Logo



- ❑ Mascot: Sheen-E-She(Shan)-The Snow Leopard



### ❑ Medal Standing

	Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Indian Army	9	6	8	23
2	Himachal Pradesh	6	7	1	14
3	Haryana	4	1	2	7

Note: National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) will be established in Jammu & Kashmir to further strengthen winter sports infrastructure and training systems.

### Shri PM Rungta Memorial Golf Cup (2nd Edition)

- ❑ Venue: Rambagh Golf Club, Jaipur (February 8, 2026)
- ❑ Overall Gross Winner Rolling Trophy - Arjun Kuchhal
- ❑ Veteran Golfer Award: Dr. Basant Khaitan
- ❑ Lady Golfer Award: Vimmi Bhatia

## Indian Budget 2026-27

### Announcement of Launching "Khelo India Mission" to Transform Sports Sector:

- ❑ Will adopt a comprehensive approach to strengthen the sports ecosystem across the country and systematically nurture sporting talent and make India a global sporting powerhouse in next 10 years.
- ❑ 5 Bases
  - (a) Integrated talent development pathways supported by training centers which are foundational, intermediate and elite level.
  - (b) Systematic development of coaches and support staff.
  - (c) Integration of sports science and technology.
  - (d) Competition and leagues to promote sports culture and provide platform.
  - (e) Development of sports infrastructure for training and competition.

### Enhanced Budgetary Support for the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports:

- ❑ To fulfil the vision of positioning India among the Top 10 sporting nations by 2036 and among the Top 5 by 2047.
- ❑ Called the budget "A Yuva-Driven Budget for the Sports Sector" with reference to "Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2026"
- ❑ Total budget allocation to MoY&S: Rs. 4,479.88 crore (increase of Rs. 1,133 crore)
  - Khelo India Mission: ~924 Cr
  - Sports Authority of India: ~917 Cr
  - Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat1) platform: 655Cr
  - Sports Goods Manufacturing2: 500 Cr
  - National Sports Federations: 425 Cr etc.

### 1MY BHARAT: A NATIONAL DIGITAL PLATFORM FOR YOUTH ENGAGEMENT:

- ❑ For Experiential Learning Programs, volunteering opportunities and events to be hosted by partner Ministries, organizations, and institutions
- ❑ Major Initiatives Hosted on the Platform:
  - National Youth Festival: Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue (VBYLD) 2026: multiple engagement tracks such as quiz, essay writing, hack for social cause, design for Bharat, and poetry writing, painting, folk music and folk dance
  - MY Bharat - National Service Scheme (NSS): to host volunteering activities

### MY BHARAT BUDGET QUEST 2026:

- ❑ By Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- ❑ To enhance public understanding of the Union Budget 2026 by making budgetary provisions more accessible, relatable, and citizen-centric.

### 2BOOST TO SPORTS GOODS MANUFACTURING:

- ❑ To promote domestic manufacturing, encourage innovation and strengthen India's presence in global sports supply chains.

- ❑ Rs. 500 cr allocated to make India a "Sports Manufacturing Hub".

## Government Initiatives:

### 6 Sports Infrastructure Projects and 2 Athlete-Centric Facilities across India inaugurated for Rs. 120 Crore:

- ❑ 6 sports infrastructure projects for ₹82 crore, are being implemented under the Khelo India Scheme with Sports Authority of India (SAI)
  - Including the North-Eastern and Eastern regions
  - Up gradation of a synthetic hockey turf at Bengaluru
  - Making of multi-purpose hall at Patiala and multi-purpose judo hall at Bhopal
  - Laying of synthetic athletic tracks at Bhopal, Guwahati and Jalpaiguri

### Khelo India Multipurpose Hall

- ❑ Opened at the Sports Authority of India's National Centre of Excellence (NCoE), Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar (MH).

### Government's Initiatives for Welfare and Sporting Opportunities for Differently Aabled Youth

- ❑ "The Promotion of Sports among Persons with Disabilities" component of "Khelo India Scheme"
- ❑ 2 Editions of "Khelo India Para Games" conducted
- ❑ National Centers of Excellence under SAI to identify and nurture para-athletes
  - Gandhinagar as the nodal center
- ❑ 61 para-athletes are part of the TOPS Core Group under Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)
- ❑ Financial assistance to National Sports Federations such as the Paralympic Committee of India, All India Sports Council for Deaf and Special Olympics Bharat etc.

## Famous personalities

Soraya Aghaei (Iran)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1st <b>Female</b> member from Iran to be elected in International Olympic Committee (IOC)</li> <li>• She was also <b>1<sup>st</sup> ever Iranian woman</b> who participated in Olympics (Badminton in Tokyo 2020).</li> </ul>
Anahat Singh (Delhi)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Won <b>"Squash on Fire Open 2026"</b> in Washington, D.C.</li> <li>• Defeated Georgina Kennedy of England</li> </ul>
Vayam Lamba & Shreyansh Choudhary (RJ)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Won <b>Gold</b> in <b>All India Sub Junior (U-15 &amp; U-17) Ranking Badminton Tournament 2026</b> in Boys Doubles</li> <li>• Venue: Indoor Badminton Hall, <b>SMS Stadium, Jaipur, Rajasthan</b></li> </ul>
Krishna Nagar (RJ)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Won <b>2 Bronze medals</b> in <b>BWF Para World Championships 2026</b></li> </ul>
Siddhant Jaiswal (Jaipur, RJ)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Won silver medal in <b>senior national equestrian championship</b></li> </ul>
Yuvraj Rathore (RJ), Ansh Karnavat (RJ) and Swarnika Rathore (Uttarakhand)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Won Gold medals in <b>"Inter-Directorate Remount and Veterinary (R&amp;V) NCC Equestrian Competition 2026"</b> in behalf of NCC Rajasthan.</li> <li>• NCC Rajasthan remained <b>2<sup>nd</sup></b> in medal tally and won <b>8 medals and 1 trophy</b>- Under Officer <b>Yuvraj Singh Rathore</b> secured the prestigious <b>Runner-Up Trophy for Best Rider (Boys)</b></li> </ul>
Kritagya Singh (RJ)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Won <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Chetan Pratap Memorial Rapid Open Chess Tournament</b></li> </ul>
Kavita Jangid (RJ)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Won Gold at <b>"26th National Chess Championship of the Deaf"</b> in <b>Under-16 Blitz</b> event held at Nagpur</li> </ul>
Pranav Sharma (RJ)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Won <b>Gold</b> at <b>Special Olympics National Hockey</b> in Junior Category held at <b>Faridabad</b>.</li> </ul>
Luv Sankhla (Jaipur)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Won <b>Silver Medal</b> in <b>Junior Category -89 kg</b> in the <b>5th India Open International Kickboxing Championship</b> held at <b>Indira Gandhi Stadium, Delhi</b></li> </ul>
Tulip Ojha (Jaipur) and Deependra Choudhary (Jaipur)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Won <b>Gold Medal</b> in <b>All India Inter SAI Taekwondo Championship</b> held at <b>Patliputra Sports Complex</b></li> </ul>

## 06

# Important Days

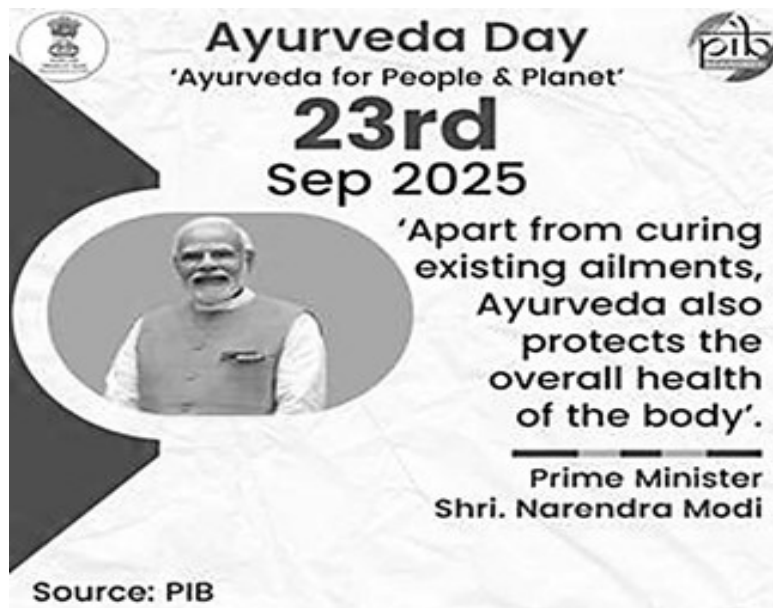
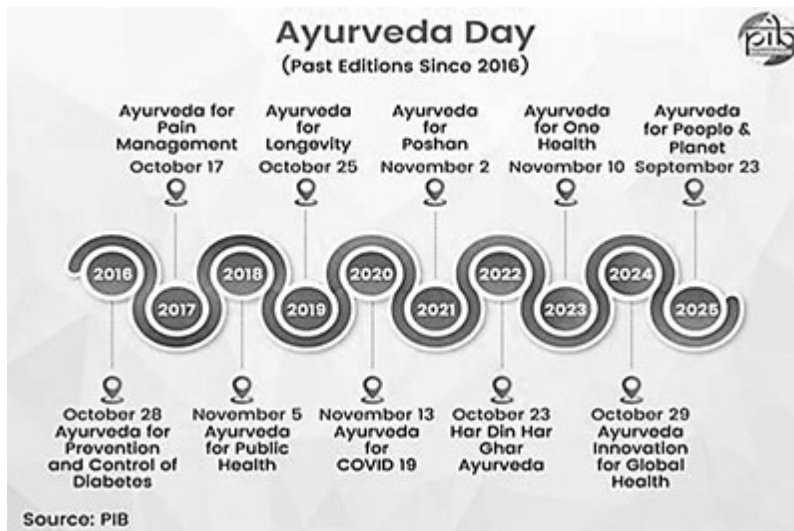
Date	Days/Events	Theme/Details
February 1	Indian Coast Guard Foundation Day	
February 2	World Wetlands Day	'Wetlands and Traditional Knowledge: Celebrating Cultural Heritage'
February 4	World Cancer Day	'United by Unique'; theme is for the years 2025, 2026 and 2027.
February 10	World Pulses Day	'Pulses of the World: From Modesty to Excellence'
February 11	World Unani Day	'Innovation and Evidence in Unani Practice'
February 12	National Productivity Day	
	National Productivity Week (February 12-18, 2026)	'Clusters as Growth Engine- Maximizing Productivity in MSMEs'
February 13	World Radio Day	'Radio and Artificial Intelligence: Artificial Intelligence is a tool, not a voice'
	Indian National Women's Day	Commemorating the Birth Anniversary of Sarojini Naidu
February 20	World Social Justice Day	'Renewed Commitment to Social Development and Social Justice'
February 21	International Mother Language Day	'Youth Voices on Multilingual Education'
February 28	National Science Day	'Women in Science: Catalyzing Viksit Bharat'

- विश्व रेडियो दिवस प्रतिवर्ष 13 फरवरी को मनाया जाता है। यह दिन वर्ष 1946 में संयुक्त राष्ट्र रेडियो की स्थापना की स्मृति में समर्पित है।
- विश्व रेडियो दिवस 2026 का विषय है – "रेडियो और आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस: आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस एक उपकरण है, आवाज नहीं।"
- भारत में पहले सामुदायिक रेडियो स्टेशन का उद्घाटन 1 फरवरी 2004 को भारत रत्न श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी द्वारा किया गया था।
- उत्तर प्रदेश के अमरोहा निवासी राम सिंह बौद्ध, जिन्हें "भारत का रेडियो मैन" कहा जाता है, को वर्ष 2025 में गिनीज वर्ल्ड रिकॉर्ड्स द्वारा 1,257 रेडियो के विश्व के सबसे बड़े संग्रह के लिए मान्यता प्रदान की गई।

# 07

# Important Books

S.No.	Title of the book	Authors
1.	Atal Bihari Vajpayee: The Eternal Statesman	Vijay Goyal
2.	100 Ways to See India: Stats, Stories, and Surprises	Rohit Saran
3.	The Sage Who Reimagined Hinduism: The Life, Lessons, and Legacy of Sree Narayana Guru	Dr. Shashi Tharoor
4.	Smarter Than the Storm: Championing the AI-climate Nexus For A Truly Sustainable Future	Amitabh Kant and Siddharth Sinha



# Topper's Talk



**Rank - 23**  
**(RAS-2023)**

## Vikas Chaudhary

- Father:** - Chhagan Lal Chaudhary  
**Mother** - Kesar Devi  
**10<sup>th</sup>** - Tulsi Vidyapeeth Secondary School, Mangyawas, Mansarovar, Jaipur. 73.83%  
**12<sup>th</sup>** - Nivedita Public Senior Secondary School, Balawala, Jaipur. 85.80%  
**Graduation** - University Rajasthan College, Jaipur

**Question: Congratulations on your achievement in the Civil Services Examination!**

**Vikas Chaudhary:** Thank you very much.

**Question: Tell us about your family and educational background. What role did they play in your preparation?**

**Vikas Chaudhary:** Importantly, I come from a rural background, and my father is a farmer and cattle herder. My mother also supports the family. From childhood, my parents always instilled a deep sense of urgency in my education. Despite limited financial resources, I pursued my academic career and diversified it considerably. Along with my studies, I focused on developing a multi-dimensional personality through participation in other activities, especially NCC, NSS, sports (swimming), and other adventurous activities.

My elder brother, Mahendra Chaudhary, and my elder sister, Kavita Chaudhary, always encouraged me. Furthermore, being raised in a joint family instilled a positive outlook on society.

**Question: When did you start preparing for the RAS examination, and how much time do you think is sufficient to prepare for this exam?**

**Vikas Chaudhary:** I began preparing for the RAS in 2020, primarily with the Mains exam. I then took my first attempt in 2021, securing a rank of 1010. I subsequently secured a rank of 23 in my second attempt. It primarily took me about 2 to 3 years, although I also appeared for other competitive exams of Rajasthan.

**Question: What study materials did you use during your preparation?**

**Vikas Chaudhary:** My primary focus was on the Mains exam, limiting my resources. I initially began with the online Foundation Batch of Springboard, and I also added value to my notes through newspapers and other additional sources to update my core subjects. However, I focused primarily on answer writing.

**Question: Was your goal from the beginning to join the Civil Services exam, and who was your inspiration for preparing for the Civil Services exam?**

**Vikas Chaudhary:** My primary motivation and source of inspiration for joining the civil services was my father, who had been visiting sub-division-level departments for a long time to resolve land-related issues. I grew up observing this, and this motivated me. To fulfill my father's dream, I began preparing for the RAS in 2020.

**Question: What is the importance of a monthly current affairs magazine for the RAS exam?**

**Vikas Chaudhary:** In a major exam like the RAS, current affairs are crucial at all three levels, so I consistently studied the Spring Board monthly magazine. I typically began reading this magazine a month or two before the exam, completing 8 to 10 months' worth of current affairs magazines.

This magazine is primarily designed with both the Mains and Prelims in mind, allowing you to easily clear the exam up to the interview.

**Question: What is the role of coaching in the Civil Services exam? Can self-study also lead to success in this exam?**

**Vikas Chaudhary:** Undoubtedly! One can succeed in the exam through self-study, but coaching makes it 50 to 60% easier, so I took coaching.

**Question: What criteria should be considered when selecting a coaching institute? Have you prepared with any coaching institute?**

**Vikas Chaudhary:** The most important thing is that any coaching institute should meet the RPSC standards, including thorough preparation for the prelims, mains, and interview. It should also cover the entire syllabus and motivate students to consistently study and write answers. Students should also be ahead in activities other than studies.

I had online access to the B-2 batch of Springboard Academy, which my brother had joined.

**Question: What was your language medium in the exam? Tell us about the role of language medium in succeeding in the civil services?**

**Vikas Chaudhary:** My primary language is Hindi. Although I myself am from the English medium, I have always presented myself in Hindi. Language is undoubtedly an important part of the Civil Services, but personality always trumps language.

**Question: What suggestions would you give for improving writing style in the Mains exam?**

**Vikas Chaudhary:** The way to improve writing style is to practice answer writing for 30 to 40 minutes every day. This can lead to a good amount of writing practice in 6-8 months. Answer writing should be started as soon as preparation begins so that Mains preparation always continues alongside the Prelims.

**Question: What role do short notes play in the Preliminary and Mains exams?**

**Vikas Chaudhary:** Short notes are important, but I never paid much attention to short notes. I always read them, although my notes were so to the point that I never needed them.

**Question: Tell us about the role of mock interviews and how was your interview experience at the Rajasthan Public Service Commission?**

**Vikas Chaudhary:** Undoubtedly, it was with the help of the mock interviews that I performed

well in the main interview and scored 57 marks this time.

**Question: Tell us about the contribution of teachers in your success?**

**Vikas Chaudhary:** Undoubtedly! Individuals do nothing on their own; we are all clay figures, shaped over time by every place and person. From school to coaching, I had many teachers who provided me with excellent inspiration and guidance. In this regard, my principal, Hanuman Ramji Chopra, and other teachers played a significant role. I feel very motivated by Manohar Sir (Jodhpur) at Springboard. Dilip Mahechha Sir also had a significant influence on my personality.

**Question: What role did friends play during preparation?**

**Vikas Chaudhary:** Friends always influence your environment. Although my friends have been limited, all of them are like family to me and I have received all kinds of help and inspiration from them, beyond studies. Nikhil Chopra, Shankar Chaudhary, Sanjay Chaudhary, Rahul Jatav, Arun Jangid, Roshan Gora, etc. have been close friends of mine.

**Question: What are your thoughts on Plan B?**

**Vikas Chaudhary:** Plan B should definitely be there. I also did B.Ed under Plan B. However, I have a message for this: if your Plan A is so strong, you'll never need a Plan B. Now, even the RPSC itself isn't giving you the opportunity to work on Plan B because vacancies are being released in a timely and transparent manner.

**Question: What changes will you work to bring about as an officer?**

**Vikas Chaudhary:** As an officer goal My primary will be both personal and social, where I will strive to bring about change, primarily keeping in mind the needs of society.

**Question: What is the key to your success?**

**Vikas Chaudhary:** 3Cs - Consistency, Creativity, and Confidence

**Question: How did you manage your time during preparation?**

**Vikas Chaudhary:** Importantly, I had one free day a week and studied the remaining six days.

**Question: We wish you a bright future as an administrative officer!**

**Vikas Chaudhary:** Thank you very much.

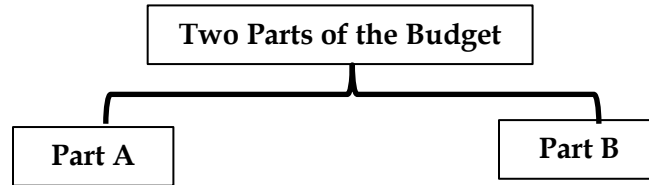
## The Budget

- The government's fiscal policy is articulated through the budget.
- Meaning of the word '**Budget**' – **A leather bag.**
- Although the term “Budget” is widely used, it is **not mentioned in the Constitution of India.**
- **Article 112** of the Constitution refers to the Budget as the “**Annual Financial Statement.**”
- Definition – It is a document detailing the government's estimated receipts and expenditures for the upcoming financial year.
- Prepared by – **The Department of Economic Affairs** under the Union Ministry of Finance.

## History

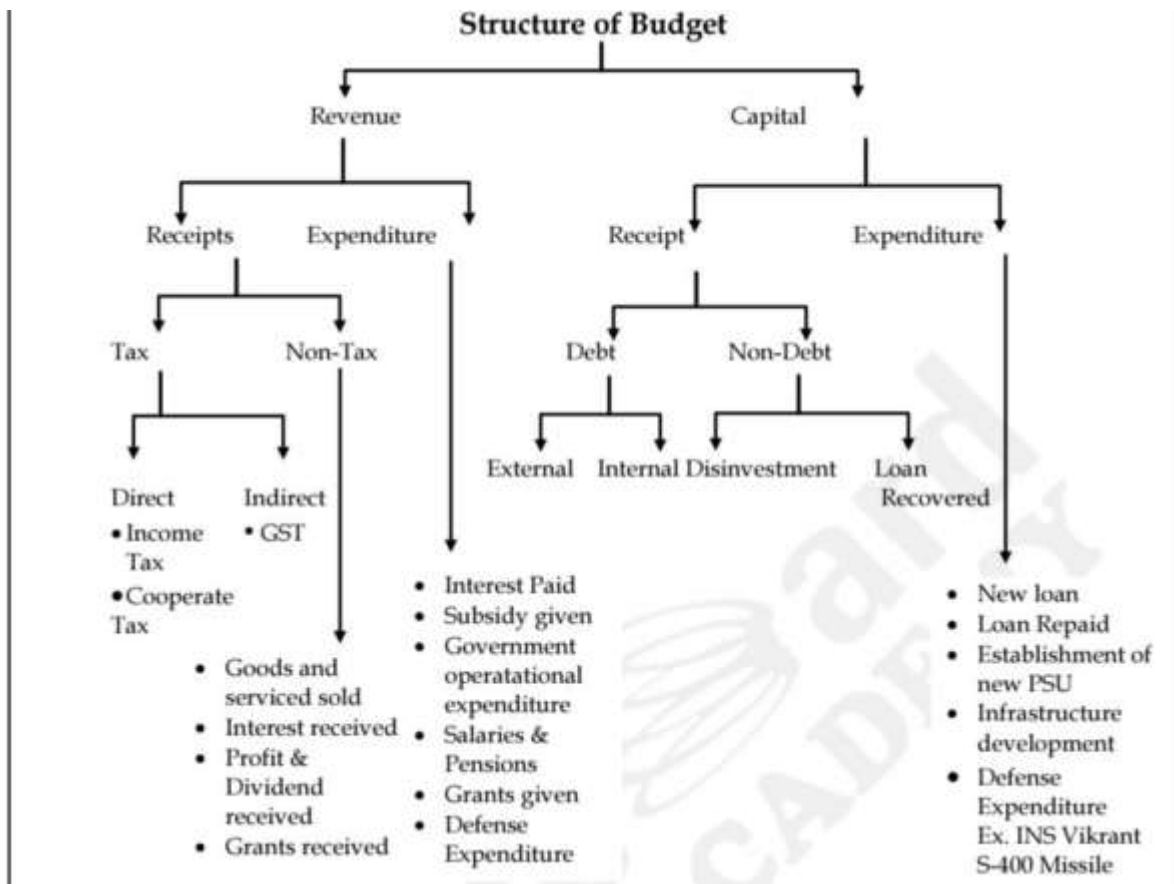
1. India's **First Budget – 1860** (Presented by **James Wilson**).
2. In **1867**, the **financial year** was established as the period from **April 1st to March 31st**.
3. Based on the recommendations of the **Acworth Committee** (1920–21), the **Railway Budget** was **separated** from the General Budget in **1924**.
4. Budget of the **Interim Government (1947–48)** – Presented by **Liaquat Ali**.
5. **Independent India's First Budget** – November 26, **1947**; presented by the first Finance Minister, **R.K. Shanmukham Chetty**.
6. The **First Budget** under the Indian Constitution – **1950**; **presented by John Matthai**.
7. In **1950**, due to budget documents being leaked from the Rashtrapati Bhavan, the practice of “**Halwa Ceremony**” and the “**Lock-in System**” were **started** before the presentation of budgets.
8. **Until 1955**, the budget was presented **only in English**; subsequently, it began to be presented in both Hindi and English (during the tenure of Finance Minister C.D. Deshmukh).
9. The First Female Finance Minister to Present a Budget – **Indira Gandhi (1970)**.
10. **The "Black Budget" (1973–74)**- because the government's fiscal deficit in this budget amounted to ₹550 crore.
  - Finance Minister – **Yashwantrao B. Chavan**
11. **Shortest Budget Speech – 1977** (Finance Minister – **H.M. Patel**)
12. **Epochal Budget – 1991** (Finance Minister – **Manmohan Singh**)
13. “**Dream Budget**” - **1997-98** - This Budget featured significant reductions in **tax rates** (Finance Minister – **P. Chidambaram**).
14. Change in Budget Tradition – **1999** (Finance Minister – **Yashwant Sinha**)
  - Until 1998, the Budget was presented at **5:00 PM**.
  - From **1999** onwards, the Budget has been presented at **11:00 AM**.
15. Changes in 2017 –
  - a. Until 2016, the Railway Budget was presented separately; in 2017, the Railway Budget was merged with the General Budget. (FM- **Arun Jaitly**)
  - b. Until 2016, the Budget was presented on **February 28th**; since **2017**, it has been presented on **February 1st**.
16. **Longest Budget Speech – 2020** (Finance Minister – **Nirmala Sitharaman**)
17. **2021** – India's **first paperless Budget**, presented using a tablet.

18. Most Number of Budgets – Morarji Desai (10 times)



This is a detailed component of the budget in which the government's various schemes and priorities are announced, and financial allocations are made to numerous sectors.

This relates to the Finance Bill, which includes taxation proposals such as income tax amendments and indirect taxes.



## Budget 2026-27

# Yuva Shakti-driven Budget

## Government's 'Sankalp'

*To focus on poor, underprivileged and disadvantaged*

Budget - ₹53.47 Lakh Crore

Receipts (2026-27)

Revenue Receipts



₹35.4 Lakh Crore

Capital Receipts



₹18.1 Lakh Crore

Expenditure

Revenue Expenditure



₹41.25 Lakh Crore

Capital Expenditure



₹12.21 Lakh Crore



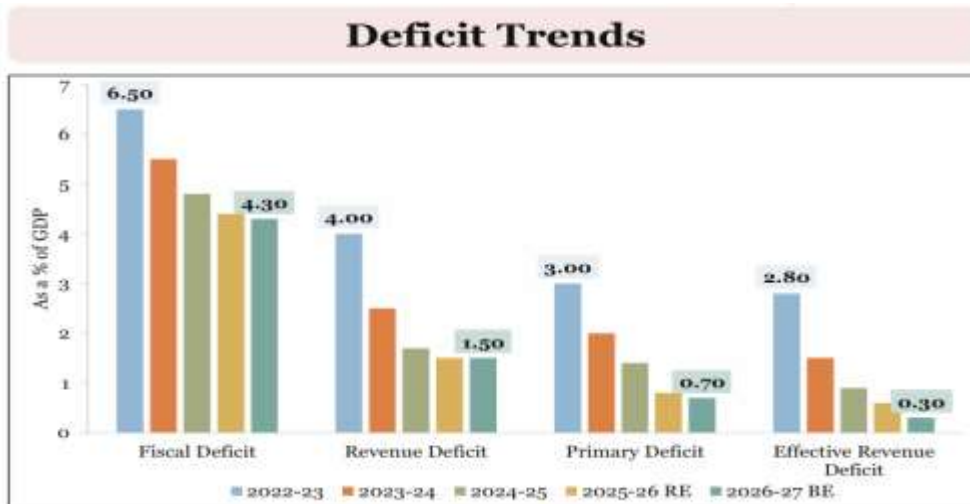
	2024-25 (Actual)	2025-26 (Budget Estimate)	2025-26 (Revised Estimate)	2026-27 (Budget Estimate)
Revenue Receipts	3,03,667	34,20,409	33,42,323	35,33,150
Capital Receipts	16,16,249	16,44,936	16,22,519	18,14,165
Total Receipts	46,52,867	50,65,345	49,64,842	53,47,315
Total Expenditure	46,52,867	50,65,345	49,64,842	53,47,315
Effective Capital Expenditure	13,24,609	15,48,282	14,03,906	17,14,523
Revenue Deficit	5,64,296	5,23,846	5,26,764	5,92,344
Effective Revenue Deficit	2,91,640	96,654	21,863	99,642
Fiscal Deficit	15,74,431	15,68,936	15,58,400	16,95,768
Primary Deficit	4,58,856	2,92,598	28,454	2,91,796

## Effective Capital Expenditure

**Effective Capital Expenditure = Capital Expenditure + Grants-in-Aid to States for Capital Assets**  
**₹17.1 Lakh Crore = ₹12 Lakh Crore + ₹4.9 Lakh Crore**



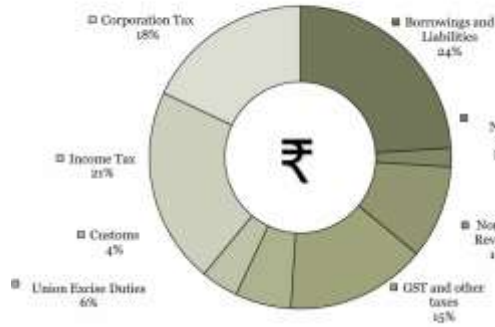
As a Percentage of GDP	Trend of Deficits	
	2025-26	2026-27
Revenue Deficit	1.5 %	1.5 %
Effective Revenue Deficit	0.6 %	0.3 %
Fiscal Deficit	4.4 %	4.3 %
Primary Deficit	0.80 %	0.70 %



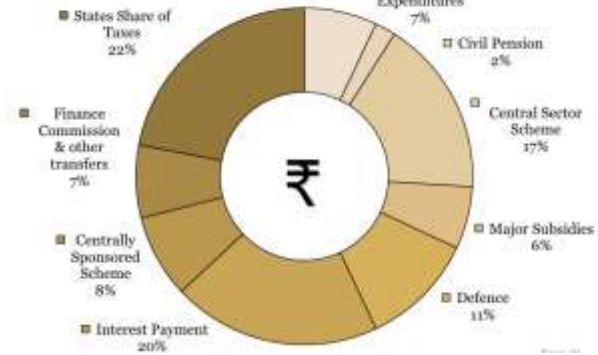
## Debt to GDP Ratio

1. Goal of Union Govt till 31st March 2031- 50±1 %.
2. 2025-26 (Revised Estimate)- 56.1%
3. 2026-27 (Budget Estimate)- 55.6%

### Rupee Comes From



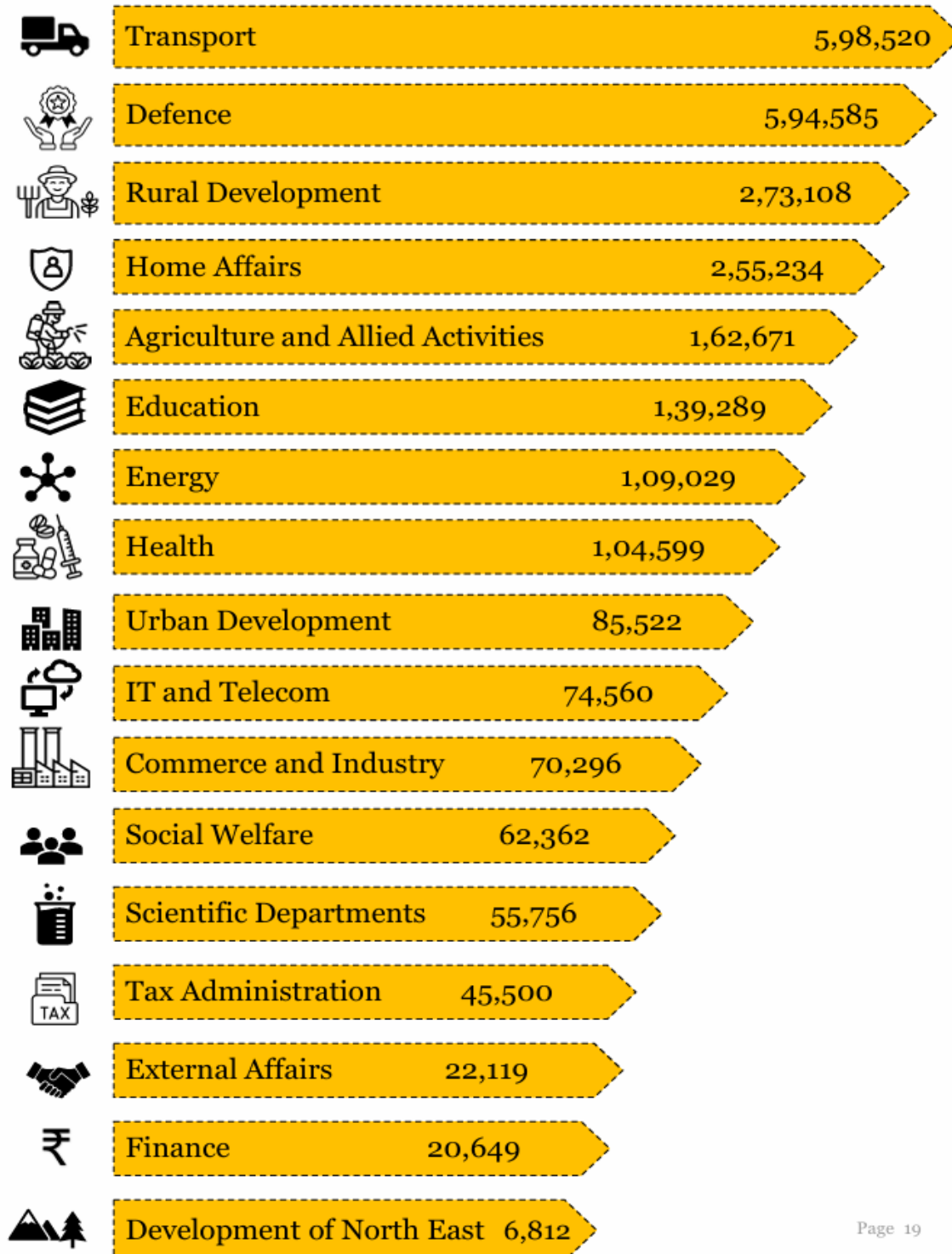
### Rupee Goes To



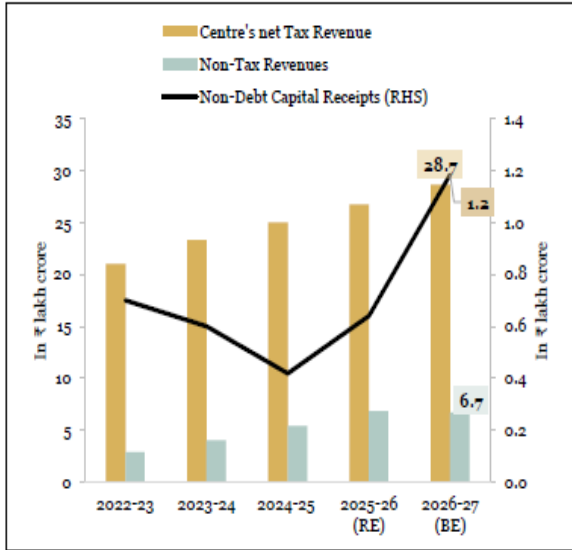
Where does it come from-	Where does it go-
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Borrowings and liabilities - 24%</li> <li>2. Income tax - 21%</li> <li>3. Corporation tax - 18%</li> <li>4. GST and other taxes - 15%</li> <li>5. Non-tax Revenues - 10%</li> <li>6. Union excise duties- 6%</li> <li>7. Customs - 4%</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. States Shares to Taxes - 22%</li> <li>2. Interest payment - 20%</li> <li>3. Central Sector Scheme- 17%</li> <li>4. Defence - 11%</li> <li>5. Centrally Sponsored Schemes - 8%</li> <li>6. Finance Commission &amp; other transfers- 7%</li> <li>7. Other Expenditures - 7%</li> <li>8. Major Subsidies- 6%</li> <li>9. Civil Pension - 2%</li> </ol>

## Expenditure of Major Items

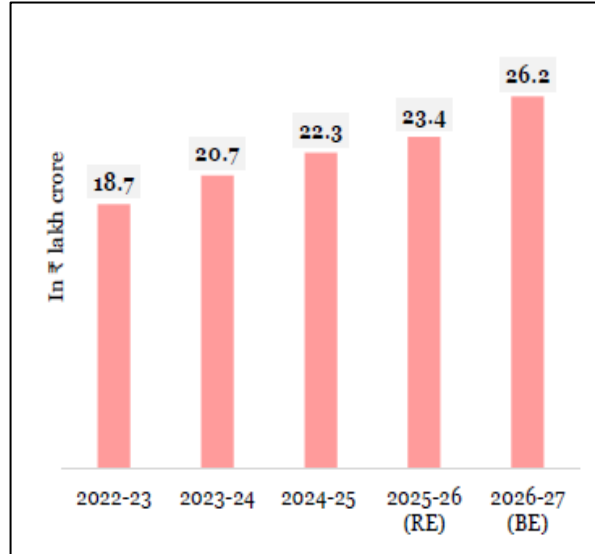
In ₹ crore



## Robust Economic Foundations



Trend in Net Receipt of Centre



Total transfer to States and UTs

## Fiscal Consolidation

### 16th Finance Commission:

1. Recommended a **41% share** of central taxes for the States.
2. Provision of grants amounting to ₹1.4 lakh crore for the States for the financial year 2026-27; this includes grants for **rural and urban local bodies and disaster management**.

## India's economic trajectory

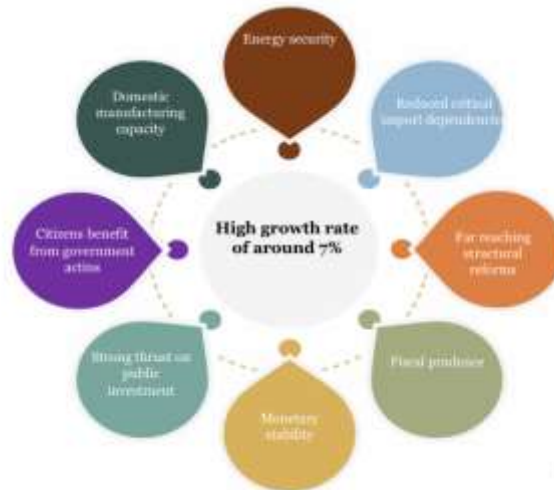
*Viksit Bharat, balancing ambition with inclusion*



## Aim of Budget

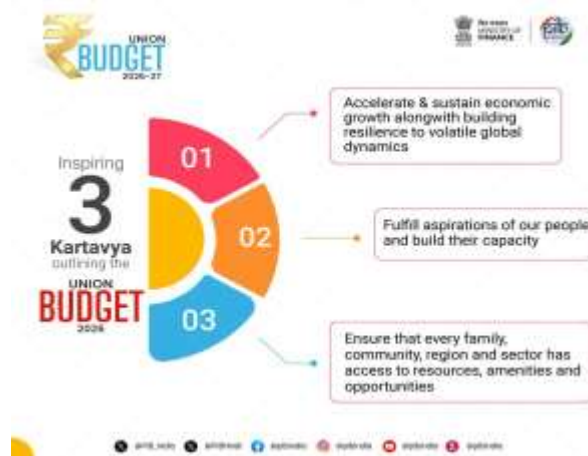


## Pillars of Growth and Development



Page 1

## 3 Kartavyas of Budget

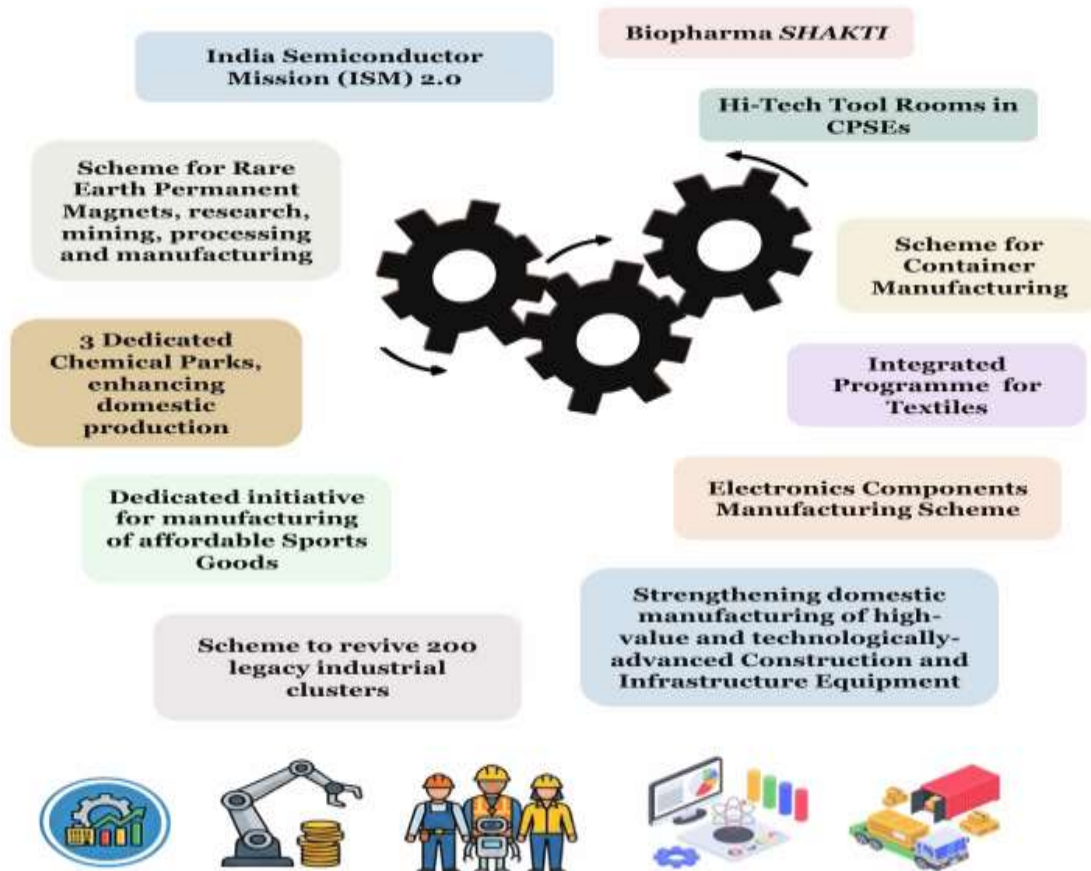


# First Kartavya

## Part: A

**First Kartavya:** Accelerate and sustain economic growth

1. Promote manufacturing in 7 strategic and leading sectors.



A. **Biopharma SHAKTI:** It is a strategy to improve healthcare through knowledge, technology, and innovation.

- Full form - Strategy for Healthcare Advancement through Knowledge, Technology & Innovation.
- Objectives:
  - To develop India as a **global biopharma manufacturing hub**.
  - To create an **ecosystem** for the domestic **production of biologics** and bio-related products.
- Budgetary Provision: An investment of ₹10,000 crore over the next 5 years.

- Provisions:
  - To establish a biopharma-focused network by setting up **3 new** National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (**NIPERs**) and upgrading **7 existing institutions**.
  - To create a network of over **1,000 accredited clinical trial sites** across India.

**Biopharma:** These are advanced medicines produced from living cells, microorganisms, or biological sources such as proteins or DNA. These medicines are used in the treatment of serious diseases like cancer, diabetes, and genetic disorders. This industry utilizes biotechnology to develop vaccines, antibodies, and gene therapies, which are distinct from – and often more effective than – traditional chemical-based medicines.

- B. **Semiconductor 2.0:** After the initial success of the India Semiconductor Mission 1.0, the India Semiconductor Mission 2.0 will be launched to facilitate the manufacturing of equipment and materials, design India-specific IP (Intellectual Property), and strengthen the supply chain.
- C. **Electronic Components Manufacturing Scheme:** A proposal to increase the budgetary outlay from ₹22,919 crore to ₹40,000 crore.
- D. **Rare Earth Corridor:**
  - Objectives:
    - To provide incentives to mineral-rich states to boost mining, processing, research, and manufacturing of rare earth minerals.
    - To strengthen the domestic supply chain for rare earth minerals and reduce import dependence.
  - Regions Covered: **Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu.**
- E. **Dedicated Chemical Parks:-** 3 dedicated chemical parks will be established based on a **cluster-based "Plug-and-Play" model**.
  - Objective:
    - To reduce import dependence by boosting domestic chemical production.
    - To transform India into a global manufacturing hub by strengthening the manufacturing ecosystem.
  - Budget allocation : ₹600 Crore
- F. Strengthening Capital Goods Capabilities: Two schemes will be launched for this purpose.
  1. **Construction and Infrastructure Equipment (CIE) Scheme:**
    - Objective:
      - To strengthen the domestic manufacturing of high-value and technologically advanced manufacturing, infrastructure, and equipment goods.
      - This includes heavy machinery such as firefighting equipment, elevators, and tunnel-boring machines.

2. **Container Manufacturing Scheme: ₹10,000 crore over the next 5 years.**
3. **Hi-Tech Tool Rooms** – To be established at 2 locations by CPSEs.
- These will function as digitally enabled, automated service bureaus.
  - Objective: To facilitate the large-scale and localized manufacturing, design, testing, and production of high-quality components at a low cost.
- G. **Integrated Programme for the Textile Sector:** This is an integrated program comprising **5 sub-components**.
- a) **National Fibre Scheme:** Aimed at achieving self-reliance in natural fibres – such as silk, wool, and jute as well as in man-made and new-age fibres.
- b) **Textile Expansion and Employment Scheme:**
- Objective:
    - To provide capital assistance for the technological upgradation of machinery.
    - To provide capital assistance for shared testing and certification centers.
    - To modernize traditional clusters.
- c) **National Handloom and Handicrafts Programme:**
- To integrate and strengthen existing schemes.
  - To ensure targeted assistance for artisans and weavers.
- d) **Samarth 2.0:**
- e) **Tex-Eco Initiative:**
- Other Proposals:
    - To establish **Mega Textile Parks** under a 'Challenge Mode' framework.
    - Objective: To focus on value addition within the technical textiles sector.
2. Scheme for the **Revitalization of Traditional Industrial Clusters:** Under this scheme, **200 traditional industrial clusters** will be revitalized through infrastructure and technological upgradation to enhance cost competitiveness and efficiency.
3. **Creating 'Champion MSMEs':**
- A. **Equity Support:**
- a) **MSME Development Fund: Budget: ₹10,000 crore.**
- Objective:
- To nurture high-potential MSMEs into 'Champions'.
  - Eligible enterprises will receive equity or growth capital through this fund.
- b) Proposal for a **₹2,000 Crore Top-up to the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Fund:**
- This will provide continuous equity support to Micro and Small Enterprises.
  - This will strengthen the source of risk capital for MSMEs.

## B. Professional Assistance:

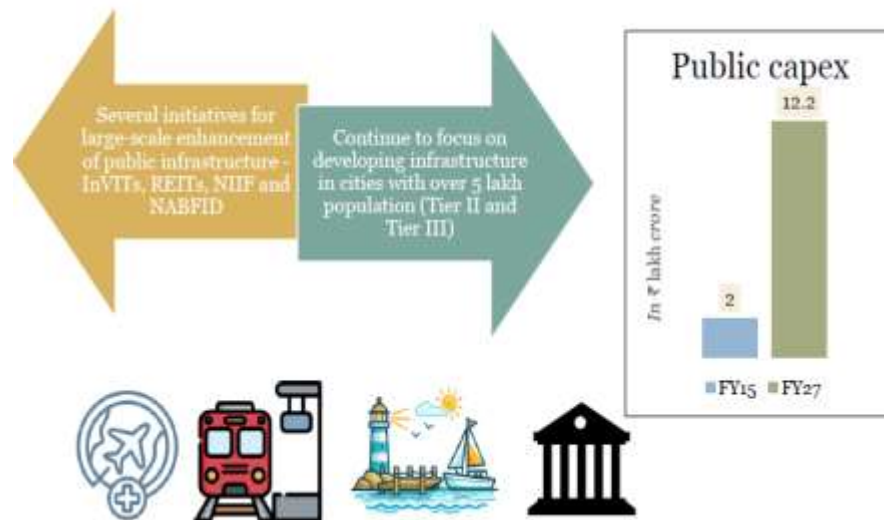
- A "**Corporate Mitra**" **mechanism** will be established to provide legal compliance, accounting, and related assistance to MSMEs.
  - This initiative will be specifically targeted at **Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities**.
  - Under this framework, professionals such as Chartered Accountants—will provide technical and managerial consultancy to MSMEs.
  - Furthermore, facilities will be made available to institutions such as the ICAI, ICSI, and ICMAI to foster the development of such professionals.

## C. Liquidity Support via TReDS:



- Mandating TReDS as the transaction settlement platform for all procurement made by CPSEs (Central Public Sector Enterprises) from MSMEs, thereby serving as a benchmark for other corporates.
- Introducing credit guarantee support—facilitated through the CGTMSE—for invoice discounting on the TReDS platform.
- Integrating GeM (Government e-Marketplace) with TReDS to encourage affordable and rapid financing.
- Facilitating the securitization of TReDS receivables as asset-backed securities to foster the development of a secondary market, thereby enhancing liquidity and streamlining transaction settlements.

## 3. Infrastructure:



- a) Public capital expenditure will be increased to ₹12.2 lakh crore in the Financial Year 2026-27.
- b) Infrastructure Risk Guarantee Fund: Credit guarantees will be provided to mitigate risks associated with large-scale infrastructure projects, thereby encouraging increased investment from private investors and lenders.

- c) Dedicated Freight Corridor: To be constructed from Dankuni to Surat.
- d) Asset Monetization: A dedicated Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) will be established for this purpose, through which the assets of CPSEs will be monetized.
- e) Seaplane Viability Gap Funding (VGF) Scheme.

- **Objectives:**

- To incentivize the indigenous manufacturing of seaplanes.
- To establish connectivity to last-mile and remote areas.
- To boost tourism.

(f) **Waterways:**

- ❖ Announcement of the launch of 20 new **National Waterways** over the next 5 years:

- **Launch:** NW-5 (Odisha)
- **Objective:** To connect mineral-rich regions like Talcher and Angul, as well as industrial hubs like Kalinganagar, to the ports of Paradip and Dhamra.

- ❖ **Coastal Cargo Promotion Scheme:**

- **Objective:** To encourage a modal shift away from rail and road transport – specifically, transporting goods and containers via waterways rather than road or rail routes.
- **Target:** To increase the share of inland waterways and coastal shipping from 6% to 12% by 2047.

(g) **Development of City Economic Zones:**

- Budget: ₹5,000 crore over 5 years.

- ❖ **7 High-Speed Rail Corridors will be developed –**

- To promote an eco-friendly, sustainable passenger transport system:

1. Mumbai to Pune
2. Pune to Hyderabad
3. Hyderabad to Bengaluru
4. Bengaluru to Chennai
5. Chennai to Hyderabad
6. Delhi to Varanasi
7. Varanasi to Siliguri



- ❖ **Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS):**

- For Carbon Capture and Utilization technologies.
- Budget: ₹20,000 crore over 5 years.

4. **Financial sector:**



❖ **Proposal for the Constitution of a High-Level Committee on Banking for a Developed India:**

▪ **Objective:**

- To undertake a comprehensive review of the banking sector.
- To ensure financial stability, financial inclusion, and consumer protection measures.

❖ **Restructuring of NBFCs:**

- **Objective:** Under this initiative, the Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) will be restructured.

❖ **Strengthening of the Bond Market:**

a) **Incentives for Municipal Bonds:**

- **Objective:** To encourage large cities to issue high-value municipal bonds.
- **Benefit:** An incentive of ₹100 crore will be provided for issuing bonds exceeding ₹1,000 crore.

❖ **Potential for Foreign Investment and Trade:**

- A comprehensive review of Foreign Exchange Management Rules will be undertaken.
- Individual foreign investors will be permitted to invest in equity instruments through the Portfolio Investment Scheme.

## The Second Kartavya

The Second Kartavya: Fulfilling People's Aspirations and Capacity Building



1. **Education:**

- **5 University Townships:** States will be assisted – through a 'Challenge Route' – to establish University Townships in the vicinity of major industrial and logistics corridors.
- **Women's Hostels:** These will be established in every district through Viability Gap Funding.
- **Establishment of 4 Telescope Facilities:**
  - National Large Solar Telescope
  - National Large Optical-Infrared Telescope
  - Himalayan Chandra Telescope
  - The Cosmos-2 Planetarium

2. **Health:**

- **Allied Healthcare Professionals:**
  - Over the next 5 years, 1 lakh allied healthcare professionals will be added to the workforce.
  - Existing institutions for allied healthcare professionals will be upgraded.

- New institutions for allied healthcare professionals will be established in both the private and public sectors.

**Allied Health Professionals (AHPs):** *These are specialists trained at recognized universities or institutions who work in collaboration with doctors and nurses to diagnose, treat, and rehabilitate patients suffering from illness, injury, or disability. They assist in patient care, improving quality of life, and enhancing physical or mental functions.*

- **Care Givers:**

- 1.5 lakh caregivers will be trained over the coming year.

- **AYUSH:**

- Three new **All India Institutes of Ayurveda** will be established.
- The **WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine**, located in Jamnagar, will be upgraded.
- Assistance will be provided to states to establish **five regional medical centers** with the aim of promoting medical tourism and positioning India as a global hub in this sector.

3. **Tourism:**

- **National Institute of Hospitality:** To be established by upgrading the existing National Council for Hotel Management and Catering Technology.
- A pilot scheme will be launched –in collaboration with IIMs–to conduct a **12-week training course** in a **hybrid mode** for the **skill development of 10,000 guides** across **20 tourist destinations**.
- Establishment of the **National Destination Digital Knowledge Grid:** To undertake the task of creating digital documentation for all sites of cultural, spiritual, and heritage significance.
- **15 archaeological sites**—such as Lothal, Dholavira, Rakhigarhi, Adichanallur, Sarnath, Hastinapur, and Leh Palace—will be developed as vibrant and experiential cultural destinations.
- Development of ecologically sustainable **mountain trails, turtle trails, and bird-watching trails** in select states.
- India will host the **Global Big Cat Summit** for the first time.

4. **Orange Economy:**

- Assistance will be provided to the **Indian Institute of Creative Technology, Mumbai**, to establish **AVGC** (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comics) Content Creative Labs in 15,000 secondary schools and 500 colleges.
- Establishment of a **National Design Centre:** To address the shortage of Indian designers, it will be established in the Eastern region of India.
- It is estimated that the Indian AVGC sector will require 2 million professionals by 2030.

5. **Animal Husbandry:**

- The government will ensure the availability of over **20,000 veterinary doctors**.
- It will launch a **credit-linked capital subsidy scheme** to support the private sector in establishing veterinary colleges, animal hospitals, diagnostic laboratories, and breeding facilities.

6. **Sports:**

- **Khelo India Mission:** Aimed at bringing about a transformation in the sports sector over the coming decade.

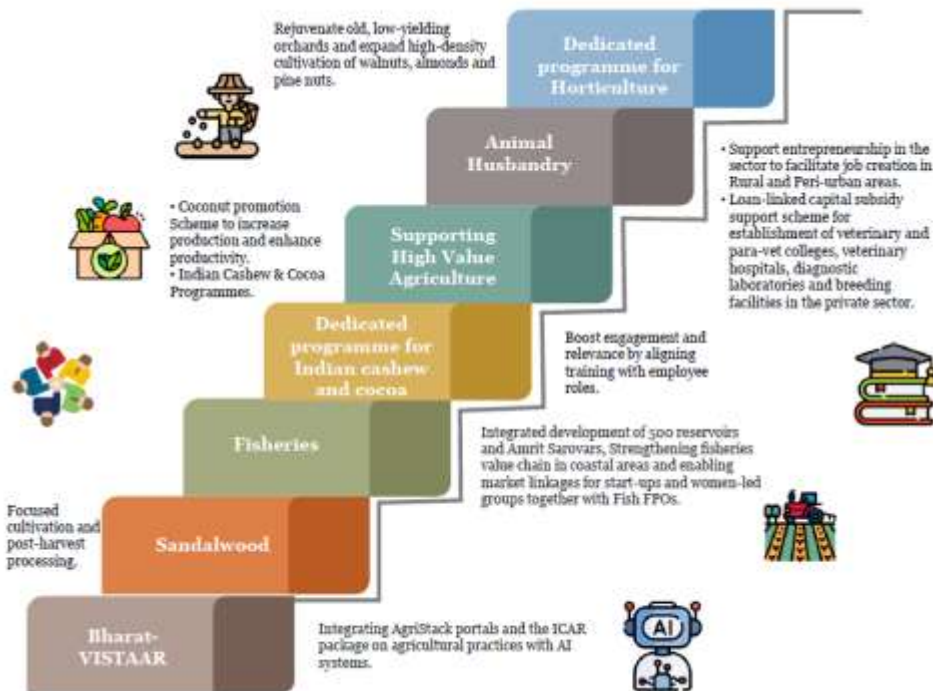


## The Third Kartavya

The Third Kartavya: Support for All, Development for All (“Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikaas”)



To this end, targeted efforts are required in the following areas:



## A. Enhancing Farmers' Income:

- **Fisheries:**
  - Integrated development of 500 water bodies and 'Amrit Sarovars'
  - Strengthening the fisheries sector and its value chain in coastal regions
  - Enabling market linkages to connect startups and women-led groups with the fisheries sector
- **Animal Husbandry:**
  - The government will promote **entrepreneurship in animal husbandry** through credit-linked subsidies.
  - **Modernization** of livestock enterprises.
  - Formation of **Livestock Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)**.
- **Promoting High-Value Agriculture:**
  - **Coconut Promotion Scheme:** To enhance competitiveness in coconut production.
  - Promotion of **Agarwood trees** in the North-Eastern region, and **nut crops**—such as almonds, walnuts, and apricots—in the hilly regions.
  - Assistance will be provided for the production of crops such as coconut, sandalwood, cocoa and cashew in **coastal areas**.
  - **The Indian Cashew and Cocoa Program:** A proposal has been put forward to launch a dedicated program aimed at transforming cocoa and cashew into **global brands by 2030**, while also fostering self-reliance in these sectors.

## B. Mental Health and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities:



- **Mental Health:**
  - **NIMHANS-2:** To be established in North India to address mental health needs across the country.
  - National Institutes of Mental Health located in **Ranchi and Tezpur** will be upgraded to serve as **regional apex institutions**.
- **Empowerment of Divyangjans:**
  - **Divyangjan Kaushal Yojana:**
    - *Objectives:*
      - To provide dignified livelihood opportunities through industrial engagement.
      - To design specialized training programs tailored for groups of persons with disabilities.



- **Divyangjan Sahara Yojana:** To ensure time-bound access to high-quality assistive devices for all eligible persons with disabilities
- Providing assistance to the **Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO)** to boost the production of assistive devices, invest in **Research & Development (R&D)**, and integrate Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies.
- Strengthening **PM Divyang Centers** as modern, retail-style hubs.
- Establishing **emergency and trauma care** facilities in **District Hospitals**.
- Building a robust service ecosystem by incorporating **geriatric and allied care services**; training **1.5 lakh multi-skilled caregivers**

## C. Focus on 'Purvodaya' States and the North-Eastern Region:

- Development of an “**Integrated East Coast Industrial Corridor**”, featuring enhanced connectivity nodes centered around **Durgapur**
- Development of **5 tourism destinations** across **5 North-Eastern states**.
- Deployment of **4,000 e-buses**
- **Buddhist Circuit:** Andhra Pradesh, Sikkim, Assam, Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram

#### D. **Bharat VISTAAR:**

- This is a **multilingual AI tool**. It has been integrated as a portal, incorporating an AI system along with various agriculture-related systems – including the ICAR package.

#### E. **SHE-Mart:**

- Full Name: Self & Help Entrepreneur Mart
- **Objective:** To establish modern retail outlets for selling products created by rural women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs).
- **Nature:** It will function as a trusted store—such as 'DMart'—but its ownership and operations will be entirely in the hands of rural women.
- **Target Group:** This scheme is primarily intended for women associated with the 'Lakshpati Didi' program.

### India's Reform Express



- Government has undertaken **comprehensive economic reforms** towards creating employment, boosting productivity and accelerating growth.
- Over **350 reforms** have been rolled out, including GST simplification, notification of Labour Codes, and rationalisation of mandatory Quality Control Orders.
- **High Level Committees** have been formed.
- Central Government is working with the State Governments on **deregulation** and reducing compliance requirements.

## Part: B

### Direct Tax

- **New Income Tax Act:** The new Income Tax Act, 2025, will come into effect from **April 1, 2026**.
- Simplified Income Tax Rules and Forms will be notified shortly. The new forms have been designed in such a manner that the common citizen can easily comply with them.
- **Ease of Living:** For a common citizen, interest awarded by the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal will be exempted from Income Tax; consequently, Tax Collected at Source (TCS) on this item will not be applicable.
- **Rationalization of TCS:** A proposal to reduce the TCS rate on the sale of overseas tour packages to 2 percent—down from the existing rates of 5 percent and 20 percent—without any monetary threshold.
- **Simplified TDS** provisions for the supply of human labor will benefit labor-intensive businesses.
- **Proposal for a new scheme** for small taxpayers, enabling them—through a rule-based automated process—to obtain a certificate for lower or zero tax deduction without having to file an application before the Assessing Officer.
- For the convenience of taxpayers, a '**Single Window**' facility will be introduced for accepting **Form 15G or Form 15H** regarding dividends and investment income.

- The **deadline for filing Revised Returns** has been extended from December 31 to March 31, subject to the payment of a nominal fee.
- Proposal for **separate deadlines for filing tax returns**.
- Instead of requiring a TAN, TDS on the sale of immovable property by a non-resident may now be deposited by the resident buyer through a PAN-based challan.
- A one-time, six-month amnesty scheme for small taxpayers to declare their foreign income or assets.
- Rationalization of penalties and litigation.
- A proposal to integrate IT assessment and penalty proceedings into a unified process.
- Taxpayers will be permitted to update their returns following re-assessment proceedings.
- A concession may be granted – subject to the payment of additional income tax – in cases involving the misreporting of income.
- The framework for litigation under the Income Tax Act has been rationalized.

### Cooperatives

- The deduction previously available to primary cooperative societies engaged in the supply of milk, oilseeds, fruits, or vegetables has now been extended to those supplying animal fodder and cottonseeds as well.
- A proposal to grant an exemption for a period of three years on dividend income received by any notified national cooperative federation from its investments in companies, provided such investments are made by January 31, 2026.

### Support for the IT Sector as India's Growth Engine

- Software development services, IT-enabled services, Knowledge Process Outsourcing (KPO) services, and services related to software development will now fall under a uniform Safe Harbour margin of 15.5 percent.
- The threshold for availing Safe Harbour provisions for IT services is being increased from ₹300 crore to ₹2,000 crore.
- The facility of filing a revised return – currently available to companies entering into an **Advance Pricing Agreement (APA)** – will now be extended to their associated enterprises as well

### Attracting Global Business and Investment

- A tax concession will be granted until 2047 to foreign companies that provide global cloud services by utilizing data center services based in India.
- If the company providing the data center services is an associated enterprise, it will also be granted a Safe Harbour margin of 15 percent on cost

### Tax Administration

- A joint committee comprising the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs** and the **Central Board of Direct Taxes** will be constituted to incorporate requirements for income computation and disclosure standards within the Indian Accounting Standards themselves.
- With effect from the **year 2027-28**, separate accounting requirements based on **Income Computation and Disclosure Standards** will be discontinued

## **Other Tax Proposals**

- Changes to the taxation of buybacks have been introduced to curb the misuse of the buyback route by promoters. The effective tax rate will be 22 percent for corporate promoters and 30 percent for non-corporate promoters.
- TCS (Tax Collected at Source) rates for sellers of alcoholic liquor, scrap, and minerals will be rationalized and fixed at 2 percent; additionally, the rate on Tendu leaves will be reduced from 5 percent to 2 percent.
- Securities Transaction Tax (STT) on futures contracts—covering both option premiums and option exercises—will be increased from the existing rates of 0.1 percent and 0.125 percent to 0.15 percent.
- It is proposed that MAT (Minimum Alternate Tax) will be treated as a final tax; consequently, no further credit accumulation will be permitted April 1, 2026 onwards. In alignment with this change, the existing MAT rate of 15 percent is being reduced to 14 percent.

## **Indirect Tax**

### **Marine, Leather, and Textile Products**

- The limit for duty-free imports of specialized inputs used in the processing of seafood products for export will be increased from the current 1% of the FOB value to 3%.
- The duty-free import facility currently available for the export of leather or synthetic footwear will be extended to cover specialized products within this category as well.

### **Energy Transition and Security**

- Extension of the basic customs duty exemption on capital goods used in the manufacture of Lithium-ion cells for batteries.
- Imports of Sodium Antimonate, used in the manufacturing of solar glass, will be exempted from basic customs duty.

### **Nuclear Power**

- The existing basic customs duty exemption on the import of materials required for nuclear power projects will be extended until the year 2035.

### **Critical Minerals**

- Basic customs duty exemption will be granted on the import of capital goods required for the processing of critical minerals. Biogas-blended CNG
- While calculating the Central Excise Duty payable on biogas-blended CNG, an exemption shall be granted on the full value of the biogas component.

### **Civil and Defence Aviation**

- Basic Customs Duty shall be exempted on components required for the manufacture of civil, training, and other aircraft.
- Basic Customs Duty will be exempted on raw materials used by the defense sector units for maintenance, repair, or other requirements imported for the manufacture of aircraft components.

## Electronics

- Basic Customs Duty will be exempted on specific components used in the manufacture of microwave ovens.

## Special Economic Zones

- A special one-time measure has been proposed to facilitate sales by eligible manufacturing units located in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA), for which concessional rates have been proposed. The volume of such sales will be limited to a prescribed proportion of their exports.

## Ease of Living

- The tariff rate on all taxable items imported for personal use will be reduced from 20 percent to 10 percent.
- Basic Customs Duty will be exempted on 17 drugs/medicines.
- The personal import of drugs/medicines for 7 additional rare diseases will be made tax-free.

## Customs Simplification Process

- Minimal intervention in the smooth and expeditious movement of goods.

## Trust-Based Systems

- The duty deferment period for Tier 2 and Tier 3 Authorized Economic Operators (AEOs) has been extended from 15 days to 30 days. A similar duty deferment facility has also been proposed for eligible manufacturers and importers.
- The validity period of Binding Advance Rulings on Customs matters has been extended from 3 years to 5 years.
- Government agencies will be encouraged to avail the benefits of AEO certification to receive preferential treatment for cargo clearance.
- For imports of goods that do not require any specific compliance, once a trusted importer files the Bill of Entry, the Customs authorities will be automatically notified upon the arrival of the goods to complete the clearance formalities.
- The Customs warehousing system will be transformed into a warehouse-operator-centric system, incorporating self-declaration, electronic tracking, and risk-based audits.

## Ease of Doing Business

- The approval process for cargo clearance from various government agencies will be made seamless through a single, interconnected digital window by the end of this financial year.
- The processes involved in the clearance of products made from food, drugs, plants, animals, and other wildlife—which constitute 70 percent of interdicted cargo—will be operationalized by April 2026.
- Goods for which no compliance requirements exist will be cleared immediately after the importer completes the online registration process.
- A **Customs Integrated System**, serving as a single, unified, and scalable platform for all customs procedures, will be launched within two years.

- Non-intrusive scanning, utilizing advanced imaging and AI technology for risk assessment, will be implemented in a phased manner at all major ports for the purpose of scanning containers.

### **New Export Opportunities**

- Fish caught by Indian vessels within Special Economic Zones or in the deep sea will be exempted from duty. The landing of such fish at a foreign port will be treated as an export commodity.
- To support the aspirations of India's small businesses, artisans, and startups seeking access to global markets through e-commerce, the current value limit of ₹10 lakh per consignment for courier exports will be completely removed.
- Amendments have been proposed to the provisions governing baggage clearance during international travel. These revised rules will increase the duty-free allowance to align with contemporary travel realities.
- Honest taxpayers seeking to resolve disputes by settling all outstanding dues will be able to close their cases by paying an additional amount in lieu of penalty.

### **RAS MAINS 2024**

1. What are the objectives of establishment of Atal Tinkering Laboratories in India? (5 marks)
2. What do you mean by TReDs in MSME in India? (5 marks)
3. What is the government's futuristic roadmap for the development of the nuclear energy sector as announced in the Union Budget 2025-? (10 marks)
4. What specific measures are announced in the Union Budget 2025-26 to boost MSMEs in India? (10 marks)

### **RAS MAINS 2023**

1. Write the name of the three economic railway corridors, which were announced in the interim budget for 2024-25 under the P.M. Gati Shakti Framework. (2 marks)