

Current Affairs Weekly PDF – March 2025 – 3rd Week (15 – 24)

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

MoE Launches PM-YUVA 3.0 to Nurture Young Authors and Promote Indian Heritage

In March 2025, the Department of Higher Education (**DHE**) under the Ministry of Education (MoE) has introduced the **3rd edition** of the Prime Minister's Young, Upcoming, and Versatile Authors (**PM-YUVA 3.0**) Scheme for Mentoring Young Authors.

- ✓ PM-YUVA 3.0 builds on the participation of young authors in 22 Indian languages and English in its previous editions.

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Announced USD 1 billion Fund for the Creator Economy Ahead of WAVES 2025

In March 2025, Union Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw**, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (MIB) announced a **USD 1 billion fund** to give boost to the creator economy, during high-level session on World Audio-Visual and Entertainment Summit (**WAVES 2025**) held at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, Chanakypuri in New Delhi (Delhi).

- ✓ He also announced that the Government of India (GoI) has allocated **Rs 391 crore** for India's 1st Indian Institute of Creative Technology (**IICT**) which will be set up in Goregaon Film City, Mumbai (Maharashtra).
- ✓ During the event, the **MIB** and **Government of Maharashtra** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**), which aimed at bolstering collaboration in media, entertainment, and digital outreach.

Union MoS Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma Launches R&D Initiatives under SRTMI

On March 12, 2025, Union Minister of State (MoS) **Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma**, Ministry of Steel and Ministry of Heavy Industries (MoHI) launched three Research and Development (R&D) schemes and the

'**SteelCollab**' web portal under the Steel Research Technology Mission of India (SRTMI) to boost steel sector innovation.

- ✓ The launch took place during the event "Catalyzing R&D in the Indian Steel Sector" organized by the Ministry of Steel in New Delhi (Delhi).
- ✓ The 3 schemes launched are Challenge Method, Open Innovation Method, and Start-up Accelerator scheme.
- ✓ **SRTMI** is a collaborative platform established by the Ministry of Steel and the domestic steel industry to promote R&D in steel technology, decarbonization, and digitalization.

Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy Launched India's 1st Exploration Licence Auction for Critical Minerals in Goa

In March 2025, Union Minister **Gangapuram (G) Kishan Reddy**, Ministry of Mines (MoM) and Ministry of Coal (MoC), launched **India's 1st ever auction** of Exploration Licences (**ELs**) for **13** exploration blocks for critical minerals, in the presence of Pramod Sawant, Chief Minister (CM) of Goa during an event held in Dona Paula in Panaji, Goa.

- ✓ For the initial phase, licenses will be issued for auction of exploration blocks for minerals like: Rare Earth Elements (**REE**), Zinc (Zn), Diamond, Copper (Cu), Platinum Group Minerals (PGE), among others, through a transparent online bidding process.
- ✓ The event also featured a roadshow on the **5th** Tranche of Critical Mineral Blocks and the launch of Artificial Intelligence (**AI**) **Hackathon 2025**, a Mineral Exploration Hackathon focused on 'Mineral Targeting Using AI'.

BWSSB Becomes India's First Water Board to Receive BIS Certification

In March 2025, Bengaluru (Karnataka) based Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (**BWSSB**) achieved a significant milestone by becoming the **first water board in India** to receive certification from the Bureau of Indian Standards (**BIS**) under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (MoCAF&PD) for its **pipelined drinking water supply management system**.

- ✓ This certification is valid for **three years**, from March 6, 2025, to March 5, 2028. During this period, BWSSB will undergo regular surveillance audits by BIS officials, with the next evaluations scheduled for December 2025 and September 2026, followed by a renewal audit in November 2027.

India Grants Ex-Post Facto Approval to MoU on Financial and Economic Cooperation with Qatar

In March 2025, The Government of India (GoI) granted **ex-post facto approval** to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on financial and economic cooperation between **India and Qatar**. This MoU was **initially established** by the Ministry of Finance (**MoF**), **India** and the Ministry of Finance of the state of **Qatar on February 18, 2025**, during the visit of Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani to India.

DGCA Grants License to Amravati Airport in Maharashtra for Flight Operations

In March 2025, the **Amravati Airport** in Belora, **Maharashtra**, was granted an aerodrome license by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (**DGCA**) under the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), officially designating it as a **licensed Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)** airport. This license signifies that the airport is now ready to commence flight operations.

- ✓ Mumbai (Maharashtra) based **Alliance Air Aviation Limited** will operate flights on the **Mumbai-Amravati-Mumbai** route with an ATR-72 aircraft three times a week. Operations

are expected to begin by the end of March 2025.

- ✓ Once operational, it will be **the third commercial airport** under the Maharashtra Airport Development Company Limited (MADC), after Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport (Nagpur) and Shirdi Airport (Shirdi).

Union FM Nirmala Sitharaman Launches Mobile App for PMIS

On March 17, 2025, Union Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman**, the Ministry of Finance (MoF), and the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MoCA) launched a dedicated **mobile application (App)** for the Prime Minister's Internship Scheme (**PMIS**) in New Delhi (Delhi).

- ✓ Furthermore, Union Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** also inaugurated the first facilitation center for PMIS in Kolkata, West Bengal (WB). This center has been established through a collaboration between the MoCA and New Delhi (Delhi) based Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- ✓ The PMIS was announced in the **Union Budget 2024-25** to provide 1 crore youth with internship opportunities in the top 500 companies in India over **five years**, helping them develop skills, gain professional experience, and advance their careers.



NAI's 135th Foundation Day: Exhibition on Indian Architecture, Book Launch & 'Gyan Bharatam Mission

On 11 March 2025, the National Archives of India (**NAI**) based in New Delhi, Delhi celebrated

its **135th Foundation Day** by organizing an exhibition titled “Indian Heritage through Architecture.” The event was inaugurated by Union Minister **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**, Ministry of Culture(MoC) and Ministry of Tourism(MoT).

- ✓ As part of the celebrations, NAI launched a book titled ‘**Thumb Printed: Champaran, Indigo Peasants Speak to Gandhi Volume III,**’ documenting 423 testimonies from the Champaran Satyagraha, including accounts from women and minors.

India’s Total Exports Increased by 6.24%, to USD 750.53 billion during April-February of FY25: MoC&I

According to the Ministry of Commerce & Industry (**MoC&I**)’s latest data, India’s combined merchandise and services exports, registered **6.24%** Year-on-Year (Y-o-Y) growth from April to February of Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25), reaching **USD 750.53 billion** against USD 706.43 billion during the same period of previous FY.

- ✓ While, India’s combined merchandise and services imports were estimated at **USD 839.89 billion** during April-February of FY25 compared to USD 782.90 billion for the same period of FY24, showing a growth of **7.28%**.
- ✓ India’s total exports, including both merchandise and services is estimated at USD 71.95 billion for February 2025, registering growth of 3.16% compared to 69.74 billion in February 2024.

Vigyan Dhara Scheme: Boosting India’s Scientific Research and Innovation

The Government of India (GoI) launched the unified **Vigyan Dhara scheme** on 16 January 2025 to strengthen India’s scientific research, innovation, and technological development. It merges **three** existing umbrella schemes of the Department of Science and Technology (**DST**) under the Ministry of Science and Technology(MoS&T):

- ✓ Science and Technology (S&T) Institutional and Human Capacity Building
- ✓ Research and Development (R&D)

- ✓ Innovation, Technology Development, and Deployment
- ✓ **Total Outlay:** Rs. 10,579.84 crore for the 15th Finance Commission(FC) period (2021-22 to 2025-26). **Annual Allocation:** 4.31 times Increased from Rs. 330.75 crore (2024-25) to Rs. 1,425 crore (2025-26).

LS Secretariat and MeitY Signed MoU to Launch ‘Sansad Bhashini’ for AI-powered Multilingual Parliamentary Ops

In March 2025, the Lok Sabha (**LS**)**Secretariat** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**) to develop an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered solution named ‘**Sansad Bhashini**’ which will provide comprehensive In-House AI solutions for multi-lingual support and streamlined processes in parliamentary operations.

- ✓ As per the MoU, LS will provide parliamentary data and resources, which will be used for learning the AI tools/products while; **Bhashini** (BHASHa INterface for India) will provide translation capabilities and technical expertise.
- ✓ In March 2025, the MeitY in partnership with New Delhi (Delhi)-based Drone Federation India (**DFI**) launched the National Innovation Challenge for Drone Application and Research (**NIDAR**) under the ‘**SwaYaan–** Capacity Building for Human Resource Development in Unmanned Aircraft Systems(UAS)’ initiative, during an event held at Electronics Niketan in New Delhi, Delhi.

Rashtriya Ayurveda Vidyapeeth Hosts 28th Convocation & Shishyopanayaniya Samskara in New Delhi

In March 2025, Rashtriya Ayurveda Vidyapeeth (**RAV**), under the Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy), hosted its **28th Convocation & Shishyopanayaniya Samskara** ceremony in New Delhi, Delhi. The event aimed at enhancing the quality of education and globalizing Ayurveda.

- ✓ **Award:** The Fellow of RAV (**FRAV**) Award was conferred upon **13** distinguished Vaidyas and scholars, for their contributions in research, clinical practice, education, and propagation of Ayurveda across India and beyond.

ISRO Chairman Dr. V. Narayanan Inaugurates New Research Centre at IIT Madras

In March 2025, Bengaluru (Karnataka) based Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) Chairman **Dr. V. Narayanan** inaugurated the '**Shri S. Ramakrishnan Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Fluid and Thermal Science Research**' at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M), Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN).

- ✓ The centre is named after **Sundaram Ramakrishnan**, former Director, Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) and Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) in Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala), ISRO.
- ✓ Union Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw**, Ministry of Railways (MoR) announced development of the longest hyperloop test track at the **IIT Madras**, Thaiyur Campus in Chennai. The Hyperloop features the world's longest student-run hyperloop infrastructure.

IndiaAI & GSI Launch 'IndiaAI Hackathon 2025' to Revolutionize Mineral Targeting with AI

In March 2025, **IndiaAI**, an Independent Business Division (IBD) under New Delhi (Delhi) based Digital India Corporation (DIC), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), in collaboration with the Geological Survey of India (**GSI**), Ministry of Mines (MoM), launched the '**IndiaAI Hackathon 2025**' themed "Mineral Targeting using Artificial Intelligence."

- ✓ As part of the launch, **MoM** and **Goa** government launched **India's first-ever** Exploration Licence (**EL**) auction in Goa and also featured a Roadshow for the fifth tranche of critical mineral block auctions.
- ✓ On March 18, 2025, Kolkata (West Bengal, WB) based Coal India Limited (**CIL**),

a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Ministry of Coal (MoC) signed a **non-binding** Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with Hyderabad (Telangana) based Non-Ferrous Materials Technology Development Centre (**NFTDC**), an autonomous Research and Development (R&D) institution under MoM.

Indore Launches India's 1st PPP-Based Green Waste Processing Plant

Indore city in Madhya Pradesh (MP), India's cleanest city for 7 consecutive years, is set to launch India's **first green** waste processing plant under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (**SBM-U**) through a Public-Private Partnership (**PPP**) model. This initiative aims to convert green waste into valuable products, supporting sustainability and economic growth.

DoT & WhatsApp Collaborate to Enhance Digital Safety in India

In March 2025, the Department of Telecommunications (**DoT**) under the Ministry of Communications (MoC), and Mobile Messaging Application (app) **WhatsApp**, a subsidiary of Meta Platforms, Inc., collaborated to expand Meta's safety campaign '**Scam Se Bacho**,' (Stay Safe from Scams) to bolster digital safety in India.

- ✓ The DoT launched the '**Sanchar Saathi portal**' and mobile app, allowing users to report suspected fraud calls and messages, track mobile connections, and block or trace lost or stolen devices.

Indian Railways Joins Mission Amrit Sarovar to Address Water Scarcity

In March 2025, the Indian Railways (**IR**) announced the collaboration with the **Mission Amrit Sarovar** to address the critical issue of water scarcity across India. With this collaboration, the IR will assist in desilting, excavating, or constructing new Amrit Sarovars (ponds) near railway lines.

- ✓ Mission Amrit Sarovar was launched on **24 April 2022**, aimed at developing and rejuvenating 75 water bodies in each district of India, with a total target of 50,000 ponds nationwide.

IAEA DG Rafael Mariano Inaugurates S N Bose Building at GCNEP

On March 18, 2025, **Rafael Mariano Grossi**, Director General (**DG**) of Vienna (Austria) based International Atomic Energy Agency (**IAEA**), inaugurated the **S N Bose Building** at the Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership (**GCNEP**), a Research and Development (R&D) unit in Haryana under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE).

- ✓ He also launched a **Certificate Course in Nuclear Engineering** during the event, which was held at Sushma Swaraj Bhavan in New Delhi (Delhi). The S N Bose Building, named after the renowned **Indian Physicist Dr. Satyendra Nath Bose**, will serve as an advanced hub for research and training in nuclear science and technology.

Cabinet Approvals on March 19, 2025

On March 19 2025, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi has approved the following proposals/schemes:

- ✓ Revised National Program for Dairy Development (**NPDD**), with additional **Rs 1,000 crore** for the program, thus bringing the total budget to Rs 2,790 crore for the period of the 15th Finance Commission (FC) cycle i.e. from 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- ✓ Incentive Scheme for promotion of low-value Bharat Interface for Money- Unified Payments Interface (**BHIM-UPI**) transactions Persons to Merchant (P2M)', with estimated budget of **Rs 1,500 crore** for Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25).
- ✓ Revised Rashtriya Gokul Mission (**RGM**), with an additional Rs 1,000 crore, bringing the total allocation to **Rs 3,400 crore** during 15th FC cycle from 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- ✓ Setting up of a new **Brownfield Ammonia-Urea Complex** of 12.7 Lakh Metric Tonnes

(LMT) annual capacity of urea production, at Namrup in Assam, with total estimated cost of **Rs 10,601.40 crore**.

- ✓ Construction of a **6-lane** access-controlled Greenfield high-speed National Highway (NH) to connect Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) Port (Pagote) with 29.219 kilometer (km)-long Chowk in Maharashtra at an estimated cost of **Rs 4,500.62 crore**. [Click here to read full news](#)

Union MoS Jitendra Singh, Announces North India's First Nuclear Power Plant in Gorakhpur, Haryana

In March 2025, Union Minister of State (MoS), Independent Charge(I/C), **Jitendra Singh**, Ministry for Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) announced that **North India's first nuclear power plant** is being established in **Gorakhpur, Haryana**. This initiative aligns with India's strategy to expand nuclear energy production while cutting down carbon emissions.

- ✓ The Union Minister also reaffirmed commitment to the Jaitapur Nuclear Power Project (**JNPP**) in Maharashtra, which is set to become the largest nuclear power plant in India.
- ✓ The JNPP will consist of **six reactors**, each having a capacity of **1,730 megawatts (MW)**. This will result in a total power generation of **10,380 MW**.

UIDAI Partners with Sarvam AI to Enhance Aadhaar Services

In March 2025, New Delhi (Delhi) based Unique Identification Authority of India (**UIDAI**) partnered with Bengaluru (Karnataka) based Sarvam Artificial Intelligence (**Sarvam AI**), an indigenous full-stack Generative AI (GenAI) company, to enhance the Aadhaar system's user-friendliness, security, and accessibility for citizens.

Overview of New Zealand PM Christopher Luxon's Official visit to India from March 16 to 20, 2025

Christopher Luxon, Prime Minister (PM) of New Zealand (NZ), was on five-days official visit to India from March 16 to 20, 2025, following an invitation from PM of India Narendra Modi. The visit aims to enhance India-New Zealand bilateral cooperation across multiple sectors, including trade, investment, defence, education, technology, agriculture, space, and sports.

- ✓ PM Narendra Modi and PM Christopher Luxon jointly inaugurated the **10th Raisina Dialogue** in New Delhi, Delhi with PM Luxon as the Chief Guest (CG).
- ✓ During NZ PM Christopher Luxon visit to India, **New Zealand** joined the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), became its **50th** member.
- ✓ A Memorandum of Cooperation (**MoC**) on **Horticulture** was signed between India's Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW), India and New Zealand's Ministry for Primary Industries to enhance research and knowledge exchange.
- ✓ A Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) on **Defence Cooperation** was signed between the Ministries of Defence (MoD) of India and Ministry of Defence of New Zealand to strengthen military ties and establish regular defence dialogues.
- ✓ India and NZ have strengthened their economic ties with the signing of the Authorized Economic Operator – Mutual Recognition Agreement (**AEO-MRA**) between the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) of India and the New Zealand Customs Service. [Click here to read full News](#)

DAC Approves Rs 54,000 Crore Defence Acquisitions; CCS Clears Rs 7,000 Crore ATAGS Artillery Deal

On 20 March 2025, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), operating under the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and led by Union Minister Rajnath Singh, MoD has approved **eight capital acquisition** proposals worth

over Rs 54,000 crore. These procurements aim to enhance the operational strength of the Indian Army (IA), the Indian Navy (IN), and the Indian Air Force (IAF).

- ✓ **Indian Army(IA)**: The DAC has sanctioned the procurement of a **1350 HorsePower (HP) engine** to replace the 1000 HP engine used in T-90 tanks.
- ✓ **Indian Navy(IN)**: Approval has been granted for the procurement of **Varunastra torpedoes**, advanced ship-launched anti-submarine weapons.
- ✓ **Indian Air Force(IAF)**: The DAC has approved the acquisition of Airborne Early Warning & Control (**AEW&C**) **Aircraft Systems**, which will act as force multipliers, significantly improving aerial surveillance and combat effectiveness.
- ✓ The Cabinet Committee on Security (**CCS**), led by Prime Minister (PM) of India Narendra Modi, has approved a **Rs 7,000 crore** contract for the procurement of 155 millimeter (mm) Advanced Towed Artillery Gun Systems (**ATAGS**).

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal chaired 4th NSAC meeting in New Delhi; Launches Sagarmala 2.0 & S2I2

In March 2025, the **4th** National Sagarmala Apex Committee (**NSAC**) **meeting** was held under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal**, Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi, Delhi to review the progress of key projects under Sagarmala, the flagship programme of the MoPSW.

- ✓ He launched the Sagarmala Startup Innovation Initiative (**S2I2**), a forward-looking program aimed at accelerating innovation and entrepreneurship in the maritime sector. With a budgetary support of **Rs.40,000 crore**, Sagarmala 2.0 seeks to catalyse investments worth **Rs.12 lakh crore** over the next decade.

India Ranks 2nd Globally in Funding for Women-Led Startups: Tracxn Report

According to a [report](#) by Bengaluru(Karnataka) based Indian tech startup research and analytics firm Tracxn

Technologies Limited, **India** ranks **second globally**, after the United States of America (USA) in terms of total funding raised by companies with women founders.

- ✓ The global tech sector has over **69,000** women-founded tech companies, which have collectively raised **USD 309 billion** in funding. However, in 2024, only 11.7% of total funding went to women-led startups due to economic challenges.
- ✓ Globally, women-led tech companies secured **USD 29.6 billion** in funding in 2024, reflecting an 11% decline from USD 33.1 billion in 2023 and a 21% drop from USD 37.5 billion in 2022.
- ✓ Among Indian cities, **Bengaluru** leads in both the number of women-led startups and the amount of funding raised.
Mumbai (Maharashtra) and Delhi NCR (National Capital Region) follow in second and third place, respectively.

DPIIT Signs MoU with YES BANK and Kyndryl Solutions to Support Startups Ecosystem in India

On March 20, 2025, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (**DPIIT**) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I), Government of India (GoI) has signed **two** Memorandums of Understanding (**MoUs**) with Mumbai (Maharashtra) based **YES BANK Limited** and Bengaluru (Karnataka) based **Kyndryl Solutions Private Limited** to boost India's startup ecosystem.

- ✓ The DPIIT – YES BANK partnership aims to promote innovation and offer vital support to product **startups, innovators, and entrepreneurs throughout India.**
- ✓ The DPIIT-Kyndryl Solutions partnership, with its expertise in digital transformation and Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI), aims to empower startups in the **manufacturing and Information Technology (IT)** sectors.

C-DOT Launches “Samarth” Incubation Program to Support Startups in Telecom and IT

In March 2025, New Delhi (Delhi)-based The Centre for Development of Telematics (**C-DOT**), a Telecom Research and Development (R&D) centre under the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications (MoC) has introduced the first cohort of its incubation program, “**Samarth**” to promote **innovation in telecommunications** and Information Technology (IT).

- ✓ To implement the program effectively, C-DOT has partnered with New Delhi based Software Technology Parks of India (**STPI**), an organization under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

10th Edition of the Raisina Dialogue Held in New Delhi from March 17-19, 2025

The 10th edition of **Raisina Dialogue**, India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geo-economics, took place from March 17 to 19, 2025 in New Delhi, Delhi. The event was jointly **inaugurated by** Prime Minister (PM) of India **Narendra Modi** and PM of New Zealand (NZ) **Christopher Luxon** who attended the event as the Chief Guest (CG).

- ✓ The theme of the 2025 edition of the Raisina Dialogue is “**Kālachakra – People, Peace, and Planet**”.
- ✓ He also discussed strengthening bilateral and multilateral ties with **Peruvian** Foreign Minister, Elmer Schialer Salcedo, and witnessed an **agreement** exchange between the National Archives of India (**NAI**) and the **General Archives of Peru**.
- ✓ During the Dialogue, Bisleri International Private Limited based in Mumbai (Maharashtra) in partnership with the Observer Research Foundation (ORF), based in New Delhi introduced a book titled ‘**Trading Blue Gold: A Blueprint for Water Credit Valuation in India**’ in New Delhi.

Kerala Establishes India's First Senior Citizens Commission

On March 19 2025, **Kerala** became the **first state** in India to pass a dedicated legislation the 'Kerala State Senior Citizens Commission Bill, 2025', after approval by the Kerala Legislative Assembly, for establishing a **Senior Citizens Commission** to ensure the protection of rights, welfare, and rehabilitation of the senior citizens in the state.

14th Meeting of ADMM-Plus Experts Working Group on Counter-Terrorism held in New Delhi

The **14th** meeting of Association of South East Nations (**ASEAN**) Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (**ADMM-Plus**) Experts Working Group (EWG) on Counter-Terrorism (EWG on CT) was held from March 19 to March 20, 2025, in New Delhi, Delhi. **India** and **Malaysia**, co-chaired this latest edition of ADMM-Plus EWG on CT for cycle **2024-27**.

- ✓ During the conference, both India and Malaysia announced work plans for the activities planned for the cycle 2024-27 and also, announced the conduct of Table-Top Exercise for EWG on CT in Malaysia in 2026 and Field Training Exercise in India in 2027.

Union MoS Dr. Jitendra Singh Launched Bio-Sarthi & Bioeconomy Report; India's Bioeconomy touched USD 165 billion in 2024

On March 21 2025, Union Minister of State (MoS)(Independent Charge,IC) **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, Ministry of Science & Technology (MoS&T) launched 'India Bioeconomy Report 2025(**IBER 2025**)' during the celebrations of 13th anniversary of Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (**BIRAC**) held at the National Media Centre in New Delhi, Delhi.

- ✓ While addressing the event, Union MoS Dr. Jitendra Singh quoted that India's bioeconomy saw a significant **16-times** increase in 10 years of the last one decade, from USD 10 billion (in 2014) to **USD 165 billion (in 2024)**.
- ✓ He also launched **BioSarthi**, a pioneering international mentorship initiative aimed to nurture biotech startups, for a period of 6 months. It will provide structured mentor-mentee engagements, offering personalized assistance to emerging entrepreneurs in the biotech sector.
- ✓ Also, **Assam** has become the **1st** state in the country to adopt the BioE3 framework.

Gol Forms IMICF for Fintech Sector Development

In March 2025, the Government of India (Gol) has set up an Inter-Ministerial-Industry Committee on Fintech (**IMICF**) to address challenges in the fintech sector and develop strategies for its long-term expansion.

- ✓ The committee will be chaired by **Nagaraju Maddirala**, Secretary of the Department of Financial Services (DFS) and will include representatives from key government and regulatory bodies.

MeitY conducts IWBDC to Develops Indigenous Web Browser

In March 2025, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**) has conducted the Indian Web Browser Development Challenge (**IWBDC**), a competition aimed to develop an **indigenous web browser** under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

The **top winners** were:

- ✓ Zoho Corporation – First Prize (Rs 1 crore)
- ✓ Team PING – Second Prize (Rs 75 lakh)
- ✓ Team Ajna – Third Prize (Rs 50 lakh)
- ✓ Jio Vishwakarma – special mention

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Iran, Russia & China Conduct Joint Naval Drills 'Maritime Security Belt 2025' in Gulf of Oman

In March 2025, **Iran**, **Russia**, and **China** commenced the **7th Maritime Security Belt** joint naval drills in the **Gulf of Oman**, near the **Strait of Hormuz**. This marks the 5th consecutive year of such exercises, aimed at enhancing maritime security and military cooperation among the participating nations.

6 Indian Sites Included in Tentative List of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites 2025

In March 2025, six Indian sites were added to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (**UNESCO**) Tentative List of World Heritage Sites. This inclusion is a prerequisite for potential nomination to the World Heritage List. With these additions, India now has **62 sites** on the Tentative List.

About Six Newly Added Sites of India:

Site Name	Location
Kanger Valley National Park (KVNP)	Chhattisgarh
Mudumal Megalithic Menhirs	Telangana
Ashokan Edict Sites along the Mauryan Routes	Multiple States
Chausath Yogini Temples	Multiple States
Gupta Temples in North India	Multiple States
Palace-Fortresses of the Bundelas	Madhya Pradesh (MP) and Uttar Pradesh (UP)

Gol & UN-Women Co-hosted Ministerial Roundtable on Women's Empowerment at 69th CSW

In March 2025, the Government of India (**Gol**) in partnership with United Nations (**UN**)-**Women**, hosted a Ministerial Roundtable which was organised on the sidelines of the **69th** session of the Commission on the Status of Women (**CSW**) held at UN headquarters in New York, the United States of America (USA). The session was co-chaired by Union Minister **Smt.**

Annpurna Devi, Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) and **Sima Bahous** Executive Director(ED) of UN Women.

UNCTAD Report: India, China Saw Strong Trade Growth in Q4 2024 Amid Risks

In March 2025, Geneva (Switzerland)-based United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (**UNCTAD**) released its latest [Global Trade Update: March 2025 report](#). As per the report, developing countries, specifically China and India saw better than average trade expansion in the 4th Quarter (Q4) of 2024. In contrast to it, many developed countries experienced contractions during the same period.

- ✓ The report showed that global trade saw significant expansion to USD 33 trillion in 2024, an increase of **3.7% (USD 1.2 trillion)** from 2023, driven by developing economies and strong services trade, except for regions like: Europe and Central Asia.
- ✓ The report showed that India registered an **8%** quarterly imports growth in goods trade in Q4 2024 compared to last quarter and Y-O-Y **imports growth** of 6%.

WMO Report: Atmospheric CO2 levels Reached at 420 ppm in 2023, highest in 8 lakh Years

In March 2025, Geneva (Switzerland)-based World Meteorological Organisation (**WMO**) released its report titled '[State of the Global Climate Report 2024](#)', It states that atmospheric Carbon Dioxide (CO2) levels

reached at **420 parts per million (ppm)** in 2023, which is the highest in the last 8 lakh years. As per WMO, 420 ppm of CO₂ is equivalent to 3,276 Gigatonnes (Gt) or 3.276 trillion of CO₂ in the atmosphere.

- ✓ Also, the CO₂ levels in 2023 were **2.3 ppm** higher than in 2022 and 151% of the pre-industrial level (1750).
- ✓ The report mentioned that long-term global warming is currently projected to be between 1.34 degree Celsius (°C) and 1.41°C compared to the 1850-1900 baseline.
- ✓ **Global Average Temperature:** The report showed that the year **2024** was probably the 1st Calendar Year (CY) to be over 1.5 °C above the pre-industrial era, with global average temperature of 1.55 °C ±0.13 °C above the 1850-1990 average, which is the warmest year in 175-year observational record.

23rd Edition of India-France Bilateral Naval Exercise 'Varuna' Commences

The **23rd** edition of the bilateral naval exercise '**VARUNA**' between Indian Navy(IN) and France Navy commenced on March 19, 2025, in the Arabian Sea, India and will conclude on March 22, 2025. The exercise is being conducted in two phases: the **Harbour Phase** (March 19-20) and the **Sea Phase** (March 21-22).

- ✓ The naval exercise VARUNA, initiated in 1993 and formally named '**VARUNA**' in 2001, has become a crucial element of Indo-French maritime cooperation.
- ✓ The 22nd edition of Varuna Exercise held in the Mediterranean Sea from September 2 to 4, 2024.

Indian Fintech firm, Lendbox Outranked Giants Aditya Birla and Titan to become Asia-Pacific's fastest-growing company

In March 2025, the United Kingdom (UK) based Financial Times (FT) and Germany based Statista jointly released their **7th annual ranking of 500 high-growth Asia-Pacific companies**. New Delhi (Delhi)-based Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Non Banking Financial Company (NBFC), **Lendbox** has topped the latest rankings and has registered Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of **536.64%**, with its revenues increasing to **USD 51.13 million** in 2023. This year total **81** Indian firms featured on the list.

- ✓ As per the report, Malaysia-based **Borong** and The Philippines-based **Etaily** secured 2nd and 3rd spots, respectively.
- ✓ **Countries highest representation of companies:** **Singapore** with **108** companies, has topped among all cities as well as countries featured on the list. It is followed by Japan and South Korea, each contributing 91 companies.
- ✓ **Indian Companies in top 10:** Among top 10 companies on the list, **5** were from India such as: Lendbox; BluSmart ; BigHaat (7th); Zypp Electric (8th); and Kuku FM (10th).

India and Bolivia Strengthen Bilateral Ties with Quick Impact Projects Agreement

In March 2025, External Affairs Minister (**EAM**) **Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar**, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India (GoI) held a bilateral meeting with **Celinda Sosa Lunda**, Foreign Minister of the Plurinational State of **Bolivia** to enhance bilateral relations between India and Bolivia by signing an agreement on Quick Impact Projects (**QIPs**) in La Paz, the capital of Bolivia.

BANKING & FINANCE

IRDAI Grants First Private Reinsurance License to Valueattics Reinsurance

On March 12, 2025, Hyderabad (Telangana) based Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) approved the 'R2' license for

Bengaluru (Karnataka) based **Value Attics Reinsurance Limited**, marking the entry of the **first private-sector reinsurer** in India.

- ✓ This approval was given during the **129th** meeting of the IRDAI board on March 12, 2025, chaired by Debasish Panda.
- ✓ The licence, “**R2**” category for reinsurers, signifies the company’s authorization to conduct reinsurance business exclusively.

BRISKPE Receives RBI In-Principle Authorisation for Cross-Border Payments

On March 12, 2025, Mumbai (Maharashtra) based Brisk Payment Exchange (BRISKPE), a global investment firm Prosus-backed payment aggregator, has obtained in-principle authorisation from the Mumbai (Maharashtra) based Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as a Payment Aggregator for Cross-Border (**PA-CB**) transactions.

- ✓ This authorization allows BRISKPE to handle both export and import transactions under the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**.

RBI Imposes Penalties on JM Financial Products and Experian India for Regulatory Non-Compliance

The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has imposed **monetary penalties** on JM Financial Products Limited (**JMFL**) based in Mumbai, Maharashtra and Experian Credit Information Company of India Private Limited (**ECICI**) also based in Mumbai for not following regulatory guidelines.

- ✓ JM Financial Products Limited has been fined **Rs 3.1 lakh** for violating specific provisions related to non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), particularly those concerning systemically important non-deposit-taking and deposit-taking companies.
- ✓ Similarly, ECICI has been fined **Rs 2 lakh** for not adhering to certain provisions of the Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act, 2005 (**CICRA**) and the Credit Information Companies (CIC) Rules, 2006.

NABARD Signed MoU with J&K Grameen Bank to Finance JLGs

In March 2025, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (**NABARD**), Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) Regional Office based in Jammu, J&K, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with Jammu - based **J&K Grameen Bank** for the promotion and financing of **2,000** Joint Liability Groups (**JLGs**).

- ✓ The MoU aims to meet the credit needs of Economically Weaker Sections (EWSs) of society by constituting and credit-linking JLGs.

APCRDA & HUDCO Sign Rs 11,000 Crore Loan Agreement for Amaravati Development

In March 2025, Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh, AP) based Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (**APCRDA**) and New Delhi (Delhi) based Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (**HUDCO**) under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) signed a **Rs 11,000 crore** loan agreement for the construction of **Amaravati**, the greenfield capital city of AP.

- ✓ The **Rs 11,000 crore** loan is part of the Rs 26,000 crore required for Phase-1 of Amaravati’s construction. The total estimated cost for Amaravati’s development is **Rs 50,000 crore**. The World Bank (**WB**) and Asian Development Bank (**ADB**) committed **Rs 15,000 crore** for the project.

REC Signed MoU Worth Rs 18,360 Cr with Kerala's EMC for Pumped Storage Projects

REC Limited (formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Limited), a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Ministry of Power (MoP), has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with the Energy Management Centre (**EMC**), Government of Kerala for collaboration and financing of Pumped Storage Projects (**PSP**) in Kerala.

- ✓ Under this MoU, REC will finance **Rs18,360 crore** in the PSP segment in Kerala over the next 5 years. The MoU was signed during the Global Green Hydrogen & Renewable Energy Summit 2025 held in Kochi, Kerala from 12 to 13 March 2025.

Piramal Capital & Housing Finance partners with Punjab & Sind Bank to Enhance Rural and Semi-Urban Lending

In March 2025, **Mumbai (Maharashtra) based Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited (PCHFL)** (Piramal Finance) has entered into a strategic co-lending partnership with **Punjab & Sind Bank**, a public sector bank headquartered in New Delhi (Delhi), to enhance credit availability for middle- and low-income borrowers, focusing primarily on underserved areas like rural and semi-urban regions across India.

SEBI Cuts Rights Issue Timeline to 23 Days for Faster Fundraising

In March 2025, The Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra has **reduced the timeline** for completing **rights issues** from 126 days to just **23 days**. This is a major improvement compared to the current average timeline of 317 days. The **new rule** will be effective from **April 7, 2025**.

- ✓ Rights issues must **remain open for 7 to 30 days**. The verification of application bids and the finalization of allotments will now be handled by stock exchanges (SE), depositories, and registrars.

RBI & Bank of Mauritius Sign MoU to Promote INR and MUR for Bilateral Transactions

In March 2025, India's central bank, Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) and the central bank of Mauritius, Bank of Mauritius (**BOM**) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) to establish a framework for promoting the use of the Indian Rupee (**INR**) and the Mauritian Rupee (**MUR**) in cross-border transactions.

- ✓ This agreement aims to enhance **bilateral trade** by encouraging the use of INR and MUR for payments in all current account transactions and permissible capital account transactions.

Paytm Partners with SBI Mutual Fund to Launch JanNivesh Rs,250 SIP

Paytm, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Noida (Uttar Pradesh, UP) based One 97 Communications Limited, has partnered with Mumbai (Maharashtra) **SBI Mutual Fund**, a subsidiary of State Bank of India (SBI) to launch the JanNivesh **Rs.250** Systematic Investment Plan (**SIP**) initiative.

- ✓ The scheme was launched by Securities and Exchange Board of India's (SEBI) Chairperson **Madhabi Puri Buch** on February 17, 2025.

Paytm Money Limited Receives SEBI's Approval as Research Analyst

On March 18 2025, Noida (Uttar Pradesh, UP) based **Paytm Money Limited**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of One 97 Communications Limited (OCL), received a Certificate of Registration (**CoR**) as a **Research Analyst** (RA) from the Mumbai (Maharashtra) based Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) under the 'SEBI (Research Analysts) Regulations, 2014'.

ADB Launches Frontier Seed (Pacific) Program to Boost Local Industries and Economic Growth

On March 17, 2025, Philippines based Asian Development Bank (ADB) introduced the **Frontier Seed (Pacific) program**, to strengthen local capital markets, foster entrepreneurship, and support

businesses that drive inclusive and sustainable economic growth in frontier Pacific markets. Under the ADB Frontier Seed (Pacific) program, ADB has signed two USD 200,000 (approximately Rs.1.73 crore) cost-recoverable technical assistance agreements to support key industries in **Fiji**. The program's first two recipients are:

- ✓ **SeaPAC Pte Ltd:** A leading saltwater prawn producer in Fiji was granted USD 200,000 to expand saltwater prawn production, enhancing food security and reducing reliance on seafood imports.
- ✓ **Kahuto Pacific:** An innovative aerial mapping company in Fiji, received USD 200,000 to develop coastal mapping technologies for climate adaptation and disaster resilience.

SEBI Partners with DigiLocker to Reduce Unclaimed Assets in the Indian Securities Market

In March 2025, Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based market regulator, Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) announced that it has partnered with **DigiLocker** to address the issue of unclaimed assets in the securities markets.

- ✓ For this, SEBI issued a circular titled '**Harnessing DigiLocker as a Digital Public Infrastructure for Reducing Unclaimed Assets in the Indian Securities Market**' in exercise of powers given under Section 11(1) of the SEBI Act, 1992, to protect the interests of investors in securities and to promote the development of, and to regulate the securities market.

NIPL Partners with Singapore's Hitpay to Enable UPI Payments

On March 19, 2025, Mumbai (Maharashtra) based NPCI International Payments Limited (**NIPL**), the international arm of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has partnered with Singapore-based **HitPay**, a full-stack payments infrastructure firm, to facilitate Unified Payments Interface (**UPI**) payments in **Singapore**.

- ✓ This marks NIPL's **second partnership in Singapore**, following the launch of **UPI-PayNow** in 2023 for cross-border transactions.

SEBI cuts minimum investment in social stock exchange instruments to Rs 1,000

On March 19 2025, Mumbai (Maharashtra) based Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) revised the minimum investment threshold for Zero Coupon Zero Principal (**ZCZP**) Instruments on the Social Stock Exchange (SSE) from Rs 10,000 to **Rs 1,000**.

- ✓ **Investment Reduction:** SEBI lowered the minimum investment for ZCZP instruments from Rs 10,000 to Rs 1,000, making it affordable for smaller investors.

IRDAI Appoints 5 New members to Enhance Insurance Advisory Panel

In March 2025, Hyderabad (Telangana) based Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (**IRDAI**) appointed 5 New members of experts from various sectors to improve regulatory decisions and strengthen the insurance sector's overall framework in the Insurance Advisory Committee (**IAC**).

New Appointments to the IAC:

- ✓ **Shri. M. R. Kumar**, former Chairman of Life Insurance Corporation (**LIC**), Mumbai (Maharashtra)
- ✓ **Shri. Dinesh Kumar Khara**, former Chairman of State Bank of India (**SBI**), Mumbai (Maharashtra)
- ✓ **Ms. Vishakha Mulye**, Chief Executive Officer of Aditya Birla Capital Limited, Mumbai (Maharashtra)
- ✓ **Shri. Nilesh Shah**, Managing Director of Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company Limited, Mumbai (Maharashtra)
- ✓ **Ms. Alice Geevarghese Vaidyan**, former Chairman and Managing Director of General Insurance Corporation Re (**GIC Re**), Mumbai (Maharashtra).

RBI Data: ECBs Net Inflows Surged Over 2 times to USD 18.4 billion in 10MFY25

According to article titled '[State of Economy](#)' published by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its March bulletin, net inflows from External Commercial

Borrowings (**ECBs**) have surged over 2 times, to **USD 18.4 billion** in 10 Months (from April, 2024 to January, 2025) of Financial Year 2024-25 (**FY25**), against FY24, amid declining costs of overseas fund raise.

- ✓ It further showed that ECB registrations and disbursements reached to USD 47.3 billion and USD 42.3 billion, respectively, in 10MFY25, on a cumulative basis.
- ✓ **Net Outflows:** As per the RBI's data, ECB outflows due to principal repayments reached at USD 23.9 billion in 10MFY25.
- ✓ **Net Inflows in FY24:** The data showed that net inflows under ECBs were USD 9.5 billion in FY24, significantly higher than the levels registered in FY23.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

NSO: Retail Inflation declines at 7-month Low of 3.6% in February 2025; IIP Grows by 5% in January 2025

In March 2025, National Statistics Office (**NSO**) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (**MoSPI**) released the **Consumer Price Index (CPI) for rural, urban and combined for the month of February 2025**. As per the official data, Year-on-year inflation rate based on All India Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the month of February, 2025 over February, 2024 is 3.61% down from 4.26% in the preceding month.

- ✓ This decline is driven by a sharp decrease of 222 basis points in food inflation, from 5.97% (in January 2025) compared to **3.75% (February 2025)**, marking the lowest level since May 2023 (3.19%).
- ✓ The data further revealed that Industrial Index Production (IIP) witnessed the growth of **5.0%** in January 2025, compared to 3.2% observed in December 2024.

MSME Sector Achieves Growth with Notable Reduction in Non-Performing Assets

On 11th March 2025, the Ministry of Finance (MoF) announced that over the past 5 years, the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector has seen a steady rise in total advances. At the same time, the sector has experienced a consistent decline in Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) and the Gross NPA ratio.

- ✓ **Advances Outstanding:** As of March 31, 2020, the total advances outstanding to the MSME sector stood at Rs.16.98 lakh crore. By March 31, 2024, this amount increased to **Rs.28.04 lakh crore**, showing a steady increase in financial support for the sector.
- ✓ **Gross NPAs:** The Gross NPAs of the MSME sector decreased from **Rs.1.87 lakh crore** (11% of total advances) in Financial Year (FY) 2020 to Rs.1.25 lakh crore (4% of total advances) by FY2024. This represents a significant reduction in the sector's NPA ratio.

India to Become World's 3rd Largest Economy by 2028: Morgan Stanley

In March 2025, New York (the United States of America, USA)-based brokerage firm, **Morgan Stanley** has projected that India will become the **3rd** largest economy in the world by **2028**, supported by macro-stability influenced policy and better infrastructure. India will overtake **Germany** (which is currently world's 3rd largest economy) as its economy is most likely to expand to **USD 5.7 trillion** in 2028.

- ✓ It has further projected that the Indian economy will expand from USD 3.5 trillion (in 2023) to **USD 4.7 trillion (in 2026)**, which will make it the world's 4th largest economy behind the United States of America (USA), China and Germany.

Amazon, Google & Meta Support Global Nuclear Energy Expansion by 2050

In March 2025, **Amazon**, **Alphabet's Google**, and **Meta Platforms** signed a pledge to support the global initiative to **triple nuclear energy capacity by 2050**. The pledge, led by London, the United Kingdom(UK) based World Nuclear Association (**WNA**) on the sidelines of the CERAWEEK by S&P Global energy conference in Houston, the USA.

OECD Revises India's GDP Growth Forecast to 6.4% for FY 2024-25

On March 17, 2025, Paris (France) based Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) adjusted India's Gross Domestic Product (**GDP**) growth forecast for Financial Year 2024-25(**FY25**), to **6.4%**, slightly up from **6.3%** in **FY24**.

- ✓ **Economic Outlook:** The **6.6% growth** projected for **FY26** remains strong despite a slight downward revision.
- ✓ **Global Economic Projections:** The OECD also revised its global GDP growth forecast for **2025** from **3.3%** to **3.1%**, largely driven by trade barriers and geopolitical uncertainties.

CBDT Notifies Ten year ZCB of PFC

In March 2025, The Ministry of Finance (MoF), through the New Delhi(Delhi) based Central Board of Direct Taxes (**CBDT**) notified the "Ten Year Zero Coupon Bond of Power Finance Corporation Limited (**PFC**)" as a Zero Coupon Bond (**ZCB**) under clause (48) of section 2 of the Income-tax Act, 1961.

Key Details of the Bond:

- ✓ **Name:** Ten Year Zero Coupon Bond of PFC.
- ✓ **Life Period:** 10 years and 1 month (121 months)
- ✓ **Number of Bonds:** **10 lakh bonds** will be issued.

Fitch Ratings kept India's GDP Unchanged at 6.5% in FY26; Increased GDP forecast for FY27 to 6.3%

In March 2025, New York (the United States of America, USA)-based credit rating agency, **Fitch Ratings** released its **March edition of the Global**

Economic Outlook (GEO). The report has kept India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) projection unchanged to **6.5%** for Financial Year 2025-26 (FY26).

- ✓ While, it has raised India's GDP forecast for FY27 to **6.3%**, from 6.2% in its December 2024 edition of GEO, amid the United States of America(USA) instigated global trade war.
- ✓ **Growth Rate for FY25:** The report showed that India's GDP growth has recovered in 4th Quarter (Q4: January-March) of FY25 to **6.2%** compared to 5.4% in Q3FY25.

AP Inks MoU with Gates Foundation to Boost Tech Support

On March 19, 2025, the government of Andhra Pradesh (**AP**) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (**Gates Foundation**), headquartered in the United States of America (**USA**), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) in New Delhi (Delhi) to collaborate on public welfare initiatives.

- ✓ It aims to integrate cost-effective and scalable solutions in key sectors such as healthcare, medtech, education, and agriculture.
- ✓ The MoU was signed in a meeting of **Nara Chandrababu Naidu**, Chief Minister (CM) of AP with **Bill Gates**, Chairman of the Gates Foundation.

RBI's Survey: US, UK and Singapore Overtake GCC Nations as India's Top Remittance Hubs in FY24

In March 2025, Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based Reserve Bank of India (RBI) published a paper titled '**Changing Dynamics of India's Remittances: Insights from the Sixth Round of India's Remittances Survey**' in its monthly bulletin. As per the results from the 6th round of India's remittance survey, there has been gradual shift in India's inward remittance patterns as advanced economies (AEs) have replaced the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nations as the dominant source of remittances to India.

- ✓ **Total Remittances Received in FY24:** The survey revealed that India's inward remittances have increased more than twice, from USD 55.6 billion (in 2010-11) to **USD**

118.7 billion (in 2023-24), increasing at an annual average rate of 14.3% post-COVID 10.

- ✓ **Top source countries for India's remittances in FY24: USA** emerged as the largest source of remittances, accounting **27.7%** of total inward remittances to India in FY24, increase from 23.4% in FY21.
 - It is followed by the United Arab Emirates (**UAE**) which has retained its position as the **2nd** largest source of India's remittances. The share of UAE has increased marginally from 18% (FY21) to 19.2% (FY24).

BPCL Signs Quadripartite MoU with BluJ Aerospace, ANERT & CIAL to Launch World's 1st Hydrogen-Powered VTOL Aviation Ecosystem

In March 2025, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (**BPCL**), a Maharatna Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) signed a **quadripartite** Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with Telangana based **BluJ Aerospace Private Limited**, Agency for New and Renewable Energy Research and Technology (**ANERT**), and Cochin International Airport Limited (**CIAL**) to establish the **world's 1st hydrogen-fueled** Vertical Take-off and Landing (**VTOL**) aviation ecosystem.

- ✓ BPCL will establish Hydrogen Refueling Infrastructure (HRI) for VTOL aircraft developed by BluJ Aerospace through its upcoming Hydrogen Refueling Stations (HRS) in Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram of Kerala to support sustainable aviation.

UK & Odisha Government Collaborate on Net-Zero Vision for Bhubaneswar

In March 2025, The Government of United Kingdom (**UK**) in **partnership** with the Energy Department of **Odisha** and **GRIDCO** Limited (formerly known as Grid Corporation of Odisha) organized a workshop on '**Net-Zero Vision for Bhubaneswar**' in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

- ✓ The Energy and Resources Institute (**TERI**) based in New Delhi, Delhi participated as the **knowledge partner**.

AFMS & NIMHANS Signed MoU to Enhance Mental Health Support for Armed Forces

In March 2025, New Delhi (Delhi) based **Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS)**, an inter-services organisation under the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and Bengaluru (Karnataka) based National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (**NIMHANS**), operates under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) to improve mental health care for military personnel and their families.

GRSE Signs MoU with PWD Nagaland for Modular Steel Bridges

In March 2025, Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (**GRSE**), a Defence Public Sector Undertaking (DPSU) under the Ministry of Defence (MoD), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with the Public Works Department (**PWD**) (Roads & Bridges) of the Northeast Indian state of **Nagaland**, in Kohima (Nagaland), for supplying **8 sets of Double Lane Modular Steel Bridges** in Nagaland.

- ✓ This marks the **first-ever MoU** between **GRSE** and a **Northeastern State**, aligning with the Government of India's (GoI) "Make In India" (MII) initiative for regional development.

UK's Prudential plc & HCL Group Announces JV for Health Insurance in India

In March 2025, the London, United Kingdom (UK) based **Prudential plc**, a global financial services group, has announced the establishment of a standalone health insurance company in India in partnership with New Delhi (Delhi) based **Vama Sundari Investments** Private Limited (Vama Delhi), a firm owned by the HCL Group promoter.

- ✓ Subject to regulatory approvals, **Prudential Group Holdings**, a subsidiary of Prudential plc, will hold a **70% stake** in the joint venture (JV), while **Vama Sundari Investments** will own the remaining **30%**.

AIBI and MBAN Sign MoU to Strengthen Investment Banking

In March 2025, Association of Investment Bankers of India (**AIBI**), the apex body of investment bankers in India, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with Nepal based Merchant Bankers Association of Nepal (**MBAN**).

- ✓ The MoU aims to promote collaboration and mutual support to enhance capacity building, professional development, regulatory knowledge, and best practices among investment banking professionals in India and Nepal.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

RBI Wins UK's Digital Transformation Award 2025 for Tech Initiatives

In March 2025, Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based India's central bank, Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has been selected as the recipient of **Digital Transformation Award 2025** by London (the United Kingdom, UK)-based Central Banking Publications.

- ✓ The RBI received this award in recognition of its technology driven initiatives, specifically '**Sarathi**' and '**PRAVAAH** (Platform for Regulatory Application, Validation and AuthOrisation)' systems, which were developed by the in-house developer team.

Hockey India 7th Annual Awards: Harmanpreet Singh & Savita Punia Won Hockey India Player of the Year Award

In March 2025, Indian Men's hockey team captain, **Harmanpreet Singh** was honoured with the Hockey India Balbir Singh Sr. Award for Player of the Year 2024 in the men's category, at the [Hockey India 7th Annual Awards](#) held at Le Meridien, Connaught Palace in New Delhi, Delhi. This marked his **2nd** Hockey India Player of the Year award (2021).

Winners of Hockey India Annual Awards 2024:

Name of the Award	Winner	Cash Prize
Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award	1975 Men's World Cup-winning team	Rs 50 lakh

Hockey India Balbir Singh Sr. Award for the Player of the Year (Men)	Harmanpreet Singh	Rs 25 lakh
Hockey India Balbir Singh Sr. Award for the Player of the Year (Women)	Savita Punia	Rs 25 lakh
Baljit Singh Award for Goalkeeper of the Year	Savita Punia	Rs 5 lakh
Hockey India Pargat Singh Award for Defender of the Year	Amit Rohidas	Rs 5 lakh
Hockey India Dhanraj Pillay Award for Forward of the Year	Abhishek Nain	Rs 5 lakh
Hockey India Ajit Pal Singh Award for Midfielder of the Year	Hardik Singh	Rs 5 lakh

Pravaig Dynamics Unveils World's 1st E-TATV 'VEER' & Wins iDEX Award

In March 2025, Bengaluru (Karnataka) based **Pravaig Dynamics** Private Limited, an Electric Vehicle (EV) startup unveiled **VEER** Electric Tactical All-Terrain Vehicle (**E-TATV**), the **world's first operational EV** designed for tactical defence use,

including forward patrolling, reconnaissance, and Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) operations.

Indian Literary Theorist Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak to Receive the 2025 Holberg Prize

In March 2025, Indian literary theorist and postcolonial scholar **Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak** was named the recipient of the **2025 Holberg Prize**. The award recognizes her groundbreaking work in postcolonial studies, feminist theory, and literary criticism.

- ✓ The prize, valued at **USD 540,000** (Rs.4.6 crore), will be presented on June 5, 2025, at the University of Bergen, Norway, by **Crown Prince Haakon of Norway**.
- ✓ She is renowned for her translation of Jacques Derrida's French book "**De La Grammatologie**" and her influential essay "**Can the Subaltern Speak?**".

President Droupadi Murmu Presents the 19th Ramnath Goenka Awards for Excellence in Journalism 2025

On March 19, 2025, the **19th** edition of the 'Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards' was held in, New Delhi (Delhi). The event honored **27 journalists** across **20 categories**, including investigative journalism, sports, politics and government, books, feature writing and regional languages.

- ✓ The award was established by the Noida (Uttar Pradesh, UP) based **Indian Express Group** in 2005 to honor its founder **Ramnath Goenka** on his birth centenary. The recipients were honored with a citation, a trophy, and a cash prize of **Rs.1 lakh**. [Click here to read full News](#)

Sanmar Group Chairman Vijay Sankar Conferred with Denmark's Knight's Cross for Consular Services

In March 2025, Chairman of Chennai (Tamil Nadu, TN)-based Sanmar Group, **Vijay Sankar** who is also the Honorary Consul General of Denmark for Southern India, has been conferred with '**Knight's Cross of the Order of Dannebrog**' by his Majesty the King of

Denmark, Frederik André Henrik Christian. He received this award in recognition of his distinguished consular services.

Veteran Indian Actor and Padma Awardee Chiranjeevi Honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award at UK Parliament

In March 2025, Veteran Indian Actor and Padma awardee, **Konidela (K) Chiranjeevi** conferred with the Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Public Service through Cultural Leadership from Bridge India during a ceremony held at the United Kingdom (UK)'s Parliament known as House of the Commons, in London, the UK.

Austrian Hydrologist Günter Blöschl Won 2025 Stockholm Water Prize

In March 2025, renowned Austrian hydrologist, **Günter Blöschl** has been named as the recipient of **Stockholm Water Prize for year 2025** by the Prize Committee. He won this award in recognition of his world-renowned work on flood risk reduction, water resource management, flood scaling, and regional process hydrology.

- ✓ He will officially receive this prize by His Majesty (HM) **King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden**, during World Water Week (WWW) observed annually in the month of August at Stockholm City Hall in Sweden.
- ✓ The award is considered as the '**Nobel Prize of Water**', established in **1991** by the Stockholm Water Foundation.

Winners of Sahitya Translation Prize 2024: Total 22 Indian Languages have been Selected

In March 2025, the Executive Board of the Sahitya Akademi under the Chairmanship of its President, **Madhav Kaushik** approved the selection of **22 books** in 22 languages for the [Sahitya Akademi Translation Prize 2024](#), during the meeting held at Rabindra Bhavan in New Delhi, Delhi.

- ✓ The prize relates, to translations 1st published during the 5 years before to the year immediately preceding the year of Prize for

Translation i.e. between January, 2018 and December 31, 2022.

- ✓ The recipient of the prize will receive an amount of Rs 50,000 and a copper plaque.

[Click here to read full News](#)

Córdoba, Fortaleza & Greater Manchester Honored at 2025 Partnership for Healthy Cities Summit in France

On 21st March 2025, the three cities **Córdoba** (Argentina), **Fortaleza** (Brazil),

and **Greater Manchester** (the United Kingdom, UK) were honoured at the **2025 Partnership for Healthy Cities Summit** held in Paris, France for their significant efforts in preventing Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and injuries.

- ✓ The awards recognised measurable improvements made by the three cities in tackling NCDs such as **heart diseases, cancer, diabetes**, and injuries which cause over 80% of global deaths, as per the the World Health Organization (WHO).

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Mark Joseph Carney Sworn in as 24th PM of Canada

In March 2025, **Mark Joseph Carney**, a former central banker and Canadian politician, was appointed as the **24th** Prime Minister (PM) of Canada. He secured the 'Liberal Party' leadership with **85.9%** of the vote, succeeding Incumbent PM **Justin Pierre James Trudeau**, after his 9 years tenure as PM.



- ✓ The swearing-in ceremony was held at Rideau Hall in Ottawa, Canada. He is the first Canadian PM to reach this position without having been elected to a political position.
- ✓ Prior to his appointment, he served as the Governor of both the Bank of Canada (Canada) and the Bank of England (the United Kingdom, UK). He served as the 8th **Governor of the Bank of Canada** (2008-2013) and **120th** Governor of Bank of England (2013-2020) managing the global financial crisis and Brexit's economic fallout.

Stuart Richard Young Sworn In As 8th PM of Trinidad and Tobago

On 17 March, 2025, **Stuart Richard Young**, a Trinidadian Attorney and Politician, was sworn-in as the **8th** Prime Minister (PM) of the **Republic of Trinidad and Tobago** at a



swearing-in ceremony held at the President's House in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. He succeeds **Dr. Keith Rowley**, who resigned on March 16, 2025, ending a 9 year tenure as PM.

- ✓ Prior to his appointment, he served as Minister of Energy and Energy Industries, and Minister in the Office of the PM.

Skechers Appoints Jasprit Bumrah as Brand Ambassador

On March 17, 2025, United States of America (USA) based **Skechers**, a footwear brand appointed **Indian cricketer Jasprit Bumrah** as its brand ambassador, reinforcing its commitment to combining comfort, innovation, and performance in sports footwear.

- ✓ With this appointment, Jasprit Bumrah joins fellow Indian cricketers **Ishan Kishan** and **Yastika Bhatia**, who have been representing Skechers for over a year.

Former Cricketer Krishnamachari Srikkanth Appointed as Goodwill Ambassador for VISION 2020 India

On March 19, 2025, **Krishnamachari Srikkanth**, former captain of the Indian national cricket team, has been appointed as the Goodwill Ambassador for '**VISION 2020 India**', a national initiative focused



on eliminating avoidable blindness and visual impairment across India.

- ✓ On March 18, 2025, Gurugram (Haryana) based online travel platform **Goibibo**, owned by MakeMyTrip Limited, announced the appointment of Indian cricketer **Rishabh Rajendra Pant** as its new brand ambassador.

Kirsty Coventry Elected as 10th President of the IOC

Olympic Champion **Kirsty Leigh Coventry Seward**, a



41-year-old from Zimbabwe, has been elected as the **10th President** of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland for an **eight-year**

tenure. She secured the position through a secret ballot among seven candidates during the **144th IOC Session** in Costa Navarino, Greece. She will succeeds Thomas Bach.

- ✓ She will be the **first woman** and the first African to serve as the President of the IOC.
- ✓ As IOC President, Coventry will oversee major global sporting events, including the 2026 Olympic Winter Games in Milano Cortina, Italy.

Tunisian President Kais Saied appointed Sarra Zaafrani Zenzri as New PM



On March 21 2025, **Tunisian President Kais Saied** dismissed Prime Minister (PM) **Kamel Madouri** and appointed **Sarra Zaafrani Zenzri** as the new head of the government. This marks the fourth prime ministerial

change since Kais Saied assumed the presidency in July 2021.

- ✓ Sarra Zaafrani Zenzri becomes Tunisia's **second woman** PM after Najla Bouden (October 2021–August 2023). Prior to this, she served as the Minister of Public Works and Housing.

Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah Sworn in as Namibia's 1st Female President

On 21 March 2025, **Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah** (72), a veteran politician was **sworn**

in as Namibia's first female and fifth president in a ceremony held at the Namibian State House in

Windhoek, Namibia. The ceremony

coincided with Namibia's 35th independence anniversary.



- ✓ She **succeeds** outgoing President **Nangolo Mbumba**, who had been serving as Interim President following the death of former President Hage Geingob (2015-2024) in 2024.
- ✓ Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, who previously served as country's 1st vice president between 2024-2025 and won the presidential elections in November 2024, securing 58% of the vote.

Bollywood Actor Ayushmann Khurrana Becomes 'Fit India' icon

In March 2025, Bollywood Actor **Ayushmann Khurrana** was named the official '**Fit India Icon**' by Union Minister Mansukh Laxmanbhai Mandaviya, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) during the inaugural ceremony of the first-of-its-kind **Fit India Carnival** event, a 3-day event emphasized the importance of fitness, held in New Delhi, Delhi.

ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

Patanjali & DS Group Acquire Magma Insurance; Temasek to Invest in Haldiram Snacks

In March 2025, Baba Ramdev-owned Patanjali Ayurved Limited (**PAL**) based in Haridwar, Uttarakhand along with Dharampal Satyapal Group Limited (**DS Group**),

based in Noida, Uttar Pradesh (UP) has secured a majority stake in **Magma HDI General Insurance Company Limited** headquartered at Mumbai, Maharashtra, in a deal valuing the company at **Rs 4,500 crore**.

- ✓ The agreement involves the transfer of equity shares from existing shareholders, including Sanoti Properties LLP, Celica Developers, and Jaguar Advisory Services. With this transaction, Patanjali and DS Group will hold a **98% stake**.

Temasek to Acquire 10% Stake in Haldiram Snacks:

Temasek Holdings (Private) Limited, an investment firm, based in Singapore has signed an agreement to acquire a **10% stake** in Noida based Haldiram Snacks Food Private Limited(Haldiram's) (**HSFPL**) for over Rs.8,000 crore (around USD 1 billion).

CCI Approvals on March 17, 2025

On March 17 2025, the Competition Commission of India (**CCI**) has approved the following proposals:

- ✓ Acquisition of London (the United Kingdom, UK)-based global mining company, **Anglo American plc's** steel-making coal portfolio in Australia by Peabody MNG Pty Ltd. and Peabody SMC Pty Ltd.
- ✓ Acquisition of **100%** shareholding each of O2 Power Midco Holdings Pte. Ltd. and O2 Energy SG Pte. Ltd by JSW Neo Energy Limited which is 100% owned subsidiary of JSW Energy Limited (JEL) which belongs to the JSW Group.
- ✓ Acquisition of a shareholding Aurangabad (Maharashtra)-based Dhoot Transmission Private Limited (DTPL) by BC Asia Investments XV Limited and BC Asia Investments XVI Limited.
- ✓ Acquisition of Jaipur (Rajasthan)-based Uprising Science Private Limited, by Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL), a leading Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) company.
- ✓ Tata Sons proposal to acquire additional **10%** stake in Direct-to-Home (DTH) provider Tata Play from Baytree Investments (Mauritius) Pte Limited.

Bajaj Finserv to Acquire Allianz SE's 26% Stake in Insurance JVs for Rs 24,180 Cr

In March 2025, Pune (Maharashtra)-based Bajaj Finserv Limited (**BFS**), India's most diversified Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC) will acquire Munich (Germany)-based **Allianz SE's 26% stake** in their

Indian non-life and life insurance Joint Ventures (JVs) for **Rs 24,180 crore**.

- ✓ The agreed consideration for acquiring a 26% stake in Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company Limited (**BAGIC**) and Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company Limited(**BALIC**) is Rs 13,780 crore and Rs 10,400 crore, respectively.

IIHL Completes Acquisition of RCAP for Rs.9,650 Crore

In March 2025, Mumbai (Maharashtra) based IndusInd International Holdings Limited (**IIHL**) has successfully acquired the debt-ridden of Mumbai (Maharashtra) based Reliance Capital Limited (**RCAP**). The acquisition was completed by transferring the bid amount of **Rs.9,650 crore** to lenders under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). The business value is estimated to be approximately **Rs.20,000 crore**, based on conservative assessments.

- ✓ IIHL has secured the necessary regulatory approvals from the **RBI**, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (**IRDAI**), and relevant stock exchanges.

Bain Capital to Acquire 18% Stake in Manappuram Finance for Rs 4,385 Crore

In March 2025, Boston, Massachusetts(the United States of America (USA)-based global private

investment firm, **Bain Capital,LP** announced that it has signed definitive agreements to acquire joint control in Thrissur (Kerala)-based Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) **Manapurram Finance Limited(MFL)**, which is also India's 2nd largest gold loan company.

- ✓ As per the deal, Bain Capital (Acquirer) will acquire **18% stake** on a fully diluted basis through preferential allotment of equity worth **Rs 4,385 crore** and warrants at Rs 236 per share.

Uniyala keralensis: A Newly Plant Species Identified in Kerala's Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve

In March 2025, Researchers have found a new plant species '**Uniyala keralensis**' (family *Asteraceae*), in the Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve (**ABR**) in Thiruvananthapuram, **Kerala**. It is a dense shrub with light purple flowers and has been confirmed as a distinct species of the genus *Uniyala*, separating it from *Vernonia*.

- ✓ The species has been named after the State of Kerala. The finding of this plant was published in the journal **Phytotaxa**.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

ISRO successfully completes SpaDeX De-Docking, a key milestone for upcoming missions like Chandrayaan – 4

In March 2025, the Bengaluru (Karnataka)- based Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) reached an important milestone in space technology by successfully de-docking its Space Docking Experiment (**SpaDeX**) satellites.

- ✓ This achievement makes **India the fourth country**, after China, Russia, and the United States of America (USA), to demonstrate space docking technology.

ISRO Conducted Flight Acceptance Hot Test of Cryogenic Engine for LVM3-M6 Mission

In March 2025, Bengaluru (Karnataka)-based Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) has successfully conducted the flight acceptance hot testing of the indigenous cryogenic engine(**CE20**) identified for the 6th operational mission of the LVM3 launch vehicle (**LVM3-M6**) at the ISRO Propulsion Complex (**IPRC**) in Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu (TN).

- ✓ In March 2025, V. Narayanan, chairman of ISRO announced that the Government of India (GoI) has approved the '**Chandrayaan-5/ Lunar Polar Exploration Mission(LuPEX)**' mission at an event held in

Chennai, TN. For this mission, GoI has collaborated with Japan.

- The mission will be launched as part of building capability towards achieving the target of an Indian landing on Moon by **2040**.
- He further announced that India will have its own space station, '**Bharatiya Antriksh Station**' by 2035.

ISRO and SCL Develop 32-bit Microprocessors for Space Applications

In March 2025, the Bengaluru (Karnataka) based Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) and Chandigarh (**Punjab**) based Semiconductor Laboratory (**SCL**) handed over the first production of two 32-bit microprocessors, '**VIKRAM3201**' and '**KALPANA3201**', for space applications.

- ✓ These microprocessors were designed and developed by the Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala) based Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (**VSSC**) of the ISRO in partnership with the SCL.
- ✓ **Development: VIKRAM3201** is India's **first** fully "Make-in-India" 32-bit

microprocessor, designed for the extreme environmental conditions of launch vehicles.

- ✓ **Kalpana 3201** is a 32-bit microprocessor based on the SPARC V8 (Scalable Processor Architecture, version 8) Reduced Instruction Set Computing (RISC) microprocessor and is based on the IEEE 1754 Instruction Set Architecture.

NASA Astronauts Sunita Williams, Butch Wilmore Return to Earth After 9 Months in ISS

On March 19, 2025, Indian-American astronaut **Sunita Lyn Williams** and an American astronaut **Barry Butch E. Wilmore** from National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) successfully returned to the Earth after spending an extended period (9months) aboard the International Space Station (ISS).

- ✓ As part of NASA's Crew-9 rotation mission, the 4-person crew, along with American

Astronaut **Nick Hague** and Russian cosmonaut **Aleksandr Gorbunov**, concluded their journey with a safe splashdown off the coast of Tallahassee in the Florida Panhandle, the United States of America (USA).

- ✓ Their return was facilitated by the **SpaceX Crew Dragon** capsule, following the arrival of Crew-10, which was launched on March 14, 2025, to relieve Crew-9.

World's First 'Supersolid' Created from Light

An international team of scientists led by researchers at the Institute of Nanotechnology of the National Research Council (**CNR Nanotec**) in Lecce, Italy has transformed light into a "**Supersolid**" for the **1st time** globally. A supersolid is a rare and counterintuitive phase of matter that uniquely combines the rigidity of a crystal with the frictionless flow of a superfluid.

ENVIRONMENT

New Eel Species Discovered of Thoothukudi Coast Named After Tamil Language

In March 2025, researchers at Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh, UP)-based Indian Council of Agricultural Research-National Bureau of Fish Genetic

Resources (**ICAR-NBFGR**) have discovered a new species of Congrid eel, found off the Thoothukudi coast in Tamil Nadu (TN).

- ✓ It belongs to the genus '**Ariosoma**' and was named **Tamilicum** after the world's oldest language, 'Tamil'.

SPORTS

Bangladesh All-Rounder Mahmudullah Retires From International Cricket

On March 12, 2025, Veteran Bangladeshi cricketer, **Mahmudullah Riyad**, an all-rounder for the Bangladesh National Cricket team, announced his retirement from International Cricket, ending an 18-year career. He previously retired from Test cricket in 2021 and Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is) in 2024.

- ✓ He represented Bangladesh in 50 Tests, 239 One Day Internationals (ODIs), and 141 T20Is, totaling 430 international matches.

- ✓ Throughout his career, he scored a total of **11,047 runs** across all formats, including **9 centuries**.

KIWG 2025: Fifth Edition Takes Place in Ladakh and J&K, IA Tops Medal Tally

The **fifth edition** of the Khelo India Winter Games (**KIWG**) started on January 23, 2025, in Leh, Ladakh. This event, **funded** by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (**MYAS**), is part of Government of India's (GoI) Khelo India initiative, which promotes sports across the country.

- ✓ In the 2025 edition of KIWG, more than **400 athletes** from states, Union Territories (UTs), and institutions, participated as 19 teams in six winter sports.

Medal tally table for the top five positions in KIWG 2025:

R a n k	Stat e/ UT/ Insti tutio n	G o l d	S i l v e r	Br o n z e	T o t a l
1	Indi an Arm y	7	5	6	1 8
2	Him ach al Prad esh	6	5	7	1 8
3	Lad akh (UT)	4	2	1	7
4	Mah aras htra	3	5	5	1 3
5	Tam il Nad u	3	2	0	5

Lando Norris wins F1's season-opening Australian Grand Prix 2025

On 16 March 2025, British Formula one (F1) driver **Lando Norris** of **McLaren** claimed victory at the 2025 season opener **Australian Grand Prix**, held at the Albert Park Circuit in Melbourne, Australia.

Rank	Name	Country
1	Lando Norris (McLaren)	United Kingdom
2	Max Verstappen (Red Bull Racing)	Dutch- Belgian
3	George Russell (Mercedes)	United Kingdom

India Masters clinch Inaugural IML 2025 Title, beat West Indies Masters by 6 wickets

In March 2025, **India Masters** Cricket Team clinched the inaugural International Masters League (IML) 2025 by **defeating West Indies Masters** Cricket Team by **6 wickets** in the final at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. This victory marked India Masters' **first title** in the tournament, successfully chasing down a target of **149 runs** with 17 balls to spare.

- ✓ India Masters was led by Captain **Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar** and the West Indies Masters was led by Captain **Brian Charles Lara**.

World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2025: India Tops Medal Tally with 134 Medals

India concluded the **2025 World Para Athletics Grand Prix** held at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi (Delhi), securing the top spot on the medal table with **134 medals**, including 45 Gold, 40 Silver, and 49 Bronze.

- ✓ The **Neutral Para Athletes** contingent finished 2nd with 26 medals, comprising 13 gold, 9 silver, and 4 bronze. **Uzbekistan** claimed 3rd place with 4 gold, 4 silver, and 4 bronze medals.
- ✓ Indian Para Javelin Thrower **Rinku Hooda** clinched a **gold** medal in the javelin throw F46 category with a throw of 60.26 meters (m).

India Concludes Special Olympics World Winter Games 2025 With 33 Medals

India concluded the Special Olympics World Winter Games 2025 in Turin, Italy, with an impressive total of **33 medals: 8 gold, 18 silver, and 7 bronze**. India recorded **10 medals** each in Snowshoeing and Alpine Skiing, **6** in Snowboarding, **4** in Short-track speed Skating, **2** in Cross-Country Skiing, and **1** in Floor ball.

India's Medal Tally:

Category	Medals
Gold	8
Silver	18
Bronze	7

Mumbai Indians Clinch 'WPL Title 2025' for the 2nd Time by Defeating Delhi Capitals

In March 2025, Mumbai Indians Women cricket team (**MI-W**) clinched their Women's Premier League (**WPL**) **title 2025** by defeating Delhi Capitals Women cricket team (**DC-W**) by **8 runs** in the final held at Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai (Maharashtra). This victory marks Mumbai Indians (MI) to become the first team in WPL history to clinch the title twice, following their debut win in 2023.

- ✓ Mumbai Indians (MI) were captained by **Harmanpreet Kaur**, while Delhi Capitals (DC) were led by Captain **Meghann Moira Lanning**.
- ✓ The winners 'MI-W' received a cash prize of **Rs 6 crore**, while the runner-up 'DC-W' received **Rs. 3 crore**.

WPL 2025 Award Winners:

Award	Player	Team	Cash Reward
Orange Cap	Natalie Ruth Sciver-Brunt	Mumbai Indians-Women cricket team (MI-W)	Rs. 5 lakh

Purple Cap	Amelia Charlotte Kerr	MI-W
Player of the Match	Harmanpreet Kaur	MI-W
Emerging Player	Shafali Verma	Delhi Capitals - Women cricket team (DC-W)

Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya Released Anthem, Mascot and Logo for Khelo India Para Games 2025

In March 2025, Union

Minister **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (**MYAS**) released the Mascot, Logo and anthem for 2nd Khelo India Para Games (**KIPG 2025**) during an event held at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium Complex in New Delhi, Delhi.

- ✓ **Mascot:** During the event, Union Minister of State (MoS) Raksha Nikhil Khadse, MYAS unveiled the **mascot for KIPG 2025** named '**Ujjwala**', inspired from Delhi's house sparrow, demonstrates perseverance and resilience in light of the bird which was on the verge of extinction.
- ✓ **Logo:** The logo for KIPG 2025 was jointly launched by Devendra Jharia, President of Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) and Sminu Jindal, founder of Svayam.

OBITUARY

Renowned Odia Poet & Padma Bhushan Awardee Ramakanta Rath Passed Away

In March 2025, **Ramakanta Rath**, renowned Odia poet and Padma Bhushan awardee passed away at the age of 90 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. He was born on 13 December 1934 in Cuttack, Bihar and Orissa Province, British India (now Odisha). He has won numerous awards including the 'Padma Bhushan' award.

- ✓ He received the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1977 for "Saptama Ritu," the Sarala Award in 1984, the Bishuva Samman in 1990, and the Sahitya Akademi Fellowship in 2009 for his significant contributions to Odia literature.
- ✓ In **2006**, he was honored with the 'Padma Bhushan', India's 3rd-highest civilian award, in the field of Literature and Education for his exceptional contributions to Literature.

Member of Erstwhile Royal Family of Mewar & Chairman of HRH Group of Hotels Arvind Singh Mewar Passed Away

In March 2025, **Arvind Singh Mewar**, a member of the erstwhile royal family of Mewar and a descendant of the Rajput king Maharana Pratap, died

at the City Palace in **Udaipur**, Rajasthan at 81. He was born on 13 December 1944, in Udaipur. He was the **Chairman** of the Historic Resort Hotels (**HRH**) group of hotels in Udaipur and the Chairman and Managing Trustee of the Maharana of Mewar Charitable Foundation (**MMCF**), Udaipur.

Former Union Minister Debendra Pradhan Passed Away

In March 2025, Former Union Minister **Debendra Pradhan**, Father of Union Minister, Dharmendra Pradhan, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) passed away at the age of 84 in New Delhi (Delhi). He was born on 16 July 1941 in Nalam, Dhenkanal district, Orissa Province, British India (present day Odisha, India)

- ✓ He served as a Member of Parliament (MoP) for 2 consecutive terms from 1998 to 2004, representing the Deogarh constituency in Odisha.
- ✓ During his tenure, he held the position of Minister of State (MoS) for Surface Transport from 1998 to 1999, and subsequently, MoS for Agriculture from 1999 to 2001.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

CSK Launches its Book "Leo — The Untold Story"

A new book titled "**Leo — The Untold Story**", written by senior advocate and former Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) vice-president **P.S. Raman** was officially unveiled in **Chennai (Tamil Nadu)** by the former Indian Test Cricketer **Chingleput Doraikannu "C.D." Gopinath** at a star-studded event, with former Chennai Super Kings (CSK) captain Mahendra Singh (**M.S.**) Dhoni graced the occasion.

Justice P.N. Prakash Launches Book 'Memories and Milestones' to Celebrate 60 Years of Blue Cross of India

On March 15, 2025, **Justice P.N. Prakash**, former judge of the Madras High Court (HC), and former Special Public Prosecutor of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), Government of India (GoI) released the book '**Memories and Milestones**' in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN). The book, authored by historian **V. Sriram** and **Lashman**, documents the **60-year journey** of the **Blue Cross of India**.



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Book Titled 'March of Glory' Released to Commemorate Golden Jubilee of India's 1975 Hockey World Cup Triumph

In March 2025, the book titled '**March to Glory: The Story of India's 1975 World Cup triumph**' was released to celebrate Golden Jubilee of India's maiden victory in Hockey World Cup against Pakistan in 1975

held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The book was published by Hockey Citizen Group.

- ✓ The book has been co-authored by hockey historian, **K. Arumugam**, who is also the co-founder of Non-Government Organisation (NGO), One Thousand Hockey Legs (OTHL); and eminent journalist **Errol D'Cruz**.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Mathematics 2025 – March 14

International Day of Mathematics (**IDM**) is observed annually on **14th March** across the globe to highlight the significance of mathematics in various fields, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), climate change, energy, and sustainable development. This date was chosen as it aligns with Pi Day, representing the mathematical constant π (pi) approximately equal to 3.14.

- ✓ 14th March 2025 marks the observance of the **6th IDM**.
- ✓ The theme of IDM 2025, "**Mathematics, Art, and Creativity**" celebrates the intersection of mathematical discovery and artistic expression, showcasing how mathematics inspires and enhances creative endeavours.

International Day of Action for Rivers 2025 – March 14

The **International Day of Action for Rivers** is annually observed on **14 March** worldwide to raise awareness about the importance of rivers and the need to protect them. This Day highlights the significance of rivers in sustaining life and ecosystems, recognises the tireless efforts of communities that protect and restore rivers, and promotes the sustainable management of water resources.

- ✓ 14 March **2025** marks the observance of the **28th** International Day of Action for Rivers.
- ✓ The 2025 theme of the International Day of Action for Rivers is, "**Our Rivers, Our Future**", which emphasises the crucial role rivers play in supporting planetary health and maintaining all life on Earth.

World Consumers Rights Day 2025 – March 15

World Consumer Rights Day (WCRD) is observed annually across the globe on **March 15** to raise global awareness about consumer rights, protection, and empowerment. Consumers are the economy's backbone; safeguarding their rights ensures ethical practices and empowers informed choices.

- ✓ The theme for WCRD 2025 is "**A Just Transition to Sustainable Lifestyles**" emphasizes the necessity of making sustainable and healthy lifestyle choices accessible, affordable, and equitable for all consumers.
- ✓ In 1962, former USA President John F. Kennedy articulated four fundamental consumer rights, which are: The Right to Safety, The Right to Be Informed, The Right to Choose, and The Right to Be Heard.

International Day to Combat Islamophobia 2025 – March 15

The United Nations (**UN**) annually observes **International Day to Combat Islamophobia** On **March 15** to raise awareness and combat hate crimes, discrimination, and intolerance against Muslims. March 15, **2025**, marks the **3rd** International Day to Combat Islamophobia.

World Sleep Day 2025 – March 14

World Sleep Day (WSD) is an international campaign annually observed across the globe on the **Friday before Spring Vernal Equinox** to raise awareness about the importance of sleep health, the impact of good sleep on overall well-being, and promote the

management and prevention of sleep disorders and treatment options.

- ✓ WSD 2025, the **18th annual Sleep Day** was observed on **14 March 2025**.
- ✓ WSD 2024 was observed on 15 March 2024; WSD 2026 will be observed on 13 March 2026.
- ✓ The theme and slogan for the WSD 2025 is, **“Make Sleep Health a Priority”**.

Note: WSD is annually organized by the World Sleep Day Committee of the World Sleep Society (**WSS**), aiming to lessen the burden of sleep problems on society.

National Vaccination Day 2025 – March 16

National Vaccination Day (also known as National Immunisation Day, NID) is annually observed across **India** on **16 March** to raise awareness about the importance of timely vaccinations, highlight the significance of vaccines in public health, and focus on immunization as a critical measure to prevent life-threatening diseases.

- ✓ National Vaccination Day commemorates the **1st dose** of the Oral Polio Vaccine (**OPV**) administered in India in **1995**.

Ordnance Factories Day 2025 – March 18

Ordnance Factory Day is observed annually on **18 March** across India by the Ordnance Factory Board (**OFB**) to commemorate the establishment of the **1st** Ordnance Factory in India at Cossipore near Kolkata, West Bengal (WB) in 1801.

- ✓ This Day honors the significant contributions of the Indian Ordnance Factories (**IOFs**) in strengthening India's defence capabilities.
- ✓ The Indian Ordnance Factories (IOFs) is a conglomerate of **41** Factories, **9** Training Institutes, **3** Regional Marketing Centres and **4** Regional Controllers of Safety under the Department of Defence Production (DDP), Ministry of Defence (**MoD**).

Global Recycling Day 2025 – March 18

Global Recycling Day is observed annually on **18th March** across the globe to highlight the significance of recycling and motivate individuals to take steps in reducing waste and safeguarding the environment.

18th March 2025 marks the observance of the **8th** Global Recycling Day.

International Day of Happiness 2025 – March 20

The United Nations (**UN's**) International Day of Happiness is observed annually on **20 March** across the globe to highlight the importance of well-being and happiness in people's lives. The day advocates for inclusive, equitable, and balanced economic growth, while also promoting sustainable development and poverty eradication.

- ✓ The theme of International Day of Happiness 2025 is **“Caring and Sharing”** highlighting that true, lasting happiness comes from caring for one another, fostering meaningful connections, and being part of something greater than ourselves.
- ✓ According to [the World Happiness Report \(WHR\) 2025](#), **Finland** remains the happiest country in the world for the 8th consecutive time followed by its Nordic neighbor countries **Denmark, Iceland** and **Sweden**.
 - **India** has improved its ranking to **118th** (up from 126th in 2024) in the World Happiness Report 2025. Also India ranked high on scores of social support and scored the lowest on the freedom factor.
 - Among the least happy countries, **Afghanistan** ranks (147) at the very bottom, while **Sierra Leone** and **Lebanon** also register extremely low life evaluations. [Click here to read full News](#)

UN French Language Day 2025 – March 20

The United Nations (**UN**) **French Language Day** is annually observed across the globe on **20 March** to celebrate multilingualism, cultural diversity, and the equal recognition of the six official languages of the UN.

- ✓ The day is also acknowledged by the International Organization of La Francophonie (**OIF**) as the **International Day of La Francophonie** or **International Francophonie Day**.

- ✓ **2025 Theme: 'I educate myself, therefore I act'.**

World Oral Health Day 2025 – March 20

World Oral Health Day (**WOHD**) is observed annually on **March 20** across the globe to raise awareness about the significance of oral health and to support efforts aimed at reducing the burden of oral diseases on individuals, health systems, and economies. The day also empowers individuals with knowledge and tools to prevent and control oral diseases affecting **3.5 billion** people worldwide.

- ✓ The WOHD campaign theme for **2024–2026** is **"A Happy Mouth is...A Happy Mind"**, emphasizes the relationship between oral health and overall well-being, highlighting how prioritizing oral health can lead to better mental health.

World Day of Theatre for Children and Young People 2025 – March 20

World Day of Theatre for Children and Young People is annually observed across the globe on **20 March** to raise awareness about the art of theatre for children and young people and highlight its importance and impact in communities.

- ✓ 'World Day of Theatre for Children and Young People' was established by the International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People (**ASSITEJ**) (French: Association Internationale du Théâtre de l'Enfance et la Jeunesse) in **2001**.
- ✓ The first-ever World Day of Theatre for Children and Young People was observed on **20th March 2001**.

World Sparrow Day 2025 – March 20

World Sparrow Day (**WSD**) is celebrated every year on **March 20** to raise awareness about the declining population of **house sparrows** (*Passer domesticus*) and the urgent need for their conservation. The event is now observed in over 50 countries.

- ✓ The theme for WSD 2025 is **"A Tribute to Nature's Tiny Messengers"**. WSD was Initiated by the Nature Forever Society (NFS) of India, founded by Indian conservationist

Mohammed Dilawar; Eco-Sys Action Foundation (France); and other national and international entities.

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination – 21 March 2025

The United Nations (**UN**) **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination** is annually observed across the globe on **21 March** to raise awareness about the challenges faced by people of African descent and all those affected by racism and racial discrimination and exclusion.

- ✓ The **2025 theme** of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is, **"60th anniversary of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms Racial of Discrimination (ICERD)"**.
- ✓ For the 2025 observance, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (**OHCHR**), also known as **UN Human Rights**, launched the campaign **"ICERD60: Towards a world without racism"** to strengthen the implementation of ICERD.

World Poetry Day 2025 – 21 March

The United Nations (UN's) **World Poetry Day** is annually observed across the globe on **21 March** to promote linguistic diversity and support endangered languages through poetry, a form of art that connects different cultures, languages, and generations. 21 March 2025 marks the observance of the **26th** World Poetry Day.

- ✓ The 2025 theme for World Poetry Day is: **"Poetry as a Bridge for Peace and Inclusion"**. The **first-ever** World Poetry Day was observed on 21 March **2000**.

International Nowruz Day 2025 – March 21

The United Nations (UN's) **International Nowruz Day** is celebrated annually on **March 21** to promote cultural exchange, peace, solidarity, and good neighbourliness. The day aims to foster cultural diversity and friendship among people and communities worldwide.

World Down Syndrome Day 2025 – 21

March

The United Nations (UN's) World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD) is a **global awareness day** observed annually across the globe on **21 March** to raise public awareness of **Down syndrome** and advocate for the rights, inclusion, and well-being of people with Down syndrome.

- ✓ WDSD aims to help people understand and support those with Down syndrome better. 21 March 2025 marks the observance of the **14th WDSD**. The theme of World Down Syndrome Day 2025 is '**Improve Our Support Systems**'.

International Day of Forests 2025 – March 21

The United Nations (UN's) International Day of Forests (IDF) is observed annually across the globe on **March 21** to celebrate all kinds of forests, emphasize the significance of trees and forests, and encourage efforts to safeguard them.

- ✓ The **theme** for IDF 2025 is "**Forest and Foods**," highlighting the essential role forests play in food security, nutrition, and livelihoods.
- ✓ A report titled "**Transforming Forest Finance**," released ahead of the International Day of Forests (on March 21), by the **Forest Declaration Assessment**, supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the **Climate and Land Use Alliance**, highlights the inadequate financial support for forest conservation.
- ✓ An estimated **USD 460 billion annually** is required to stop deforestation, but current

funding falls short. Developing countries are facing a massive debt burden, which totals USD 11 trillion.

UN's first ever World Glacier Day – March 21 2025

The **first World Glacier Day was celebrated on March 21, 2025**, and it will be observed annually on the same date to raise awareness about glacier protection. It was established by the United Nations (UN) to highlight the immediate need to protect glaciers and address climate change. This day highlights the critical role glaciers play in sustaining ecosystems, freshwater supplies, and global climate stability.

- ✓ According to reports "**State of the Global Climate 2024**", published by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) with the support of the World Glacier Monitoring Service (WGMS), the years 2022 to 2024 saw the biggest loss of glacier ice ever recorded over a three-year period. During this time, all 19 glacier regions around the world lost ice.
- ✓ As part of the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation 2025, a joint celebration of the **first World Day for Glaciers and World Water Day** was organized to address the urgent challenges posed by accelerating glacier melt and its impact on water security, communities, and ecosystems. This high-level event took place on March 21, 2025, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.
- ✓ The "**State of the Global Climate 2024**" report was prepared and released by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

STATE NEWS

AP Signs MoU with Microsoft to Enhance AI Skills Among Youth

In March 2025, the Government of Andhra Pradesh (AP) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Gurugram (Haryana) based **Microsoft Corporation India Private Limited**, the Indian subsidiary of United States of America (USA) based Microsoft Corporation, to bolster skill

development in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and advanced technologies among the state's youth.

- ✓ The MoU aims to equip **2 lakh students and youth** in AP with foundational and advanced skills in AI, cloud computing, and digital productivity.

TN FM Thangam Thennarasu Presented a Budget for FY26 with a Total Expenditure of Rs 4,39,293 Cr

In March 2025, **Thangam Thennarasu**, Finance Minister (**FM**) of Tamil Nadu (**TN**) presented the **Budget for the Financial Year 2025-26 (FY26)** with a total disbursement outlay of **Rs 4,39,293 crore**, and a **total receipt of Rs 3,32,330 crore**, excluding public debt. The total expenditure (Rs 4,39,293 crore) is an increase of 99.5% over the Revised Estimate (RE) of FY25.

- ✓ Among major sectoral allocations, Rs 55,261 crore was allocated to education, followed by Urban Development (Rs 34,396 crore) and Rural Development (Rs 29,465 crore).
- ✓ **Note:** In the 2025-26 budget logo, the TN government replaced the Devanagari-scripted rupee symbol ('₹') with the Tamil letter 'Roo' ('ரூ'), representing 'Roobai', the Tamil term for the rupee.

HP CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu Presents Rs 58,514 Crore Budget for FY 26

In March 2025, Chief Minister (CM) Himachal Pradesh (HP) **Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu**, who also holds the finance portfolio, [presented a tax-free budget for the Financial Year 2025-26 \(FY 26\)](#) of Rs 58,514 crore, marking an increase of Rs 70 crore from the previous fiscal year's Rs 58,444 crore.

- ✓ For FY 26, **total revenue receipts** are estimated at Rs 42,342.97 crore, while **capital receipts** will be Rs 14,602.37 crore, including Rs 13,374.74 crore from public debt and Rs 1,200.00 crore from the provident fund (PF). This brings **total receipts** to Rs 56,945.34 crore.
- ✓ On the expenditure side, **revenue expenditure** is Rs 48,733.04 crore, while capital expenditure (CapEx) is Rs 3,941.13 crore. Rs 34.40 crore will be spent on loans, and Rs 5,805.74 crore on public debt repayments, making **total expenditure** Rs 58,514.31 crore.

Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini Presents Rs 2,05,017.29 Cr Budget for FY26

On 17 March 2025, **Nayab Singh Saini**, the Chief Minister (**CM**) of **Haryana**, who also holds the finance portfolio, presented his **maiden Budget of Rs. 2,05,017.29 crore for the Financial Year 2025-26 (FY26)**. This tax-free budget reflects a 13.7% increase over the Revised Estimates (RE) of Rs. 1,80,313.57 crore for 2024-25.

- ✓ The budget includes the creation of a new authority called "**SANKALP**" (Substance Abuse & Narcotics Knowledge, Awareness & Liberation Program Authority) to eliminate both the demand and supply of drugs in Haryana with an initial allocation of Rs 10 crore.
- ✓ The creation of a new department the '**Department of the Future**,' aimed at making Haryana 'future capable.'
- ✓ Haryana Artificial Mission (AI) Mission will be established to train over 50,000 youth and professionals from Haryana in cutting-edge technologies.
- ✓ '**Kalpna Chawla Scholarship Scheme**' will be launched to award scholarships of up to Rs 1 lakh per annum to female students pursuing Under-Graduate (UG) and Post-Graduate (PG) degrees in science and engineering.

Telangana FM Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka Presents Rs 3.04 Lakh Crore Budget for FY26

On 19 March 2025, Deputy Chief Minister (Dy CM) and Finance Minister (FM) of Telangana, **Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka**, presented the [state's budget for the financial year 2025-26 \(FY26\)](#) with a total outlay of **Rs 3,04,965 crore**, marking a 5% increase from the previous year's budget of Rs 2,91,000 crore for FY25.

- ✓ A total of **Rs 2,26,982 crore** has been allocated for **revenue expenditure**, while **Rs 36,504 crore** has been set aside for capital expenditure (**CapEx**).
- ✓ The Telangana economy continues to grow steadily, recording a **10.1% increase** in the state's Gross State Domestic Product (**GSDP**) and a 9.6% rise in per capita income compared

to the previous financial year. The state's per capita income is 1.8% higher than the national average.

Gujarat & Nayara Energy Sign MoUs to Restore Khijadia Bird Sanctuary

In March 2025, Mumbai (Maharashtra) based **Nayara Energy** (formerly Essar Oil Limited) signed two Memorandums of Understanding (**MoUs**) with the Forest and

Environment Department of the Government of **Gujarat** and the **Vidya Samiksha Kendra** (VSK) under the Department of School Education and Literacy of the Ministry of Education (MoE) in Gandhinagar (Gujarat).
✓ Under the MoU with the Gujarat Forest and Environment Department, Nayara Energy will offer financial support for the conservation and restoration of the **Khijdia Bird Sanctuary**, a Ramsar Site, in Jamnagar district, Gujarat.

Aspirant Queries

Aspirant: Does Affairscloud covers all the Current affairs topics related to examinations?

Affairscloud: We Guaranteed All the Important topics related to examination are covered in Our Daily CA content and Daily CA Quizzes.

Aspirant: Why is there a delayal in news?

Affairscloud: As some of the major news sites doesn't provide the required data on the exact day, we take extra time for important data to be presented to the aspirants on the examination basis to ensure nothing is missed.

Example: In 'Important Days' topics the International Organisations publish their reports and Rankings in the evenings, to make sure every data is covered, we delay the topics to the next day Candidates appearing Competative Exams. Kindly Share the General Awareness questions to "**gaanalysis.ac@gmail.com**"

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