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Current Affairs Weekly PDF – March 2025 – 2nd Week (8 – 14)

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Union Finance Minister and MoS of Finance Launched New Credit Assessment Model for MSMEs

In March 2025, Union Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman**, Ministry of Finance (MoF) and Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MoCA), along with Union Minister of State (MoS) **Pankaj Chaudhary**, MoF, launched the New Credit Assessment Model based on the scoring of digital footprints of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (**MSMEs**) in post budget interaction held at Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP).

IWAI Signed MoU with J&K to Enhance River Cruise Tourism

In March 2025, Noida (Uttar Pradesh (UP)) based Inland Waterways Authority of India (**IWAI**) under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (**MoPSW**) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with the Government of Jammu and Kashmir (**J&K**), to enhance river cruise tourism on three National Waterways in J&K.

- ✓ The three national waterways (NW) in the Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir include River Chenab (NW-26), River Jhelum (NW-49), and River Ravi (NW-84) out of the 111 recognized national waterways in India.

Coursera Report: India Leads in GenAI Adoption; Women Lag at 29.6%

In March 2025, the United States of America(USA) based Coursera Inc., a leading online learning platform, published its report titled “[Closing the Gender Gap in GenAI Skills](#)”, offering a strategic roadmap to bridge the gender disparity in Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) (GenAI) enrollments. India has emerged as a global leader in GenAI adoption, recording **1.3 million** enrollments in 2024.

- ✓ **Gender Disparity:** Globally, women account for **32%** of total GenAI enrollments, yet in India, their participation is significantly lower at **29.6%**, despite making up a larger share (**40%**) of Coursera’s total learners.

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Launched AI Compute Portal, Dataset Platform AIKosha and Other Key Initiatives

In March 2025, Union Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw**, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) launched several key initiatives under **IndiaAI mission** during the celebration of **1 year anniversary** of IndiaAI mission held in New Delhi, Delhi.

- ✓ The newly launched initiatives are the AI Compute Portal, IKosha: IndiaAI Datasets Platform, the AI Competency Framework for Public Sector Officials, iGOT-AI Mission Karmayogi, the IndiaAI Startups Global Acceleration Program with Station F, the IndiaAI Application Development Initiative and IndiaAI FutureSkills all aimed at strengthening AI-driven research, innovation, and skill development.

NITI Aayog and India SME Forum Launch ‘A Million Women Arise’ Initiative for Women Entrepreneurs

On March 6, 2025, New Delhi(Delhi) based National Institution for Transforming India (**NITI**) **Aayog** and Mumbai(Maharashtra) based India Small, and Medium Enterprise (SME) Forum jointly launched the ‘**A Million Women Arise initiative**’ to empower women entrepreneurs across India. The initiative aims to address challenges faced by women-led Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

- ✓ India SME Forum formalized a partnership with IndiGo Airlines through a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**), offering MSMEs improved travel solutions for enhanced business growth.

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav Inaugurates WSDS 2025 in New Delhi

Union Minister **Bhupender Yadav**, Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change(MoEFCC) inaugurated the 24th edition of the [World Sustainable Development Summit \(WSDS\) 2025](#), held from March 5 to 7, 2025 in New Delhi, Delhi. The theme for WSDS

2025 is “Partnerships for Accelerating Sustainable Development and Climate Solutions.”

- ✓ During WSDS 2025, the TERI presented the **SDLA 2025** to **Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo**, Vice President of Guyana, and **Marina Silva**, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Brazil.

India's MoD Signs USD 248 Million Contract with Russia's RoE for Procurement of Engines for T-72 Tanks for IA

On 7 March 2025, the Ministry of Defence (**MoD**), the Government of India (GoI) signed a contract with Moscow (Russia) based Rosoboronexport (**RoE**), Russian Federation, worth **USD 248 million** for procurement of **1000 Horsepower (HP) Engines for T-72 Tanks**. These engines will be delivered in fully formed, completely knocked down, and semi-knocked down conditions.

- ✓ The agreement includes Transfer of Technology (**ToT**) from RoE to Avadi (Chennai, Tamil Nadu, TN) based Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (Heavy Vehicle Factory) for integration and eventual licensed manufacturing of engines.

CEA and TPDDL organised the 5th Edition of Lineman Diwas in New Delhi

In March 2025, New Delhi (Delhi) based Central Electricity Authority (**CEA**), a statutory body under the Ministry of Power (MoP), in collaboration with Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (TPDDL) organized the 5th Edition of ‘**Lineman Diwas**’, in New Delhi, Delhi. Lineman Diwas is annually observed on **March 4th** across India.

Gujarat CM Bhupendrabhai Patel Inaugurated Gujarat SemiConnect Conference 2025 & 19th IESA Vision Summit in Gandhinagar

Bhupendra Patel, the Chief Minister (CM) of Gujarat inaugurated the **Gujarat SemiConnect Conference 2025**, a 3-day event with the theme “Gujarat Silicon Gujarat: Powering India's Semiconductor Revolution”, held from **March 5-7, 2025** at Mahatma Mandir Convention and Exhibition Centre (**MMCEC**) in **Gandhinagar**, Gujarat.

- ✓ The Gujarat Government signed over 30 MoUs amounting to over Rs. 1.04 lakh crore at the Gujarat Semiconnect Conference 2025 to bolster semiconductor and electronics manufacturing in Gujarat.

- ✓ An MoU was signed with Sanand (Gujarat)-based **Micron Technology** on Environment, Health & Safety (**EHS**) initiatives, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (**STEM**) education, and skilled manpower development.
- ✓ The **IESA** and the Japan External Trade Organization (**JETRO**) signed a strategic MoU to strengthen global collaboration in the semiconductor and electronics sectors. [Click here to read full News](#)

Overview of PM Narendra Modi's visit to Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, and Gujarat on March 7 -8, 2025

The Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi visited the Union Territory (UT) of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (DNHDD), and Gujarat from **March 7-8, 2025**. During his visit, the PM inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for multiple development projects for the UT worth over **Rs 2580 crore**.

- ✓ **Inauguration of NAMO Hospital:** On March 7, 2025, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the Narendra Modi (NAMO) Hospital (Phase I) in Silvassa, DNHDD.
- ✓ **Rozgar Mela:** PM Narendra Modi also distributed appointment letters under the ‘Rozgar Mela’ which provides benefits to beneficiaries under various schemes, including the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (**PMAY-U**), **Gir Adarsh Aajeevika Yojana (GAAY)**, and the **Sylvan Didi Scheme**.
- ✓ **PM Narendra Modi's visit to Gujarat:** He launched 2 key initiatives: Gujarat Scheme for Antyodaya Families for Augmenting Livelihoods (**G-SAFAL**) and Gujarat Mentorship and Acceleration of Individuals for Transforming Rural Income (**G-MAITRI**).

Madhav National Park in MP Becomes India's 58th Tiger Reserve

In March 2025, Union Minister Bhupendra Yadav, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) announced the **Madhav National Park** in Madhya Pradesh (MP) as **58th** Tiger Reserve (TR) of India and marking it as the ninth TR in MP.

- ✓ **Note:** Tiger Reserves are notified by the State Governments as per provisions of Section 38V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 on advice of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

First Rear Fuselage for LCA Mk1A Handed Over to HAL by Indian Private Industry

In March 2025, the first rear fuselage for Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mk1A, produced by Indian Private Industry, Bengaluru (Karnataka) based **Alpha Tocol Engineering Services Private Limited**, was handed over to Bengaluru based Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in the presence of Union Minister **Rajnath Singh**, Ministry of Defence (MoD) at Aircraft Division in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

MoA&FW Releases 2nd Advance Estimates of Production of Major Agricultural Crops (Kharif & Rabi) for 2024-25

On March 10, 2025, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW) released the '[Second Advance Estimates for the production of major agricultural crops \(Kharif and Rabi\) for 2024-25](#)', highlighting record outputs in key crops like rice, wheat, maize, groundnut, and soybean.

- ✓ **Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan**, MoA&FW, approved the data, confirming that under the leadership of Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi, the Government of India (GoI) aims to develop the agricultural sector.
- ✓ **Foodgrains** Production for **Kharif** is estimated at **1,663.91** Lakh Metric Tons (LMT), while **Rabi** production (excluding summer crops) is projected at **1,645.27** LMT.
- ✓ **Rice:** Kharif rice production is anticipated to reach a record **1,206.79** LMT, an increase of 74.20 LMT compared to the 1,132.59 LMT produced in 2023-24 and **Rabi rice** (excluding summer) is estimated at **157.58** LMT.
- ✓ **Wheat production** is projected at a record **1,154.30** LMT, showing an increase of 21.38 LMT compared to 2023-24 (1,132.92 LMT).
Maize: Kharif maize production is projected at a record **248.11** LMT, with Rabi maize (excluding summer) estimated at 124.38 LMT.

Fisheries Startup Conclave 2.0 held in Hyderabad, Telangana; Launched NFDI app

In March 2025, the Department of Fisheries (DoF), under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying (MoFAH&D) hosted the **Fisheries Startup Conclave 2.0** held in Hyderabad, Telangana.

- ✓ The event witnessed the launch of two key initiatives: Fisheries Startup Grand Challenge 2.0 and National Fisheries Development

Platform (**NFDI**) mobile application (app). This mobile application is developed under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Samridhi Sah-Yojana (**PM-MKSSY**).

India & Armenia Sign MoU for Cooperation in Medical Product Regulation

On March 10, 2025, **India** and the Republic of **Armenia** signed **two** Memoranda of Understanding (**MoUs**) during the visit of **Ararat Mirzoyan**, the Foreign Minister (FM) of Armenia, to India from March 9 to 11, 2025. The agreements aim to strengthen bilateral cooperation in medical product regulation and diplomatic training.

- ✓ **MoU on Medical Product Regulation:** Signed between India's Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (**CDSCO**) in New Delhi and Armenia's Center of Drug and Medical Technology Expertise (**CDMTE**).

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Union Minister Amit Shah Releases 24 Reprinted Sastu Sahitya Books, Rs 150 Coin in Ahmedabad

In March 2025, Union Minister Amit Shah, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Ministry of Cooperation released **24 reprinted books** by Ahmedabad (Gujarat)-based Sastu Sahitya Mudranalaya Trust during the Akhand Anandotsav event in Ahmedabad.

- ✓ Union Minister Amit Shah **also unveiled a Rs 150 commemorative coin** in honor of the 150th birth anniversary of Acharya Bhagwant Shri Buddhi Sagar Surishwar Maharaj.

NHLML, IWAI Sign MoU to Develop State-of-Art MMLP in Varanasi, UP

On 11 March 2025, New Delhi (Delhi) based National Highways Logistics Management Limited (**NHLML**) under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) and Noida (Uttar Pradesh, UP) based Inland Waterways Authority of India (**IWAI**) under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) in New Delhi for developing a state-of-art Multi-Modal Logistics Park (**MMLP**) in Varanasi, UP.

- ✓ IWAI, the nodal agency of MoPSW for National Waterways (NW), signed MoU with multiple agencies of Delhi government including Irrigation and Flood Control (IFC) department, the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), the Delhi Jal Board (DJB), the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) at Asita Park, Delhi.

IAF Conducts Combat Training at Umiam Lake in Meghalaya

In March 2025, the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** conducted a **combat operations training exercise** at **Umiam Lake**, located in **Shillong, Meghalaya**, to strengthen interoperability with the **Indian Army Special Forces** and the **Indian Navy**.

NHB Released Report on Trends and Progress of Housing in India 2024

In March 2025, New Delhi (Delhi)-based National Housing Bank (NHB), apex financial institution for housing, released the [Report on Trends and Progress of Housing in India, 2024](#) in accordance to provisions of **Section 42 of NHB Act, 1987**.

- ✓ **Increase in individual housing loan:** As on September 30 2024, individual housing loans stood at **Rs 33.53 lakh crore**, reflecting growth of 14% during the same period of last year.
- ✓ **Distribution of housing loans among different income groups:** Middle-Income Group (MIG) accounted 44% of the total housing loans, as on September 30, 2024.
 - It is followed by Economically Weaker Section & Lower Income Group (**EWS & LIG**) and Higher Income Group (**HIG**), accounted **39%** and **17%** of outstanding individual housing loans, respectively.
 - **Regional Distribution in Finance:** Southern (35%), Western

(30%), Northern (28%), Eastern (5.4%) , North Eastern States (0.68%).

- Banks account for 81% whereas Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) account for 19% of housing loans.

India's AI Revolution: A Roadmap to Viksit Bharat

India is undergoing a significant transformation in Artificial Intelligence (AI), driven by various initiatives like: IndiaAI Mission and the establishment of Centres of Excellence (CoE) for AI are bolstering India's AI ecosystem.

In 2024, the Government of India(Gol) approved the IndiaAI Mission with an outlay of Rs 10,300 crore over five years to strengthen AI capabilities in India.

- ✓ The Mission is being implemented by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**) through 'IndiaAI' Independent Business Division (IBD) under Digital India Corporation (DIC).
- ✓ Gol announced a new **CoE for AI in education** (which will be 4th CoE in AI), in the Union Budget for Financial Year 2025-26 (FY26) with an outlay of Rs 500 crore.
- ✓ **BHASHINI:** BHASHa INterface for India(**BHASHINI**) is an AI-led language translation platform, designed to provide smooth access to the internet and digital services in Indian languages, which includes voice-based access, and support content creation in Indian languages.
- ✓ **Sarvam-1 AI Model:** It is a large language model for optimization of Indian languages. It consists of **2 billion** parameters and supports **10** major Indian languages.
- ✓ **India Ranks 1st Globally in AI Skill Penetration:** As per the Stanford AI Index 2024, India topped in AI skill penetration globally, with a score of 2.8. It is followed by the United States of America (USA) (2.2) and Germany (1.9).

DBT & GoAS Sign MoU Under BioE3 Policy to Strengthen Centre-State Partnership

On March 12, 2025, the Department of Biotechnology (**DBT**) under The Ministry of Science and Technology (MoS&T), Government of India (Gol), and the Government of Assam (**GoAS**) formalized a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) to establish a Centre-State partnership under the **BioE3** (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment, and Employment) Policy in New Delhi (Delhi).

- ✓ It is the **1st Centre-State partnership** under the BioE3 framework, aims to bolster high-performance bio-manufacturing and cultivate a sustainable biotechnology ecosystem in Assam.

DoP Signs MoU with FSID, IISc Bengaluru for Documentation of Digital Address DPI Tech Architecture

On March 11, 2025, the Department of Posts (**DoP**), under the Ministry of Communications (MoC), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with Bengaluru (Karnataka) based the Foundation for Science Innovation and Development (**FSID**), Indian Institute of Science (**IISc**), Bengaluru at Dak Bhawan in New Delhi (Delhi).

- ✓ The MoU seeks to design the technology architecture for the **Digital Address Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** to create a secure, scalable, and interoperable addressing system.

MoD Signs Rs 2,906 Crore Radar Contract with BEL for IAF

On 12 March 2025, the Ministry of Defence (**MoD**) signed a **Rs 2,906 crore capital acquisition contract** with Bharat Electronics Limited (**BEL**) in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh (UP) (a leading defence electronics manufacturing facility) for the procurement of Low-level Transportable Radar (**LLTR**), known as "**Ashwin**" for the Indian Air Force (IAF).

IN inducts 9th ACTCM Barge LSAM 23 to strengthen maritime logistics

On 12 March 2025, the induction ceremony of the **9th** Ammunition Cum Torpedo Cum Missile (**ACTCM**) Barge, Landing Ship Ammunition (**LSAM**) **23 (Yard 133)**, was held at the Naval Dockyard in **Mumbai** (Maharashtra). The Chief Guest for the event was **Commodore Manish Vig**, General Manager (Quality Assurance), Naval Dockyard (Mumbai).

- ✓ In 2021, the IN signed a contract with Thane (Maharashtra)-based **M/s Suryadipta Projects Private Limited**, a Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise (MSME) shipyard for the construction and delivery of **11 ACTCM Barges**.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Mobile World Congress 2025 held in Barcelona, Spain

The Mobile World Congress (**MWC**) **2025**, a major global event, was held from March 3 to 6, 2025, at Fira Gran Via in **Barcelona, Spain**, bringing together over 101,000 attendees, more than 2,700 exhibitors, and representatives from over 200 countries to showcase advancements in technology. Union Minister **Jyotiraditya Scindia**, Ministry of Communication (MoC) represented India at the event.

- ✓ Union Minister **Jyotiraditya Scindia** officially inaugurated the **Bharat Pavilion** at the MWC 2025 in Spain. He announced that the **9th** edition of the India Mobile Congress (**IMC**), Asia's largest digital technology forum is set to take place in New Delhi(Delhi) from 8th – 11th October 2025.

Sea Dragon 2025 Naval Exercise Commenced off the Guam Coast

The **Sea Dragon 2025** naval exercise, a key multilateral maritime warfare drill, commenced off the Guam coast in the western Pacific Ocean and will be held

from **March 4 to March 19, 2025**. This high-intensity Anti-Submarine Warfare (**ASW**) exercise is hosted by the United States(US) Navy's 7th Fleet and involves the Indian Navy (**IN**), Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (**JMSDF**), Royal Australian Air Force (**RAAF**), and the Republic of Korea Navy (**ROKN**).

ITB Berlin 2025 held from March 4 to March 6, 2025 in Berlin, Germany

Internationale Tourismus-Börse Berlin (**ITB Berlin 2025**), one of world's largest travel fairs was held from March 4 to 6, 2025 at Berlin Expo Center City at Messedamm in Berlin, Germany. The motto of this year's convention is '**The Power of Transition Lives Here**'.

- ✓ In March 2025, the **25th** edition of the Pacific Area Travel Writers Association (PATWA), World Tourism and Aviation Leaders Summit was held at ITB Berlin 2025. This year's summit was hosted by PATWA in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism, Goa (India).
- ✓ The PATWA, an affiliate member of United Nations (UN) Tourism, announced the winners

of prestigious '[25th PATWA International Travel Awards](#)' during the ITB Berlin 2025.

- ✓ Indian state, **Goa** made a significant mark at ITB Berlin 2025, as it has won **two** awards at PATWA International Awards. This has elevated the status of Goa as India's premier tourism destination.
 - Goa was conferred with the '**Destination of the Year-India**' award under the Destinations category.
 - In Addition to that, Rohan Khaunte, Tourism Minister of Goa, was bestowed with the '**Tourism Minister of the Year-India**' award, in recognition of his leadership and in promoting the state's tourism sector.

Glass-Ceiling Index: Top 10 Best Countries for Working Women in 2025

London (the United Kingdom, UK)-based **The Economist Group**, a media company released its annual edition of '**Glass-Ceiling Index (GCI)**' on the occasion of International Women's Day (**IWD**) which is celebrated annually on March 8 worldwide. As per the index, **Sweden** secured **1st** position globally, and has replaced **Iceland** which topped the index for the last two consecutive years.

- ✓ Now, **Iceland** witnessed dropped in its ranking by one place i.e. from 1st spot (in 2024) to **2nd spot (in 2025)**.
- ✓ Among top 10 best countries for working women in 2025, **5** are Nordic countries: Sweden, Iceland, Finland (3rd), Norway (4th) and Denmark (9th).

Top 5 best countries for working women in 2025:

Rank	Name of the Country	Region
1	Sweden	Europe
2	Iceland	Europe
3	Finland	Europe
4	Norway	Europe
5	Portugal	Europe

Indian Navy's 1st Training Squadron Completes Thailand Visit

In March 2025, the Indian Navy's (**IN**) First Training Squadron (**1TS**), consisting of Indian Naval Ship (INS)

Sujata, INS Shardul, and Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Veera, successfully concluded its visit to Phuket Deep Sea Port in **Thailand**. The visit concluded on a high note with coordinated tactical maneuvers and an exchange of sea riders during a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with His Thai Majesty's Ship (HTMS) Huahin, a patrol gunboat of the Royal Thai Navy (RTN).

WMO Launches iClimate Action Project to Boost Global Climate Intelligence

In March 2025, the World Meteorological Organization (**WMO**), in collaboration with the Global Climate Observing System (**GCOS**), the Group on Earth Observations (**GEO**), and the **European Commission**, launched the **iClimateAction** project in Geneva, **Switzerland**.

- ✓ The initiative is backed by the **Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023-2025**, which aims to address critical gaps in Earth observation and enhance global climate resilience.

Overview of EAM Dr.Subrahmanyam Jaishankar's visit to UK & Ireland from March 4-9, 2025

External Affairs Minister (EAM) of India, **Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar** embarked on a **6-Day** visit to the United Kingdom (UK) and Ireland from **March 4 to 9, 2025** to reinforce India's bilateral engagements with the UK and Ireland.

EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar Visit to UK:

- ✓ EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar visited the UK to reinforce the Great British Pound (GBP) 41 billion (around USD 53 billion) bilateral trade relationship.
- ✓ **Economic Investments:** The UK has welcomed over GBP 100 million (around USD 130 million) in new Indian investments, expected to generate jobs and enhance economic growth.

EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar Visit to Ireland:

- ✓ EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar paid an official visit to Ireland from **March 6 to 7, 2025**, at the invitation of Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister (PM) and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Defence, His Excellency (HE) **Simon Harris**.
- ✓ **Diplomatic Exchange of Officials:** Both nations signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to facilitate the annual exchange of diplomats, enhancing bilateral diplomatic relations.

India-Cambodia Held 3rd FOC to Strengthen Bilateral Cooperation in Health and Digital Tech

On March 10, 2025, **India** and **Cambodia** held the **3rd Foreign Office Consultations (FOC)** in Siem Reap, **Cambodia**, to review and strengthen their bilateral relations across various sectors with a focus on exploring new cooperation opportunities in health and digital technologies.

SIPRI Report 2024: Ukraine Tops as World's Largest Arms Importer; India Ranks 2nd

According to the report titled '[Trends in International Arms Transfers, 2024](#)' released by Swedish think tank, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (**SIPRI**), **Ukraine** emerged as the top world's leading importer of major arms between **2020 and 2024**, with its imports skyrocketing nearly 100-fold compared to the 2015–19 period.

Top 5 Importers & Their Main Suppliers (2020–24):

Rank	Importer (Global Share %)	Main Suppliers (Share of Importer's Total Imports %)		
		1st	2nd	3rd
1	Ukraine (8.8 %)	USA (45)	Germany (12)	Poland (11)
2	India (8.3 %)	Russia (36)	France (33)	Israel (13)
3	Qatar (6.8 %)	USA (48)	Italy (20)	United Kingdom (UK) (15)
4	Saudi Arabia (6.8 %)	USA (74)	Spain (10)	France (6.2)

5	Pakistan (4.6 %)	China (81)	Netherlands (5.5)	Turkey (3.8)
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India-Kyrgyzstan Military Exercise 'Khanjar-XII' Commences in Kyrgyzstan

In March 2025, the **12th** edition of the India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Military Exercise '**Khanjar-XII**' commenced in **Tokmok, Kyrgyzstan**.

Participating Forces: The IA contingent is represented by troops from the **Parachute Regiment** (Special Forces), while the Kyrgyzstan Army contingent includes soldiers from the **Kyrgyz Scorpion Brigade**.

India & Bangladesh begin 6th 'CORPAT' & 4th 'BONGOSAGAR' Exercise in Bay of Bengal

On March 10, 2025, the **6th** edition of the joint patrol 'Coordinated Patrol' (**CORPAT**) and the **4th** bilateral exercise '**BONGOSAGAR**' were begin for the **6th time**, under the supervision of Commander Flotilla West, and was scheduled to conclude on March 12, 2025. These operations are taking place in the designated areas along the **Bangladesh** and Indian maritime borders in the **Bay of Bengal**.

- ✓ The Bangladesh Navy (BN) is represented by the warship Bangladesh Naval Ship (BNS) **Abu Ubaidah** and a maritime patrol aircraft, while the Indian Navy (IN) has deployed the warship Indian Naval Ship (**INS**) **Ranvir** and a helicopter for the patrol and exercise.



FAO Releases Reports on Global Grain Production & Food Situation 2025 : Predicts Wheat Production at 796 Mt

In March 2025, the United Nations (UN) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) released two key

reports: the '[Cereal Supply and Demand Brief](#)' and the '[Crop Prospects and Food Situation Report](#)'.

- ✓ The report on global grain production predicts that **wheat production** may reach **796 million tonnes (Mt)** in 2025, marking a 1% increase from the previous year. This growth is driven by expanded wheat planting in the European Union, particularly France and Germany.
- ✓ FAO expects **world grain reserves** to shrink by 1.9%, bringing the total to **869.3 Mt** in 2025. While Russia and Ukraine may see an increase in stocks, other regions might experience a decline.

India Chairs 68th Session of UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs For the 1st Time

India has been elected to chair the 68th session of the United Nations (UN) Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND). **Ambassador Shambhu S. Kumaran**, India's Permanent Representative to the UN in Vienna, assumes the Chairmanship at the United Nations Office in Vienna, Austria from March 10 to 14, 2025.

- ✓ This marks the **first time** India holds this position, underscoring its commitment to global leadership in addressing international drug policy issues.
- ✓ Mr. Andranik Hovhannisyan, Ambassador and the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Armenia to the Vienna International Organization, was elected First Vice-Chairman at the 68th session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND).

IQAir World Air Quality Report 2024: Chad Tops, India Ranks 5th Globally

In March 2025, Switzerland based air quality technology company **IQAir** released its **7th** edition of "[World Air Quality Report 2024](#)", a comprehensive global survey of air quality, **Chad** tops the list in the most polluted countries with an average concentration of 91.8 µg/m³ (micrograms per cubic meter). **India** ranks **5th** after Chad, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Congo.

Top 5 most polluted countries in 2024:

Rank	Country	Average PM2.5 (µg/m ³)
1	Chad	91.8
2	Bangladesh	78.0

3	Pakistan	73.7
4	Congo	58.2
5	India	50.6

ASCI & NSG Sign MoU to Boost Public Sector Governance and Capacity Building

In March 2025, the Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI) based in Hyderabad (Telangana) and the National School of Government (NSG), based in South Africa signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen their collaboration in **capacity building, research, consultancy, and knowledge sharing**, aimed at improving governance and public sector performance.

Overview of PM Narendra Modi's Visit to Mauritius from March 11-12, 2025

Prime Minister (PM) of India **Narendra Modi** was on a two-day official visit to the Republic of **Mauritius** from March 11 to 12, 2025 to strengthen the long-standing relationship between India and the island nation, at the invitation of PM of Mauritius Navinchandra Ramgoolam.

- ✓ PM Narendra Modi received a **warm welcome** from the Indian diaspora in Mauritius, with women honoring him **through Geet Gawai**, a traditional Bihari Bhojपुरi musical performance.
- ✓ On March 12 2025, PM Narendra Modi attended Mauritius' **57th National Day celebrations** at Champ de Mars Racecourse in Port Louis (Mauritius), as the Chief Guest for the second time, following his first visit in 2015.
- ✓ India's Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the **Bank of Mauritius** have signed an **agreement** to establish a framework that facilitates **cross-border transactions** using local currencies, the Indian Rupee (INR) and the Mauritian Rupee (MUR).
- ✓ The Government of Mauritius signed a credit facility agreement with India's State Bank of India (SBI), allowing it to access **financial support** as a borrower.
- ✓ The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (**MoMSME**) of India and the **SME division of Mauritius'** Ministry of Industry, SME, and Cooperatives signed a MoU to enhance cooperation in the **MSME sector**.
[Click here to read full News](#)

QS World University Rankings by Subject 2025 : ISM Dhanbad Ranked as India's Top University For Engineering-Mineral and Mining

On March 11, 2025, United Kingdom (UK) based Quacquarelli Symonds (**QS**) released the **15th** edition of the QS World University Rankings by Subject. Among Indian institutions, the Indian Institute of Technology, IIT(Indian School of Mines, **ISM**) Dhanbad, (Jharkhand) achieved the highest global ranking, for the **first time** securing the **20th** position worldwide in the Engineering – Mineral and Mining subject area.

- ✓ The United States of America (USA) based universities dominated in 32 academic disciplines, with **Harvard University**(USA) leading in 15 subjects and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, MIT(USA) in 11.
- ✓ The UK secured the top position in 18 subjects, with the University of Cambridge(UK) excelling in four. [Click here to read full News](#)

BANKING & FINANCE

SBI Life Insurance Introduces 2 New Child Insurance Plans: 'Smart Future Star' & 'Smart Platina Young Achiever'

In March 2025, Mumbai (Maharashtra) based SBI Life Insurance Company Limited (**SBI Life**), a joint venture(JV) between the State Bank of India(SBI) and French insurer BNP Paribas Cardif, introduced **two** new child focused insurance products: '**SBI Life – Smart Future Star**' and '**SBI Life – Smart Platina Young Achiever**'.

SIDBI signs MoU with FBL to Strengthen MSME Financing

In March 2025, Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh, UP) based Small Industries Development Bank of India (**SIDBI**) and Aluva (Kerala) based Federal Bank Limited (**FBL**) signed Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) to provide financial support to Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

- ✓ The MoU was signed by Prakash Kumar, Deputy Managing Director (DMD), SIDBI and Harsh Dugar, Executive Director (ED), FBL in the presence of senior SIDBI and FBL officials.

HDFC Bank Launches 'Project HAKK' to Support IAF Veterans and Families

In March 2025, Mumbai (Maharashtra) based **HDFC Bank** Limited has introduced '**Project HAKK** (Hawai Anubhavi Kalyan Kendra-Serving those who have served)' to provide comprehensive support and services to Indian Air Force (**IAF**) pensioners, veterans, and their families.

- ✓ HDFC Bank signed an Memorandum of understanding (**MoU**) with the IAF, represented by the Office of the Assistant Chief of the Air Staff(ACAS) – Accounts & Air

Veterans, and New Delhi(Delhi) based CSC Academy (promoted by Common Service Centre(CSC) E-Governance Limited).

Niva Bupa Launches 'Rise' to Empower India's Missing Middle

On March 07, 2025, New Delhi (Delhi) based **Niva Bupa Health Insurance Company Limited** (formerly Max Bupa Health Insurance Company Limited) has introduced '**Rise**', a health insurance plan to address the healthcare needs of India's "Missing Middle".

BoB Introduced "Bob Global Women NRE & NRO Savings Account"

In March 2025, the first amongst public sector banks, Vadodara(Gujarat) based Bank of Baroda (**BoB**) introduced '**bob Global Women Non-Resident External (NRE) and Non-Resident Ordinary (NRO) Savings Account**', designed exclusively for women Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) to fulfill their global aspirations and unique banking needs.

BoI Signs MoU with IA to Enhance 'Rakshak Salary Package' Benefits

On March 04, 2025, Mumbai (Maharashtra) based Bank of India (**BoI**) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with the Indian Army (**IA**) to extend the BoI '**Rakshak Salary Package**' to Army Personnel, Veterans, and Agniveers recruited under the **Agnipath Scheme** in New Delhi (Delhi).

CredResolve Secures USD 1.1 Million Funding to Expand AI-Based Debt Recovery Solutions

In March 2025, Gurugram (Haryana)-based CredResolution India Private Limited (**CredResolve**), an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-driven debt collections platform, has **secured USD 1.1 million** in seed funding from Bengaluru(Karnataka) **Unleash Capital Partners**, a Japanese venture capital (VC) firm, along with **CDM Capital** based in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

RBI Imposes Rs 76.6 lakh Penalty on 4 NBFCs for Non-Compliance

In March 2025, Mumbai (Maharashtra) based Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) imposed **Rs 76.6 lakh** penalty on four Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFC) for non-compliance with certain sections of its orders regarding the 'Peer-to-Peer (P2P) lending platform'.

- ✓ A penalty of Rs 40 lakh has been imposed on Gurugram (Haryana) based **Fairassets Technologies India** Private Limited and Rs 10 lakh each has been imposed on Mumbai based Bridge Fintech Solutions Private Limited and Bengaluru (Karnataka) based **Rang De P2P Financial Services** Private Limited.
- ✓ The RBI also imposed a penalty of Rs 16.6 lakh on Mumbai based **Visionary Financepeer** Private Limited.

India's Top Life Insurers in 2025: HDFC, Max Life, and LIC Lead in terms of Claim Settlements

In March 2025, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (**IRDAI**) released annual data on Claim Settlement Ratio (**CSR**) in its latest '[Handbook on Indian Insurance Statistics 2023-24](#)'. This report provides comprehensive information on how different insurers handle claims, which helps the policymakers to make informed decisions.

- ✓ As per the report, the overall CSR for individual death claims within 30 days, including both private insurers and Mumbai(Maharashtra) based Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) stood at **96.82%** for Financial Year 2023-24 (FY24).
- ✓ **Top Life Insurers in terms of number of policies:** As per the report, New Delhi(Delhi) based **Axis Max Life Insurance Limited** with 99.79% CSR in terms of number of policies (19,569), emerged as the biggest insurer in India.

- ✓ **Top Life Insurers in terms of numbers of policies settled:** **LIC**, India's largest public-sector insurer, topped in terms of most number of policies settled within 30 days.
- ✓ **Top Insurers in terms of CSR by benefit amount:** **HDFC Life Insurance** topped, with 99.98% of total benefit amount paid out for claim settlement within 30 days, followed by **Axis Max Life Insurance**.

SEBI tightened Rules for SME IPOs with Profitability Mandate

In March 2025, Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) has notified a stringent regulatory framework for Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Initial Public Offerings (IPOs). It has introduced a profitability requirement and **capped the 20% limit** of the total size on Offer-For-Sale (OFS) component.

- ✓ **Minimum operating profit:** As per the new framework, SMEs who are planning to launch an IPO, are required to show a minimum operating profit (Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation, and Amortization or EBITDA) of **Rs 1 crore** in at least two of the previous 3 Financial Years(FY).

HDFC Bank, Indian Army, and CSC Academy Renew MoU to Expand Project NAMAN

Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based **HDFC Bank Limited**, the **Indian Army's Directorate of Indian Army Veterans (DIAV)**, and **Common Service Centres (CSC) Academy** (under CSC e-Governance Services India Limited) have renewed their Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to expand **Project NAMAN**. This initiative aims to support Army veterans, their families, and next of kin by providing essential services at their doorstep.

Kuhoo Finance Secures NBFC License from RBI to Expand Education Loan Offerings

In March 2025, Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based **Kuhoo Finance Private Limited**, a student loan-focused fintech platform backed by WestBridge Capital India Advisors Private Limited, received a Non-Banking Financial Company (**NBFC**) license from the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**).

RBI Guidelines for NBFC License Eligibility:

To secure an NBFC license, entities must meet the following RBI criteria:

- ✓ **Minimum Net Owned Funds(NOF):** Rs. 10 Crores (for non-deposit-taking NBFCs).
- ✓ **Company Structure:** Registered under the Companies Act, 2013.

Canara HSBC Life Insurance Partners with GIC Housing Finance to Offer Credit Life Insurance Solutions

In March 2025, Gurgaon (Haryana)- based **Canara HSBC Life Insurance Company Limited** partnered with Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based GIC Housing Finance Limited (**GICHF**), subsidiary of General Insurance Corporation (GIC) of India to provide credit life insurance solutions to home loan borrowers.

- ✓ **Note:** Canara HSBC Life Insurance was a joint venture (**JV**) comprising Canara Bank Limited (51%), HSBC Insurance (Asia Pacific) Holdings Limited (26%), and Punjab National Bank, PNB (23%).

RBI & NCFE Launch Nationwide Financial Literacy Campaign

In March 2025, Mumbai(Maharashtra) based Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) and Navi Mumbai based National

Centre for Financial Education (**NCFE**) under the Ministry of Finance (MoF) launched nationwide **campaigns** to enhance **financial literacy** in India.

- ✓ It aims to empower individuals with the knowledge and skills to manage finances effectively, safeguard against fraud, and ensure financial inclusion across India.

RBI Introduced Framework for Recognising SROs for AA Ecosystem

In March 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) introduced a new framework for the recognition of a Self-Regulatory Organisations (**SROs**) for the Account Aggregator (**AA**) ecosystem. The framework has outlined the key characteristics, responsibilities, eligibility criteria, and governance aspects of SRO-AA.

- ✓ RBI has clarified that SRO-AA will operate within the existing regulatory framework for the AA ecosystem, while, technical specifications will continue to be framed and published by Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based Reserve Bank Information Technology Private Limited (**ReBIT**).

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

Infineon Technologies and CDIL Signs MoU to Strengthen India's Power Semiconductor Manufacturing

On 6th March 2025, Munich (Germany) based **Infineon Technologies AG**, a global leader in power systems and Internet of Things (**IoT**) semiconductors, signed its first Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with New Delhi (Delhi) based Continental Device India Limited (**CDIL**), India's first semiconductor manufacturer.

- ✓ The agreement aims to bolster domestic production of power semiconductors critical for sectors like renewable energy, automotive, and industrial applications.
- ✓ This collaboration aligns with India's 'Semiconductor Mission', which prioritizes reducing import dependency and achieving self-reliance under the '**Make in India**' initiative.

ICRA Projects India's GDP Growth at 6.5% for FY26

In March 2025, India's Credit Rating Agency, **ICRA Limited** (formerly Investment Information and Credit

Rating Agency of India Limited) released its latest [FY2026 GDP Outlook report](#). The report has projected that India's Gross Domestic Product (**GDP**) will grow at **6.5%** in Financial Year 2025-26(FY26) compared to 6.3% expected in FY25.

India's OTAI & Malaysia's MPOC Collaborate to Promote Palm Oil Benefits in India

On March 7, 2025, Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh) based Oil Technologists' Association of India (**OTAI**) and Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) based Malaysian Palm Oil Council (**MPOC**) signed a collaboration agreement to enhance awareness about the nutritional and health benefits of **Malaysian palm oil** in the Indian market.

- ✓ The collaboration will focus on **consumer education, industry engagement,** and **scientific research** to highlight palm oil's benefits.

DPIIT and Mercedes-Benz India Partner to Advance Manufacturing, Safety, and Sustainability

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (**DPIIT**), Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with **Mercedes-Benz India Private Limited** based in Pune, Maharashtra to strengthen India's manufacturing sector, road safety, and environmental sustainability.

CIL Signs MoU with IIT Hyderabad to Establish CLEANZ in Telangana

In March 2025, Kolkata (West Bengal, WB) based Coal India Limited (**CIL**) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with Indian Institute of Technology of Hyderabad (IIT-Hyderabad), Telangana for establishing a Centre of Clean Coal Energy and Net Zero (**CLEANZ**) in Hyderabad.

India Emerged as Top Source Country for FDI into Dubai with USD 3 billion Investment

According to Dubai Department of Economy and Tourism data, **India** has emerged as the top source country for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into Dubai, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), with investment worth **USD 3.018 billion** in 2024, which shows a **5-times** increase from USD 589 million in 2023.

- ✓ India accounted **21.5%** of total FDI inflow in 2024, followed by the United States of America (USA) (13.7%); France (11%); the United Kingdom (UK) (10%) and Switzerland (6.9%).

SAIPL and ACI Partner to Manufacture 200 Diamond DA40 NG Trainer Aircraft

On 11 March 2025, Sakthi Aircraft Industry Private Limited (**SAIPL**) based Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu (TN) and the Aero Club of India (**ACI**) based in New Delhi, Delhi have signed an agreement to manufacture and supply **200 Diamond DA40 NG** (Next Generation) trainer aircraft in India.

- ✓ Of these, **150 aircraft** will be assembled at SAIPL's upcoming facility, which is expected to be established in Haryana.

Rentokil Initial Hygiene Achieves Carbon Neutrality for 2024 in India

In March 2025, Mumbai (Maharashtra) based **Rentokil Initial Hygiene Private Limited**, (part of United Kingdom (UK) Based Rentokil Initial Plc.), a global leader in hygiene services, has announced that it has achieved **carbon neutrality for the year 2024** through recycling, clean energy, eco-conscious logistics, and digital efficiency, marking a key step toward its goal of net zero emissions by 2040.

Moody's Upgrades India's GDP Growth to Exceed 6.5% for FY26

On March 12, 2025, New York, the United States of America (the USA) based **Moody's Rating** released its report titled 'Banking System Outlook – India', revised India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) forecast for the Financial Year 2025-26 (**FY26**), projecting it to exceed **6.5%**, up from 6.3% in FY25.

- ✓ **Inflation:** Moody's expects India's average inflation rate to decline to **4.5% in FY26** from **4.8% in FY25**, reflecting the positive effects of monetary easing.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

PM Narendra Modi Conferred 'Honorary Order of Freedom of Barbados'

On 6 March 2025, Prime Minister (**PM**) **Narendra Modi** conferred the prestigious '**Honorary Order of Freedom of Barbados**', one of the highest national honors awarded by the Government of Barbados. Union Minister of State (MoS) **Pabitra Margherita**, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) received the prestigious award on behalf of PM Modi.

- ✓ The award was presented by Barbados President **Dame Sandra Mason** in recognition of PM Modi's strategic leadership and critical assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic.

YouGov India Value Rankings 2025: Amazon, Flipkart, and Amul Rank as India's Top Brands

In March 2025, London, the United Kingdom (UK) based YouGov, an international online research data and analytics technology group released the '[India Value Rankings 2025](#)'. **Amazon** based in Washington, United States of America (USA), **Flipkart** Private Limited based in Bengaluru, Karnataka and Anand Milk Union Limited (**Amul**) based in Anand, Gujarat are the top three most valued brands in India.

List of Top 5 Brands in YouGov India Value Rankings 2025 :

Rank	Name of Brand	Score
1	Amazon	56.5
2	Flipkart	53.0
3	Amul	52.8
4	Tanishq	48.4
5	MakeMyTrip	45.4

Professor Suman Chakraborty Wins UNESCO's TWAS Award for Developing Low-Cost Medical Diagnostic Solutions

In March 2025, **Suman Chakraborty**, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur (**IIT-KGP**), West Bengal(WB) has been awarded the **2026 The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) Award** in Engineering and Computer Sciences(CS) by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (**UNESCO**).

Brand Finance Insurance 100 – 2025: LIC Ranks 3rd Among World's Strongest Insurance Brands

According to the [Brand Finance Insurance 100 – 2025 report](#), the Life Insurance Corporation of India (**LIC**), headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra, has been ranked **third** among the **world's strongest insurance brands**, achieving a Brand Strength Index (BSI) score of 88 out of 100. In terms of overall brand value, LIC holds the **12th position** globally among the **most valuable insurance brands**.

- ✓ State Bank of India (**SBI**) **Life Insurance** (Indian insurer) ranks **76th** on the list of the most valuable insurance brands in the Brand Finance Insurance 100 report.

Top Five Strongest Insurance Brands

Rank	Brand	BSI score	Country
1	PZU	94.4	Poland
2	China Life Insurance	93.5	China

3	Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)	88.0	India
4	NRMA Insurance	87.2	Australia
5	UnipolSai Assicurazioni (S.p.A)	86.8	Italy

Top five most valuable insurance brands of 2025

Rank	Brand	Country	Brand Value (USD billions)
1	Ping An	China	33.6
2	Allianz	Germany	26.7
3	AXA	France	19.8
4	China Life	China	18.3
5	Generali Group	Italy	17.0

Andrew Barto & Richard Sutton Won 2024 ACM A.M. Turing Award

In March 2025, **Dr. Andrew Barto** from the United States of America(USA) and **Richard S.Sutton** from Canada, two pioneers of Reinforcement Learning (RL), named as recipients of the **2024 ACM A.M. Turing Award**, which is often considered as the 'Nobel Prize of Computing' by New York, the USA-based Association for Computing Machinery (**ACM**).

- ✓ The two have been bestowed with this award in recognition of their exceptional work on RL, a machine learning technique which enables Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems to optimize decision-making through trial and error.
- ✓ The recipients of the award will share the prize money **USD 1 million**, which is sponsored by Google Inc.
- ✓ Both Andrew Barto and Richard Sutton, co-authored the book titled 'Reinforcement Learning: An Introduction' in 1998.

Dr. Jayashree Vencatesan Becomes 1st Indian to Receive 'Ramsar Award' for Wetland Conservation

In March 2025, **Dr. Jayshree Vencatesan**, the Co-founder of Chennai (Tamil Nadu, TN) based Care Earth Trust, has become the **first Indian** to receive the '**Ramsar Women Change Makers in the World Wetlands Award 2025**' in the '**Wise Use of Wetland**' category for Wetland Conservation. The award recognises her efforts in protecting India's wetlands, particularly the famous **Pallikaranai Marsh** in Chennai.

- ✓ On the eve of International Women's Day (IWD on 8th March 2025), the Ramsar Secretariat based in Gland, Switzerland announced her name as one of **12 women** recognized in the **2nd** edition of 'Women changemakers in the world of wetlands'.

ASQ Award 2024: CSMIA Bags Best Airport in Asia-Pacific for 8th consecutive year

On March 11, 2025, the Airports Council International (ACI) in partnership with Madrid (Spain) based travel technology company **Amadeus**, presented Mumbai (Maharashtra) based Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) with the **2024 Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Award** for Best Airport over 40 Million Passengers in the **Asia-Pacific** region, marking its eighth consecutive win.

Winning Airports from India (Asia-Pacific) at the 2024 ASQ Awards:

Awards(Size)	Airports	Location
Best Airport under 2 Million Passengers in Asia-Pacific	Kannur International Airport (CNN)	Kannur (Kerala)
Best Airport of 2 to 5 Million Passeng	Chandigarh International Airport (IXC)	Chandigarh (Punjab)

ers in Asia-Pacific		
Best Airport of 15 to 25 Million Passengers in Asia-Pacific	Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (HYD)	Hyderabad (Telangana)
Best Airport over 40 Million Passengers in Asia-Pacific	Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (BOM)	Mumbai (Maharashtra)
Best Airport over 40 Million Passengers in Asia-Pacific	Indira Gandhi International Airport (DEL)	New Delhi (Delhi)
Best Airport at Arrivals Globally	Kempegowda International Airport Limited (BLR)	Bengaluru (Karnataka)
Best Airport at Arrivals Globally	Mangaluru International Airport (IXE)	Mangaluru (Karnataka)

Muthoot Microfin Bags Two Golds at the SKOCH Awards 2025

In March 2025, Kochi (Kerala) based **Muthoot Microfin Limited**, a leading Microfinance Institution (MFI) in India, secured **two Gold Awards** at the **SKOCH Awards 2025** in New Delhi (Delhi). The company was recognized for its excellence in digital financial inclusion and insurance solutions.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Federal Bank Limited Appointed Padma Shree Awardee Vidya Balan as Its First-Ever Brand Ambassador

On March 6, 2025, Aluva (Kerala) based Federal Bank Limited (FBL), one of India's leading private sector banks, appointed Indian Actress and Padma Shree Awardee **Vidya Balan** as its First-Ever Brand Ambassador. The announcement took place at a special ceremony in Mumbai (Maharashtra) where Vidya Balan was honored with a commemorative memento by KVS Manian, Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Federal Bank Limited.

Gol Appointed Vikas Kaushal as CMD of HPCL for 5 years

In March 2025, the Government of India (GoI) appointed **Vikas Kaushal**, a private-sector consultant, as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Mumbai (Maharashtra) based Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) for five years.



- ✓ He succeeds **Rajneesh Narang**, Director (finance), who has had the additional charge of CMD since September 1, 2024.
- ✓ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) proposal for the appointment of Vikas Kaushal as CMD HPCL with relaxation of the eligibility criteria.

RBI Approves One-Year Extension for Sumant Kathpalia CEO of IndusInd Bank

In March 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) granted only a **one-year** extension to **Sumant Kathpalia**, Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mumbai (Maharashtra) based IndusInd Bank, effective from March 24, 2025, to March 23, 2026.

Dr Himanshu Pathak Assumes Charge as DG of ICRISAT

In March 2025, Renowned agricultural scientist **Dr Himanshu Pathak** assumed charge as the Director

General (DG) of Hyderabad (Telangana) based International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT). The only international agricultural research center in India. He succeeds **Stanford Blade**, who served as the interim DG of ICRISAT.

Honda Motor Company Limited Appoints Takashi Nakajima as New President & CEO of HCIL

On 10 March 2025, Tokyo (Japan) based Honda Motor Company Limited appointed **Takashi Nakajima** as the new President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Noida (Uttar Pradesh, UP) based Honda Cars India Limited (HCIL) effective from 1 April 2025.



- ✓ He will succeed **Takuya Tsumura**, who moves to Honda's head office in Japan after completing his tenure in India.

BCCI Appoints Rajeev Shukla and Ashish Shelar for ACC Leadership Roles

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra, has appointed its vice-president **Rajeev Shukla** as India's representative on the Board of Directors (BoD) of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC). Former BCCI treasurer **Ashish Shelar** will serve as an Executive Board Member of the ACC.

Atul Kumar Goel Appointed as CE of IBA

On March 11, 2025, Mumbai (Maharashtra) based Indian Banks' Association (IBA) appointed **Atul Kumar Goel**, the former Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Punjab National Bank (PNB), as its Chief Executive (CE). He succeeds **Sunil Mehta**, who served as the CE of IBA from January 2020 to September 2024.



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ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

CCI approvals on March 11 2025

On March 11, 2025, the Competition Commission of India (**CCI**) has approved the following proposals:

- ✓ New Delhi (Delhi) based ONGC NTPC Green Private Limited (ONGPL) acquired **100%** equity share capital of

Bengaluru (Karnataka) based Ayana Renewable Power Private Limited.

- ✓ The Netherlands based Asset Management Group (**AMG**) Green Power BV's acquired a stake in Hyderabad (Telangana) based Greenko Energy Holdings (**GEH**) from Japan based **ORIX Corporation**, a Japanese diversified financial services group.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

DRDO Unveils BM-04 SRBM to Enhance India's Defense Capabilities

In March 2025, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**) unveiled a full-scale model of its new Short-Range Ballistic Missile (**SRBM**), the **BM-04**, at the Vigyan Vaibhav 2025 defence exhibition in Hyderabad (Telangana). The missile is designed to strengthen India's defence capabilities with advanced technologies.

- ✓ The BM-04 missile is a canister-launched SRBM with a two-stage solid-fuel propulsion system.
- ✓ It has a range of **400-1,500** kilometers (**km**) and a conventional warhead weighing 500 kilograms (**kg**).

Europe's Ariane 6 Successfully Launches French Spy Satellite

In March 2025, **Arianespace SA** has successfully launched the **CSO**(Optical Space Component)-3 **reconnaissance satellite** for the French Armed Forces aboard the Europe's next-generation heavy-lift rocket **Ariane 6** from the Guiana Space Centre in Kourou, **French Guiana, France**. This mission marks Europe's first successful commercial launch, marking an important milestone in European space exploration.

- ✓ The Ariane 6 upper stage safely re-entered Earth's atmosphere in a controlled way, fixing issues seen during its test flight in July 2024.

Foxconn Launches Its First Large Language Model, FoxBrain

On March 10, 2025, Taiwan-based **Foxconn**, the world's largest contract electronics manufacturer, launched "**FoxBrain**," **Taiwan's first** large language model (**LLM**) designed to optimize manufacturing processes and supply chain management.

NASA Launches SPHEREx and PUNCH Missions to Explore Universe's Origins and Solar Wind

On March 11, 2025, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (**NASA**) launched two missions Spectro-Photometer for the History of the Universe, Epoch of Reionization and Ices Explorer (**SPHEREx**) and Polarimeter to Unify the Corona and Heliosphere (**PUNCH**) aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Vandenberg Space Force Base, California, the United States America (USA). The missions aim to study cosmic evolution and solar phenomena.

- ✓ SPHEREx is a space telescope managed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, California to survey the entire sky in 102 wavelengths of infrared light, invisible to the human eye.
- ✓ PUNCH, led by Texas(the USA) based Southwest Research Institute(SwRI), comprises **four** suitcase-sized satellites to study the Sun's outer atmosphere (corona) and solar wind.

Jio & Airtel Partners with SpaceX's Starlink to Enhance Internet Services in India

In March 2025, Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra) based **Jio Platforms Limited (JPL)**, subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), and New Delhi (Delhi) based Bharti Airtel Limited (**Airtel**) entered into a partnership with **Elon Musk's** United States of America (USA) based Space Exploration Technologies Corp. (**SpaceX**) to introduce **Starlink's satellite internet services** across India.

Tejas Fighter Jet Successfully Test Fires Air-to-Air Astra Missile in Odisha

On 12th March 2025, India's indigenously developed Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas **AF**

MK1 successfully test-fired the Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM) Astra off the coast of Chandipur, Odisha.

- ✓ The test was conducted by the Bengaluru (Karnataka) based Aeronautical Development

Agency (ADA), demonstrating the missile's ability to achieve a direct hit on a flying target, validating its precision and operational readiness.

- ✓ The Astra missile, designed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), is capable of engaging aerial targets at distances exceeding 100 kilometers (km) and features advanced guidance systems for high accuracy.

ENVIRONMENT

SPORTS

FIFA Banned Russia, Congo from 2026 World Cup

In March 2025, Zurich(Switzerland)-based international governing body of football International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) has banned **Russia** and **Congo** from **2026 FIFA World Cup** which is set to be hosted jointly by the United States of America (USA), Canada and Mexico.

- ✓ The 23rd edition of FIFA World Cup will feature 104 matches being played across 16 cities in the 3 countries from June 11 to July 19, 2026.

Veteran Bangladeshi Cricketer Mushfiqur Rahim Announced Retirement from ODIs

In March 2025, **Mushfiqur Rahim**, veteran wicket-keeper batsman from Bangladesh announced his retirement from One Day International (ODI) cricket with immediate effect. He made his debut in ODI cricket almost 20 years ago. He is the only **2nd** highest run-scorer from Bangladesh (after Tamim Iqbal with 8357 runs) who scored 7795 runs in 274 ODIs, at an average of 36.42 with 9 centuries and 49 half-centuries.

Indian GM Pranav Venkatesh Won 'FIDE World Junior U20 Championship 2025'

On March 7, 2025, Indian Chess Grandmaster (GM) **Pranav Venkatesh** from Bengaluru (Karnataka) won the 'International Chess Federation(FIDE) World Junior U20 (Under-20) Championship 2025' title, held from February 26 to March 7, 2025, in Petrovac, Montenegro.

Winners of FIDE World Junior U20 Championship 2025:

Open Category:

Ran k	Name	Countr y	Earne d Points
1	GM Pranav Venkatesh	India	9
2	FM Matic Lavrenc ic	Sloveni a	8.5
3	GM Elham Amar	Norwa y	8.5

Girls Category:

Ran k	Name	Country	Earn ed Point s
1	WIM Anna Shukhman	FIDE	9
2	IM Ayan Allahverdi yeva	Azerbaij an	8
3	IM Lu Miaoyi	China	8

Indian GM Aravindh Chithambaram Wins Prague Chess Masters 2025 title

Indian Chess Grandmaster **Aravindh Chithambaram** won the Masters Section of the **Prague International Chess Festival** in Prague, the Czech Republic. He secured the title with a score of 6 points, concluding the tournament with a draw against Gurel Ediz of Turkey in the ninth and final round.

India Clinches '2025 Asian Women's Kabaddi Championship Title' for the 5th time, by Defeating Iran

On March 8, 2025, the Indian women's Kabaddi team won the '**6th** Edition of Asian Women's Kabaddi Championship title' by defeating **Iran** women's Kabaddi team **32-25** in the final held in Tehran, Iran. The victory marked India's **5th win** in the history of the tournament, having previously won in 2005, 2007, 2008, and 2017 except in 2016 where South Korea claimed the title.

List of winners of the Asian Women's Kabaddi Championships:

Medal	Country	Score
Gold	India	213
Silver	Iran	111
Bronze	Bangladesh	117
Bronze	Nepal	82

ICC Champions Trophy 2025: India beat New Zealand by 4 wickets, Claims 3rd Champions Trophy title

On March 9, 2025, **India** won the **9th Edition** of the International Cricket Council (**ICC**) Champions Trophy title by defeating **New Zealand** with 4 wickets in the final held at Dubai International Cricket Stadium, Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE). This victory marks India's **3rd win** in the history of the tournament, having previously won in 2002 and 2013.

- ✓ India successfully chased the target of 252 runs, scoring 254/6 in 49 overs. **Rohit Sharma**, the captain top-scored with 76 runs, and Shreyas Iyer added 48 runs to the total.
- ✓ **Rachin Ravindra** (New Zealand) emerged as a standout performer in the 2025 ICC Champions Trophy, earning both the '**Golden Bat**' and '**Player of the Tournament**' honors for his exceptional all-round contributions.
- ✓ **Virat Kohli** became the fastest player to reach 14,000 One-Day International (ODI) runs in just 287 innings. He achieved this in the Champions Trophy 2025 match against Pakistan.
- ✓ **Shikhar Dhawan**, India's highest run-scorer in Champions Trophy history with 701 runs across two editions, has been appointed as one of the four Event Ambassadors for the 2025 ICC Champions Trophy, alongside former Pakistani cricketer **Sarfraz Ahmed**, an Australian all-rounder, **Shane Watson**, and New Zealand cricketer, **Tim Southee**.

OBITUARY

Australian Tennis Icon & Dual Grand Slam Champion, Fred Sydney Stolle Passed Away

On 06 March 2025, Australian Tennis Icon and Dual Grand Champion **Frederick Sydney Stolle**, nicknamed "Fiery Fred" or "Fiery" passed away at the **age of 86**. He was born on 8 October 1938 at Hornsby, New South Wales, Australia.

- ✓ He reached **world No. 1** in 1966 after defeating Australian former tennis player, John Newcombe in the final of the United States Open Championship (US Open).

Renowned Classical Singer Garimella Balakrishna Prasad Passed Away

In March 2025, Renowned classical singer and former Asthana Vidwan of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) **Garimella Balakrishna Prasad** passed away in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh (AP). He was born on 9 November 1948 in Rajahmundry, AP.

- ✓ He was awarded the prestigious **Sangeet Natak Akademi Award** in **2020** for his outstanding contributions to Indian classical music.

Former India Cricketer Syed Abid Ali Passed Away

On 12 March 2025, **Syed Abid Ali**, a former Indian cricketer, passed away at the age of 83 in California, the United States of America (USA). He was born on 9

September 1941, in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, AP (now Telangana).

- ✓ Syed Abid Ali represented India in 29 Test Matches from 1967 to 1974 and 5 One-Day Internationals (ODIs) between 1974 and 1975.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

AP CM N.Chandrababu Naidu Unveils Daggubati Venkateswara Rao's Book 'Prapancha Charitra'

In March 2025, the book titled '**Prapancha Charitra**' (World History) authored by former minister

and Member of Parliament (MP) **Daggubati Venkateswara Rao** was released in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP). The book launch event was attended by Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Chief Minister (CM) of AP.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Jan Aushadhi Diwas 2025 – March 7

Jan Aushadhi Diwas (Generic Medicine Day) is annually observed on **7th March** across India to raise awareness about the importance of Generic Medicines and to highlight the benefits of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP). 7th March 2025 marks the observance of **7th Jan Aushadhi Diwas**.

- ✓ **Jan Aushadhi Diwas Week** is observed from **March 1st to 7th**. Last day of the Jan Aushadhi Diwas Week is observed as Jan Aushadhi Diwas.

International Women's Day 2025 – March 8

The United Nations (UN's) **International Women's Day (IWD)** is annually observed across the globe on **8 March** to celebrate the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. IWD aims to recognise women for their achievements without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic, or political. 8 March 2025 marks **50 years** of the **UN's official commemoration of IWD**.

- ✓ The 2025 theme of the IWD is "**For ALL Women and Girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment**".
- ✓ On **March 3, 2025**, ahead of the IWD 2025, Prime Minister (PM) **Narendra Modi** invited women to share their life journeys on the **NaMo Application(app) Open Forum**.
- ✓ The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (**CERT-In**), a functional organisation under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), observed IWD on 8th March 2025 and released the "**Cyber Security Handbook for Mahila**

Suraksha," a comprehensive guide aimed at empowering women across India with essential cyber hygiene practices.

- ✓ On the eve of IWD 2025, Mumbai (Maharashtra)- based State Bank of India (**SBI**) has launched a collateral-free digital MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) **loan product 'SBI Asmita'** for women entrepreneurs, offering additional interest benefits to help them expand their business.
- ✓ Gujarat-based Bank of Baroda (**BoB**) launched "**BoB Global Women Non-Resident External (NRE) & Non-Resident (Ordinary) Accounts (NRO) Savings Account**," designed exclusively for women Non-Resident Indian (**NRIs**). [Click here to read full News](#)

International Day of Women Judges 2025 – March 10

The United Nations (UN's) International Day of Women Judges (**IDWJ**) is observed annually on **10 March** across the globe to highlight the vital role of women in the judiciary and to advocate for gender equality within judicial systems. 10 March 2025 marks the observance of the **4th IDWJ**.

CISF Raising Day 2025 – March 10

The Central Industrial Security Force (**CISF**) **Raising Day** is observed annually on **10th March** across India to commemorate the establishment of the CISF in 1969 and to honour the commitment and sacrifices of its personnel in protecting critical infrastructure and ensuring public safety throughout the country. **10th March 2025** marks the observance of the **56th CISF Raising Day**.

- ✓ Union Minister **Amit Shah**, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) flagged off the **1st Great Indian Coastal Cyclothon 2025** to raise awareness about national security in coastal areas, emphasizing the threats posed by smuggling, including drugs, weapons, and explosives.

World Kidney Day 2025 – March 13

World Kidney Day (WKD) is a global campaign observed annually across the globe on the **2nd Thursday of March** to highlight the critical role of kidneys in overall health and to advocate for equal access to healthcare and medication worldwide. The day aims to raise awareness about kidney disease, its impact, and the associated health challenges.

- ✓ WKD 2025 is observed on **13 March 2025**.
- ✓ WKD 2024 was observed on 14 March 2024; WKD 2026 will be observed on 12 March 2026.

World Rotaract Day 2025 – March 13

World Rotaract Day is celebrated annually on **13th March** to honor the contributions of Rotaractors, young adults aged 18 and above who are part of Rotary International (RI), a global organization dedicated to community service and leadership development. The day also highlights the impactful work of Rotaract clubs worldwide.

- ✓ **13th March 2025** marks the **57th** anniversary of the establishment of the first Rotaract club in 1968.

STATE NEWS

Assam Cabinet Renames Jagiroad Electronic City as 'Ratan Tata Electronic City'

On March 4, 2025, the Assam Cabinet officially renamed the Northeast India's **first** Electronic City in Jagiroad, Morigaon district, as "**Ratan Tata Electronic City**", to honor the contributions of Mumbai (Maharashtra) based Tata Group and its late Chairman, **Ratan Naval Tata**.

Nagaland CM Neiphiu Rio Presented Rs 24,849 Crore Budget for FY26

In March 2025, the Chief Minister (CM) of Nagaland **Neiphiu Rio** who also holds the finance portfolio, presented **Rs 24,849 crore** [state budget for Financial Year 2025-26 \(FY26\)](#) in the Nagaland Legislative Assembly in Kohima, Nagaland.

- ✓ The budget estimated the total receipts for FY26 at **Rs 24,849.01 crore** and total expenditure at **Rs 24,699.01 crore**.

J&K CM Omar Abdullah Presented Rs 1.12 lakh Crore Budget for FY26 with Zero-deficit

In March 2025, the Chief Minister (CM) of Union Territory (UT) Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) **Omar Abdullah** who also holds finance portfolio, presented **Rs 1.12 lakh crore** ([Rs 1,12,310 crore](#)) [state budget](#), excluding provisions for Ways and Means Advances (WMA) and overdrafts for Financial Year 2025-26 (**FY26**), with main focus on zero-deficit budget, at J&K Assembly in Jammu, J&K.

- ✓ While presenting the budget, he highlighted that the economy of J&K has been expanding from Rs 1,64,103 crore in 2019-20 to **Rs 2,45,022 crore** in 2023-24, due to improved environment in the UT.

Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah Presented Rs 4.09 Lakh Crore Budget for FY26

In March 2025, the Chief Minister (CM) of Karnataka **Siddaramaiah** presented his **16th** budget worth **Rs 4.09 lakh crore** (Rs 4,09,549 crore) for Financial Year 2025-26 (FY26) at the Karnataka Legislative Assembly in Bengaluru, Karnataka. The budget outlay for FY26 marked an increase of 12% i.e. Rs 3.65 lakh crore in Revised Estimates (RE) for FY25.

- ✓ The budget has allocated **Rs 51,034 crore** for the state government's 5 guarantee schemes, a decrease from Rs 56,000 crore allocated for the scheme in FY25.

Punjab Govt Launches 'Project Hifazat' to Ensure Women, and Child Safety

In March 2025, the Government of **Punjab** launched **Project Hifazat** to protect women from violence on the eve of International Women's Day – March 8. The Project was launched by **Dr Baljit Kaur**, Minister of Social Security, Women, and Child Development of Punjab in Chandigarh, Punjab.

Assam FM Ajanta Neog Presented Rs 2.63 Lakh Crore Budget for FY26

In March 2025, **Ajanta Neog**, Finance Minister (FM) of Assam presented the [budget worth Rs 2.63 lakh crore](#) for [Financial Year 2025-26 \(FY26\)](#) in

the Assam Legislative Assembly in Dispur, Assam, with Fiscal Deficit(FD) of Rs **620.27 crore**.

- ✓ The budget expenditure of the state saw an increase of **250%** while Capital Expenditure(CapEx) has increased to **Rs 24,964 crore** in FY25.
- ✓ The budget for FY26 has proposed exemption of professional tax for monthly income **up to Rs 15,000** for all working people in the state under the Assam Profession, Trades, Callings, and Employments Taxation Act, 1947.
- ✓ Total receipts are estimated at **Rs 2,62,913.92 crore** for Budget Estimates (BE) for FY26, including state consolidated fund (Rs 1,55,428.75 crore), public account (Rs 1,05,485.17 crore) and from contingency fund (Rs 2,000 crore).

Maharashtra FM Ajit Pawar Presented Rs 7.2 lakh crore State Budget for FY26

On 10 March 2025, **Ajit Pawar**, the Deputy Chief Minister (**Dy CM**) and Finance Minister (**FM**) of **Maharashtra** presented a **Rs 7.20 lakh crore** State Budget for the Financial Year 2025-26 (**FY26**) with key provisions for industries, infrastructure, agriculture and allied sectors, employment and social welfare.

- ✓ The total Expenditure for 2025-26 is Rs 7.20 lakh crore with a projected increase in Revenue Receipts to Rs 5,60,964 crore from Rs 5,36,463 crore (Revised Estimate, RE for 2024-25).
- ✓ Maharashtra is the 2nd state after Uttar Pradesh (Rs 8.08 trillion) to propose such a large budget.

Union Minister JP Nadda Announces 2 New Schemes for Girl Child Welfare in Tripura

On March 9, 2025, Union Minister **Jagat Prakash Nadda**, the Minister of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW), announced **two new welfare schemes for female children in Tripura**. The announcement took place during the two-year celebration of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led Tripura Government 2.0 at Swami Vivekananda Maidan in Agartala (Tripura).

- ✓ The two welfare schemes are the **Mukhyamantri Balika Samridhi Yojana** and the **Mukhyamantri Kanya Atmanirbhar Yojana**.
- ✓ The schemes aim to provide financial support and encourage academic success for girls in Tripura.

Deputy CM of AR Chowna Mein Presents Rs 39,842 Crore Budget for FY 26

In March 2025, Deputy Chief Minister(Dy CM) and Minister -In-Charge of Finance, Planning and Investment of Arunachal Pradesh (AR) Chowna Mein presented the [state budget for the financial year 2025-26 \(FY 26\)](#) in the assembly, with a total expenditure of **Rs 39,842.23 crore**. This budget represents an 11.16% increase from the previous year estimate of Rs 35,840.79 crore. FY26 has been declared as the '**Year of Human Capital.**'

- ✓ **Revenue receipts** are estimated at Rs 34,544.07 crore with the state's share of central taxes rising 16.61% to Rs.24,992.35 crore, while capital receipts stand at Rs 5,298.16 crore.

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Union FM Nirmala Sitharaman Presents Manipur Budget 2025-26 with Rs 35,103.90 Crore Outlay

In March 2025, Union Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman**, Ministry of Finance (MoF) presented the **Manipur budget** for the Financial Year 2025-26 (**FY26**) in the Lok Sabha. The total expenditure is set at Rs 35,103.90 crore, marking a 7.5% increase from the Revised Estimate (RE) of Rs 32,656.81 crore for FY25.

- ✓ **Note:** Manipur has been under **President's Rule** since February 13, 2025 following the resignation of Chief Minister (CM) of Manipur, N. Biren Singh. As per the proclamation issued under Article 356 of the Constitution, the state legislature's powers are now exercised by the Parliament.

- ✓ The estimated **total receipts** for FY26 stand at **Rs 35,368.19 crore**, up from Rs 32,471.90 crore in FY 25. Revenue receipts are projected at Rs 27,231 crore, while capital receipts stand at Rs 8,137 crore.

MP FM Jagdish Devda Presented Rs 4.21 Lakh Crore Budget for FY26

In March 2025, the Deputy Chief Minister (Dy CM) and Minister in Charge of Finance, Madhya Pradesh (MP) **Jagdish Devda** presented state's annual budget worth **Rs 4.21 lakh crore (Rs 4,21,032 crore) for Financial Year 2025-26 (FY26)** at MP Legislative Assembly in Bhopal, MP. This is for the 1st time the budget for MP has breached the mark of Rs 4 lakh crore.

- ✓ Total revenue receipts are estimated at **Rs 2,90,879 crore** for FY26, of which state's tax revenue (Rs 1,09,157 crore), and state's share in central government funds (Rs 1,11,662 crore).
- ✓ The state government has prepared a vision document '**Viksit Madhya Pradesh 2047**', which aims to increase the state's GDP to **Rs 250 lakh crore by 2047** and to increase per capita annual income from Rs 1.42 lakh crore to Rs 22.35 lakh crore.

Puducherry CM N Rangasamy Presents Rs13,600 Crore Budget for FY26

On 12 March 2025, **Natesan Krishnasamy Rangasamy (N. Rangasamy)**, the Chief Minister (CM) of the Union Territory (UT) of **Puducherry**, who also holds the Finance portfolio, presented a **Rs 13,600 crore** tax-free [Budget for the Financial Year 2025-26 \(FY26\)](#).

- ✓ Of the total budget, **Rs 11,624.72 crore** was allocated for Revenue Expenditure (**RevEx**), and **Rs 1,975.28 crore** was allocated for Capital Expenditure (**CapEx**).
- ✓ The **CapEx** is **9.80%** of the total expenditure, representing a significant increase from 1.66% in 2021-22, nearly a ten-fold growth.

UP CM Yogi Adityanath Unveils Sify Infinit Spaces' Data Centre in Noida

On March 11, 2025, **Yogi Adityanath**, the Chief Minister (CM) of Uttar Pradesh (UP), inaugurated the Artificial Intelligence (**AI**)-ready **Sify Noida 02 data centre campus in Noida** (UP). The facility is operated by **Sify Infinit Spaces Limited**, a leading data centre provider based in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN).

- ✓ It marks a significant milestone in the development of India's digital infrastructure, enhancing the country's AI capabilities and supporting the growth of its digital economy.
- ✓ The campus is **North India's largest data centre facility**, with a total capacity of 130+ Megawatt (MW).

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Current Affairs	42	37	29	16
Current Static Banking	1	—	—	—
Current Static GK	2	1	—	—
Static Banking	—	—	—	—
Static GK	—	—	—	—
Total	45	38	29	16

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