

1. Government Launches Prarambh 2026 Income Tax Awareness Campaign

- The government initiated this campaign to educate the public on the **New Income Tax Act 2025**.
- The new tax act comes into effect on **April 1, 2026**.
- Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** launched the nationwide **IT (Income Tax)** awareness campaign in **New Delhi**.
- The campaign is alternatively known as "**Prarambh 2026**" (**Policy Reform and Responsible Action for Mission Viksit Bharat**).
- An **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**-enabled chatbot named "**Kar Saathi**" was launched to assist taxpayers with queries.
- Aligns closely with the **MANAV framework** (**Moral and ethical systems, Accountable governance, National sovereignty, Accessible and inclusive AI, and Valid and legitimate system**).

2. Prime Minister Narendra Modi Achieves Longest Tenure Record

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has officially become India's longest-serving "head of a government in India". He completed **8,931 days** in office, setting a new national record.
- He successfully surpassed the previous historical record of **8,930 days** held by **Pawan Kumar Chamling**.
- The total duration combines his tenure as the Chief Minister of **Gujarat (2001-2014)** and his tenure as the Prime Minister of India (**since 2014**).

3. Ministry of Health Constitutes National Dental Commission (NDC)

- Repeals the historical **Dentists Act of 1948** and officially replaces the **Dental Council of India**.
- The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** constituted the **National Dental Commission (NDC)** on **March 19, 2026**.
- The commission is chaired by **Dr. Sanjay Tewari**.

4. India and Indonesia Collaborate on Prambanan Temple Restoration

- India has entered a collaboration with **Indonesia** to restore the historic **Prambanan temple**.
- The historic **Prambanan temple** is situated in **Indonesia**.

5. Reserve Bank of India Holds 622nd Central Board Meeting and Launches Utkarsh 3.0

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** convened its **622nd Central Board Meeting** in **Patna**, chaired by **Sanjay Malhotra**.
- The board officially approved the financial budget for **2026-27**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** launched "**Utkarsh 3.0**", a **3-year** medium-term strategy framework.
- **Utkarsh 3.0** focuses on improving bank regulations, ensuring financial stability, and enhancing overall banking operational efficiency.

6. Reserve Bank of India Approves ₹45,960 Crore in State Borrowings

- Governed by short-term central lending policies like the **Ways and Means Advances (WMA)**, introduced on **April 1, 1997**, under **Section 17(5)** of the **Reserve Bank of India Act (RBI Act)**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** approved **₹45,960 crore** in **State Government Securities (SGS)** bonds for state borrowings.
- The top borrowing states identified are **Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, and West Bengal**.
- Operates alongside **Ways and Means Advances (WMA)**, which spans loans up to **90 days** with interest tied to the **Repo Rate**.
- **WMA** manages temporary cash mismatches for governments.
- "**Normal WMA**" is up to a fixed RBI limit; borrowing beyond this is "**Special WMA**", incurring a penalty of **Repo Rate + 2%**.

7. Reserve Bank of India Imposes ₹31.80 Lakh Penalty on HSBC Bank

- Bank deposits remaining untouched for **10 years** are classified as unclaimed.

- Unclaimed deposits must be transferred to the RBI's **Depositor Education and Awareness (DEA) Fund**.
 - The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a monetary penalty of **₹31.80 lakh** on **HSBC Bank**.
 - **HSBC Bank** was specifically penalized for failing to host a searchable database for these deposits equipped with an **Unclaimed Deposit Reference Number (UDRN)**.
8. **Central Government Launches ₹20,000 Crore Credit Guarantee Scheme for MFIs**
- The Government introduced **Credit Guarantee Scheme for Microfinance Institutions-2.0 (CGSMFI-2.0)** on **21 March 2026**.
 - It aims to provide credit guarantee support through **National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC)**.
 - Total credit flow supported: up to **₹20,000 crore**.
 - Guarantee cover:
 - **80%** for **small** NBFC-MFIs/MFIs
 - **75%** for **medium** NBFC-MFIs/MFIs
 - **70%** for **large** NBFC-MFIs/MFIs
 - Interest rate cap: **EBLR or MCLR + 2%** on lending by MLIs to MFIs.
 - Valid till **30 June 2026** or till **₹20,000 crore** of loans are guaranteed, whichever is earlier.
9. **Bank of Baroda Launches UPI-Linked Credit Line for Women SHG Members**
- **Bank of Baroda (BOB)** became India's first public sector bank to launch an Overdraft facility (UPI-linked credit line) for this demographic.
 - Eligible women account holders can withdraw up to **₹5,000** through this facility.
 - **Bank of Baroda (BOB)** is headquartered in **Vadodara, Gujarat**.
 - **Dr. Dadat Chand** currently serves as the MD and CEO of the bank.
10. **India Post and Bhutan Post Sign MoU for Cross-Border Digital Remittances**
- **India Post** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Bhutan Post**.
 - The agreement integrates the **Universal Postal Union (UPU)** network with India's **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** system.
 - The **Universal Postal Union (UPU)** is a UN agency established in **1874**, headquartered in **Bern, Switzerland**.
 - The organization is currently led by **Masahiko Metoki**.
11. **Key International Bilateral Agreements and Strategic Pacts**
- **India-France Treaties:** During **Emmanuel Macron's** visit, the nations amended the **Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA)**, agreed on reciprocal defense personnel deployment, and launched the "**Year of Innovation 2026**".
 - **India-Kenya:** Partnered for a pilot project for **DigiLocker**.
 - **India-Nepal:** Signed a **Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA)** agreement focusing on criminal matters.
 - **India-UK:** Signed a reciprocal **Social Security Agreement**.
 - **FCI & WFP:** The **Food Corporation of India (FCI)** signed a **5-year** agreement to supply **2 lakh metric tons** of rice to the **World Food Programme (WFP)**.
 - Kenya's capital is **Nairobi** and its currency is the **Shilling**.
 - The **World Food Programme (WFP)** is a **Rome-based** Nobel Peace Prize laureate organization.
12. **WTO Global Trade Report Projects Drop in Merchandise Trade Growth**
- The **World Trade Organization (WTO)** indicated that global merchandise trade growth will drop to **1.9%** (down from **4.6%** the previous year).
 - The **World Trade Organization (WTO)** was established on **January 1, 1995**, and is headquartered in **Geneva**.
 - The organization is currently led by Director-General **Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**.
13. **Forbes Releases List of 35 Youngest Billionaires Under 30**
- **Forbes** (founded in **1917**) listed **35 billionaires** under the age of **30**, possessing a combined wealth of **\$92.4 billion**.

- Notable youngest billionaires include **ML White Treasures (20)**, **Johannes Von Bauman (20)**, **Clemente Del Vecchio (21)**, and **Kim Jung-young (22)**.
 - Surya Midha (founder of **Mako**) was specifically recognized as the youngest self-made billionaire.
- 14. West Bengal Updates Payouts Under Lakshmir Bhandar Scheme**
- Originally launched in **February 2021** by Chief Minister **Mamata Banerjee**, this is a major **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** scheme.
 - It targets poor women (aged **25 to 60**) and serves as part of the **Trinamool Congress's 10 election pledges for 2026**.
 - Monthly payouts have been officially increased.
 - General/OBC categories now receive **₹1,500** (increased from **₹1,000**); SC/ST categories now receive **₹1,700**.
- 15. State-Specific Updates: Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, and Manipur**
- **Uttar Pradesh:** Presented its maiden economic survey and announced **Mathura** as the location for the first **National Cow Culture Museum**.
 - **Andhra Pradesh:** Under the **PRASHAD** scheme, Srikakulam's **Arasavalli Sri Suryanarayana Swamy Temple** will undergo modernization. Civil Aviation Minister **K. Rammohan Naidu** laid the foundation for the **Indra Pushkarini** temple tank (**₹4 crore** budget).
 - **Manipur:** Imphal's **Thangapat Cinema** successfully hosted the **3rd Northeast India Film Festival**, screening nine regional films.
 - In Uttar Pradesh, it was noted that **Sarojini Naidu** (the United Provinces' first Governor) has her birthday (**February 13**) celebrated as **National Women's Day**.
 - In Andhra Pradesh, **Ratha Saptami** was officially noted as a state festival.
- 16. Major Defense Exercises Conducted by Indian Armed Forces**
- **Amogh Jwala:** Conducted by the Indian Army at **Babina Field Firing Range, Uttar Pradesh**.
 - **Milan (13th Edition):** Inaugurated by Defense Minister **Rajnath Singh** in **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**.
 - **Vajra Ghat & Vayu Shakti:** Held in **Jaisalmer, Rajasthan**; conducted by the Indian Army and Indian Air Force, respectively.
 - **Khanjar (13th Edition):** A joint exercise between India and Kyrgyzstan held in **Masimari, Assam**.
 - **Agni Pariksha:** Conducted jointly by the Indian Army and ITBP in **East Siang District, Arunachal Pradesh**.
 - **Lamitye:** An India-Seychelles exercise featuring tri-service participation (Army, Navy, Air Force) for the very first time.
 - During the **Lamitye** exercise, **INS Trikand** visited **Port Victoria, Seychelles**.
- 17. Defense Pacts and INS Taragiri Commissioning**
- **IDS & ISRO MoU:** The **Integrated Defence Staff (IDS)** HQ partnered with the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** for critical satellite-based communication support.
 - **INS Taragiri Commissioning:** The stealth frigate **INS Taragiri** is scheduled for commissioning by the Indian Navy on **April 3, 2026**, in **Visakhapatnam**.
 - **INS Taragiri** is the fourth ship in **Project 17A** and the third constructed by **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)**.
- 18. Indian Pharmaceutical Market Projected to Reach \$130 Billion by 2030**
- The domestic pharmaceutical sector is anticipated to rapidly scale from **\$60 billion to \$130 billion** by 2030.
 - The industry generates **₹4.72 lakh crore** annually and consists of over **3,000 companies** and **10,500 manufacturing units**.
 - India currently provides **40-70%** of global **DPT** and **BCG vaccines**.
 - Accounts for **20%** of global generic medicines, cementing its role as the 'pharmacy of the world'.
 - Globally, India ranks **3rd** in production volume and **11th** in production value.

20. Global Sports Roundup: Athletics, Football, Cricket, Chess, and Squash

- **Athletics:** Based on a decision by the **World Athletics Council** in **Poland**, India will host the **Indoor Athletics Championship 2028** for the first time at the **Kalinga Stadium** (featuring 26 disciplines and introducing a 4x400m mixed relay).
- **Football:** **Lionel Messi** became the second male player to score **900** official goals. **Japan** secured its 3rd **AFC Women's Asian Cup (21st Edition)** title by defeating **Australia** (solitary goal by **Maika Hamano**).
- **Cricket:** New Zealand women's player **Lauren Down** retired. Rwanda's **Feni Utagusimanede (15 years, 223 days)** became the youngest women's T20 International centurion, overtaking **Prosscovia Alako's** record.
- **Chess:** **Magnus Carlsen** won the **2026 FIDE Freestyle World Championship**.
 - Venue: **Weissenhaus, Germany**.
- **Para-Badminton:** **Pramod Bhagat** clinched a gold medal at the **BWF Para-Badminton World Championships** in **Bahrain**.
- **Squash:** At the **India Open Squash Championship (Mumbai)**, **Anahat Singh** won the women's singles title against Egypt's **Hana Moataz**, and **Abhay Singh** won the men's title against **Veer Chotrani**.
- **FIFA** officially fined the **Israeli Football Association \$190,700**.

21. Major Awards and Recognitions Announced

- **Stockholm Water Prize 2026:** Awarded to **Kaveh Madani** by the **Stockholm Water Foundation** (includes a **1 million Swedish Krona** prize).
- **Mark Linton History Prize 2026:** Author **William Dalrymple** won this **\$10,000** award for his Bloomsbury India-published book, "**The Golden Road: How Ancient India Transformed the World**".
- **Women Empowerment Award:** Actress **Rituparna Sengupta** received this honor at the **UK House of Commons** from **Globe Women CIC** for her contributions to art and culture on **International Women's Day**.
- **Nita Ambani Honors:** Conferred an Honorary Doctorate by **KIIT** and awarded the **KISS Humanitarian Award 2025** in **Bhubaneswar** by **Mohan Munasinghe** for her **Reliance Foundation** social development work.
- **Guinness World Record:** Indian mountaineer **Bupati Raju Anmish Varma** set a new record in the male category for the fastest climb of the seven volcanic summits.
- **Bupati Raju Anmish Varma** hails from **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**, and completed the record climb in **92 days, 4 hours, and 45 minutes**.

22. Key Corporate Appointments and Brand Ambassadors

- **South Indian Bank:** **Jose J. Kattoor** was officially appointed Chairman for 3 years, replacing **V.J. Kurian**.
- **Yamaha Music India:** Renowned music composer **A.R. Rahman** was appointed as the brand ambassador.
- **National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC):** **Krishna Kumar Thakur** (former **BHEL** HR Director) was appointed as Director (Personnel).
- **Axis Bank:** Named the official banking partner for the **DP World Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI)**.

23. Significant Days Observed in March

- **March 20 - World Sparrow Day:** Marked its 17th observance to address declining populations under the theme "**Creating bird-friendly cities and communities**".
- **March 21 - International Day of Forests:** Observed under the theme "**Forests and Economies**".
- **March 22 - Bihar Foundation Day:** Marked the 114th anniversary of separation from Bengal (1912) with the theme "**Unnat Bihar, Ujjwal Bihar**".
- **March 22 - World Water Day:** Observed under the theme "**Where Water Flows, Equality Grows**".

- **March 23 - World Meteorological Day:** Commemorates the founding of the **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** on **March 23, 1950** (first celebrated in **1961**). Theme: "**Observing Today, Protecting Tomorrow**".
- The **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** is based in **Geneva**, with President **Abdulla Al Mandous (UAE)** and Secretary-General **Celeste Saulo**.

24. **Books, Authors, and Obituaries**

- **Book Release:** Nobel laureate **Kailash Satyarthi** published his new book titled "**Karuna: The Power of Compassion**".
- **Robert S. Mueller III:** The former FBI Director, who served for 12 years, passed away at age 81.
- **Chuck Norris (USA):** The iconic actor and 6-time undefeated World Professional Middleweight Karate Champion passed away at age 86.
- **Chuck Norris** was heavily recognized for classic movies such as **Missing in Action, Delta Force,** and **Walker, Texas Ranger**.