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NATIONAL NEWS

India Plans ₹1 Trillion Fund to Boost Chip Manufacturing



India is set preparing to launch a ₹1 trillion (\$11 billion) semiconductor fund. This fund

will to strengthen domestic chip manufacturing and accelerate its ambition to become a global semiconductor hub. This proposed fund will support chip design, manufacturing equipment and supply chain development across the semiconductor industry in India. This initiative builds on the government's earlier \$10 billion semiconductor incentive program which was launched in 2021.

Key Points:-

The Indian government is planning to launch a ₹1 trillion semiconductor fund.

this fund is aimed at strengthening the semiconductor industry in India and supporting domestic chipmaking projects

NATIONAL NEWS

WHO Foundation and Novo Nordisk Launch Initiative to Tackle Childhood Obesity in India:



The WHO Foundation and Novo Nordisk have announced the collaboration and it is aimed at tackling childhood obesity in

India.

This will done through the various awareness programs and preventive health strategies. This initiative will support efforts to strengthen obesity prevention measures and health system readiness across the country.

Key Points:-

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) overweight and obesity now cause more deaths globally than underweight.

Obesity is linked to several serious no communicable diseases including cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India Overtakes China as Top Exporter of Cotton Products to the US in 2025



India has overtaken the China to become the largest exporter of cotton products to the United States in

2025. This details are according to the latest global market analysis by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The Cotton products include apparel, garments and home textiles. They form the significant part of global textile trade.

Key Points: -

The increase in India cotton exports to the US in 2025 highlights the growing competitiveness of India's textile industry.

The Indian manufacturers have expanded the presence in the American market by supplying a wide range of cotton-based products.

SPORTS

India Women's Hockey Qualified For Hockey World Cup 2026



India's women's hockey team qualified for the Hockey World Cup 2026. This qualification come even before the

semifinals of the Hockey World Cup Qualifiers in Hyderabad. This qualification was confirmed after India secured a dominant 4-1 victory against Wales in a Pool B match. The match saw Navneet Kaur score a hat-trick, while Sakshi Rana opened the scoring early at the GMC Balayogi Hockey Stadium in Hyderabad.

SPORTS

Cricketers Javon Searles, Griffith and Rathod Suspended Over Bim10 Scandal



International cricketers Javon Searles, Trevon Griffith, and Chitranjan Rathod have been

provisionally suspended in connection with the Bim10 corruption case. This suspension was announced jointly by the International Cricket Council (ICC) and Cricket West Indies (CWI). These charges relate to the alleged violations of anti-corruption regulations during the 2023-24 Bim10 tournament held in Barbados.



BANKING/ ECONOMY

South Indian Bank EPF Payment Service Launched with EPFO Integration



South Indian Bank has launched the new EPF payment service. This is in collaboration with the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO). This service

allows employers to make Employees Provident Fund (EPF) contributions directly through the bank's internet banking platform SIBerNet, making statutory payments faster and more convenient. This announcement was made on March, 2026, marking another step in the bank's digital banking expansion.

STATE NEWS

State Planning Commission Reports



The State Planning Commission (SPC) submitted 15 studies and reports on government

schemes and emerging sectors to Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin. The reports were handed over by J Jeyaranjan, Executive Vice-Chairman of the Commission, offering policy insights to strengthen key development initiatives in the State. The studies examined athlete development, competitive performance, and ecosystem strengthening. Tamil Nadu accounts for 36 of India's 89 Chess Grandmasters and is home to 2 World Chess Champions.

Detailed Analysis of Recent Current Affairs: Multiple Choice Format

Q.1. Which committee recently approved the revised cost of ₹3,630.77 crore for the Noida International Airport?

- A. Cabinet Committee on Security
- B. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs
- C. Finance Commission
- D. Planning Commission

1. B

The central government's Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved a revised cost of ₹3,630.77 crore for the Noida International Airport to Delhi Mumbai Expressway greenfield connectivity project. Previously, the 31.42 km-long greenfield road was to cost ₹2,414 crore, but 7.8 km of the road falls within the notified urban area of the Faridabad Master Plan 2031.

Q.2. Till which year has the Jal Jeevan Mission recently been extended?

- A. 2026
- B. 2027
- C. 2028
- D. 2030

2. C

The Union Cabinet has approved the extension of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) till December 2028, with an increase in the total outlay (Rs 8.69 lakh crore) and focus on structural improvements in rural drinking water supply under JJM 2.0.

Q.3. Which state cabinet recently approved the draft Freedom of Religion Bill 2026?

- A. Madhya Pradesh

- B. Chhattisgarh
 - C. Gujarat
 - D. Uttar Pradesh
3. B

The Chhattisgarh State Cabinet has approved the draft Freedom of Religion Bill, 2026. The bill aims to prevent illegal religious conversions in the state. The decision was made at a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai in Raipur. The proposed law aims to prevent religious conversions carried out through force, inducement, fraud, and undue influence. The Freedom of Religion Bill, 2026, will now be introduced in the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly.

Q.4. Which state recently launched the 'Lake and Air Watch' initiative?

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Gujarat
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Haryana

4. B

Maintaining environmental balance has become a major challenge amid rapid urbanization in India. To promote sustainable urban development, the Gujarat government has launched the "Lake and Air Watch" initiative. Implemented under the Gujarat Urban Development Mission, the program's primary objective is to monitor the condition of lakes and air quality in cities in real time. Launched by the state's Urban Development and Urban Housing Department, this initiative is considered an important step towards building environmentally friendly and future-ready cities, in line with India's larger goal of developing a "Develop India" mission.

Q.5. In 2025, India surpassed which country to become the largest exporter of cotton products to the US?

- A. Vietnam
- B. China
- C. Bangladesh
- D. Pakistan

5. B

According to the latest global market analysis from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), India will surpass China to become the largest exporter of cotton products to the US in 2025. Cotton products include clothing, textiles, and home textiles. They represent a significant portion of the global textile trade. US imports of cotton products from India are projected to reach approximately 0.6 million tons in 2025, exceeding China's exports of approximately 0.5 million tons.

Q.6. In which city did Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurate development projects worth ₹5,600 crore?

- A. Chennai
- B. Madurai
- C. Tiruchirappalli
- D. Coimbatore

6. C

Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for several development projects worth approximately ₹5,600 crore in Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu. These projects focus on strengthening clean energy infrastructure, petroleum production, highways, railways, and rural connectivity. These efforts aim to improve energy availability, transportation connectivity, and economic opportunities in Tamil Nadu.

Q.7. Which organization recently launched the first structured Bug Bounty Program for Aadhaar security?

- A. NIC
 - B. UIDAI
 - C. RBI
 - D. MeitY
7. B

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has launched its first structured bug bounty program to further strengthen the security of the Aadhaar system. Under this program, cybersecurity experts can identify potential vulnerabilities in certain UIDAI digital platforms. If they find a genuine security vulnerability and report it responsibly, they will be rewarded based on the severity of the issue.

Q.8. Which organization recently released the Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2026?

- A. RBI
 - B. NITI Aayog
 - C. Finance Ministry
 - D. SEBI
8. B

NITI Aayog has released the Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2026. This is the second annual edition of the index, which provides a data-based assessment of the fiscal health, budget discipline, and debt management of Indian states.

Q.9. In which city was India's first microalgae-based PureAir Tower recently installed?

- A. Mumbai
- B. New Delhi
- C. Bengaluru

D. Hyderabad

9. B

India's first microalgae-based air purification tower, called the PureAir Tower, has been installed in New Delhi. It has been installed on the road divider of the Aerocity Highway corridor. This innovative biotechnology-based solution aims to reduce urban air pollution. Under this project, conventional road infrastructure has been transformed into an active air purification system. This pilot project has been launched to reduce vehicular emissions in the capital's busy traffic corridors.

Q.10. Who will be awarded the META Lifetime Achievement Award 2026?

- A. Naseeruddin Shah
- B. Amol Palekar
- C. Anupam Kher
- D. Paresh Rawal

10. B

Renowned actor and filmmaker Amol Palekar will be honored with the 2026 META Lifetime Achievement Award at the Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards (META). The award recognizes his decades-long illustrious contribution to Indian theatre, cinema, and storytelling. The honor will be presented during the 21st edition of the Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards. The awards ceremony will be held in New Delhi from March 19 to 25, 2026.

Q.11. Recently, the Indian women's hockey team qualified for which major tournament in 2026?

- A. Asian Games
- B. Commonwealth Games
- C. FIH Hockey Women's World Cup
- D. Olympic Games

11. C

The Indian women's hockey team has qualified for the 2026 Hockey World Cup. The qualification came even before the semi-finals of the Hockey World Cup Qualifiers in Hyderabad. India qualified after a resounding 4-1 victory over Wales in a Pool B match. Navneet Kaur scored a hat-trick, while Sakshi Rana scored the first goal in the match played at the GMC Balayogi Hockey Stadium in Hyderabad. More importantly, the result of the tournament confirmed that India qualified for the 2026 Women's Hockey World Cup.

Q.12. Which Indian para-athlete recently won the gold medal in the men's high jump T63 at the World Para Athletics Grand Prix?

- A. Devendra Jhajharia
- B. Shailesh Kumar
- C. Mariyappan Thangavelu
- D. Sumit Antil

12. B

Indian para-athlete Shailesh Kumar won the gold medal in the men's high jump T63 category at the World Para Athletics Grand Prix in New Delhi. He cleared a height of 1.84 metres to take the top spot, marking a successful return to competition after a knee injury sustained following the World Para Athletics Championships.

Q.13. Which organization issued new rules regarding dividend declaration for commercial banks in 2026?

- A. SEBI
- B. RBI
- C. Finance Commission
- D. NABARD

13. B

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued new rules regarding dividend declaration for commercial banks in 2026. The central bank notified the guidelines titled "Commercial Banks - Prudential Norms on Dividend Declaration and Profit Remittance, 2026."

Q.14. Which regulator recently formed an expert working group for the technical roadmap of the securities market?

- A. RBI
 - B. IRDAI
 - C. SEBI
 - D. PFRDA
14. C

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has constituted a high-level expert working group to formulate a technology roadmap for the securities market, with a special focus on market infrastructure institutions (MIIs).

Q.15. Which bank recently launched the 'bob Women Sapphire Savings Account'?

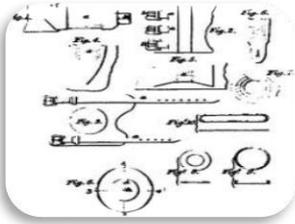
- A. State Bank of India
- B. Bank of Baroda
- C. HDFC Bank
- D. ICICI Bank

15. B

Bank of Baroda launched a premium savings account for women – the BM Woman Sapphire Savings Account. The account offers several health and wellness benefits, including a cancer care coverage plan of ₹10 lakh, free online doctor consultations for up to six family members, and discounts on medicines and pathology tests.

Historical and Technical Events of 16th March 2026

1845—Stephen Perry of London patents the rubber band.



In March 1845, London industrialist Stephen Perry was granted a patent for the production of elastic bands from vulcanised natural rubber. Since then, he has been regarded as the inventor of the rubber band, although he benefited from earlier work done by one of his compatriots.

1959 - Rebellion against Chinese rule begins in Tibet and the Dalai Lama leaves Lhasa and arrives in India.



In March 1959, thousands of Tibetans rebelled against the Chinese army, and surrounded the Dalai Lama's palace to protect him from harm; in the following days, fierce fighting broke out between Tibetans and the Chinese army, forcing the Dalai Lama to flee Tibet to India, where he remains in exile. The Tibetan community in India has established itself as an important refugee community.

1866- Agra High Court was established. It was shifted to Allahabad in 1869.



The Allahabad High Court was originally established in Agra on March 1866 under the Indian High Courts Act 1861 during

the British Raj. The first Chief Justice of this tribunal established for the North-Western Provinces was Sir Walter Morgan. It was shifted from Agra to Allahabad in 1869. In 1862, High Courts were constituted in all the three Presidencies. In 1861, the Indian High Courts Act was passed by the British Parliament.

1969 - Golda Meir became the first woman Prime Minister of Israel.



On March 1969, 70-year-old Golda Meir became the first woman Prime Minister of Israel. She won a big victory in the general elections.

Golda was born in Russia. Later her family shifted to America. On 14 May 1948, Israel declared itself an independent nation. 24 people signed this letter. Golda Meir also signed it. She remained in power in Israel for about four years. In 1973, the United Arab forces suddenly attacked Israel. Israel won the war in this battle.

1994: Russia decides to join NATO's Peace Cooperation Plan.



1994 President Bill Clinton delivers a speech at the North Atlantic Council summit in Brussels, Belgium. He

announces the creation of a Partnership for Peace based on military cooperation, defense reform, and information-sharing between European members and non-members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).