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NATIONAL NEWS

MoHUA Hosts 'AMRUT Mitra Mahotsav' Honouring Women SHGs Driving Urban Water Management under AMRUT 2.0



The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) hosted the AMRUT Mitra Mahotsav 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New

Delhi, celebrating the remarkable contribution of women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) – known as AMRUT Mitras – in improving urban water services under AMRUT 2.0. Over 1,000 women and 300 officials from 30 States and Union Territories participated in this national-level event.

Key Points:-

Water quality testing at local levels

Billing and collection for urban water supply

Community mobilization and awareness campaigns

Operations & Maintenance (O&M) of water assets

NATIONAL NEWS

PM Narendra Modi Launches ₹526 Crore Assam Waterways Projects, Dedicates Elevated Port Corridor in Guwahati



Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently dedicated a modern elevated road corridor connecting Pandu

Port to National Highway-27 and laid the foundation for several key inland waterway

projects. These initiatives aim to boost tourism, trade, and employment in Assam while strengthening the Brahmaputra River (NW-2) as a major transport and economic corridor.

Key Points:-

Elevated Road Corridor from Pandu Port to NH-27 – ₹180 crore investment

Cruise Terminal at Biswanath Ghat – foundation stone laid

Regional Centre of Excellence (RCoE) at Bogibeel, Dibrugarh – Bhoomi Pujan performed, ₹188 crore investment

BANKING/ECONOMY

Canara Bank MCLR Rates Revised for Loan Tenures



Canara Bank has announced a revision in its Marginal Cost of Funds Based Lending Rate (MCLR). And they are increasing lending rates for certain loan

tenures. This bank raised the two year and three year MCLR by 10 basis points. This change of rates which will come into effect from March, 2026. With this change the two-year MCLR rises to 8.95% from 8.85% while the three year MCLR increases to 9% from 8.90%.

Key Points:-

Canara Bank MCLR rates have been revised for medium term loan tenures which is reflecting the bank's latest interest rate adjustment.

According to the regulatory filing made by the bank the MCLR-linked lending rates for two and three year tenures have increased by 10 basis points.

BANKING/ECONOMY

RBI Launches "Awareness Program on Digital Payments" to Promote Safe Digital Payments



Digital payments have become an important part of everyday life in India. From shopping to bill payments, many

people now prefer online transactions because they are quick and convenient. However, as digital payments grow, it is also important for people to understand how to use them safely. To promote safe usage and increase awareness, the Reserve Bank of India has launched a special awareness program focused on digital payments.

AWARDS

BCCI to celebrate Indian cricket achievers at Naman Awards 2026 in New Delhi



The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) will celebrate the achievements of Indian cricket stars and contributors at the prestigious Naman

Awards 2026, scheduled to take place in New Delhi. At this year's ceremony, cricket legends Roger Binny and Rahul Dravid will receive the Col C K Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award, the highest honour given by the BCCI for exceptional service to Indian cricket. Meanwhile, former India women's captain Mithali Raj will be honoured with the BCCI Lifetime Achievement Award for Women in recognition of her remarkable impact on women's cricket.

STATE NEWS

Katranai Thoorum Arivu Statue



Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin unveiled the Katranai Thoorum Arivu statue at Marina Beach

highlighting the significance of continuous learning. The statue was installed by the Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation under the School Education Department. The name Katranai Thoorum Arivu is borrowed from a Thirukkural couplet emphasizing the importance of lifelong education.

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➤ HCF & LCM
➤ Simplification
➤ Percentage
➤ Profit & loss
➤ simple interest
➤ Compound interest
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Detailed Analysis of Recent Current Affairs: Multiple Choice Format

Q.1. What did the Supreme Court recently clarify regarding the "creamy layer" in OBC reservations?

- A. Only caste determines the creamy layer
- B. Parental income alone cannot be the sole criterion
- C. Education determines the creamy layer
- D. Only occupation determines the creamy layer

1. B
The Supreme Court has clarified that the "creamy layer" under OBC reservation cannot be determined solely on the basis of parents' income (salary). The court stated that the status, social, and administrative status of the parents must also be taken into account when determining the creamy layer. Denying reservations to children of private or public sector employees solely on the basis of income is discriminatory.

Q.2. Who recently addressed the inaugural session of the "Global Conference on the Role of Women in Agri-Food Systems 2026" in New Delhi?

- A. Narendra Modi
- B. Draupadi Murmu
- C. Nirmala Sitharaman
- D. Smriti Irani

2. B
The President of India, Smt. Draupadi Murmu, addressed the inaugural session of the "Global Conference on the Role of Women in Agri-Food Systems 2026" in New Delhi. At the event, the President emphasized the contribution of women in the agriculture sector, noting that the

United Nations has declared 2026 as the "International Year of Women Farmers."

Q.3. India is recently preparing to launch a semiconductor fund worth approximately how much?

- A. ₹50,000 crore
- B. ₹1 trillion
- C. ₹2 trillion
- D. ₹5 trillion

3. B

India is preparing to launch a new semiconductor fund worth approximately \$11 billion (over ₹1 trillion). It is expected to launch in the next two to three months. The initiative aims to strengthen domestic chip manufacturing and design. The fund will provide subsidies for chip design projects, manufacturing equipment, and supply chain development to reduce import dependence and make India a global manufacturing hub by 2032.

Q.4. From which city was the 22nd installment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana recently released?

- A. Jaipur
- B. Guwahati
- C. Lucknow
- D. Patna

4. B

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the 22nd installment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) from Guwahati, Assam. Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan made the announcement while addressing the media in New Delhi. He said that Prime Minister Modi will release ₹18,640 crore through direct benefit

transfer into the bank accounts of approximately 93.2 million farmers.

Q.5. In which city was the International Rail Coach Expo 2026 recently inaugurated?

- A. Kolkata
- B. Chennai
- C. Bengaluru
- D. Hyderabad

5. B

The International Rail Coach Expo 2026 was inaugurated at the Integral Coach Factory campus in Chennai. The event was inaugurated by U. Subba Rao, General Manager, ICF. Organized by Integral Coach Factory in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry, the expo will feature railway manufacturers, technology providers, and industry experts from India and abroad, showcasing the latest technologies and innovations in the railway sector.

Q.6. Which Indian port recently launched the Digital Twin initiative for port management?

- A. Mumbai Port
- B. Paradip Port
- C. V. O. Chidambaranar Port
- D. Kandla Port

6. C

V.O. Chidambaranar Port has achieved a major milestone in India's maritime sector by launching a digital twin. It has become the first port in India to adopt this advanced technology for port management. The platform was inaugurated by Sarbananda Sonowal. This initiative is a major step towards creating smart, efficient, and technology-driven port operations in India.



Q.7. Who recently launched Andhra Pradesh's first tribal millet-based food menu, 'Araku Kouni'?

- A. Jagan Mohan Reddy
- B. N. Chandrababu Naidu
- C. Y. S. Sharmila
- D. Pawan Kalyan

7. B

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu launched the state's first tribal millet-based food menu, "Araku Kauni," during a conference of collectors at the state secretariat. The initiative aims to bring traditional millet-based foods from tribal communities into mainstream food culture, while also highlighting the rich culinary heritage of Andhra Pradesh's tribal areas.

Q.8. Which organization recently received the Governance Now 12th PSU National Award for the 'Dhwani Spandana' initiative?

- A. BMTC
- B. KSRTC
- C. MSRTC
- D. APSRTC

8. B

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has been recognized in the "Excellence in Innovation" category at Governance Now's 12th PSU National Awards for its unique initiative, "Sound Spandana." This innovative system is designed to help passengers with visual impairments identify buses and plan their journeys, making public transport more accessible and inclusive.

Q.9. Recently, State Bank of India entered into a strategic partnership with which Japanese financial institution?

- A. Mitsubishi Bank
- B. MUFG Bank
- C. Nomura Bank
- D. Sumitomo Bank

9. B

State Bank of India (SBI) has entered into a strategic partnership with MUFG Bank (Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group). The collaboration aims to facilitate cross-border business by leveraging SBI's extensive domestic network and MUFG's global expertise. The alliance focuses on structuring and financing projects such as mergers and acquisitions (M&A), aviation, and real estate, as well as supporting Indian and Japanese companies expanding into each other's markets.

Q.10. What is Nomura's recent estimate of India's GDP growth rate for FY27?

- A. 6.5%
- B. 6.8%
- C. 7%
- D. 7.5%

10. C

Nomura has projected India's GDP growth for fiscal year 2026-27 (FY27) to be 7.0%. This figure is lower than its previous estimate of 7.1%. The brokerage firm attributed this adjustment primarily to ongoing geopolitical tensions in West Asia, and said that higher energy supply and fuel prices could pose risks to economic activity and increase inflationary pressures.

Q.11. How many NBFCs did the RBI deregister in February 2026?

- A. 20
 - B. 25
 - C. 36
 - D. 50
11. C

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the certificates of registration (CoR) of a total of 36 non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) in February 2026. Furthermore, during the same period, nine more NBFCs voluntarily surrendered their licences, which the RBI accepted.

Q.12. Which fintech company recently received RBI permission to operate as a payment aggregator?

- A. Paytm
 - B. Razorpay
 - C. CRED
 - D. PhonePe
12. C

Recently, fintech platform CRED received final approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as a payment aggregator. With this license, CRED will now be able to directly manage online payment processes for businesses and merchants. The company already holds a prepaid payment instrument (PPI) license.

Q.13. Which organization recently released the report "India Outlook: Wading through Squally Waters"?

- A. ICRA
- B. CRISIL

C. Moody's

D. Fitch

13. B

The report, "India Outlook: Wading Through Squally Waters," was released by CRISIL Intelligence, a division of CRISIL Ltd. Published in March 2026 as part of the 10th edition of India Outlook, the report provides a macroeconomic analysis of India's growth trajectory.

Q.14. Who recently became the new MD and CEO of HDFC ERGO General Insurance?

- A. Keki Mistry
- B. Parthanil Ghosh
- C. Aditya Puri
- D. Sashidhar Jagdishan

14. B

In a major leadership change in India's insurance sector, HDFC ERGO General Insurance has announced the appointment of Parthanil Ghosh as its new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer. The company's Board of Directors recently approved the appointment. Subject to necessary approvals from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India and other authorities, Ghosh will officially assume office on April 16, 2026.

Q.15. INS Trikand will recently participate in the national day celebrations of which country?

- A. Sri Lanka
- B. Mauritius
- C. Maldives
- D. Seychelles

15. B

Indian Navy ship INS Trikhand will participate in the 58th National Day celebrations of Mauritius. The ship arrived in Port Louis as part of its operational deployment to the South-West Indian Ocean Region. The Ministry of Defence stated that a marching contingent, Navy band and an integral helicopter from INS Trikhand will participate in the National Day parade at Champ de Mars. Commanding Officer Captain Sachin Kulkarni will also meet senior officials of the Government of Mauritius and the Mauritius Coast Guard. The visit is aimed at strengthening maritime cooperation, enhancing operational interoperability and further deepening bilateral relations between India and Mauritius.

Historical and Technical Events of 17th march 2026

2006 - The United Nations approved a resolution to form the 'Human Rights Council'.



In March 2006, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution to form the Human Rights Council, which will replace the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. The purpose of the Human Rights Council is to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights around the world. The Human Rights Council has 47 member countries, which are elected by the United Nations General Assembly.

North Korea begins shutting down its nuclear program.



In March 2007, North Korea told delegates at international nuclear talks that it was preparing to shut down its main nuclear facility. The agreement followed a series of six-party talks that began in 2003, involving North Korea, South Korea, China, Russia, Japan, and the United States. The Yongbyon nuclear facility was a key part of North Korea's nuclear program, believed to have produced materials for past nuclear tests.

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- > Decimal & Fraction
- > HCF & LCM
- > Simplification
- > Percentage
- > Profit & loss
- > simple interest
- > Compound interest
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- > Problems on numbers and ages
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1915 - Defence of India Act approved.



In 1915, to ensure public safety and defense in India, as well as speedy trial of certain crimes, the Defence of

India Act, also known as the Defence of India Regulation Act, was approved. It was an emergency criminal law enacted by the Governor-General of India in 1915. Its main purpose was to curb nationalist and revolutionary activities of the Indian independence movement during and after World War I.

1972 - World Book Fair begins.



In 1972, the first World Book Fair was held in India, at Pragati Maidan, Delhi. Book fairs began in Germany in Frankfurt and then Leipzig. The

first book fair was held in Frankfurt in 1462. This annual (earlier biennial) event takes place in winter and is organised by the National Book Trust (NBT), India.

1801 - The first arms manufacturing factory in India was established.



In 1801, the first arms manufacturing factory, the Gun Carriage Agency (now known as the

Gun and Shell Factory, Cossipore), was established at Cossipore near Kolkata, marking the beginning of India's defence industrialisation. The OFB was the 37th largest defence equipment manufacturer in the world,

the second largest in Asia, and the largest in India. The OFB was the world's largest government-run production organisation, and the oldest in India.

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Best Wishes

Murthy sir (MSM)

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