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NATIONAL NEWS

FASTag Annual Pass Fee Hiked by NHAI from April 2026



The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has announced the revision in the FASTag

Annual Pass fee. This fee hike which will take effect from April 1 2026. According to the official order issued on the March 2026 the cost of the annual pass for private non commercial vehicles has been increased slightly. The Vehicle owners will now have to pay ₹3,075 for the FASTag Annual Pass. Earlier it was compared with the earlier price of ₹3,000.

Key Points:-

The FASTag Annual Pass scheme was introduced to simplify toll payments for frequent highway travellers.

This scheme was officially launched on Independence Day in 2025 to encourage the use of digital toll collection systems across India's national highways.

NATIONAL NEWS

22-Year-Old Surya Midha Breaks Mark Zuckerberg Record & Joins the Youngest Billionaire List



Surya Midha has created headline after matching the youngest billionaire

milestone. Earlier this milestone was once held by Mark Zuckerberg. He achieved this achievement at the age of 22 years of age. This Indian origin co founder of the AI hiring startup Mercor appeared in the Forbes 2026 World's Billionaires List. And he featured with the personal net worth of \$2.2 billion. Surya Midha has founded Mercor in 2023 with Brendan Foody and Adarsh Hiremath.

Key Points:-

Automated resume screening using machine learning

AI driven interviews to evaluate candidate performance

Intelligent candidate matching with job roles plan

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

José Antonio Kast Rist Takes Oath as the President of Chile



José Antonio Kast has officially taken office as the new President of Chile, marking a major political shift in the country. His

victory represents one of the strongest moves toward conservative leadership in Chile in recent decades. In his first speech after taking oath, Kast promised strict action on crime, economic reforms, and stronger border control. His presidency begins at a time when Chile faces rising security concerns, economic pressure, and complex global challenges.

Key Points:-

Kast's government plans to introduce a tax reform bill in April.

The proposal includes reducing business taxes from 27% to 23% over four years to encourage investment and economic growth.

SPORTS

19 Year Old Antonelli Shocks F1 World With Historic Chinese GP Win



Teenage driver Kimi Antonelli delivered a wonderful performance to win the 2026 Chinese Grand Prix. This win has marking his first

victory in Formula 1. This 19 year old Mercedes driver dominated the race at the Shanghai International Circuit. He just finishing ahead of teammate George Russell. This race also saw Lewis Hamilton secure his first Formula 1 Grand Prix podium for Ferrari. And he finishing third after an intense battle with teammate Charles Leclerc.

SPORTS

Chandrika Pujari Wins Gold at World Boxing Futures Cup 2026 as India Bags Five Medals



At the World Boxing Futures Cup 2026 India had finishing the tournament with five medals. Indian

boxer Chandrika Pujari led the country's medal tally by winning gold in the women's 51kg category. Her victory was the highlight of India's

campaign as the team secured one gold, three silver and one bronze medal during the event.

AWARDS

Jessie Buckley Wins Best Actress at Oscars 2026 for 'Hamnet'



Jessie Buckley has won the Best Actress award at the Oscars 2026. This award she won for her remarkable

performance in Chloe Zhao's historical drama which named the Hamnet. This award was presented at the 98th Academy Awards ceremony in Los Angeles. This victory marks Buckley's first Academy Award win and her second Oscar nomination. She was nominated earlier for The Lost Daughter in 2022.

STATE NEWS

IIT Madras launches initiative to make digital education more accessible



IIT Madras Wadhvani School of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (WSAI) has

introduced EduReach - a program designed to make digital learning more accessible for schools operating with limited infrastructure. EduReach will provide a fully functional course content management system equipped with web templates, analytics dashboards, role-based access controls and also an assessment tool.

Detailed Analysis of Recent Current Affairs: Multiple Choice Format

Q.1. The Chief Minister of which state recently launched the state's first tribal millet-based food menu called Araku Kauni?

- A. West Bengal
- B. Arunachal Pradesh
- C. Bihar
- D. Andhra Pradesh

1. D

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu launched the state's first tribal millet-based food menu, "Araku Kauni," during the Collectors' Conference at the Secretariat. The initiative aims to integrate traditional millet dishes into mainstream food culture and promote the state's rich tribal cultural heritage.

Q.2. How many additional districts have recently been included in the sixth phase of mandatory gold hallmarking?

- A. 5
 - B. 7
 - C. 9
 - D. 11
2. B

The government has added seven more districts to the sixth phase of mandatory gold hallmarking. This new phase will be implemented from March 2026. With this increase, the total number of districts across the country covered by mandatory hallmarking now stands at 380.

Q.3. Who has been awarded the Polly Umrigar Award 2026?

- A. Shubman Gill
- B. Hardik Pandya
- C. Jasprit Bumrah
- D. Sanju Samson

3. A

Indian Test and ODI captain Shubman Gill has been honoured with the prestigious Polly Umrigar Award (Best Male International Cricketer) for the year 2026. The award was presented to him at the BCCI Naman Awards 2026 ceremony in New Delhi.

Q.4. With which organization has the WHO Foundation collaborated to prevent childhood obesity in India?

- A. Pfizer
- B. UNICEF
- C. Novo Nordisk
- D. World Bank

4. C

The WHO Foundation has partnered with Novo Nordisk to address childhood obesity in India. The announced partnership aims to prevent obesity through school-based health programs and strengthen health system preparedness.

Q.5. Where were two new species of lichen moths, Asura buxa and Calocera hallowayi, discovered respectively?

- A. Bihar and West Bengal
- B. Goa and Karnataka
- C. West Bengal and Sikkim
- D. Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra

5. C

Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India have discovered two new species of lichen moth in West Bengal and Sikkim. These new species have been named "Calocera hallowayi" and "Asura buxa." Details of this discovery by Indian researchers were published in the international taxonomic journal "Zootaxa." This discovery further enhances the scientific study of India's insect diversity, especially species of the Lepidoptera group.

Q.6. For which financial year did the Lok Sabha recently approve the Supplementary Demands for Grants – Second Batch?

- A. 2023-24
- B. 2024-25
- C. 2025-26
- D. 2026-27

6. C

The Lok Sabha has approved the second batch of supplementary demands for grants for the financial year 2025-26. This bill allows the government to spend an additional ₹2.81 lakh crore, with a net additional cash expenditure of ₹2.01 lakh crore. With this approval, the House also passed the Appropriation Bill 2026 by voice vote.

Q.7. The captive breeding program of 'Project Great Indian Bustard' has recently entered which year?

- A. Second year
- B. Third year
- C. Fourth year
- D. Fifth year

7. C

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Bhupendra Yadav announced that the

Great Indian Bustard Project (GIB) has entered its fourth year of captive breeding. The birth of two new chicks this week has brought the total number of captive birds to 70. He said the chicks were born at a conservation breeding center in Rajasthan.

Q.8. The Sujal Gaon ID initiative was launched under which flagship program?

- A. Atal Bhujal Yojana
- B. National Rural Drinking Water Program
- C. Jal Jeevan Mission
- D. AMRUT Mission

8. C

The Union Minister for Jal Shakti recently launched the Sujal Gaon ID to strengthen digital monitoring of water supply in villages. The Sujal Gaon ID is a scheme-based unique digital identifier used for complete digital mapping of piped water supply assets in villages. These IDs have been created for villages across 31 states and Union Territories (UTs). Each Sujal Gaon ID is linked to the Sujal Bharat ID for integrated digital records. It operates under the "Sujal Bharat" National Digital Architecture, which maps the entire village water supply chain from source to tap. This initiative has been launched by the Ministry of Jal Shakti under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

Q.9. Amblyceps vyvi, which was recently in the news, belongs to which species?

- A. Catfish
- B. Spider
- C. Frog
- D. Ant

9. A

Researchers have discovered a new rare catfish species, *Amblyceps vayvi*, in the Western Ghats. It was found in the northern Western Ghats of Goa and Maharashtra. This fish lives in shallow mountain rivers with sand, gravel, and boulders along the riverbed. These riverbed conditions create small microhabitats that help the fish hide and find food. The name "vayvi" means "northwest" in Marathi and Konkani, referring to its location in the northwest Western Ghats. This species has been recorded in only a few locations, indicating its rare distribution.

Q.10. Which has become India's second fully literate Union Territory?

- A. Andaman Nicobar
- B. Chandigarh
- C. Ladakh
- D. Daman and Diu

10. B

Chandigarh has become India's second fully literate Union Territory after Ladakh, achieving an impressive literacy rate of 99.93%. This achievement was achieved under the central government's 'ULLAS' (Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society) scheme. With this success, Chandigarh has become a major Union Territory to surpass the 95% literacy target set by the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Q.11. Which country's Supreme Court recently approved passive euthanasia?

- A. India
- B. Saudi Arabia
- C. Iran
- D. America

11. A

Recently, the Supreme Court of India officially approved passive euthanasia for the first time in the country. In this landmark decision, the court allowed the removal of life support systems for 32-year-old Harish Rana, who had been in a coma for 13 years.

Q.12. In which city will the second stage of the Asia Cup Archery 2027 be held?

- A. Pune
- B. Rajgir
- C. Jaipur
- D. New Delhi

12. D

India will host a top international archery competition for the first time in 22 years. Delhi has been awarded hosting rights for the second edition of the Asia Cup in 2027. Delhi last hosted an international archery competition in 2005 during the Asian Archery Championships.

Q.13. In which city will India's premier global textile event, 'Bharat Tex 2026', be held?

- A. Surat
- B. Bhopal
- C. New Delhi
- D. Patna

13. C

The Ministry of Textiles has launched India's largest global textile event, "Bharat Tex 2026." The event will showcase the entire textile value chain, from fibers and yarns to fabrics, garments, technical textiles, and sustainable innovation. The event will be held from July 14-17, 2026, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, building on the success of the 2024 and 2025 editions. "Bharat Tex 2026" aims to strengthen India as a reliable source and investment

destination, foster strategic partnerships, and support policy reforms for the growth of the textile sector.

Q.14. In which state has the world's first 'Autonomous Maritime Shipbuilding and Systems Center' been established?

- A. Bihar
- B. Andhra Pradesh
- C. West Bengal
- D. Tamil Nadu

14. B

India has taken a major step towards strengthening its maritime and defense manufacturing capabilities by establishing the world's first autonomous marine shipbuilding and systems center in Andhra Pradesh. The facility is being developed by Mumbai-based Sagar Defence Engineering at the Juvvaladine Fishing Harbour in Nellore district, marking a significant milestone in indigenous maritime technology development.

Q.15. Where was the 12th Asian and Pacific Regional Conference organized by the All India Prosecutors' Association?

- A. Patna
- B. Bhopal
- C. Udaipur
- D. New Delhi

15. D

The 12th Asian and Pacific Regional Conference was organized by the All India Prosecutors' Association in New Delhi. The government is promoting innovation in the judicial sector through technology and institutional reforms. These efforts aim to make the justice system more transparent, accessible, and effective.



Reforms are continuously being implemented to ensure speedy and equal access to justice for all citizens.

Historical and Technical Events of 18th march 2026

1957 - Namboodiripad became the Chief Minister of Kerala.



In 1957, Namboodiripad became the Chief Minister of Kerala. His government was the first non-Congress government in the country. He was the first non-Congress Chief Minister of the country. His government took many important steps in the field of land and education. The 1957 Kerala Legislative Assembly election was the first assembly election in the Indian state of Kerala. The Communist Party of India won the election with 60 seats.

1982: Argentina hoists flag on South Georgia.



Diplomatic tensions between Britain and Argentina reached a boiling point in 1982 when the Argentine flag was hoisted on the remote island of South Georgia in the South Atlantic. Within two weeks Argentine troops landed on the Falkland Islands and on 2 April 1982 Britain was involved in an undeclared war with Argentina.

1972 - Treaty of Friendship signed between India and Bangladesh.



On March 1972, the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Peace was signed between India and Bangladesh, also known as the Indira-Mujib Pact. This treaty established close bilateral relations between the two countries. The treaty mentioned shared values such as criticism of colonialism and non-alignment.

1982: Indian freedom fighter JB Kripalani passes away.



Acharya Kripalani died on March 1982 at the Civil Hospital in Ahmedabad at the age of 93. Jivatram Bhagwandas Kripalani, popularly known as Acharya Kripalani, was an Indian politician, best known for serving as the President of the Indian National Congress during the transfer of power in 1947 and was the husband of Sucheta Kripalani.

1999 - European Commission President Jacques Santer resigns.



Because the accused commissioners refused to resign and the President of the European Commission did not have the power to dismiss individual commissioners, Santer and his entire Commission resigned in March 1999, on the day of the report's publication. Jacques Santer (born 18 May 1937) is a Luxembourgish politician who served as the ninth President of the European Commission from 1995 to 1999.

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We wish best for your studies & Exams

Best Wishes

Murthy sir (MSM)

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