

National News

Q1. The Lok Sabha passed the Finance Bill, 2026, formalizing the Union Budget proposals for FY 2026-27. Under the passed amendments, what is the new turnover threshold for an "eligible startup" to qualify for a tax holiday?

- [A] ₹100 crore
- [B] ₹150 crore
- [C] ₹250 crore
- [D] ₹300 crore

Correct Answer: [D] ₹300 crore

Detailed Explanation:

The Lok Sabha passed the Finance Bill, 2026, via voice vote with 32 official government amendments introduced by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. To boost the startup ecosystem and accommodate larger innovative firms under the tax incentive umbrella, the government significantly enhanced the turnover threshold for "eligible startups" from the existing ₹100 crore to ₹300 crore. This structural change takes effect from the Financial Year 2026-27. Other critical changes in the amendments include shifting share buyback taxation entirely to the shareholder level with a specific 12% surcharge on promoters' capital gains.

Q2. Parliament recently passed the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026. Which landmark Supreme Court judgment originally recognized gender identity as a fundamental right under Article 21?

- [A] Navtej Singh Johar vs. Union of India
- [B] NALSA vs. Union of India
- [C] Joseph Shine vs. Union of India
- [D] K.S. Puttaswamy vs. Union of India

Correct Answer: [B] NALSA vs. Union of India

Detailed Explanation:

The Rajya Sabha approved the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026. The new bill replaces old procedural structures, narrowing self-perceived identity rules and altering definitions of specific socio-cultural identities. This legislative activity brings into focus the historic *National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) vs. Union of India* case of 2014, wherein the Supreme Court of India declared gender identity an intrinsic part of personal autonomy, freedom, and fundamental rights protected under Article 21 of the Constitution.

Q3. Following Uttarakhand, which Indian state is set to fully implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) as its second state?

- [A] Maharashtra
- [B] Goa
- [C] Gujarat
- [D] Madhya Pradesh

Correct Answer: [C] Gujarat

Detailed Explanation:

Gujarat announced final implementation measures to become the second state in India to execute a state-level Uniform Civil Code (UCC), following Uttarakhand's legislative template. The implementation aligns with Article 44 of the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) in the Indian Constitution, which mandates that the State shall endeavor to secure a Uniform Civil Code for all citizens throughout the territory of India.

Q4. Under the newly implemented Income Tax Rules 2026, stock exchanges are mandated to maintain immutable audit trails and prevent

record deletion for a minimum of how many years?

- [A] 3 years
- [B] 5 years
- [C] 7 years
- [D] 10 years

Correct Answer: [C] 7 years

Detailed Explanation:

The Income Tax Rules 2026 focus heavily on trust-based administration alongside strict financial oversight. To curb tax evasion linked to manipulative high-frequency trading and derivatives transitions, stock exchanges must now maintain untampered audit trails for 7 years. Additionally, exchanges must submit comprehensive monthly logs detailing modified or canceled transactions directly to the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) data stream.

Q5. A devastating landslide on March 27, 2026, caused casualties on the Zoji La pass. This strategic pass connects which two major regions in India?

- [A] Jammu and Srinagar
- [B] Srinagar and Leh
- [C] Leh and Manali
- [D] Dehradun and Gangotri

Correct Answer: [B] Srinagar and Leh

Detailed Explanation:

A massive landslide triggered by unseasonal heavy rains occurred on the Zoji La pass in Ladakh, resulting in seven fatalities. Zoji La is a vital mountain pass located on National Highway 1 (NH 1) at an altitude of approximately 11,575 feet. It serves as the primary Himalayan lifeline connecting the Kashmir Valley (Srinagar) with the high-

altitude cold desert region of Ladakh (Leh). The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) manages this stretch under high-risk conditions.

International News

Q6. On March 27, 2026, Balendra Shah took the official oath as the Prime Minister of which neighboring country of India?

- [A] Bhutan
- [B] Bangladesh
- [C] Nepal
- [D] Myanmar

Correct Answer: [C] Nepal

Detailed Explanation:

Rapper-turned-politician Balendra Shah (popularly known as 'Balen') was officially sworn in as the Prime Minister of Nepal by President Ram Chandra Poudel in Kathmandu. At 35 years old, Shah is the youngest Prime Minister in Nepal's political history. Representing the Rastriya Swatantra Party, his victory secured a landslide mandate, successfully concluding a long administrative transition that began after youth-led protests overthrew the veteran K.P. Sharma Oli government in late 2025.

Q7. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy traveled to which nation on March 27, 2026, to finalize an "important arrangement" concerning long-term defense cooperation and regional military security?

- [A] Germany
- [B] Saudi Arabia
- [C] United States
- [D] France

Correct Answer: [B] Saudi Arabia

Detailed Explanation:

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy made an official diplomatic visit to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, where he met with senior leadership to sign a defense cooperation pact. The agreement outlines intelligence exchange and joint strategic security planning. It also cements Saudi Arabia's continued role as an intermediary for diplomatic resolutions and humanitarian asset protections during active international crises.

Q8. Due to the escalating 2026 West Asia conflict, which strategic maritime chokepoint was declared temporarily closed, driving Brent crude oil prices past US\$110 per barrel?

- [A] Strait of Malacca
- [B] Bab-el-Mandeb
- [C] Strait of Hormuz
- [D] Suez Canal

Correct Answer: [C] Strait of Hormuz

Detailed Explanation:

Brent crude spiked past US\$110 a barrel following an official statement by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy asserting control and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. Located between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, the Strait of Hormuz is the world's most critical energy transit artery. More than one-fifth of global petroleum consumption passes through this narrow maritime channel daily.

Q9. Russia's Ministry of Justice officially designated prominent filmmaker Pavel Talankin as a "foreign agent." Which documentary film directed by him led to this state action?

- [A] Navalny's Shadow
- [B] Mr Nobody Against Putin

[C] The Geneva Protocol

[D] Ghosts of Moscow

Correct Answer: [B] Mr Nobody Against Putin

Detailed Explanation:

Pavel Talankin, a director and educator, was added to Russia's official registry of "foreign agents." State authorities accused him of distributing anti-war messaging and systematic disinformation regarding Russian federal forces. The designation follows international screenings of his 2025 documentary, *Mr Nobody Against Putin*, which focused heavily on grassroots political resistance inside contemporary Russia.

Q10. Heavy torrential rain triggered devastating landslides in the Mbeya Region on March 27, 2026, killing at least 20 people. In which country is this region located?

- [A] Kenya
- [B] Tanzania
- [C] Ethiopia
- [D] Rwanda

Correct Answer: [B] Tanzania

Detailed Explanation:

The East African country of Tanzania suffered severe infrastructure disruptions and loss of life due to climatic anomalies in late March 2026. Landslides triggered by unbroken downpours swept through villages in the southern highlands of the Mbeya Region, causing at least 20 fatalities and displacement across agrarian communities.

Economics & Banking

Q11. To counter the fiscal pressures on domestic Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) caused by surging international crude prices,

the Government of India reduced the Special Additional Excise Duty on petrol and diesel by how much?

- [A] ₹5 per litre
- [B] ₹7 per litre
- [C] ₹10 per litre
- [D] ₹12 per litre

Correct Answer: [C] ₹10 per litre

Detailed Explanation:

In a swift intervention to maintain retail price stability amid the West Asia geopolitical crisis, the Ministry of Finance slash-reduced the Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED) on both petrol and diesel by ₹10 per litre. This policy adjustment effective March 26-27 brought the active central excise levy on petrol down to ₹3 per litre and completely reduced the diesel duty structure to nil. This move protects OMCs from mounting under-recoveries while capping inflationary pressure on transit.

Q12. In its latest macro update, which global rating agency projected India's real GDP growth forecast at 7.0% for the upcoming Financial Year 2026-27 (FY27)?

- [A] Moody's Investors Service
- [B] Fitch Ratings
- [C] S&P Global Ratings
- [D] IMF

Correct Answer: [C] S&P Global Ratings

Detailed Explanation:

S&P Global Ratings released its updated economic outlook for the Asia-Pacific region, reaffirming India's growth trajectory by positioning its FY27 real GDP expansion at 7.0%. The agency noted that strong domestic demand, robust infrastructure spending

(boosted by PM GatiShakti), and corporate balance sheet deleveraging will insulate India from global trade headwinds.

Q13. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a fresh directive to expand consumer safety in digital banking ecosystems. Under the proposed framework, small digital frauds up to what maximum amount will be eligible for instant compensation?

- [A] ₹5,000
- [B] ₹10,000
- [C] ₹25,000
- [D] ₹50,000

Correct Answer: [C] ₹25,000

Detailed Explanation:

To build systemic confidence in retail digital payments (UPI, IMPS, and AePS), the RBI introduced a fast-track settlement mechanism for micro-frauds. For verified non-compliant transactions up to ₹25,000, banks are directed to provisionally credit the consumer's account while formal cyber investigation takes place. This protects lower-income users from sudden liquidity shocks.

Q14. According to banking sector consolidated balance sheet reports, Indian banks have collectively written off bad loans totaling how much over the last 11 financial years?

- [A] ₹5.50 lakh crore
- [B] ₹7.25 lakh crore
- [C] ₹9.75 lakh crore
- [D] ₹12.00 lakh crore

Correct Answer: [D] ₹12.00 lakh crore

Detailed Explanation:

Banking industry compilations tracking non-performing asset (NPA) cycles revealed that scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) have cleaned their balance sheets by writing off loans worth approximately ₹12 lakh crore over the last 11 financial years. The reports highlighted that while write-offs peaked during FY18–FY19 due to the Asset Quality Review (AQR) mandates, subsequent structural recovery through the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) has drastically improved net recovery parameters.

Q15. Which Indian Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) became a formal signatory to the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) in March 2026 to align its operations with international ESG principles?

- [A] Bajaj Finance
- [B] L&T Finance Ltd (LTF)
- [C] Tata Capital
- [D] Muthoot Finance

Correct Answer: [B] L&T Finance Ltd (LTF)

Detailed Explanation:

L&T Finance Ltd (LTF) officially announced its entry as a participant signatory to the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC). This step requires the NBFC to explicitly align its corporate philosophy and lending mechanisms with the UNGC's 10 core principles encompassing Human Rights, Labour standards, Environmental stewardship, and Anti-corruption frameworks.

Sports

Q16. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced a comprehensive policy ban on transgender women and athletes with Differences in Sex Development (DSD) from the female category. This rule will strictly apply

beginning with which upcoming Olympic Games?

- [A] Milan-Cortina 2026
- [B] Los Angeles 2028
- [C] Brisbane 2032
- [D] Paris 2024

Correct Answer: [B] Los Angeles 2028

Detailed Explanation:

The IOC formalized an extensive 10-page policy ruling that prohibits transgender women and DSD athletes from participating in the elite female sporting division. Citing a baseline 10% to 22% biological performance advantage in strength, lung capacity, and muscle retention metrics, IOC President Kirsty Coventry stated the rule guarantees fairness in women's sports. The directive introduces mandatory, once-in-a-lifetime **SRY gene screening** via saliva/blood checking for all female-category entrants, starting at the 2028 LA Olympics.

Q17. Japan's Kaori Sakamoto won the gold medal in the women's singles event on March 27, 2026, announcing her official retirement immediately after. In which sport is she a multiple-time World Champion?

- [A] Artistic Gymnastics
- [B] Figure Skating
- [C] Speed Skating
- [D] Badminton

Correct Answer: [B] Figure Skating

Detailed Explanation:

Kaori Sakamoto secured the gold medal at the 2026 World Figure Skating Championships with a flawless free program. Following her gold-winning routine, the Japanese athletic icon announced her formal retirement from

competitive sports, capping an illustrious career highlighted by consecutive world titles and Olympic podium finishes.

Q18. Indian archers delivered a stellar performance by winning two bronze medals at the 2026 Asia Cup. Which city hosted this marquee continental tournament?

- [A] New Delhi, India
- [B] Bangkok, Thailand
- [C] Tokyo, Japan
- [D] Seoul, South Korea

Correct Answer: [B] Bangkok, Thailand

Detailed Explanation:

The Archery Asia Cup 2026 took place in Bangkok, Thailand. The Indian contingent, comprising junior and reserve tier archers, put up a strong performance to secure two bronze medals in the compound and recurve team ranking classifications, maintaining India's strong standing in continental archery disciplines.

Q19. Which cricket team clinched its maiden Ranji Trophy title in March 2026, winning the final for the first time in its 67-year domestic cricket history?

- [A] Vidarbha
- [B] Kerala
- [C] Jammu & Kashmir
- [D] Saurashtra

Correct Answer: [C] Jammu & Kashmir

Detailed Explanation:

In a major milestone for domestic cricket, the Jammu & Kashmir cricket team made history by winning its first-ever Ranji Trophy title. J&K put on a clinical performance in the final to defeat

their opponents, marking an emotional and historic breakthrough since the association's induction into BCCI's premier first-class tournament 67 years ago.

Q20. Who was crowned the Player of the Match in the finals of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup held in early March 2026 at the Narendra Modi Stadium?

- [A] Jasprit Bumrah
- [B] Sanju Samson
- [C] Suryakumar Yadav
- [D] Abhishek Sharma

Correct Answer: [A] Jasprit Bumrah

Detailed Explanation:

India clinched the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 title at the Narendra Modi Stadium by defeating New Zealand by 96 runs in the final. Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah was awarded the Player of the Match for his match-winning spell of 4 wickets for just 15 runs in his 4 overs, dismantling the Kiwi batting lineup. Wicketkeeper-batsman Sanju Samson also starred in the match, scoring a blistering 80 runs off 46 balls.

Appointments & Resignations

Q21. The State Great Khural recently accepted the formal resignation of Prime Minister Gombojavyn Zandanshatar. This political development occurred in which nation?

- [A] Kyrgyzstan
- [B] Mongolia
- [C] Kazakhstan
- [D] Uzbekistan

Correct Answer: [B] Mongolia

Detailed Explanation:

In Ulaanbaatar, the Mongolian parliament, known as the State Great Khural, voted to accept the resignation of Prime Minister Gombojavyn Zandanshatar. His step-down follows intense legislative friction concerning mineral wealth allocation rules, regional inflation indexes, and programmatic structural changes in rural development frameworks.

Q22. Who has been appointed by the Central Government as the new Chairperson of the high-level Manipur Violence Inquiry Commission?

- [A] Justice Ajai Lamba
- [B] Justice Balbir Singh Chauhan
- [C] Justice Hemant Gupta
- [D] Justice U.U. Lalit

Correct Answer: [B] Justice Balbir Singh Chauhan

Detailed Explanation:

The Ministry of Home Affairs reconstituted the Manipur Violence Inquiry Commission, appointing retired Supreme Court Justice Balbir Singh Chauhan as its new Chairperson. He replaces Justice Ajai Lamba. The commission is mandated to investigate the root causes, administrative lapses, and systemic triggers behind the ethnic conflicts in the state, and submit a comprehensive accountability report.

Q23. Who has been appointed as the first-ever woman Superintendent of the highly sensitive Central Jail Srinagar?

- [A] Dr. Ruveda Salam
- [B] Sheema Nabi Qasba
- [C] Tanushree
- [D] Saba Shawl

Correct Answer: [D] Saba Shawl

Detailed Explanation:

In a historic first for the Jammu and Kashmir Prison Department, senior officer Saba Shawl was officially appointed as the Superintendent of Central Jail Srinagar. This marks the first time a woman officer has been placed in charge of the high-security corrections complex, which houses high-profile inmates and demands advanced tactical security management.

Awards, Honors, Books & Authors

Q24. Which Indian film won international acclaim by securing a historic win at the BAFTA Awards 2026 ceremony?

- [A] All We Imagine as Light
- [B] Boong
- [C] The Disciple
- [D] Kantara

Correct Answer: [B] Boong

Detailed Explanation:

The Indian cinematic venture *Boong*, directed by Lakshmipriya Devi and set in Manipur, registered a historic milestone by winning a major honor at the BAFTA Awards 2026. The film follows the story of a young boy searching for his missing father, exploring complex human relationships against the backdrop of unique geographic boundaries and socio-political landscapes.

Q25. Which eminent actor-cultural icon was honored with the prestigious "Women Empowerment Award for Art and Culture" at the House of Commons in the United Kingdom?

- [A] Rituparna Sengupta
- [B] Shabana Azmi
- [C] Konkona Sen Sharma
- [D] Vidya Balan

Correct Answer: [A] Rituparna Sengupta

Detailed Explanation:

Renowned actress Rituparna Sengupta was conferred with the Women Empowerment Award for Art and Culture at the House of Commons, UK. Presented by British MPs Seema Malhotra and Virendra Sharma during an event curated by GloWomen CiC, the award honors her decades-long contribution to parallel and mainstream Indian cinema and her efforts to promote South Asian art forms globally.

Defense News, MoUs & Government Schemes

Q26. The Defense Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Navy successfully flight-tested an indigenous Air Droppable Container from which aircraft off the coast of Goa?

- [A] Sukhoi Su-30MKI
- [B] P-8I Maritime Patrol Aircraft
- [C] C-130J Super Hercules
- [D] MiG-29K

Correct Answer: [B] P-8I Maritime Patrol Aircraft

Detailed Explanation:

DRDO, alongside the Indian Navy, conducted a successful trial of the completely indigenous Air Droppable Container from a P-8I long-range maritime patrol aircraft off the Goa coast. Specially engineered to carry payloads up to 150 kilograms, this container allows operational command centers to drop critical engineering spares, medical logistics, and rations directly to frontline naval vessels deployed at remote distances across the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

Q27. The Indian Navy actively deployed its frontline stealth assets to participate in "Exercise Sea Dragon 2026." Which country leads this multinational anti-submarine warfare exercise?

- [A] Japan
- [B] Australia
- [C] United States
- [D] India

Correct Answer: [C] United States

Detailed Explanation:

Exercise Sea Dragon 2026 is a high-intensity, United States-led multinational naval drills series conducted primarily within the maritime zone of Guam in the Western Pacific. The exercise focuses on perfecting advanced anti-submarine warfare (ASW) coordination. The Indian Navy participated alongside matching technical wings from Australia, Japan, and New Zealand to counter emerging sub-surface maritime vulnerabilities.

Q28. The Central Government has launched a comprehensive technological portal named "PAIMANA." What is the primary objective of this system?

- [A] Real-time tracking of tiger migration corridors
- [B] Monitoring and tracking large-scale infrastructure projects
- [C] Managing agricultural direct benefit transfers (DBT)
- [D] Automated checking of GST evasions

Correct Answer: [B] Monitoring and tracking large-scale infrastructure projects

Detailed Explanation:

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) along with the PMO rolled out the PAIMANA portal. It acts as an AI-driven dashboard designed to track high-value infrastructure projects (those above ₹150 crore) under execution across the country. The portal assists in preventing project cost spikes and timeline overruns by offering real-time data transparency to stakeholders.

Q29. The West Bengal state administration officially operationalized the "Banglar Yuva Sathi Scheme 2026." What form of assistance does this scheme provide?

- [A] Free smartphones to final year students
- [B] Monthly financial assistance for registered unemployed youth
- [C] Subsidized loans for EV commercial vehicles
- [D] Free competitive exam training modules

Correct Answer: [B] Monthly financial assistance for registered unemployed youth

Detailed Explanation:

The Government of West Bengal launched the Banglar Yuva Sathi Scheme 2026 to provide a social security safety net for educated unemployed youth. Under this state-backed welfare scheme, eligible candidates registered with employment exchanges receive monthly financial assistance to offset costs related to skill development, competitive exam applications, and technical training.

Important Days

Q30. World Theatre Day is celebrated globally on March 27 every year. Which international organization established this day to promote the value of theatrical art forms?

- [A] UNESCO
- [B] International Theatre Institute (ITI)

[C] International Cultural Council

[D] Global Academy of Performing Arts

Correct Answer: [B] International Theatre Institute (ITI)

Detailed Explanation:

World Theatre Day is observed on March 27 worldwide. It was initiated in 1961 by the International Theatre Institute (ITI), the world's largest performing arts organization. The day underscores the immense value of theatre as an art form, its role in driving economic growth, and its capacity to advance cross-border peace and cultural dialogue.