

Sourav's

VARDHMAN CAREER PLACE

MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

FEBRUARY 2026



Mobile No: 90413 - 48720, 91158 - 48720

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FEBRUARY 2026 TIT BITS

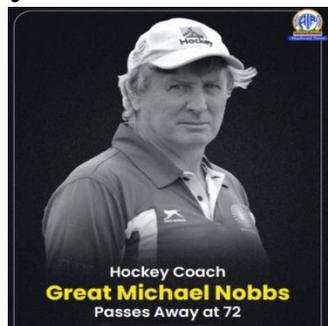
- **India has recently submitted nominations for which heritage site to be included in the UNESCO World Heritage List 2026-27?**



- **The Supreme Court has extended the tenure till 31 July 2026 of which committee for monitoring relief & rehabilitation of Manipur violence victims?**

Justice Geeta Mittal Committee

- **Former Indian Hockey Coach Michael Nobbs passed away recently was hockey player from which country?**



Australia

- **Which state government has recently launched the *Mukhya Mantrir Eti Koli Duti Paat* scheme to provide a one-time financial assistance of Rs.5,000 to over six lakh tea garden workers?**

Assam

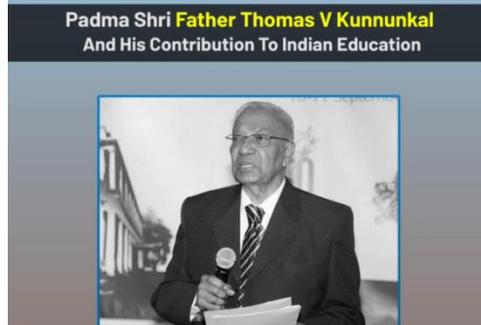
- **Which organization has observed its 50th Raising Day on 1st February, 2026?**

Indian Coast Guard

(The ICG was formally established on February 1, 1977 by the Coast Guard Act, 1978 of the Parliament of India (works under Ministry of Defence)

- **Father Thomas V. Kunnunkal has passed away recently was related to which field?**

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- **Which district became the first in India to start digital property tax collection through the SAMARTH Panchayat Portal?**
Dhamtari (Chhattisgarh)
- **Who became the first woman officer in Indian Army to qualify to fly the Rudra armed helicopter?**

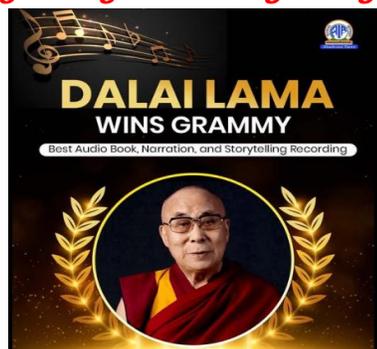


- **Which two wetlands were recently added as new Ramsar sites in India?**
Patna Bird Sanctuary & Chhari-Dhand Wetland
- **Which day is observed on *2nd February* every year?**

World Wetlands Day

THEME 2026: “Wetlands and traditional knowledge: Celebrating cultural heritage”

- **Who has recently been awarded with Grammy Award in ‘*Best Book, Narration & Storytelling Recording*’ category?**



FEBRUARY 2026 TIT BITS

for his audiobook titled “*Meditations: The Reflections of His Holiness the Dalai Lama*”

- **Recently, PM Narendra Modi has announced to rename the ‘Adampur Airport’ in Punjab after which great personality?**



Mr. Modi visited ‘Dera Sach Khand Ballan’ at Ballan village on ‘Ravidas Jayanti’ on the occasion of the 649th birth anniversary of Guru Ravidas, the revered saint and social reformer.

The Prime Minister met Sant Niranjan Dass, the head of Dera Sach Khand Ballan, who was recently conferred the Padma Shri.

- **Recently ‘CHAKRA’- Centre of Excellence has been launched by which Institution?**



State Bank of India

It aims to finance sunrise sectors vital for India’s economic growth. It will act as a knowledge-based platform supporting technology-driven and sustainable industries.

CHAKRA focuses on renewables, data centres, electric mobility, batteries, semiconductors, green hydrogen, decarbonization, and smart infrastructure

- **Mukhyamantri Gramothan Yojana has recently been launched by which state?**

Gujarat

The scheme aims to reduce the rural-urban divide by providing urban-equivalent facilities—such as high-quality roads, water, sanitation, solar street lights, and e-Gram digital services—to rural areas

- **Which Indian shuttler won the BWF Super 300 women’s singles title at Thailand Masters 2026?**

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- Recently conducted 'Agni Pariksha' Joint Exercise was held between which forces?

Indian Army & ITBP

- Which day is observed on **4th February** every year?

World Cancer Day

THEME 2026: "United by Unique"

&

International Day of Human Fraternity

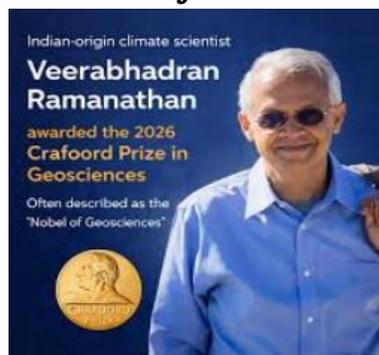
THEME 2026: "Dialogue Over Division"

- Recently Supreme Court has recognized Right to menstrual health & hygiene as Fundamental Right under which article of Indian Constitution?

The Court held that menstrual hygiene is an integral part of the Right to Life under Article 21 and the right to education under Article 21A.

Case Details: The judgment came in the case of *Dr. Jaya Thakur v. Government of India & Ors.*, which addressed the need for sanitation and menstrual products for school-going girls.

- Which Indian-origin scientist has been awarded the 'Crafoord Prize (often described as the "Nobel of Geosciences") 2026'?



- Which team has won Pro Wrestling League 26?

FEBRUARY 2026 TIT BITS



- **Moltbook platform** recently in the news is related to which?



AI-only social media platform

- ❖ Moltbook is a new online platform where artificial intelligence agents interact with each other without direct human participation
- ❖ It was launched in January 2026 by developer Matt Schlicht
- ❖ It allows AI systems to post, interact, and exchange information in a shared digital space

- **Anahat Singh** recently in the news is associated with which sports?



Won the Squash On Fire Open 2026 in Washington, her first PSA Bronze title.

- **Who has been sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Manipur?**



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- Who has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador of Maybelline New York for India?



- Which day is observed on **6th February** every year?
International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation
- **PAIMANA Portal** has recently been launched by which Ministry?
Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation
PAIMANA (Project Assessment, Infrastructure Monitoring and Analytics for Nation-Building) portal on September 25, 2025. It is a web-based system designed to monitor Central Sector Infrastructure Projects
- The 'Pilloo AI' voice based accounting app has recently been launched in which state?
Andhra Pradesh
- Who has become the first woman to be appointed as the Board Member of the Airports Authority of India?



Nivedita Dubey

- Which day is observed on **9th February** every year?
International Epilepsy Day
International Epilepsy Day is observed every year on second Monday of February across the world. In 2026, the day falls on 9th February
*(Epilepsy is a **neurological disorder** which makes a person goes through sudden and recurrent episodes of sensory disturbances. The day is organized jointly by the **International Bureau for Epilepsy (IBE)** and the **International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE)** to raise awareness about epilepsy and highlight the kinds of problems faced by victims, their friends and family.)*

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- Which port authority has recently won the ‘**Cleanest Port of the Year**’ Award at the Swachhata Pakhwada Awards 2025?



- Which Regional Rural Bank has recently launched India’s first Co-Branded RuPay Credit Card?



- Which day is observed on **10th February** every year?
World Pulses Day

THEME 2026: “Pulses of the world: from modesty to excellence”

&

National Deworming Day

&

Safer Internet Day

THEME 2026: “Smart Tech, Safe Choices: Exploring the Safe and Responsible Use of AI”

- Who has become the First Indian tennis player to enter the Top 20 in the ATP Men’s Doubles Rankings?

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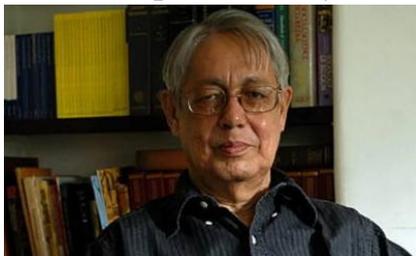


- **Where is the Asian Shooting Championship 2026 being held?**
New Delhi
- **India's first LNG-Diesel Dual Fuel DEMU train has been operated at which place?**



Gujarat

- **Andre Betteil who passed away recently was known for which field?**



Sociology

- **The World's first private space station 'Haven-1' is being developed by which country?**
USA
- **Union Minister Amit Shah has launched India's first cooperative based ride-hailing platform. What is its name?**



FEBRUARY 2026 TIT BITS

- Which day is observed on **11th February** every year?

International Day of Women & Girls in Science

THEME 2026: “From Vision to Impact: Redefining STEM by Closing the Gender Gap”

&

World Unani Day

(The day is observed to mark the birth anniversary of Hakim Ajmal Khan-an eminent Indian Unani physician)

&

Samarpan Diwas

(The day is marked to commemorate death anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay across the country)

&

Anti-Smuggling Day

(The FICCI's Committee against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE) has taken the initiative to launch Anti-Smuggling Day, which will be marked on 11 February every year)

- Which country has banned social media nationally for children under the age of 16 in February 2026?

Spain

- Which has become India's first AI-enabled university?



- Who has recently been awarded the ‘**Global Teacher prize 2026**’?

FEBRUARY 2026 TIT BITS



- **Which district of India has become the first to achieve 100% insurance coverage?**
Alwar
- **Which is the first Indian state to announce a separate 'Elderly Budget'?**
Kerala
THE ELDERLY BUDGET is not a parallel budget but a consolidated mapping of schemes that directly benefit senior citizens
- **Which country has recently won the ICC U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2026?**



India

- **Who is the author of the book titled "*Reclaiming Incredible*"?**
Naveen Kundu
- **Which day is observed on *12th February* every year?**
National Productivity Day
THEME 2026: "Clusters as Growth Engine: Maximizing Productivity in MSMEs"
- **Which country has recently won the SAFF U-19 Women's Championship 2026 title by defeating Bangladesh?**

FEBRUARY 2026 TIT BITS



India

- Who has recently been elected as the first woman Prime Minister in the history of Japan?



Sanae Takaichi

- Which state has recently launched 'Padhai with AI' initiative?
Himachal Pradesh
- Which has recently become the first retail company in the world to achieve \$1 trillion market cap?



- Which day is observed on **13th February** every year?

World Radio Day

THEME 2026: "Radio and Artificial Intelligence: AI is a tool, not a voice"

&

National Women's Day

(The day is observed every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu, also known as the 'Nightingale of India')

FEBRUARY 2026 TIT BITS

- Which bank has recently issued India's first digital FPI license?



Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) license, completing the entire registration and account-opening process using electronic signatures in February 2026.

- Which team has won the 79th Santosh Trophy 2025-26 title?



Services

- No-Confidence Motion was recently brought in Parliament to remove which dignitary?



Om Birla

the Congress on Tuesday moved a no-confidence notice against Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla in terms of the provisions of Article 94(c) of the Indian Constitution alleging repeated instances of blatantly partisan conduct during the ongoing Budget session including the denial of speaking time to leader of opposition Rahul Gandhi and the suspension of MPs.

- Who has recently become the first fully visually impaired woman judge of Kerala?

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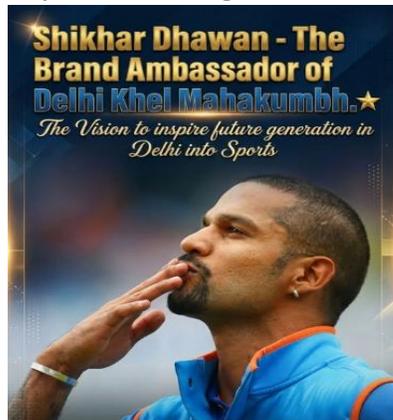


Thanya Nathan C.

- What is the rank of India in the “**Network Readiness Index 2026**”?

1 st -USA
2 nd - Finland
3 rd -Singapore
India ranks 45th

- Who has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador of ‘Delhi Khel Mahakumbh’ by the Delhi government?



- Which day is observed on **15th February** every year?

International Childhood Cancer Day

THEME 2026: “Demonstrating Impact: From Challenge to Change”

- Which country has recently been conferred the “**Country of the Year**” at BIOFACH 2026- the world’s leading trade fair for organic products, being held in February 2026 in Nuremberg, Germany?

India

- Aditya Pandya recently in the news is associated with which field?

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He gained recognition in February 2026 as India's youngest male analog astronaut after completing a 7-day lunar habitat simulation in Dholavira, Gujarat

- What is the rank of India in the “Corruption Perception Index 2026”?

1 st –Denmaek
2 nd – Finland
3 rd –Singapore

India ranks 91st

- Who will be honored with the “Chang-Crandall Humanitarian Award 2026”?



Dr Hari priya Aravind and Dr R Venkatesh

- Which day is observed on **19th February** every year?

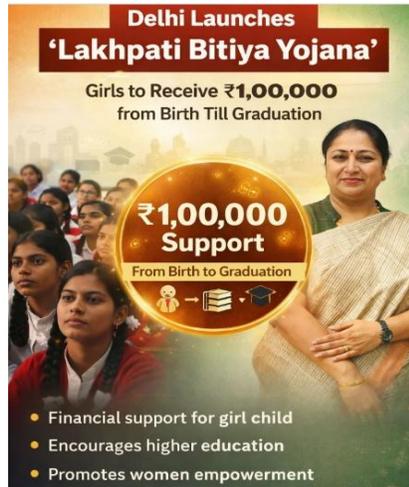
Soil Health Card Day

(Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme on 19th February, 2015 at Suratgarh in Rajasthan.

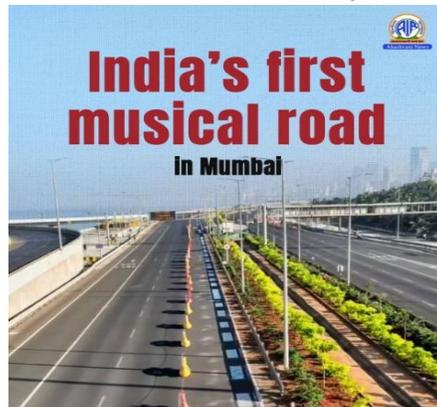
The scheme aims at issuing soil health cards to farmers every two years so as to provide a basis to address nutritional deficiencies in soil. The scheme ensures additional income to farmers by an increase in yields and it also promotes sustainable farming)

- ‘Lakshpati Bitiya Yojana’ has recently been launched by which state/UT?

FEBRUARY 2026 TIT BITS



- **India's first Musical Road has recently been launched in which city?**



designed to play a recognisable tune when motorists drive over a specially engineered stretch at a prescribed speed.

- **Tropical Cyclone 'Gezani' recently in the news affected which country?**
Madagascar
- **'Arctic Sentry' mission aiming to increase its presence in the Arctic, based on surveillance and military operations has recently been launched by which organization?**
NATO

- **Which day is observed on *20th February* every year?**
Statehood Day of Arunachal Pradesh & Mizoram
&
World Day of Social Justice

THEME 2026: "Empowering Inclusion: Bridging Gaps for Social Justice"

- **The Prime Ministers' Office has been shifted from South Block to which new complex?**

FEBRUARY 2026 TIT BITS



- **Geeta Patnaik has passed away recently was known for which field?**



- **Which state has recently announced the introduction of QR Codes on Land records?**

Odisha

- **Which day is observed on *21st February* every year?**

International Mother Language Day

&

World Thinking Day

- **'*Sthree Suraksha Scheme*' has recently been launched by which state government aims to provide monthly financial assistance to unemployed women and transgender women in the state?**

Kerala

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The 68th Annual Grammy Awards took place on February 1, 2026, at the Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles, honoring the best in music.

2026 Grammy Awards Winners (Major Categories)

Category	Winner	Project/Song
<i>Album of the Year</i>	Bad Bunny	<i>Debí Tirar Más Fotos</i>
<i>Record of the Year</i>	Kendrick Lamar feat. SZA	"Luther"
<i>Song of the Year</i>	Billie Eilish	"Wildflower"
<i>Best New Artist</i>	Olivia Dean	-
<i>Best Pop Vocal Album</i>	Lady Gaga	<i>Mayhem</i>
<i>Best Pop Solo Perf.</i>	Lola Young	"Messy"
<i>Best Rap Album</i>	Kendrick Lamar	<i>GNX</i>
<i>Best Música Urbana</i>	Bad Bunny	<i>Debí Tirar Más Fotos</i>
<i>Best Pop Duo/Group</i>	Cynthia Erivo & Ariana Grande	"Defying Gravity"
<i>Best Rock Album</i>	Turnstile	<i>Never Enough</i>
<i>Best R&B Album</i>	Leon Thomas	<i>Mutt</i>
<i>Best Country Album</i>	Jelly Roll	<i>Beautifully Broken</i>
<i>Best Dance/Electron. Album</i>	FKA twigs	<i>Eusexua</i>
<i>Best African Music Perf.</i>	Tyla	"Push 2 Start"
<i>Producer of the Year</i>	Cirkut	-
<i>Songwriter of the Year</i>	Amy Allen	-

Other Notable 2026 Results

Dr. Dre Global Impact Award: <i>Pharrell Williams</i>
Lifetime Achievement Award: <i>Cher</i>
Best Music Video: <i>Doechii – "Anxiety"</i>
Best Song for Visual Media: <i>Huntr/x – "Golden" (from KPop Demon Hunters)</i>
Best Alternative Music Album: <i>The Cure – Songs of a Lost World</i>

FEBRUARY 2026 TIT BITS

Best Comedy Album: *Nate Bargatze – Your Friend, Nate Bargatze*

- **India's only Mud Volcano recently in the news for erupting in October 2025 after being dormant for over 20 years is located in which island?**



Baratang Island

- **Andrey Gyurov has recently been appointed as the Interim Prime Minister of which country?**



Bulgaria

- **Which day is observed on *24th February* every year?**

Central Excise Day

- **Who has been appointed as the new Chairman of the GIFT City by the Gujarat Government?**



Gift city in Gandhinagar also known as Gujarat International Finance Tech City is India's first operational smart city with futuristic infrastructure that aspires to become a world class financial and IT hub

- **Where is the 'India AI Impact Summit 2026' being held?**

FEBRUARY 2026 TIT BITS



New Delhi

Theme of India AI Impact Summit 2026 is: सर्वजन हिताय, सर्वजन सुखाय i.e. welfare for all, happiness of all

It aims to position India as a leader in the field of AI and envisions a future where AI advances humanity, fosters inclusive growth, and safeguards our shared planet

- **Mia Amor Mottley has recently been elected as the Prime Minister of which country?**



Barbados

- **Which day is observed on 27th February every year?**

World NGO Day

(The Day was officially recognised and declared by the 12 member countries (Belarus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Norway and Sweden).

It was marked for the first time by UN, EU leaders and international organisations in 2014

&

National Protein Day

THEME 2026: "Project Protein Thali"

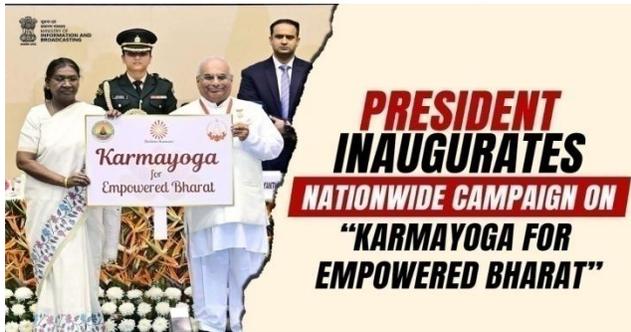
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Polio National Immunization Day

- **Which has been awarded FIPI Award 2025 for 'Oil & Gas Production Company of the Year'?**
Oil India Limited
- **Who will host the first-ever IMACC 2026 (International Military Adventure Challenge Cup)?**
Indian Army
- **World Health Organization has recently approved the polio vaccine 'nOPV2' manufactured by which Institution?**
Biological E Limited

FEBRUARY 2026 TIT BITS

- **Who has launched 'Karmayoga for Empowerment Bharat' campaign?**



The event emphasised the role of selfless action and inner transformation in building a progressive and empowered society

- **India's first National Biobank has been set up for research on which types of disease?**

Lysosomal Storage Disorders

- **Tarique Rahman has recently been sworn in as the Prime Minister of which country?**



Bangladesh

- **Which state assembly has launched AI-based Digital Attendance System for MLAs?**

Andhra Pradesh

- **Which day is observed on *28th February* every year?**

National Science Day

On this day in 1928, Scientist Sir CV Raman discovered the 'Raman Effect' and he also became first Indian to win the Nobel Prize in science for his illustrious discovery in 1930.



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THEME 2026: “Women in Science: Catalysing Viksit Bharat”

&

Rare Diseases Day

*(It is observed to raise awareness for rare diseases and improve access to treatment and medical representation for individuals with rare diseases and their families. Rare Disease Day was first launched by **EURORDIS** and its **Council of National Alliances** in 2008)*

- **Who won the FIDE Freestyle Chess World Championship 2026?**



- **The ‘Kumar Bhaskar Verma Setu’ recently in the news built on which river?**
Brahmaputra
- **Which port has become India’s first Major Port to receive the IGBC Platinum Rating?**
V.O. Chidambaranar Port
- **Celebrations were held in Delhi to mark 100 years of the OI Chiki script is related to which language?**
Santhali
- **The ‘Bhavya Bharat Bhusha Award’ was launched by which Institution?**
Isha Foundation
- **Prasanna Kumar D has been appointed as the President of which Institute?**



- **Which state became the first in India to adopt Comprehensive Urban Policy?**

FEBRUARY 2026 TIT BITS

Kerala

80% of Kerala will be urbanised by 2050

- **Who became the first bowler in T20 history to take 700 wickets?**



- **'Bee Corridor' initiative has been launched by which organization?**

National Highways Authority of India



This ecological project aims to plant native, flowering vegetation along national highways to create habitats for pollinators, supporting biodiversity and sustainable infrastructure development

- **India's first underwater road cum-rail tunnel will be constructed under which river?**

Brahmaputra

- **Under 'Operation Stripes' a tiger named 'Explorer' was released in which National Park?**

Papikonda National Park, Andhra Pradesh

- **Which state has declared tidal flooding as State-Specific Disaster for the first time in India?**

Kerala

- **Where was the three-day 'State Brick Khori' Festival inaugurated?**

Jharkhand

The Bhadrakali Temple is believed to be associated with Hindu, Buddhist and Jain traditions.

- **Where has the first European Legal Gateway Office in a partner country has been launched?**

New Delhi

FEBRUARY 2026 TIT BITS

- Mukul Roy has passed away recently was associated with which Union Ministry?



- On which platform was **VoicERA** been launched?

BHASHINI

It was unveiled at the **India AI Impact Summit 2026** at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, on February 18, 2026

designed to act as a national execution layer for multilingual voice and language AI, aiming to make voice the primary interface for government digital services.

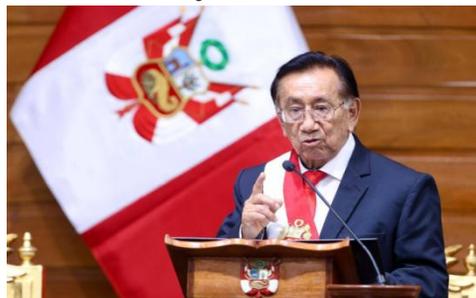
- **International Paralympics Committee lifted the ban on which country's athletes for the Milan-Cortina 2026 Winter Paralympics?**

Russia

- **Which state cabinet has recently approved the 'Nativity Card Bill' empowering the government to issue Nativity Cards as an authoritative identity document for availing State services and fulfilling social requirements?**



- **Jose Maria Balcazar has recently been elected as the Interim Prime Minister of which country?**



Peru

- **Who is the author of the book titled "*The Sage who Reimagined Hindusim: The Life, Lessons & Legacy of Sree Narayana Guru*"?**

FEBRUARY 2026 TIT BITS

Shashi Tharoor

“Atal Bihari Vajpayee: The Eternal Statesman”- Vijay Goel

- **Who has won the inaugural Liber Win Championship 2026?**



Pankaj Advani

- **Who won ‘CEO of the YEAR Award’ 2026?**



Managing Director & CEO of Lumina Datamatics and Vice Chairman & CEO of TNQTech

- ✓ **World Car Person of the Year: Oliver Zipse (CEO of BMW)**
- ✓ **Business Leader of the Year: Karan Adani (AIMA Awards)**
- ✓ **EY Entrepreneur of the Year (India): Deepinder Goyal (Zomato)**

- **Which Indian city will host the Earthshot Prize 2026 (known as the Oscars of the Environment)?**

Mumbai

- **Which Indian film won the ‘Best Children’s & Family Film Award’ at the BAFTA Awards 2026?**



- **The ‘Vanjeevi Didi’ initiative has been launched by which Tiger Reserve to empower women in forest conservation?**

Palamu Tiger Reserve, Jharkhand

FEBRUARY 2026 TIT BITS



The **79th British Academy Film Awards**, more commonly known as the BAFTAs, were held on 22 February 2026, honouring the best national and foreign films of 2025, at the Royal Festival Hall within London's Southbank Centre. Presented by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts

LIST OF WINNERS 2026

Category	Winner	Film
Best Film	<i>One Battle After Another</i>	N/A
Director	Paul Thomas Anderson	<i>One Battle After Another</i>
Leading Actress	Jessie Buckley	<i>Hamnet</i>
Leading Actor	Robert Aramayo	<i>I Swear</i>
Supporting Actress	Wunmi Mosaku	<i>Sinners</i>
Supporting Actor	Sean Penn	<i>One Battle After Another</i>
Outstanding British Film	<i>Hamnet</i>	N/A
Original Screenplay	<i>Sinners</i>	N/A
Adapted Screenplay	<i>One Battle After Another</i>	N/A
Documentary	<i>Mr. Nobody Against Putin</i>	N/A
Animated Film	<i>Zootropolis 2</i>	N/A
Film Not in English	<i>Sentimental Value</i>	N/A
Outstanding Debut	<i>My Father's Shadow</i>	N/A
Rising Star (Public)	Robert Aramayo	N/A
BAFTA Fellowship	Donna Langley	N/A

- **Our Lady of Grace Cathedral who recently honored by UNESCO is located in which Indian State?**

FEBRUARY 2026 TIT BITS



Maharashtra

- **Whose statue has been recently replaced Edwin Luteyans at Rashtrapati Bhavan?**



C Rajagopalachari

- **Rob Jetten has recently been appointed as the Prime Minister of which country?**



- **Which team has won the ACC Women's Asia Cup Rising Stars 2026 title?**

FEBRUARY 2026 TIT BITS



India

- **What is the name of India's first-ever Anti-Terror Policy released by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs?**
Prahaar
- **'Meri Rasoi' scheme has recently been launched by which state?**



It aims to fight malnutrition and provide essential, nutritious food items beyond the wheat currently provided under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).

Contents of the Kit: Each kit includes 2 kg chana/urad dal, 2 kg sugar, 1 kg iodised salt, 200 g turmeric powder, and 1 litre mustard oil.

- **Who has become the most capped player in women's International Cricket?**



FEBRUARY 2026 TIT BITS

- The “**Dharma Guardian**” Military Exercise is being held between India & which country?
Japan
- Who has recently been appointed as the Interim CEO of NITI Ayog?



- Who has been designated as a ‘Global Champion’ for Road Safety by the United Nations?



- Which country topped the Global AI Brain Race Report 2026?
USA
- Soundala declared India’s first ‘**Caste-free**’ village is located in which state?
Maharashtra
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has become the first Indian Prime Minister to address the Knesset-Parliament of which country?

FEBRUARY 2026 TIT BITS



- According to the Global Mind Health 2025 report, what is the rank of Indian youth (18-34 years) in mental health?

60th

- Who won the Delhi Open 2026 Men's Singles title?



Stefanos Sakellariadis (Greek Tennis Player)

- Which Gram Panchayat has been recognized as India's first Net-Zero Panchayat leading climate action with solar energy, tree drives and waste reform?

Bela Gram Panchayat (Maharashtra)

- AIIMS New Delhi successfully connected via Tele-Robotic Ultrasonography (TRUS) to which Indian research station in Antarctica?

Maitri

BBC SPORTS AWARDS 2025

The **BBC Sports Personality of the Year Awards** is an annual ceremony celebrating the standout athletes, teams and moments from across British and world sport, with the headline prize decided by a public vote.

FEBRUARY 2026 TIT BITS

<p>BBC Sports Personality of the Year</p>	 <p>Rory McIlroy (Golf)</p>
<p>Sportswoman of the Year</p>	 <p>(Cricket)</p>
<p>Emerging Player of the Year</p>	 <p>(Chess)</p>
<p>Para Sportswoman of the Year</p>	 <p>(Athletics)</p>
<p>World Sport Star</p>	 <p>Armand Duplantis</p>
<p>Team of the Year</p>	<p>Europe's Ryder Cup team</p>

FEBRUARY 2026 TIT BITS

Coach of the Year



Sarina Wiegman

- **SAKSHAM Campaign 2026 has recently been launched by which Ministry?**
Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas
Saksham (Samrakshan Kshamatha Mahotsav) is designed to promote fuel conservation and raise awareness of sustainable energy practices
- **Indian Mountaineer Kabak Yano has created history by climbing which mountain peak?**



Indian mountaineer Kabak Yano from Arunachal Pradesh created history by successfully summiting **Mount Aconcagua** in Argentina on February 1, 2026. Standing at 22,831 feet (6,960 m), it is the highest peak in South America

Australian Open 2026

The **Australian Open** is a tennis tournament organised by Tennis Australia annually at Melbourne Park in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. It is the first of the four major tennis tournaments every year, held before the French Open, Wimbledon and the US Open.



Carlos Alcaraz(Spain) & Elena Rybakina (Kazakhstan) won Men &

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Women's singles title



Christian Harrison and Neal Skupski *Men's doubles title-*



Zhang and Mertens *Women's doubles title-*



Olivia Gadecki and John Peers *Mixed Doubles title :*

UNION BUDGET 2026-27

The Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs presented the **Union Budget 2026–27 in Parliament**, marking the first Budget prepared in the newly inaugurated **Kartavya Bhawan**.

- The budget framed as a **Yuva Shakti-driven Budget**, is anchored in the vision of **Viksit Bharat** and reflects the guiding principles of **Action over Ambivalence, Reform over Rhetoric, and People over Populism**.
- The Budget is guided by **three Kartavyas (duties)** aimed at accelerating economic growth, building people's capacities, and ensuring inclusive development.

The Three Kartavyas

- **Sustain Economic Growth:** To enhance productivity, competitiveness, and build resilience against volatile global dynamics.

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- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Fulfill Aspirations: To build the capacity of the youth and citizens, making them strong partners in India's prosperity. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas: To ensure every family, community, region, and sector has access to resources and opportunities, focusing on the "Last Mile." |

What are the Key Highlights of the Union Budget 2026-27?

First Kartavya: Accelerate & Sustain Economic Growth

- **Manufacturing & Industry (Strategic Sectors):** To position India as a global manufacturing hub, the budget focuses on 7 Strategic and Frontier Sectors:
 - **Biopharma SHAKTI:** To position India as a global hub, the Government **proposed** the "**Biopharma SHAKTI**" (Strategy for Healthcare Advancement through Knowledge, Technology and Innovation) mission with an outlay of **Rs 10,000 crore over five years** to develop India as a **global biopharma manufacturing centre**.
 - It focuses on **biologics and biosimilars**, supported by **3 new National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPERs)**, upgradation of **7 existing institutes**, and strengthening of **CDSCO** to global standards.
 - **India Semiconductor Mission 2.0:** Building on **ISM 1.0**, the Union Budget 2026–27 announces **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) 2.0** to advance **technological sovereignty**.
 - It focuses on **manufacturing semiconductor equipment and materials** and strengthening **resilient supply chains**, with **industry-led R&D and training centres** to create a **skilled workforce** critical for **economic and national security**.
 - **Electronics Components Manufacturing:** The **Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme** outlay is increased from **Rs 22,919 crore to Rs 40,000 crore** to deepen domestic value chains and boost electronics manufacturing.
 - **Rare Earth Corridors & Chemical Parks:** The Budget proposes **Rare Earth Corridors** in **Odisha, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu** for mining, processing, and manufacturing of **Rare Earth Permanent Magnets (REPM)**, along with **three Chemical Parks** under a **cluster-based, plug-and-play model** to reduce import dependence.
 - **Capital Goods & Container Manufacturing:** The Budget announces **Hi-Tech Tool Rooms by Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)**, a **Construction and Infrastructure Equipment (CIE) Scheme**, and a **Rs 10,000 crore Container Manufacturing Scheme** to strengthen domestic capital goods and logistics manufacturing.

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- **Textile Sector Push:** An **Integrated Textile Programme** comprising the **National Fibre Scheme, Samarth 2.0, Tex-Eco Initiative**, and cluster modernisation is launched, along with **Mega Textile Parks** to promote technical textiles and value addition.
- **Gram Swaraj & Sports Goods:** The **Mahatma Gandhi Gram Swaraj initiative** aims to strengthen **khadi, handloom, and handicrafts**, while a **sports goods manufacturing initiative** seeks to position India as a **global hub for affordable, high-quality sports equipment**.
- **Rejuvenating Legacy Industrial Sectors:** A Scheme to revive 200 legacy industrial clusters announced, to improve their cost competitiveness and efficiency through infrastructure and technology upgradation.
- **Champion MSMEs:** A dedicated **Rs 10,000 crore "SME Growth Fund" will be launched** to incentivize high-potential firms and create "**Champion MSMEs**" that can compete globally.
 - The **Self-Reliant India Fund** will get an additional Rs 2,000 crore to continue supporting micro enterprises and ensure steady access to risk capital, with '**Corporate Mitras**' envisioned as key enablers to mentor, guide, and integrate these enterprises into larger value chains.
- **Infrastructure as "Growth Connectors":**
 - **High-Speed Rail:** 7 High-Speed Rail corridors between cities - Mumbai-Pune, Pune-Hyderabad, Hyderabad-Bengaluru, Hyderabad-Chennai, Chennai-Bengaluru, Delhi-Varanasi, Varanasi- Siliguri **will be developed** as "**Growth Connectors**" to spur economic activity.
 - **Sustainable Movement of Cargo:** To promote environmentally sustainable cargo movement, **new Dedicated Freight Corridors will connect Dankuni to Surat**, alongside the operationalisation of **20 National Waterways over the next five years**.
 - A **Coastal Cargo Promotion Scheme will incentivise a shift from road and rail to waterways** and coastal shipping to raise their share from 6% to 12% by 2047.
 - The **Seaplane VGF Scheme** will support indigenised seaplane manufacturing and operations to improve last-mile connectivity and promote tourism.
 - **Infrastructure Risk Guarantee Fund:** The Budget proposed an **Infrastructure Risk Guarantee Fund** to offer prudently calibrated partial credit guarantees to lenders during the infrastructure development and construction phase.
- **City Economic Regions (CER):** The Government **proposed "City Economic Regions"** (CERs), a new initiative to **map cities based on specific growth drivers**.
 - An allocation of **Rs 5,000 crore per CER** over 5 years is proposed to be implemented via a "challenge mode."
- **Carbon Capture (CCUS):** A scheme for **Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage** launched to decarbonize hard-to-abate sectors (Steel, Cement).

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Second Kartavya: Fulfill Aspirations & Build Capacity

- AVGC Content Creator Labs: Recognizing the potential of the "**Orange Economy**", the Government will support the Indian Institute of Creative Technologies, Mumbai, in setting up "**Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics (AVGC) Content Creator Labs** in 15,000 secondary schools and 500 colleges.
- **National Institute of Hospitality:** A proposal **was made** to set up this institute by upgrading the existing **National Council for Hotel Management and Catering Technology**, bridging the gap between academia and the tourism industry.
- **Khelo India Mission:** Building on the **Khelo India programme**, the Budget launches a **Khelo India Mission** to transform the sports sector through integrated talent development, coach capacity building, sports science integration, competitive leagues, and expanded sports infrastructure.
- **Medical Value Tourism:** The Government proposed establishing **five Regional Medical Hubs** in partnership with the private sector to boost India's status as a **wellness and medical tourism destination**, with integrated facilities including **AYUSH Centres**, diagnostics, post-care, and rehabilitation services.
- **Women in STEM:** To support girl students in STEM, **one girls' hostel will be established in every district through Viability Gap Funding (VGF) or capital support.**

Third Kartavya: Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas

- **Bharat-VISTAAR:** To revolutionize agriculture, the "**Bharat-VISTAAR**" (Virtually Integrated System to Access Agricultural Resources) tool **will be launched**.
 - This multilingual AI platform **will integrate AgriStack and ICAR** data to provide customized advisory to farmers.
- **SHE Marts:** Building on the success of the "**Lakhpati Didis**", community-owned retail outlets named "**SHE Marts**" (Self-Help Entrepreneur Marts) **will be set up** within cluster federations.
- **Mental Health Infrastructure:** Reaffirming its commitment, the Government **announced** the setting up of "**NIMHANS-2**" and **proposed** upgrading institutes in Ranchi and Tezpur to "**Regional Apex Institutions**".
- **Purvodaya & North-East:**
 - **Buddhist Circuits:** A specific scheme **will be launched** to develop "**Buddhist Circuits**" in the North East Region (e.g., Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura).
 - **East Coast Industrial Corridor:** Proposed the development of an **East Coast Industrial Corridor** with a well-connected node at Durgapur

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(West Bengal), creation of **five tourism destinations in five Purvodaya States.**

- **Divyangjan Support:** Targeted efforts **will be made** to empower the differently-abled through schemes like "**Divyang Sahara Yojana**" (implied in welfare focus).

What are the Key Highlights of the Tax Reforms under Union Budget 2026-27?

Sector Wise Budget Allocation In 2026 Budget



(FY 2025-26 / AY 2026-27)

Net Taxable Income	Tax Rate
Up to ₹4,00,000	Nil
₹4,00,001-8,00,000	5%
₹8,00,001-12,00,000	10%
₹12,00,001-16,00,000	15%
₹16,00,001-20,00,000	20%
₹20,00,001-24,00,000	25%
Above ₹24,00,000	30%

Note: Key features and deductions

- ◆ Standard Deduction: ₹75,000 for salaried individuals
- ◆ Family Pension deduction: ₹25,000

- **New Income Tax Act, 2025:** The government replaces the existing Income Tax Act, 1961 with a new, simplified **Income Tax Act, 2025**, effective from 1st **April 2026**.
- **Tax Rates:** No changes to the tax slabs for FY 2026-27; stability maintained.
- **TCS Rationalization:** **Tax Collected at Source (TCS)** on **overseas tour packages** and remittances for **education/medical purposes** under LRS is reduced to a uniform **2%** (without any threshold).
- **Rationalization of TDS:** To remove ambiguity, **Tax Deduction at Source (TDS)** on the supply of **manpower services** is fixed at **1%** (for Individuals/HUF) or **2%** (for others).
 - Non-production of books of accounts and failure to pay TDS (where payment is made in kind) will be **decriminalized**.
- **Customs Duty Rationalization:** The tariff rate on goods imported for **personal use** is reduced from **20% to 10%**.
 - Customs duty is fully exempted on **17 cancer drugs** and medicines/foods for **7 rare diseases**.

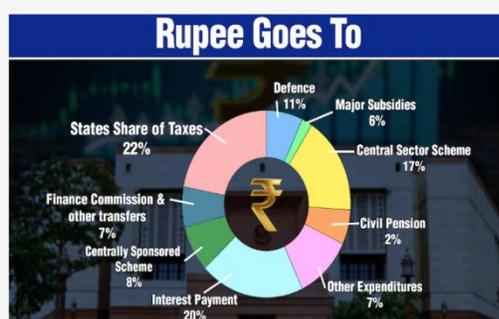
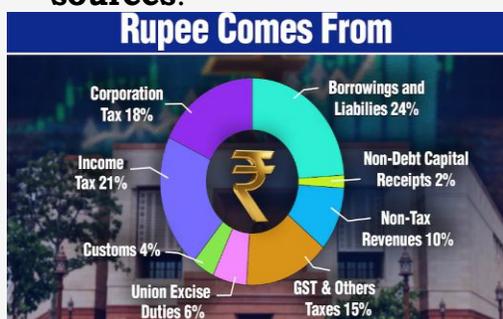
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- **Securities Transaction Tax (STT):** Marginally increased (from 0.1% to 0.15% in certain segments) to curb excessive speculation in equity markets.
- **Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT):** The Union budget also proposes to provide exemption from **Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT)** to all non-residents who pay tax on presumptive basis.
- **Tax Administration:** The Budget proposes a **Joint Committee of Ministry of Corporate Affairs and Central Board of Direct Taxes** for incorporating the requirements of **Income Computation and Disclosure Standards (ICDS) in the Indian Accounting Standards (IndAS)**, eliminating separate ICDS-based accounting from **tax year 2027-28**, and **rationalising the definition of accountant** under the Safe Harbour Rules to simplify compliance.
- **Immunity from Prosecution:** Non-disclosure of foreign assets worth less than **Rs 20 lakh** will be granted immunity from prosecution (retrospective effect from 1st October 2024).
- **Buyback Tax Shift:** Share buybacks will now be taxed as **Capital Gains** in the hands of the shareholder (shifting the burden from the company to the recipient).
- **Strategic Incentives for Investment & Industry:**
 - **Data Centers Tax Holiday:** Foreign companies providing global cloud services via Indian data centers will receive a **tax holiday until 2047**.
 - **IFSC (GIFT City):** Tax holiday extended from 10 to **20 years** for Offshore Banking Units.
 - **Critical Minerals:** Customs duty exemptions granted on capital goods required for the **processing of critical minerals** (Lithium, Cobalt, etc.) and manufacturing of **Lithium-ion cells**.
 - **IT Sector Safe Harbour:** The threshold for availing **"Safe Harbour" rules for IT services** is enhanced to **Rs 2,000 crore**, with a unified category for software development and KPO services.
- **Customs Modernization & Export Promotion**
 - **Sectoral Relief:** Duty-free import limits for inputs in **Marine, Leather, and Textile** sectors have been increased to boost export competitiveness.
 - **Aviation & Defence:** Duty exemptions provided for parts/components used in the manufacture and **MRO (Maintenance, Repair, Overhaul) of aircraft**.
- **Ease of Doing Business:** The Budget streamlines trade through a **single digital window for cargo clearance, instant customs clearance** for non-compliant goods, rollout of the **Customs Integrated System (CIS)**, and expanded **AI-based container scanning**.
 - It makes **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) or on the High Seas fish catch duty-free**, revises **duty-free baggage allowances**, and allows **dispute settlement for honest taxpayers** with a reduced penalty.

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Macroeconomic Fundamentals Highlighted in Union Budget 2026-27

- **Fiscal Deficit:** The target for **Budget Estimate (BE) 2026-27** is set at **4.3% of GDP**, adhering to the glide path of reducing it below 4.5%. It has improved from **4.4%** in the **Revised Estimates (RE) of 2025-26**.
- **Debt-to-GDP Ratio:** Estimated to decline to **55.6%** in BE 2026-27 (from 56.1% in RE 2025-26).
 - The government aims to bring this ratio down to **50% by 2030-31** to free up resources for development.
- **Capital Expenditure (Capex):** The government continues to use public investment as the primary driver of economic growth.
 - **Capex Allocation** has been increased to **Rs 12.2 Lakh Crore** for FY 2026-27 (approx. 3.1% of GDP) (up from Rs 11.2 Lakh Crore).
 - When grants-in-aid to states for capital assets are included, the **Effective Capital Expenditure** stands at **Rs 17.1 Lakh Crore** (approx. 4.4% of GDP).
- **GDP Growth:** The Budget assumes a **Nominal GDP growth of 10.5%** for FY 2026-27, with Real GDP growth projected at **around 7%**.
- **Revised Estimates 2025–26:** Non-debt receipts are estimated at **Rs 34 lakh crore**, while total expenditure is pegged at **Rs 49.6 lakh crore**, with **capital expenditure of about Rs 11 lakh crore**.
- **Budget Estimates 2026–27:** Non-debt receipts are estimated at **Rs 36.5 lakh crore**, with **net tax receipts of Rs 28.7 lakh crore**, while total expenditure is projected at **Rs 53.5 lakh crore**.
 - To finance the fiscal deficit, **net market borrowings** are estimated at **Rs 11.7 lakh crore**, with **gross borrowings of Rs 17.2 lakh crore**, and the remainder to be met through **small savings and other sources**.



What are the Concerns Regarding the Union Budget 2026–27?

- **Global Headwinds:** The Budget assumes **10.0 % nominal GDP growth (First Advance Estimates of FY 2025-26)**, which may be tested by **global economic slowdown, geopolitical conflicts, and trade disruptions**.
- **Revenue Buoyancy:** Large shortfalls in income tax and GST collections **sharply reduced fiscal space**, triggering across-the-board expenditure cuts, including in capital spending and key social sectors.

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- The Budget bets heavily on Supply-Side Economics (building roads, factories, and railways) to drive growth. However, **Private Consumption** (which forms ~60% of GDP) has been limited, especially in rural areas.
- **Implementation Lag:** High-technology schemes such as **Bharat-VISTAAR** and **Biopharma SHAKTI** require advanced institutional capacity and often face **bureaucratic and execution bottlenecks**, while other infrastructure projects also continue to struggle with land acquisition challenges.
- **Job Creation Gap:** A **capex-heavy strategy** focused on **semiconductors and biopharma** risks **jobless or K-shaped growth**, given limited labour absorption amid a widening **education–employment skill mismatch**.
- **Green Transition and Resource Constraints:** The shift to green technologies increases demand for **water, energy, and critical minerals**, raising **import dependence** and risks of **greenflation** that may elevate costs for **MSMEs and manufacturing**.
- **Uncertain Capital Flows:** Persistent **Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) outflows** and an unclear **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) outlook** raise concerns over **external financing stability and investor confidence**.
- **External Aid Prioritisation Challenge:** The Union Budget 2026–27 allocates grants-in-aid to foreign countries, with **Bhutan as the largest beneficiary**, while **no funds for the strategically important Chabahar Port project in Iran** raise concerns over India's regional connectivity and strategic outreach.

What Measures can Strengthen India's Economy Beyond Budget 2026–27?

- **Reviving the Twin Engines of Demand:** India's growth needs both **investment and consumption** to fire together. Faster rollout of **SHE Marts** and **Bharat-VISTAAR** can raise rural incomes and boost demand due to higher marginal propensity to consume.
- **Securing Strategic Autonomy in Critical Resources:** As critical minerals become the **"new oil" of the green economy**, India must combine domestic initiatives like Rare Earth Corridors with overseas mineral security partnerships.
 - Simultaneously, boosting R&D spending beyond the current low share of GDP is essential to support semiconductors and biopharma ecosystems.
- **Skilling for New Sectors:** The **AVGC** and **Semiconductor** push must be matched with aggressive skill development (Skill India 2.0) to prevent a talent crunch.
- **Quality of Expenditure:** Move from "Outlays" to "Outcomes." Every Rupee spent on schemes like **Mahatma Gandhi Gram Swaraj** must be audited for tangible asset creation and income generation, not just fund utilization.

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- **Correcting "Inverted Duty Structures":** In sectors like textiles and electronics, inverted duty structures (where raw materials are taxed higher than finished imports) hurt domestic manufacturing.
 - A sector-wise duty correction is needed to ensure **"Made in India" is cheaper than imported goods at the tax level.**

UNION BUDGET 2026-27:
What Gets Cheaper – And What May Get Costlier
(Impact on Retail, Consumer Brands & Spending)

WHAT GETS CHEAPER	WHAT MAY GET COSTLIER
Personal Imports <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Customs duty on dutiable personal imports reduced from 20% → 10%• Examples:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Electronics, Smartphones, laptops, tablets• Watches and eyewear• Branded cosmetics and fragrances	Imported Luxury & Discretionary Goods <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alcohol• Watches
Life-Saving & Critical Medicines <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Basic customs duty fully exempted on 17 life-saving drugs (mainly cancer)• 7 additional rare diseases included under duty-free personal imports (medicines & FSMP)	Tobacco & Sin Goods <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cigarettes• Pan masala, gutka, beedis
Export-Linked Food Inputs (Indirect Retail Benefit) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Duty-free import limit for seafood processing inputs increased from 1% to 3% of FOB export value	Coffee & Cafe Equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coffee roasting, brewing, and machines
Select Manufacturing & Consumer Inputs <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Microwave ovens and washing machine components• Electronics parts for solar panels, EV battery inputs	Photo / Video Hardware <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Digital cameras and camera parts
	Umbrellas & accessories <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adult Diapers (fabric components)
	Fertilisers & Inputs <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ammonium phosphate• Ammonium nitro-phosphate

Conclusion

The Union Budget 2026-27 strategically balances fiscal prudence with an aggressive push for high-tech industrialization and inclusive welfare, laying a robust foundation for a **"Viksit Bharat."** However, its ultimate success will depend on the effective implementation of schemes to bridge the **"Jobless Growth" gap and the revival of private consumption to ensure economic momentum reaches the "Last Mile."**



The 2026 Winter Games held in Italy from Feb. 6-22, 2026

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The official mascots of the 2026 Winter Games are **Milo and Tina**, brother and sister stoats. Their names come from the two featured cities -- **Milo from Milan** and **Tina from Cortina**. *Tina is the mascot of the 2026 Winter Olympics*, while *Milo is the mascot of the 2026 Winter Paralympics*.



WINTER OLYMPIC 2026
MEDAL TALLY

The graphic features the Olympic rings logo and a background of snow and medals. Below the title is a table showing the medal tally for the top three countries.

R	COUNTRY	 GOLD	 SILVER	 BRONZE	TOTAL
1	NORWAY 	17	10	10	37
2	USA 	10	12	7	29
3	ITALY 	9	5	13	27

