

25<sup>th</sup> February 2026

YES OFFICER

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## \* BANKING & FINANCIAL

① Paytm launches savings in silver on its app.

- One 97 communications Limited, parent company of Paytm, launched Paytm Silver on the Paytm App.
- Minimum Investment : starts from ₹20.

② India's GDP may hit 8.1% in Q3 FY26 : SBI Reports signals Strong Momentum.

- FY26 GDP growth Projection (First Advance Estimates) : 7.4%

⊙ GDP base year revised from 2011-12 to 2022-23

## \* INTERNATIONAL

③ India and Gulf Cooperation Council sign Joint Statement on India-GCC Free Trade Agreement.

⊙ Signed Between :

- Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Commerce & Industry.
- Jassem Mohamed Albudaiwi, Secretary General of GCC.

⊙ GCC is India's largest trading partner bloc.

- Bilateral Trade (FY 2024-25) : USD 178.56 billion.

⊙ Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

- Established : May 25, 1981. • HQs : Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

- Member countries : 6 (Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman & Bahrain).

④ Jean Todt Launches UN Global Road Safety Campaign 'Make A Safety Statement' in India.

- Jean Todt, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety, launched the UN-JCDecaux Global Campaign for Road safety title "Make A Safety Statement".
- It supports the Second Decade of Action for Road Safety (2021-2030).
- Global Goal: Reduce road deaths by 50% by 2030.
- Key Initiative Launched - Project: Sustainable Financing for Road Safety in India: A Collaborative Approach.
- Supported by the UN Road Safety Fund.
- India and Road Safety:
  - Economic Impact: Road accidents cost India ~ 3% to 7% of its GDP annually.
  - National Fatalities (2024): India recorded 1,77,177 deaths in road accidents in 2024, averaging 485 deaths per day.
  - Uttar Pradesh - Highest number of fatalities in 2024.
  - Tamil Nadu - Highest number of total accidents.

## ★ NATIONAL

- ⑤ States' Electricity Transition Report 2026.
  - The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of SET Report 2026 released by Institute for Energy Economics & Financial Analysis.
  - Uttar Pradesh & Andhra Pradesh & Rajasthan emerged as leaders in Electric Vehicle Adoption and Green Hydrogen development.
- ABOUT SET Report 2026.
  - Coverage: Assessed 21 states, accounting for nearly 95% of India's total electricity demand.
- (i) Decarbonization - Leading States: Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala.
- (ii) Power Ecosystem Readiness & Performance - Leading Regions: Delhi, Haryana.

(iii) Market Enablers

- Top Performers : Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan.

⑥ Cabinet approves Minimum Support Prices for Raw Jute for 2026-27 Season.

- MSP of Raw Jute (TD-3 Grade) : ₹ 5,925 per quintal
- Increase : ₹ 275 per quintal over 2025-26 season.
- Raw Jute MSP 2014-15 : ₹ 2,400 per quintal.
- MSP being at least 1.5 times the cost of production
- MSP Payment to jute farmers — 2014-15 to 2025-26 : ₹ 1,342 crore.

⑦ Cabinet approves enhanced delegation to POWERGRID.

- For this approval, Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Approval granted under Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) guidelines (dated 4 February 2010) applicable to Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).

○ Key Approvals :

- Equity Investment Limit increased : From ₹ 5,000 crore to ₹ 7,000 crore per subsidiary.
- Existing overall cap retained : Maximum 15% of POWERGRID's net worth.

⑧ National Arogya Fair 2026 from 25-28 February 2026 in Shegaon, Buldhana.

- Organised by : Ministry of Ayush, GoI in the collaboration with All India Ayurvedic Congress.
- Inaugurated by : President, Drupadi Muxmu.

⑨ MeitY Launches Blockchain India Challenge.

↳ Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology.

- Blockchain India Challenge was launched on 23 Feb 2026 by S. Krishnan (IAS), Secretary, Meity, at New Delhi.
- Implemented by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) with support from Meity.
- Objective: A national initiative to encourage Indian startups to develop Blockchain-based digital governance solutions.

- ⑩ Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh launches 'SUJVIKA' AI driven Biotech Product Data Portal.
- Portal developed in collaboration with Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises (ABLE).
  - Occasion: 40th Foundation Day of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT).

- ⑪ Union cabinet approves renaming state of Kerala to Keralam.
- Kerala X • Keralam ✓

- ⑫ MoEFCC to organise 'Him-CONNECT' in New Delhi.
- ↳ Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- Aim: Scale research innovations & enable real-world application in Himalayan ecosystems.

- ⑬ Centre to roll out free HPV vaccine drive for 14-year-old girls nationwide.
- ↳ Human Papillomavirus

- The Govt of India (GoI) will launch a nationwide immunisation drive against Human Papilloma Virus.
- Aim: Prevention & long-term elimination of cervical cancer in India.
- Vaccine Used: Gardasil (quadrivalent HPV vaccine).
- Manufactured by: MSD (Merck Sharp & Dohme).

(14) India's Top 10 Richest and Poorest States & UTs by  
GSDP in FY 2025.

↳ Gross State Domestic Product.

Rank (Richest)	STATE / UT	GSDP (₹ lakh crore)
1	Maharashtra	45.32
2	Tamil Nadu	31.19
3	Uttar Pradesh	29.78
4	Karnataka	28.84
5	West Bengal	18.15

Rank (Poorest)	STATE / UT	GSDP (₹ crore)
1	Assam	4,423
2	Tripura	8,968
3	Himachal Pradesh	23,169
4	Jammu & Kashmir	26,246
5	Uttarakhand	37,824

★ DEFENCE

(15) 7th edition of annual Joint Military Exercise  
DHARMA GUARDIAN.

- Venue : Uttarakhand
- Exercise will continue till 9 March 2026
- Conducted between : IA & Japan Ground Self-Defence Force.

(16) 16th edition of Joint Special Forces Exercise VAJRA  
PRAHAR between India & US begins.

★ MOUs

(17) TEXMIN Foundation Signs MOU with GIREDMET.

- Objective : Joint Development of Rare Earth Elements (REEs) & Critical Mineral Technologies.

↳ Employees' state Insurance Corporation

(18) NHA and ESIC sign MOU for convergence of ESI scheme

↳ National Health Authority with AB PM-JAY.

↳ Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.

- ESIC - NABL signed MoU to Ensure compliance with national quality standards.

## ★ STATES

(19) Delhi Implements 'Ab-Verx' Road Accident Assistance Scheme.

- Announced by S. Rekha Gupta, Delhi CM.
- The scheme encourages citizens to help seriously injured road accident victims during the Golden hour.

(20) E-Nose and E-Tongue to Protect Tirumala Prasadam Quality.

- The Tirumala Temple Complex, Andhra Pradesh, will establish a ₹ 25 crore advanced food testing Laboratory.

(21) What is Rajasthan's Homestay Scheme 2026?

- It allows local families to convert part of their homes into tourist accommodation.

## ★ IMPORTANT DAYS

(22) Central Excise Day 2026 - February 24.

- The day commemorates the enactment of the Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944.

## ★ APPOINTMENTS

→ International Olympic Committee.

(23) Abhinav Bindra Concludes IOC Athletes' Commission Tenure.

- He was succeeded by Humphrey Kayange, a Kenyan rugby player.

(24) FSI B recommends Hitesh Joshi as CMD of GIC Re; awaits cabinet nod.

(25) Nidhi Chhibber Takes Charge as NITI Aayog CEO After BVR Subrahmanyam's Term Ends.

(26) The Long Riders' Actor, Robert Cassadine, died at 71.

## ★ AWARD / BOOKS

(27) MBRA Groups Chairman Dr. Bhargav Mallappa Conferred Royal Honour of 'Dato'.

- The honour was conferred by Kerajaan Kutai Mulawarman, a traditional royal institution of Indonesia.